

PH0502 553

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 17 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mafolie Great House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8 Mafolie Estate

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Charlotte Amalie

VICINITY OF

I

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

U. S. Virgin Islands

78

St. Thomas

0900

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frederick C. Dixon

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1563

CITY, TOWN

St. Thomas

VICINITY OF

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 6, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Estate Mafolie is located three-quarters of a mile north of Charlotte Amalie on a hill overlooking St. Thomas Harbor. Originally 42 acres, the present site consists of slightly less than two acres and includes two residential structures.

The larger of the two houses is constructed of two one story 15'8" wide rectangular structures with corrugated tin hipped roofs, connected by a one story, narrow hipped roof passage running the full length of the two parallel units. The southern unit, the earliest (late 18th century) is 51' long, seven bays by two and is built with a braced timber frame, with horizontal sheathing covered with cypress shingles. The corners are finished with flat cypress panels applied to simulate quoins. The front (south) elevation has a low porch with the shed roof supported by six slender octagonal wood columns. The eaves are decorated with a sawn barge board using an acorn as its main design element. The porch protects the centered entrance, a pair of louvered doors provided with panelled shutters on the exterior. The rectangular windows, three on either side of the door and two in each end wall, have louvered blinds and panelled shutters. They are constructed with the head and sill mortised into the vertical timbers (approximately 4" x 5") and are terminated at chair rail height. The fenestration pattern of the south facade is repeated in what is now an interior partition, the original north wall, with the central door opening to the passage.

The interior space is divided into three rooms by horizontal board partitions with exposed timber framing. Each board wall has a large rectangular opening, which, until recently, had double louvered doors. These cross partitions run full height to the wood tray ceiling. The seams of the continuous tray are trimmed with flush panels with quarter round moldings. There is no ceiling cornice, chair rail nor base mold, but the timber framing which is exposed on the interior is beaded along both exterior edges and the lower edge of the heavy timber sills have applied simple molded trim. The east face of the opening in the west partition is trimmed with mid 19th century casings, used extensively in the later section of the residence. The floor is random width boarding, with raised thresholds across all openings. The two end rooms are provided with louvered ventilators in the ceiling leading to the insulating air space between the tray ceiling and the roof, now tin but with signs of wood shingles.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Estate Mafolie was originally part of Plantation Catherineberg. In an auction to settle the estate of H. H. Berg in 1862, Plantation Catherineberg was parcelled and L. L. Sonderburg acquired Mafolie for \$1700. Sonderburg was a St. Thomas merchant and captain of the Hamborg. Mafolie was sold to Thomas Steveson, Esquire, in 1874 for 850 pounds sterling. The inventory of the estate listed as included in the sale, dwelling houses, outhouse, cattle and household furniture and utensils. Steveson then sold the estate to Mr. Ludvig Stunkel in 1877 for \$4,750. In 1920 the property was owned by Carl V. La Beet, a St. Thomas merchant and land owner who, in 1898, had been elected to the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and the St. Thomas Harbor Council. The Colonial Council was the agency in the Danish governed West Indies which possessed legislative authority and administered the economic affairs of the colony.

The name, Mafolie, means my folly in French. In 1882 the estate was the headquarters of the Brazilian astronomical expedition which studied the transit of Venus. F. A. Ober mentions Mafolie in "The Wake of Columbus" describing the area as having an excellent panoramic view.

Estate Mafolie is important architecturally for the somewhat rare use of timber frame in rural residential building, and the unusual three part plan of the earlier residence. The use of cypress shingles, once common in the less pretentious residential structures in Charlotte Amalie, and the exceptional trussed roof system of the second house are also of importance. Also, Estate Mafolie has one of the more important private collection of plantings on St. Thomas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dookhan, Isaac. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Company, 1974

Zabriske, L. K. The Virgin Islands of the United States of America -
Historical and Descriptive Commercial and Industrial Facts, Figures
and Resources: New York, 1918

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.73 acres

at 18° 21' 14" North Latitude
64° 55' 44" West Longitude

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on No. 8 Estate Mafolie.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Annie Hillary, Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION

Virgin Islands Planning Office

DATE

June 9, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE

(809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Thomas F. Blake
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director of Planning

DATE

5 August 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Pettig
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

John DATE 2/17/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Williams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-8-78

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The north section of the residence is also 15' 8" wide, but is longer than the southern part, extending two bays to the west. There is also a gabled roof cookhouse appended to the western end wall. The long north wall (running east-west) is rubble masonry, stuccoed, nine bays in length. The door, which lines up with the door in the southern section, is bay four, from the east end wall. The south facade and the east end wall are timber framed with horizontal sheathing and cypress shingles. The walls of the cookhouse are stuccoed rubble. The interior of the later section has three bedrooms west of the cross hall and a large bedroom east. A tray ceiling extends from the cookhouse wall to the hall, with the large bedroom having its own tray. The cross partitions extend full height to the tray ceiling and are timber framed with narrow beaded edge tongue and grooved siding laid horizontal. This same material is used to panel the ceilings. All windows and door openings are trimmed with flat Greek Revival period casings with a molded back band. The windows have recently been provided with glass jalousies, but retain their original board shutters. The double door opening to the porch is the typical wood louver panelled shutter combination. The porch is one story, with a flat roof and extends from the second bay to the sixth on the north facade. The roof is supported by six slender square posts with chamfered edges. There is a continuous handrail with the space below it filled in with diagonal latticework.

The cookhouse has an exposed timber framed roof and retains the original charcoal range and hood in the west end wall. Ruins of the separate bake oven² are visible outside of the cookhouse to the south. One stone cistern is appended to the west wall of the cookhouse and a second cistern is located southeast of the earlier southern section of the house.

The connecting passage is six feet in width, runs the full length of the longer north part and has its own hipped roof, creating a visually as well as functionally interesting linkage of the two parts.

This structure sits on a low walled terrace which surrounds the house and is extended to include the second residence,

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southeast of the first house. A slave cottage existed in the southwest corner of the terrace but was demolished because of its deteriorated condition in the 1950's. A two stall garage has been installed below the terrace where this cottage once stood.

The second residence is one story, square in plan, 30' to a side, with a pyramidal tin roof. The five bay walls are timber framed with cypress shingles on the exterior and horizontal wood sheathing on the interior. The timber roof framing is exposed, with a flat truss supporting the high roof. The residence is now divided into four rooms with one of the early partitions that set of the center hall now removed. A later frame partition has been added at the rear of the large central space. A double entrance door is centered in the south facade, flanked by two rectangular windows on either side. The entrance is protected by a full width shed roofed porch, supported by six square posts with beaded edges. The corners of the house repeat the quoining details of the earlier residence, and the windows and doors have the typical louvered blind and panelled shutter combination. The paved terrace projects to the east of this building and incorporates a stone cistern.

The entire site is landscaped into terraces which have exceptional plantings, including more than ten varieties of palm, large mahogany, lignum vitae, turpentine and flamboyant trees as well as numerous varieties of tropical shrubs and plants.

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McGuire, James William. Geographic Dictionary of the Virgin Islands. Special Publication No. 103 (Serial 269), United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce. Washington, D. C., 1925

Westergaard, Waldemar Christian. The Danish West Indies Under Company Rule (1671 0 1754), With a Supplementary Chapter. New York, 1917

Knox, John Pary. A Historical Account of St. Thomas., W. I.... and Incidental Notices of St. Croix and St. John. New York, 1852 (1966 reprint).