

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 2 1987**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Strawberry Hill Historic District

historic Estate Strawberry Hill, Tuite

and/or common Strawberry Hill, Plots 29, 20b

2. Location

street & number Queen's Quarter not for publication

city, town Christiansted ~~XX~~ vicinity of

state US Virgin Islands code 78 county St. Croix code 0800

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United Brethren in Christ Pentacostal Church

see continuation sheet #4

street & number c/o PO Box 1034

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix vicinity of state US Virgin Islands 00820

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Government House

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix state US Virgin Islands

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virgin Islands Inventory
title of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virgin Islands Planning Office

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix state US Virgin Islands

7. Description

Condition

___ excellent

___ good

XX fair

XX deteriorated

XX ruins

___ unexposed

Check one

XX unaltered

XX altered

Check one

XX original site

___ moved date 1984

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Strawberry Hill Estate, named after the London suburb of the same name, is located in Queens Quarter, St. Croix, about five miles southwest of Christiansted. The ruins of the estate consist of (1) a great house, (2) a conical sugar mill tower, (3) retaining walls possibly including the remains of an animal mill, (4-5) outbuildings, (6-11) laborers' living quarters, (12) conical belfry and field shelter, (13) well tower and (14) retaining wall and storage area. They are distributed along the upper reaches of a moderately sloping hill, and are relatively visible and clear of vegetation.

(1) Great House (c. 1800)

The vacant great house in fair condition faces in the direction of the south shore. It stands on top of the small, grassy hill. It is one story with a raised basement. The great house is composed of four major sections. The first section, the central core with hip roof measures approximately 27 feet by 70 feet and contains the principal residential rooms. A section, smaller by one bay on each side of the core, is attached to the north. It is covered with a galvanized metal shed roof that is highest in elevation along the west side. A second addition on the third division of the house covered by a hipped roof extends west of the central core extending one bay. It is also one bay wide. The front of the building, a wooden front shed porch with an enclosed one bay by one bay pavilion at the west end of it. The fourth section is the foundation, made of continuous rubble masonry covered with lime plaster, and comprises the raised basement. Massive stone piers support the front porch. The exterior walls are plastered brick and rubble masonry. A low-pitched hip roof oriented along a north to south axis covers the main core. Flat arched window and door openings are relatively narrow. Some have retained the original hardware, wood lintels and wood, vertical planked shutters and doors. Exterior trim and other embellishments are minimal, except for a noticeable string course (or water table) lining the exterior facades along the ground floor level. A cistern attached to it furthest south of the building rises four feet above grade. It is flat on top with a central rectangular opening measuring two feet by two feet. The porch is decorated with a more recently added masonry railing and six bevelled and camphored wood posts above it at regularly spaced intervals. The modern railing has a geometric pattern of narrow slits, some of which have diamond-shaped openings in the center of every other one. An original rubble masonry welcoming arm staircase of 13 steps, with an arch underneath, leads to the center of the porch.

(2) Windmill (c.1766)

The conical sugar mill tower is located on the edge of the hillside about 40 feet south of the great house. Its walls, approximately four feet thick has a diameter of 70 feet at the foundation level. The cone tapers to 15 feet

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1750–1930

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Estate Strawberry Hill is comprised of plots 29 and 20b, Queen's Quarter in St. Croix. The total area covered by the estate was originally 375 acres, making it a fairly large estate by St. Croix standards.

Traditionally, Strawberry Hill is linked to the Tuite family and on many older maps, including Kuffner's 1767 map of the island, the estate is referred to simply as Tuite. The Tuites first arrived in St. Croix in the early 1750's, following a meeting by the family head, Nicholas Tuite, with Governor Jens Hansen in 1749. Up to that time, the Tuite family had made a home in the British island of Monserrat. There they had been successful merchants and planters. Their main reason for emigrating was one of religious freedom. As Roman Catholics, they were unable to practice their faith in Monserrat where the Church of England was the only recognized religious entity. Hansen encouraged Tuite by suggesting that he could bring a private confessor, in the form of a Capuchin monk, to St. Croix, and, under Danish law, the family would be able to practice their faith free from hindrance. A visit to Copenhagen further encouraged Tuite; there he was informed that a church might be established as well. This convinced Tuite and in the 1750's he liquidated his Monserrat assets moving the center of his operation to St. Croix. In the process, he provided passage for and assistance to over 1,000 other settlers, both black and white, all an obvious advantage to the newly established Danish colony.

Strawberry Hill was to become the principal estate for the Tuites, and for 50 years they made it their home. By 1754, an animal mill for grinding sugar was in place and by 1766 a windmill had been built to further increase productive capabilities. For a short time, Tuite maintained a partnership with an English planter named George Harris. In 1791, he switched to another English planter named Stapleton. Whether this was simply to extend his holdings or because of advantageous shipping arrangements is unknown.

By the end of the eighteenth century, the estate was fully established with over 100 slaves and several overseers on the estate. Production figures for that period are unavailable. But indications are, because of its location and size, that Strawberry Hill was particularly successful. Estate buildings would have included an animal mill (no longer identified), the windmill, a curing house (possibly in the same location as the later factory), a great house (the beginnings of that presently on the estate), two or three overseers' houses (no longer identified), and an extensive slave village, possibly on the site of that still in place. (Villages during the eighteenth century were generally comprised of simple wattle and daub structures, roofed in thatch; the present village dates from the early nineteenth century when stone buildings on European models became more prevalent.) The impressive masonry storage buildings, possibly a stable, were also constructed by this period.

In 1803, Tuite sold out to John and Alexander Towers. The reasons for the decision are unclear although the British occupation during that year may have had a part in the family's decision. At the time, the matriculs list 137 slaves and three overseers as resident on the estate. Only 112 acres in cane, the rest still (and unusually) producing cotton or turned over to grazing. The Towers increased sugar production and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beck, L.M. S. Croix Map, 1754, 1767.
Børghesen, F. Map of the DWI Islands, 1898.
British Admiralty Chart 2019 of St. Croix, 1918.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 11 acres

Quadrangle name Christiansted

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References (A) $17^{\circ}44'06''$, $64^{\circ}45'44''$ (C) $17^{\circ}44'05''$, $64^{\circ}45'38''$ (E) $17^{\circ}44'00''$, $64^{\circ}45'32''$
(B) $17^{\circ}44'05''$, $64^{\circ}45'43''$ (D) $17^{\circ}43'59''$, $64^{\circ}45'37''$ (F) $17^{\circ}44'07''$, $64^{\circ}45'33''$

A

Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwesternmost point of the perimeter of the historic district Point (A), latitude $17^{\circ}44'06''$, longitude $64^{\circ}45'44''$, the boundaryline follows south to Point (B), latitude $17^{\circ}44'05''$, longitude $64^{\circ}45'43''$, then turns east to Point (C), latitude $17^{\circ}44'05''$,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Aushman, William Chapman, Claudette Lewis

organization Virgin Islands Planning Office

date 16 November 1984

street & number PO Box 7818

telephone 809/774-7859

city or town St. Thomas

state US 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Alan D. Smith

title Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources

date 9/18/87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John J. Knobel
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/12/87

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date _____

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at the top. The walls are reduced to one and a half feet thick. It is fairly overgrown with cirrus nightblooming cactii making it only partially visible. The tower has a central arched opening, which faces west. It is lined in stone with both well defined voissonts and a prominent keystone. The total height of the structure is approximately 35 feet high composed of the main construction material, rectangular limestone blocks laid in even courses. A narrower opening formerly used to transport the grinding equipment and for the sugar juice to enter is located on the north side. Two short round arched openings, egress points for pipes carrying sugar, are located on the south side. A water table of two consecutive bands at the base of the mill extends to form a ledge two feet above grade. Inside the remains of one original joist can be seen inserted in one of the six one foot square holes or niches used to support the machinery. These were located seven feet above the floor.

(3) Retaining Walls (late 18th c.)

Remains of rubble masonry walls appear to have once enclosed some of the historic structures on top of the hill including the great house, several outbuildings and the sugar mill. Beginning ten feet northeast of the wider arched sugar mill openings, the remains of a seven foot high and one inch thick wall begins with a rectangular gatepost column. A capital band protrudes from its top. A portion of the original hardware and wood posts for the gateway still remains attached to the post. The wall extends in a clockwise direction for seven feet to the mill, then west of the mill for about 40 yards, then bends to the northeast forming a rounded corner. The retaining wall directly west of the mill suggests an earlier animal mill in its roughly semi-circular shape and size. The wall is composed of limestone block and rises to six feet above grade on the sloping edge of the hillside. It tapers to an end about 20 yards north of the great house as it approaches the level ground at the top of the hill. The wall begins again in the same clockwise and northerly direction about 50 feet north of the above mentioned wall and directly 50 feet west of the great house. Another rectangular gatepost column, similar to the one northwest of the mill, punctuates the wall approximately 175 feet east. Another round capped wall begins 40 feet north of the cistern adjacent to the great house and extends for 30 feet before bending to the west. It is five feet high, beginning again after 20 feet and incorporating the deteriorated remains of a gabled end facade six feet high.

(4-5) Outbuildings (c. 1800-1850)

To the west and south of the great house are several outbuildings, most of which were once used as the living quarters for laborers. Those closest to the great house on top of the hill to the west are most deteriorated. Therefore, the original functions are indiscernible. The remains of these three rectangular structures are composed of rubble masonry. The first

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outbuilding furthest north approximately 20 yards west of the great house has gabled ends on the north and south facades as well as on the top part of the interior wall, much like a dividing wall separating units of workers' living quarters. The roof is missing.

A five foot long and approximately four feet high wall connects the west facades of the above mentioned structure to a second structure. This second outbuilding follows a perpendicular axis running in an east to west direction. It has been more recently repaired with cement patches along the plate level and with cement blocks at the northwest corner. The structure formerly had a shed roof with its highest elevation along the south side. A few of the corner limestone blocks have been scavenged. The highest side with a nine foot elevation along the south wall, appears to be level with the other sides on top due to the sloping ground. The structure is five bays long by one bay wide. The longest sides are on the north and south. The north wall is punctuated by alternating splayed windows and doors, most of which have retained the wooden lintels and jambs. Inside the roofless structure is a raised solid masonry foundation. A half foot ledge lines the exterior of the north and east facades 2 feet, 6 inches above grade. Iron hardware exist along three of the walls. Vertical iron bars, later added, cover the window facing west.

(6-11) Workers' Rowhouses (c. 1800-1850)

Approximately six rowhouses composed of limestone block are located further down the hillside beginning approximately 200 yards west of the great house. The one furthest east stands alone. It is the most deteriorated, overgrown with tall grass and bush. Only the north facade remains. One hundred twenty feet further to the west at the base of the hillside are a series of five rowhouses (similar to those at Diamond Ruby). Each structure is approximately 12 feet by 35 feet long. The gable roofs have a north to south orientation. Three of the buildings stand in a row five feet apart from each other east to west. Two more in a row stand parallel approximately eight feet north of these. The wooden lintels and jambs have been retained as well as the metal corrugated roofs. They are apparently vacant although they may be used by the residents presently living on the property.

(12) Belfry and Shelter (early 19th century)

The belfry composed of brick and rectangular limestone block stands slightly lower on the hillside twenty yards southwest of the sugar mill. It is 30 feet high and three feet thick. A cornice band lines the edges near the top of the rectangular column above the three foot high arched opening. Above the cornice, the column has heavy denticulation topped by a brick corbel two feet by six feet. The belfry stands above vaulted rooms. The massive retaining wall of the west facade is built into the hillside 20 feet high. The belfry is flush with the north facade punctuated by a large

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barrel-vaulted opening. This lower three bay section of the belfry, consisting of a central vaulted opening to the south end, has a vaulted room flanking either side of the hallway. Each room is 7 feet by 20 feet. The plastered walls are two feet thick. The rooms have barrel vaulted ceilings. The west room has two highly elevated narrow splayed windows, splayed and located on the south end of the west wall. A highly elevated rectangular opening is located near the center of the facade adjacent to the central passageway. A door three feet wide is arched on the passageway side facing the interior. It is nearer to the front entrance than the door on the east side. The east room has one slitted window opening to the interior passageway, set further back. Drawings of sailboats have been inscribed into the plaster of the west room.

(13) Well Tower (late 18th c.)

One of the most impressive features of the ruins at Strawberry Hill Estate is its well tower (windmill) with winding staircase. The staircase begins on the northwest side and wraps around the perimeter of the tower in a clockwise direction. It reaches up to the southwest side at the top. The 42 feet high windmill is located at the base of the hill about 200 feet northwest of the belfry. Its walls are two to three feet thick. The tower is 25 feet in diameter at its base and gets narrower with height, about ten feet in diameter at the top. Three round arched openings at the base of the stairway line the bottom of the southwest side, each about four feet high. The arches have been built onto the side of the rubble masonry tower so that they are not open to the interior. Above these two arches are two taller and narrower arches at second floor height. Their sizes are approximately four feet high by three feet across and five feet high by three feet across located directly underneath the stairs. Occasionally one foot square weep holes punctuate the walls. The tower is overgrown with vines.

(14) Retaining Wall and Storage Area (late 18th century)

West of the mill, built into the hillside is a massive retaining wall punctuated by vaulted tunnels similar in appearance to the one at Castle Coakley. Its vaulted chambers were also probably first used for storage.

Strawberry Hill Estate is distinguished for its unusual architectural forms, particularly the windmill with winding staircase and dungeoned belfry. Although deteriorating and partially overgrown with bush, the site has been little altered since its original construction. Ironically, it is situated on the outskirts of a fast expanding mid-island suburb off Centerline Road. All the mentioned buildings at Strawberry Hill are a part of the historic site possessing considerable historical archaeological potential. Therefore, the site should be protected from unwarranted disturbances.

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The boundaries have been drawn to adequately circumscribe the known structures associated with the site and to enclose the area of highest human activity and, therefore, greatest archaeological potential.

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SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION: ESTATE STRAWBERRY HILL

Present Physical Description:

Estate Strawberry Hill consist of the remains of a late 18th and early 19th-century plantation which continued in sugar production until the early part of the 20th century. Still standing along the upper reaches of a relatively clear, grassy knoll are (1) an impressive and extraordinarily well-preserved greathouse dating to 1800; (2) a conical sugar mill tower dating to 1766; (3) a number of retaining walls dating to the late 18th century; (4-5) several out-buildings (most of which were once used as residences for workers) and workers' rowhouses, all constructed in the earlier part of the nineteenth century (6-11); (12) a conical belfry and field shelter; (13) a well tower and (14) storage area of the late 18th century. The remains of the estate are presently surrounded by suburban subdivisions of nearby Christiansted, yet are preserved in their original setting. Except for some of the workers' rowhouses, the estate is no longer occupied and is in a relatively stable, though not stabilized, condition. All estate buildings and ruins are accessible and clear of overgrowth.

The full extent of historic archaeological remains is not yet known. A systematic visual survey at regular intervals indicates the presence of numerous pottery fragments, pieces of iron hardware and tools and stone debris associated with the estate during the course of its operations. The incidence of cultural remains falls off dramatically at the edge of the area known to be occupied in historic times and is further accentuated on three sides by modern residential development. A change in topography, together with a decrease in cultural remains, demarcate the northern boundary.

Original Physical Appearance:

Estate Strawberry Hill visably possesses most of the components associated with a late 18th-century through mid-19th-century sugar estate. The functions of the various buildings and outbuildings are known through historic maps, photographs and prints of this estate and other estates as well as from literature on the sugar industry. The sequence of development on Estate Strawberry Hill can be traced in outline form particularly through references to early maps and estate records. The 1754 Beck map shows an animal mill on the estate, and the 1766 Kuffner map indicates a windmill had been built by that time. By the end of the 19th century, Strawberry Hill was fully established with its estate buildings including an animal mill, windmill, curing house, greathouse, two or three overseer's houses and an extensive slave village, possibly on the site of the ones that still remain in place. By the 1860's, the estate had been fully "improved" with the addition of a three horse power steam engine. The animal mill, two or three overseer's houses and the factory are no longer identifiable. The rest of the buildings and structures, however, are still present on the estate and can be identified.

Boundary Selection/Justification:

The boundaries of Estate Strawberry Hill have been delineated in order to adequately circumscribe the known buildings, structures and other cultural remains associated with the historic site. The lands associated with the estate have been largely subdivided and developed, and retain nothing of their original appearance or configuration. The boundaries of Strawberry Hill Historic District circumscribe the buildings and structures and represent the "remainder" of the estate following subdivision into building and commercial lots. The site itself, however, maintains much of its original character and integrity and is surprisingly "cut off" from

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development around it. Evidence of archaeological materials on the surface occur in greatest concentrations in areas immediately adjacent to or surrounding identifiable ruins or buildings. Their occurrence outside the boundaries of the site appears unlikely, particularly in light of ground disturbances in the area.

Alterations/Integrity:

Estate Strawberry Hill possesses considerable visual and material integrity. The setting is a relatively well-protected expanse on a hill, with historic buildings and structures scattered along its upper reaches. The remains of the estate, while continuing to slowly degenerate, have been little altered to completely unaltered, and convey much of their original character and appearance. The greathouse has a more recently built masonry railing on the porch; however the building has retained its original door and window hardware, wood lintels and vertical wood-planked doors and shutters. The occupied workers' rowhouses have only been superficially changed to accommodate to the needs of the present occupants. The walls remain intact; likewise, most of the wood lintels and jambs have been retained. The other buildings and structures associated with the site which are not occupied or used have also been allowed to keep their historic integrity through disinterest. The site has undergone few ground disturbances and any sub-surface remains would appear to have been preserved in situ.

Dates/Chronology:

Strawberry Hill's significance extends from c. 1750 through the 1930's when the sugar production stopped, for the most part, on the estate. Historic remains still visible on the site date from approximately 1766 through 1850.

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by 1847 a full 157 acres were in cane; by the 1850's, the figure increased to 189. Production figures for the same period were high. In the 1830's, they hovered around the figure of 200,000 pounds a year, rising to 323,361 in 1839. Unfortunately, poor harvests and gradually depleting soil led to lower figures during the 1850's, reaching a low of 68,000 pounds in 1857.

In the late 1850's and early 1860's, the heirs to the Towers estate attempted to increase the efficiency of the estate by diversifying. Around 1860, a three-horse power steam engine was purchased to aid in sugar production. As of 1863, 160 acres were in cane and the remainder was used for grazing, an unusually high figure for the period. The estate could claim three domestic servants, 116 laborers (now emancipated laborers working under the Labor Law of 1850) and 116 cattle.

In 1863, the estate was sold to a Mr. Fabricus, who continued to operate it in the usual way. Part of Strawberry was destroyed in 1878 during the Fireburn, but Fabricus managed to return the estate to production within a short time. Figures during the 1880's were wide ranging but averaged about 169 hogsheads (one hogshead=1,500 pounds) per annum. After 1887, however, Strawberry ceased production altogether, carting its sugar cane over to nearby Barrenspot for processing.

In 1897, Strawberry Hill was sold to A.J. Blackwood for \$97,000 dollars. Blackwood was the agent for the Bartram Brother's Company, a New York based corporation involved in the acquisition of real estate in St. Croix for investment purposes. Blackwood's role in Strawberry was that of an intermediary: estates were often put in his name to avoid absentee ownership taxes. Under the Bartram Brother's ownership, Strawberry continued to produce sugar; usually carting it to Lower Love for processing. In 1911, Bartram sold out to Aktiustskaet, another holding company, who kept the estate in production during the lean years, processing sugar at their new factory at Upper Bethlehem. In 1931, Auyandro Carrio obtained the estate from the West Indies Sugar Company, the successor to the earlier Swedish-owned company, in a liquidation sale.

Since the 1930's, Strawberry has lain more or less dormant. For a short time, some cane continued to be produced on the estate but this stopped by the 1940's. During the same period, Strawberry was used for grazing, but that has now ceased. The estate now is gradually being enveloped by suburban subdivisions surrounding nearby Christiansted, and its lands bear little resemblance to their appearance 30 years or so ago. A Pentecostal church has also been built in one parcel, further altering the estate's original appearance.

Nonetheless, Strawberry Hill preserves a number of buildings of great significance and its physical plant maintains much of its original character. Still visible on the estate are an impressive and extraordinarily well-preserved great house, a number of retaining walls, an early (pre-1766) windmill, a well-tower, factory remains, a stable or storage area (popularly thought to be slave cells) and an early nineteenth century slave village. The estate possesses a number of representative examples of local building types, all important to an understanding of St. Croix's plantation history.

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Further knowledge of the estate, as with so many others on St. Croix, awaits archaeological investigation. For this reason, the estate should be protected from any unnecessary ground disturbances. The boundaries have been delineated in order to adequately circumscribe the known remains associated with the estate and to take into account present ownership.

Historical figures associated with the estate include the locally important Tuite family, a family significant for its place in the agricultural and religious history of the islands, and A.J. Blackwood, a late nineteenth century businessman and entrepreneur.

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SUMMARY/SIGNIFICANCE: ESTATE STRAWBERRY HILL

Significance Summary:

Estate Strawberry Hill is significant as a well-preserved late-18th and mid-19th-century sugar plantation on the island of St. Croix and the one-time residence and property of figures important to St. Croix's history, including the Tuites, an important Cruzan family, merchants and planters on the island and A.J. Blackwood, agent for the Bartram Brothers Company. Estate Strawberry Hill also was significant in the labor and social history of St. Croix as one of the estates partially destroyed during the 1878 labor uprising commonly known as the Fireburn. The estate's significance in this event is largely commemorative. The estate consists of a representative collection of estate buildings and structures which yield further information on the nature and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix, as well as providing information on lifeways and residence patterns of St. Croix's agricultural population during the late 18th 19th and early 20th centuries. Architecturally, the estate also possesses a number of uniquely elaborate estate buildings and structures in remarkably good condition, particularly the well tower with circular staircase and the belfry and field shelter.

Applicable Criteria:

Estate Strawberry Hill is significant for its association with the broader patterns of St. Croix's early history (criterion A); for its association with a number of figures important in the commercial and political history of the island (criterion B); for containing examples of distinctive types of buildings, in turn, embodying distinctive methods of construction (criterion C); and for its potential value in yielding information on the rise and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix, a subject which still needs to be fully and clearly documented, being crucially important to the history of the Danish and later American colonies (criterion D).

Areas of Significance:

Architecture: Estate Strawberry Hill Historic District contains a number of important representative buildings that are important to an understanding of the organization and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix. These buildings include the greathouse, workers' quarters and the conical sugar mill tower. The laborers' quarters appear to date from the early to mid-19th century and represent landlords' improvement of worker housing following models developed in Europe. The greathouse with its commanding view of the south shore preserves a number of important features including the welcome-arm staircase, wood lintels, vertical-planked shutters and doors and most of the original window and door hardware. The intact mill is of unusually early origin (c. 1766) and plays an important role in understanding the development of such structures on the islands. Particularly noteworthy is the well tower with circular staircase, the most elaborate and well-preserved of its kind on the island. Equally impressive is the belfry of bluestone and brick which stands above vaulted rooms. All of the buildings embody characteristics of materials, construction methods and craftsmanship important to an understanding of Cruzan architecture during the late 18th and early to mid-19th centuries.

Archaeology-historic: The full extent of Estate Strawberry Hill's archaeological materials has not been established. A systematic visual survey indicates a high concentration of cultural materials which should yield further information about the sequence of development and life patterns of the estate's inhabitants over the course of its occupation. Remaining masonry

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walls and rubble masonry debris are of great archaeological value in allowing for greater understanding of estate functions and estate planning. As yet, no sugar estate has been fully excavated or studied on St. Croix. Strawberry Hill represents an important resource for further investigation.

Agriculture: Estate Strawberry Hill commemorates and is likely to yield further information on St. Croix's agricultural base and predominant industry. Questions such as the residential patterns of workers, the ratio of workers to field size, the locations of individual gardens, etc. are likely to be answered through further study of Estate Strawberry Hill's cultural remains. The estate was under cultivation by the 1750's and remained a sugar estate for at least 160 years. While the agricultural lands associated with the estate have been largely interrupted for the most part, the agriculturally-related buildings of the estate remain in place.

Community Planning: Estate Strawberry Hill's historic and archaeological district includes the identifiable remains of a stone laborers' village. Such masonry cottages represent a response to agricultural village planning in Britain which began to be reflected on St. Croix during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These buildings are an important advance over earlier mud and thatch huts known through documentation. The remains of earlier workers' habitations are potentially identifiable archaeologically on the site as well, although this has not been firmly established. The present relation of the greathouse and village vividly portrays the relationship of owner and slaves during the early to mid-19th century.

Industry: The production of sugar was the mainstay of St. Croix's economy throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, extending until the mid-20th century. Estate Strawberry Hill's buildings and other structures help to document the development of that industry. Important existing structures include the windmill built in 1766, well tower with circular staircase, belfry and field shelter and workers' residences. A three horse power steam engine was introduced to the estate in 1860, which subsequently altered the nature of sugar processing on the estate. Unfortunately it has been removed. The remaining buildings and structures, however, help to chronicle the industry that "made" St. Croix, particularly that industry during its earlier, "pre-steam" period.

Politics/Government: Estate Strawberry Hill has commemorative value for its association with a number of figures and events important in the political history of St. Croix. These people include the Tuites, a family of successful merchants and planters who established themselves on St. Croix beginning in the 1750's and later, A.J. Blackwood who was an agent for the Bartram Brothers Company, a New York based corporation involved in the acquisition of real estate in St. Croix. Estate Strawberry Hill is also significant as one of the estates partially destroyed during the 1878 Fireburn.

Context:

Estate Strawberry Hill is one of several significant and well-preserved St. Croix sugar estates. Each estate on the island is different to some degree, all of which serve to illustrate different facets and periods of development in the history of the sugar industry in St. Croix. Strawberry Hill preserves a number of representative building types including the workers' residences, outbuildings, greathouse and early mill as well as more uniquely elaborate ones such as the well tower and belfry/field shelter. The estate possesses an unusual integrity of setting, due to its hillside location, and helps to convey a vivid impression of the sugar plantation industry during its peak years of the mid-19th century.

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longitude $64^{\circ}45'38''$, then turns south to Point (D), the southwesternmost point of the perimeter at latitude $17^{\circ}43'59''$, longitude $64^{\circ}45'37''$, then turns east to Point (E), latitude $17^{\circ}44'00''$, longitude $64^{\circ}45'32''$, then turns north to Point (F), latitude $17^{\circ}44'07''$, longitude $64^{\circ}45'33''$. The boundaryline then follows the south edge of the access road west, returning to Point (A).

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STRAWBERRY HILL ESTATE

