

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET 3538

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUL 12 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

Tutu Plantation House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

 VICINITY OF NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. Thomas

CODE

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 COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

 VICINITY OF

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Tutu Plantation House lies three miles northeast of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, on a 3.5 acre hilltop site. It is significant as one of the few plantation greathouses remaining on the island. While the house is said to have been built around 1803, much of the interior trim is Greek Revival, probably dating from 20 to 30 years later. The symmetrical facade and interior plan of the house represent a revival of classical European trends, with the shuttered windows, hipped roof, east-west orientation for cross-ventilation and the originally separate kitchen as colonial variation on the classical theme.

The house faces west, with the grade of the land sloping from west to east and from south to north. It is located at the end of a cul-de-sac formed by a driveway off the main road leading up to the site. The house is two stories, and is a rectangular block, measuring 40' by 32'. Central porches front and rear were probably added in the Victorian period after 1850, and the front porch replaced around 1890. The kitchen (over a cistern), originally a separate outbuilding, was joined to the main house along the south facade. Servants' quarters are located in the lower level of the north elevation.

The foundations are made of coursed, pressed limestone, set in a lime mortar and stuccoed. The exterior of the foundation is currently painted red. The main floor is constructed of red ballast brick with stucco, and the upper floor, a probable replacement of an earlier clapboard construction, is wood frame, sheathed and faced with shingles. The main and upper floors are painted white. The roof is hipped, and covered with corrugated metal, painted red. It is not immediately clear whether the roof has been replaced.

The house has five bays on each of its four sides. The upper story of the main facade has five, and the lower story four windows due to the interruption created by the central entrance porch. The porch roof is a wooden gable of plank construction, and is supported in the front corners by slender iron poles. A decorative Victorian bargeboard in a solid trefoil pattern lies behind the eaves of the porch. The present gable-roof porch is replacing an earlier flat-roof porch, as ghostings in the stucco behind the present roof line make evident.

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 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tutu Plantation House was built during the early 1800's, and is one of the few surviving examples of plantation great houses in St. Thomas. The house was part of a cattle and dairy plantation which flourished during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The secondary structures on the premises are typical of the buildings found on plantations. They include the manager's house and stables.

The first record of ownership is dated 1813, when the three plantations of Tutu, Tabor and Harmoni under the name Anna's Retreat, were deeded from Octavius Pogy to Erasmus Frederick Schifter.

The name of the house was derived from the Danish word "tutu", which refers to a large "trumpet-like" conch shell used to call the slaves to labor.

Tutu Plantation House, with its almost square shape and wood frame second story, is significant for its variation from the rectangular one or two-story great house type often found on the other islands. Its symmetrical facade and central hall plan reflect the strong influence of Classical Revivalism on early 19th century Danish West Indian architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter: Enid Baa to Senator Viridin Brown, February 1971.
 Interview: Mrs. Doreen C. Cole, May 7, 1976, by Margaret Proskauer and Annie Hillary.
 Dookhan, Isaac. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Epping, Essex: Booker Publishing Co. 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

18° 20' 30" north latitude
 64° 53' 10" west longitude

UTM REFERENCES

A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

B [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Samuel N. Stokes
Russell Wright, Margaret Proskauer, Annie Hillary, V.I. Historic Survey
 ORGANIZATION Virgin Islands Planning Office DATE May 17, 1976
 STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 2606 TELEPHONE (809) 774-1730
 CITY OR TOWN Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands STATE

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

Samuel N. Stokes

TITLE Director of Planning

DATE May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting	DATE <u>7/12/76</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>6-29-76</u>
ATTEST:	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>RBR for WTM 7/8/76</u>	

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The windows are six by six (double hung), and have two, three-panelled shutters, painted green and white. The brightly-painted shutters together with the red foundation level, the white main and upper floor, and the red corrugated metal roof create a strong, polychrome effect. The interior of the windows are fitted with louvered jalousie panels. The double entrance doors to the front and rear are secured with heavy storm shutters. The inner front and rear doors have recessed wood panels at the base with three glass lights (five on the front door). The rear door has a two-light transom, backed by a wooden grille with delicate turned colonnettes. Both porches are approached by stairs, which are imported marble in the rear, and later concrete in the front. The porches are partially enclosed on the sides by marble benches faced with stucco, bearing a decorative railing of pointed-ellipse design. There is a small concrete patio to the right of the front porch which was added in the 1940's.

The interior of the house follows the central-hall plan, with a main salon running straight through from front to rear on the east-west axis, providing for cross-ventilation. The first floor has a large living room extending the length of the house, with smaller rooms to either side of the hall. On the second floor, there are four bedrooms, and two later bathrooms. The staircase to the right of the main hall on the first floor provides access to the second floor. The staircase was originally free-standing, but the area below the first flight has been walled in to create a storage closet. The stairs, which are closed string and without bracket ornamentation, have turned balusters of medium thickness. The handrail is mahogany, and curves into a shell at the newel post. The transom of the rear door abuts the landing, allowing for additional ventilation of the upper story.

Most of the original trim is Greek Revival. The doors to the rooms on the main floor have six recessed panels, and are trimmed with fluted casings with medallion corner blocks. The medallion motif is echoed in a chandelier base in the ceiling of

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the living room , with a guilloche and Greek fret pattern. There are also recessed panels under the windows. The rest of the trim --ceiling and baseboard molding-- is of a later date. In the main floor rooms, a ½ inch torus molding applied to the wall surface to create a panelled effect dates from 1927. These rooms are currently painted in light blue and grey (highlighting the illusion of panels) with white trim.

The upper story rooms are treated more plainly, without the applied torus molding or recessed panels under the windows. The machine-made molding of these rooms is of a later date than the Greek Revival details of the main floor. It is probable that the entire frame upper story was re-trimmed at some point after the house was built. At this time, the exterior of the upper story may also have been re-faced with shingles. The upper bedrooms currently have added closets which project out into the rooms.

In addition to the main house, structures on the site include an old manager's house and stables on the road leading to the house, and a wooden garage probably dating from the 1920's to the southwest side of the house off the cul-de-sac. An old "copper" used to cook the sugar cane juice, lies alongside the entrance porch on the northwest corner. Dozens of old conch shells (so-called "tutu's", because they were used to call the slaves to their labor) were found in a storage area in the servants' quarters in the lower level on the north, but their intended use is not clear.

The garden in front of the house is overgrown, but is planted with many mature specimens of native West Indian flowers and trees.