

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Estate Hogansborg

AND/OR COMMON

Estate Hogansborg

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of Highway 100 off Antigua Rd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Frederiksted vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

U. S. Virgin Islands

78

St. Croix

0800

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Felix Francis

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 574

CITY, TOWN

Fredriksted

VICINITY OF

St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted, St. Croix

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

June 9, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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 Hogansborg is located north of Centerline Road, two and one-half miles east of Frederiksted, in the West End Quarter of St. Croix. The estate consists of the remains of the Island's first steam powered sugar factory, with a 19th century addition, an even later factory, three residences, a slave village and other accessory buildings.

The larger factory is "T" shaped in plan and was built in two separate sections, the northern part in 1757 and the south addition to the bar of the "T" in 1820. The earlier section includes the north half of the bar of the "T" and the north-south leg. The original north wall has a two story, ten bay wide rubble arcade. The segmental arches are lined with brick and have brick impost blocks. The opposite wall is blank except for a large segmental arched opening where the bar of the "T" joins the leg, the original boiling room of the factory. The timber King Post trussed roof had a wood shingle covering but it has been replaced with corrugated tin. The floor is wood on a timber frame that rests on brick piers. The lower level of the east end wall which sits on an elevated coral and brick terrace, has a segmental arched window and door with two similar windows in the west end wall. The lower level openings have splayed jambs, lined with brick and the arches taper to flat timber heads on the exterior. Second level windows are rectangular, with wood casings, sills and heads.

The leg of the "T", the boiling room, is also two stories in height, with coral block and rubble walls, stuccoed, and a King Post trussed gable roof. The east wall is seven bays (86'9") segmental arched openings on the lower level, rectangular on the upper. All openings are splayed and are lined with brick. They are secured with horizontal bars, iron and wood set into the timber casings, with sheet iron shutters. The west wall is six bays at the lower level and five on the upper, with the same window details as the east wall. The north end wall, partially in ruins, retains two windows in the west half. The ground floor is coral block, the upper floor is missing. A later wall has been added to the inside of the north half of the west wall to buttress it. A wagon ramp enclosed with rubble walls and a wood framed shed roof is attached to the northeast corner of the boiling room. The entire early part of the factory is surrounded with an excellent brick panelled cornice, with the tops of the upper level windows decorated with keystones as part of the cornice band. The boiler room is attached to the southeast corner of the north-south part of the factory where it joins the top of the "T". Two bays by one, with one story

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1757, 1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hogansborg is historically significant because it was the residence of the Sobotker family, long prominent in the Virgin Islands, and was the site of the first steam mill in the Islands. Although it was not a very good example, this 1814 steam mill inspired others which eventually supplanted the windmill and animal mill for grinding cane. By mid-century, there were some 40 in operation in the Islands.

The factory was built in two sections. A corner stone gives 1757 as the date of the first section, built by I. and A. Sobotker. In 1820 Adam Sobotker added the adjoining section.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the Danes joined other European nations in securing colonies in the West Indies. The Danes hoped that their colonies would provide them with a permanent site for their trading and commercial interests. Agriculture was to serve as a supplement to the income provided by commerce and trading.

The purchase of St. Thomas in 1671 for trade and agriculture proved unsuccessful. However, the purchase of St. John (1718) and St. Croix (1733) was influenced more by the potential which they possessed for cultivation than by the need to use them as trading centers.

The sources of the plantation agriculture in the Danish West Indies varied on each island. St. Croix surpassed the other islands in the Danish colonies in its agricultural development and proved to be more beneficial to the Danes. By the 1780's sugar plantations on St. Croix were prospering. By 1812-1814 sugar production on the island was at its height. There were 175 plantations in operation with 75% of their acreage in cane.

Adam Soeboetker, an army officer born in 1753, made more than a dozen trips between the West Indies and Copenhagen at the turn of the 18th century. He was named Colonial Representative for Governor-General Peter Clausen and a member of the City Council. In 1804 he settled in Christiansted and was elected Adviser to

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walls consisting of brick piers infilled with coral block and rubble, the boiler room has a cross vaulted ceiling of four bays and a flat roof. The boiler is on the upper floor. A square, tapered coral block chimney, 9'8" to a side, is located 22 feet west of the north end of the boiling room. Because of its location, far removed from the present boiler room, it probably dates from the first use of steam at the plantation (1814) and served an earlier boiler, now missing.

The 1820 addition to the factory is the south half of the bar of the "T", identical in size and form to the north half. Two stories high, the south wall has nine bays, the end walls two, with a timber King Post trussed roof similar to that in the earlier section, which may indicate that the earlier roof was rebuilt at this time. The walls are stuccoed coral block, with a molded brick cornice and belt course at the upper floor level. The roof is the same hip form as the north part, but the wood floor system is missing, with only the brick piers remaining. The window details repeat those of the other part, except that there is a large door centered in the lower level of the nine bay south facade.

The ruins of a great house lie southeast of the factory. The north part retains the lower walls of what were once two stories, constructed of coral block with an unusual round corner at the northwest. The floor of the upper floor forms the roof of this section, with the ceilings below barrel vaulted. A rubble wall divides the space into two rooms, the west part one-third of the total width, the east part two-thirds. Each space is lit by a single window in the north wall, with a door in the west end wall and window in the east. The upper level, the main floor originally, is served by a straight flight of brick and coral stairs. The ruins of the remainder of the house are contiguous to the south wall, one story in height of the original two, with no upper floor or ceiling remaining. Three brick piers are located in the cellar area, indicating a frame floor at the upper level. A one story ruined brick wall at the south end of this space separated it from what appears to have been a porch opening onto a terraced garden. Low rubble walls extend south from the east wall of the house, joining the perimeter walls that enclose the estate complex.

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Another residential structure lies northeast of the factory, one story high, three by two bays (43'3" x 28'2") with a hipped, corrugated tin roof. The stuccoed rubble walls have flat arched openings and a double entrance door. All heads, sills and casings are timber. The floor is lime plaster on coral.

A later factory, powered by its own steam engine and boiler, is located south of the first factory structure. Running parallel to the north-south entrance drive from Center Line Road, this one story building is rectangular in plan (22' x 116'), ten bays long. The walls are coral block and brick rubble, and the original wood shingled shed roof is now corrugated tin. The floor is brick. The factory has a cross vaulted boiler room at the north end, with the remainder of the floor space divided into four rooms. Originally this space was only three rooms, but a later partition has been added. The west wall has ten segmental arched windows, the east wall openings are flat arched. Part of the steam engine (marked "Frick") remains in the southern part of the structure. Additional machinery is scattered in and around the ruins. A low coral block wall runs parallel to the entrance drive and the later factory, enclosing the estate, with the slave village outside. The ruins of a large animal pen are appended to the south wall of this second factory.

A 15 unit slave village is located opposite the later factory, across the entrance drive. Set in a low, one story row, the village is constructed with stuccoed rubble walls and a wood trussed hipped roof. Each unit has a door and a window in each of the east-west wall, the east opening to the entrance drive and the factory complex, the west to walled-in private garden plots and yards. The partitions separating the units are stuccoed to the wall height, then board walls to the ceiling. All openings in the long, 30 bay walls are segmental arched and have the typical louvered blinds and panelled shutters.

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the Government. Authorized Commander of the Army on March 29, 1814, he returned to Copenhagen to seek the post of Governor, but his efforts were rewarded only with appointments as successor to General Oxholm and as Minister of the Department of Roads on St. Croix.

After the Napoleonic wars plantation agriculture began to decline in the Danish West Indies. Burdened by heavy debt, the planters found it impossible to take appropriate measures to maintain the soil. Agricultural methods were generally inefficient and milling operations were wasteful and uneconomic.

Sugar production had expanded to other areas such as Puerto Rico and Cuba where more fertile soil was an advantage. Europeans added more competition for the Danes with the development of the sugar beet industry. Absentee landlordism made it difficult to maintain sufficient control over the plantations' production. Slavery, which provided the planters with cheap labor, was abolished in 1848 and, with the increase in operating expenses, many plantations discontinued production.

Johannes Sobotker, a grocer, renovated the property after the Danish wars with England, and in 1848 the property, sometimes called Hegensborg or Constitution Hill, was still in the Sobotker family. During Governor Von Scholten's voyage to Denmark in 1826 Sobotker was appointed "president" (sic) of St. Thomas.

Sugar had required a large capital outlay in equipment and labor. Only in St. Croix where plantations were consolidated into central factories did the industry manage to continue into the 20th century. Hogansborg was one of those which remained an active plantation into the mid-twentieth century.

The factory at Hogansborg is of considerable architectural significance because of its typical "T" plan and especially because of the monumental classic revival main facade with projecting pedimented entrance pavilion and flat arched window openings. The rounded cornice with integral gutter and the stone sub roof are also of interest. The two wagon sheds cut into the retaining wall of the animal mill are rare.

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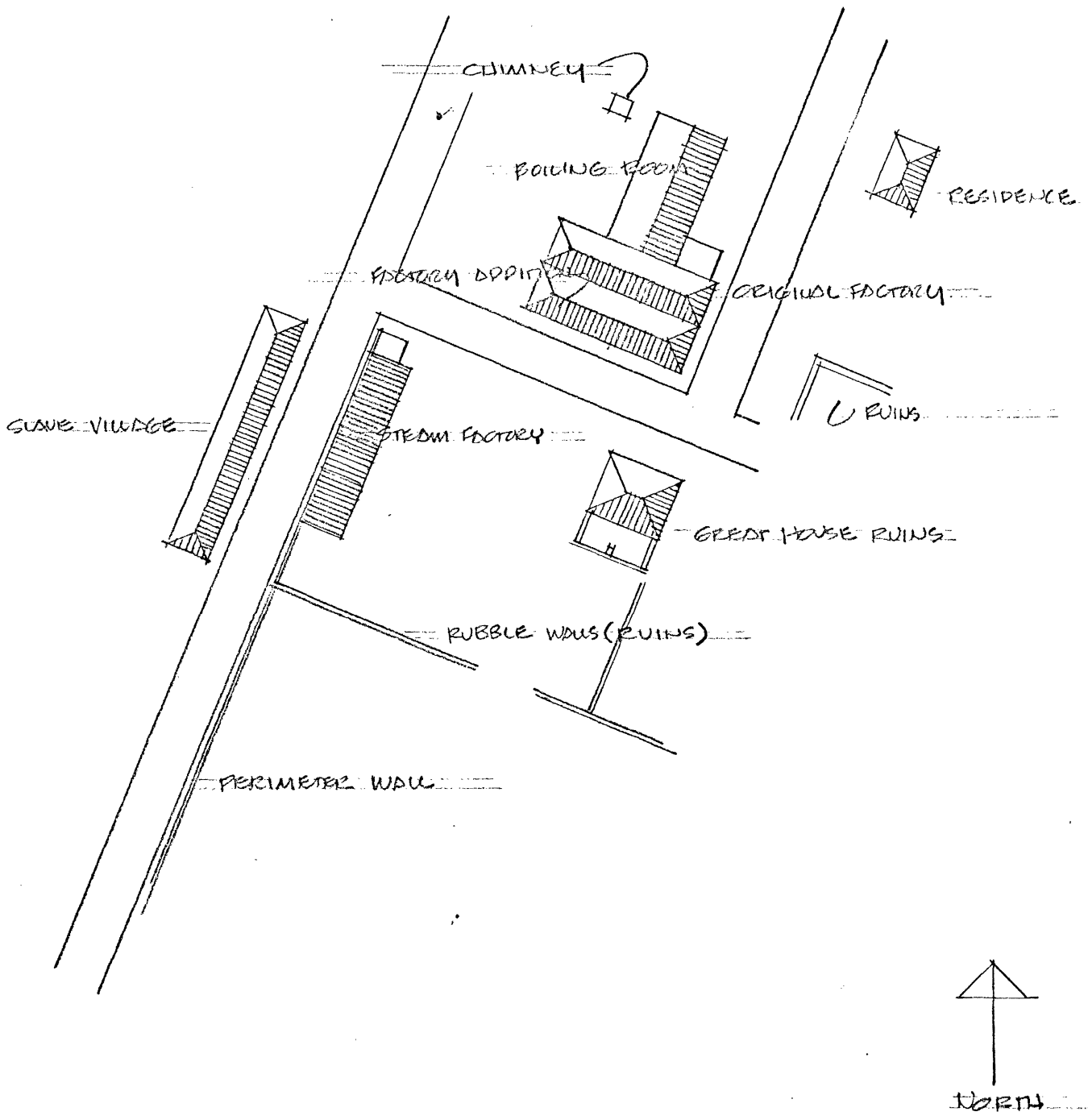
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ESTATE HOGENSBORG, ST CROIX, U.S.V.I. - SITE PLAN - SCALE 1" = 100' ± RW



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