

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 2 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

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 *Whim*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *117-119 St. John's Road*

CITY, TOWN *Frederiksted* VICINITY OF *St. John's* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *1*

STATE *Virgin Islands* CODE *78* COUNTY *St. Croix* CODE *012*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 *Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands*

STREET & NUMBER *Government House*

CITY, TOWN *Charlotte Amalie* STATE *U.S. Virgin Islands*
VICINITY OF *St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*

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 *Historic American Buildings Survey*

DATE *1960* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *National Park Service*

CITY, TOWN *Washington, D.C.* STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	Greathouse	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (except one out building)
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	& Windmill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	RUINS out buildings		
	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old sugar cane plantation of Whim is located 1.7 miles southeast of Fort Frederick, Frederiksted on Center Line Road, St. Croix. The site includes a significant neo-classic greathouse (constructed in approximately 1794), notable for its atypical curved ends and complex exterior articulation, and other outbuildings important to plantation operation. A watchhouse from another estate, and several steam engines have been added to the set of original buildings, which have been restored to an approximation of their original state.

The Great House lies parallel to Center Line Road, set back from the road with the main entrance centered in the north facade. Two secondary entrances are at either end, with a fourth centered in the rear facade. The long axis of the house lies on the east-west axis.

The building is a rectangle with rounded ends, measuring 90' by 35'. There is a wing to the rear, extending 40' off the west side dating from the 1890's. The foundation, like the walls, is constructed of heavy limestone block and coral, with a mortar of lime and molasses. A six ^{FOOT} inch wide dry moat with a 15" retaining wall surrounds the building. The moat wall extends two to four feet above ground level, and the moat is six to eight feet deep.

There are nine window and door openings on both the front and rear facades. The two main facades are divided into three sections-- a central section with a door and two windows, all extending to the foundation line, and two flanking sections of three window bays each. Pilasters divide the central section from the flanking sections, and divide each bay of the flanking sections. The flanking sections are further articulated by capital bands connecting the pilasters and marking the sill level of the windows, which, together with a continuous molding below the cornice line, divide the wall into a complex orchestration of recessed panels.

The door and two windows of the central section of the facade have semi-circular fanlight niches, filled with masonry, and topped with keystones with rolled tip edges. The windows of the flanking sections have triangular pediments, and recessed panels centered under the sills between the molded bands. The two windows of the center section have semi-circular wrought iron balconies.

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 checked="" 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 C. 1794 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Christopher Mac Evoy, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Whim was one of the most prosperous sugar plantations of the 17th and 18th centuries. In addition to processing sugar cane from its own fields, the Whim factory received cane from many nearby plantations as well.

Tax records for Whim date from 1751. The earliest known owner was a Patrick Donough. When he was in possession of the plantation it was known as John's Rest.

The Whim greathouse was built about 1794, by Christopher Mac Evoy, Jr., a Danish Sugar Planter who inherited the plantation from his Scottish father, a naturalized Dane. Mac Evoy, a bachelor with a reputation for high living, spent most of his time in Europe, as did many other plantation owners.

In 1824 Mac Evoy sold the property to the firm of Hartmand and Brothers. Subsequent owners were the Tutein Brothers firm of C. Blacks Enke & Co., Baring Brothers & Co. of London, and Thomas Griffith.

Whim is currently owned by the Virgin Islands Government and leased to the St. Croix Landmarks Society for operation as a museum. The society began restoring the greathouse and outbuildings in the late 1950s. It is the only museum in the U.S. Virgin Islands offering interpretation of a restored sugar plantation.

The Whim Greathouse is a superb example of Danish neo-classicism as adapted for use in the West Indies with finely articulated window and door openings and applied molded details enhancing the basically simple one story rectangular plan with semi-circular ends, all under the traditional hip roof.

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Access to the doors is by the typical West Indian "welcoming arms" staircase, with fanning walls. All windows are fitted with wooden shutters, constructed of vertical planks. Hardware on the shutters includes strap hinges, affixed to wrought drive pintles. The number of bays is duplicated in the basement story, where the windows open out onto, and receive sunlight and ventilation from the open moat. The basement level does not have the applied ornamentation of the main floor.

The roof, which is a recent replacement, follows the curve of the ends of the building, and is covered with cypress wood shingles. The roof gutter, also added recently, is a concrete drain.

The interior plan consists of three large rooms with a side hall, centered in the rear wall, and following the longitudinal axis of the building. The wood floor is a replacement of an earlier floor. The walls are plastered with wainscotting, baseboards and picture mouldings. The "tray" ceiling is a replacement.

The basement below is a large open space partitioned only by a colomaded wall down the center.

The rear addition has masonry exterior walls, a gable roof, exterior galvanized gutters and leader. There are three openings to each side and one to the end. Out buildings original to Whim include a cookhouse, bathhouse, and windmill, all reconstructed, and ruins of a factory.

The cookhouse is part of a heavily reconstructed T-shaped complex to the south of the great house. The main body of the T is taken up by the cookhouse, and an area reconstructed to represent a sugar boiling shed, while the long cap of the T houses a museum. Parts of the walls of these structures are original, and consist of a masonry of limestone rubble, brick and coral.

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An original bathhouse is located about 20' from the west end of the greathouse. It is a square block, measuring 12' 6" on each of the four sides.

The site of an old slave quarters lies about 15' off the north wall of the T-shaped complex. The present building, which may be resting on original foundations, is a masonry and stucco rectangle, measuring about 120' by 20'. The roof is hipped, and covered with corrugated metal.

An old carriage house, currently reconstructed for use as an office, is located to the east of the cookhouse. It is a rectangle, measuring 21' by 47', or five bays by two bays, constructed of rubble masonry. There is an addition with a shed roof, off the western facade.

To the east of the old carriage house is a watchhouse, which has been moved from another plantation. It is a rectangle measuring 9' 6" by 10' 8", constructed of rubble masonry and brick, window openings on the north, south and east sides. The interior is in the shape of a single-barrel-vaulted room, covered by a roof which splays to the outside to cover the entire rectangle created by the four walls.

Further to the east, are the ruins of the former factory, and the old chimney for the steam mill, measuring 13' on a side at the base, and about 85' high. The windmill which has been reconstructed, is located on the farthest point east of the complex of buildings. The grade slopes from the west to the east, and the foundation measures 1' 3" on the deepest side. The mill measures 18'6" in diameter, and has walls, 4'6" thick, measured at the window openings. It is constructed of coursed, dressed limestone block, with radiating surrounds in the form of blocks around the arched window and door openings. The main entrance to the mill is on the west, and is approached from the lower grade on the west by a "welcoming arms" staircase of limestone and stucco which visually continues the masonry surround of the entrance.

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Two window openings placed halfway down the wall are located to the north and south. Square openings, six inches on a side are found in the masonry above the foundations.

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U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie U.S.V.I.

CONCORDIA

150

1210

100

CENTERLINE

WHIM

SLAVE QUARTERS
BATH HOUSE

GREAT HOUSE

KITCHEN
COOK HOUSE

APOTHECARY OFFICE
WATCH HOUSE

MUSEUM

FACTORY
RUINS

CHIMNEY

MON
WHIM
CHIM

ANIMAL MILL

WIND MILL

WHIM PLOT PLAN

