

PH0502456

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED **AUG 15 1977**  
DATE ENTERED **JUL 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 Grove Place

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

4 mi E of Frederiksted off Centerline Rd.

CITY, TOWN  
Frederiksted

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Virgin Islands

CODE  
78

COUNTY  
St. Croix

CODE  
0200

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                            |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <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  
St. Croix Labor Union

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 544

CITY, TOWN  
Frederiksted, St. Croix

STATE  
Virgin Islands

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
Government House

CITY, TOWN  
Christiansted, Virgin Islands

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
V.I. Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
June, 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS V.I. Planning Office

CITY, TOWN  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

STATE

# 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        |   |   |

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grove Place Factory is in the settlement of the same name in Prince Quarter, one mile north of the Centerline Road and approximately 4 miles east of Frederiksted. The ruins of the sugar complex include an arcaded wagon depot, chimney and a factory building.

The wagon depot runs east-west, north of the factory building, and forms a long inverted 'J' in plan. The long upper section has seventeen bays, each 12'6" wide (with segmental arched openings of 11'0") and returns on itself at the west end to run parallel for another six bays of the same design. The east end of the 17 bay part curves south and ends abruptly. The walls of the wagon depot are 9'6" thick, constructed of coral block with dressed block arches. It reaches a maximum height of 11'0" at the east end and slopes to the west to a height of 8'2".

A massive, square tapered chimney, 12' on a side at the base and approximately 80' high is located 55' to the southwest of the aqueduct. Built of coral block and rubble masonry, the chimney has a molded coral block cornice band 3' from its square top. The surrounding area has been redeveloped as a landscaped open space, and there are no above ground signs of the steam mill that must have been served by this chimney.

The factory is located across the road from the wagon depot and the chimney and is of the typical 'T' plan, the long axis running east-west. This section is the boiling room, 30 by 92 feet in plan, two stories in height along the south facade, but only one story at the north, as it is terraced into a hill. It originally had a hipped roof. The south is 8 bays, and the west facade 4 bays at the upper level. The lower level of this end wall is blocked by a later cistern. The north facade is blank except for a single segmental arched opening at grade in the extreme west corner. The walls are predominantly coral block, with some brick and stone rubble. There is some remains of coral galleting. The corners are decorated with coral block quoins. The ground floor is separated into two rooms by a stone rubble partition near the east end, where the boiling room abutts the factory. All openings in this part are segmental arched with splayed jambs. The arches are flattened at the exterior face to accept wood casings and board shutters. The boiling room is connected to the factory with an exceptional 12 foot wide segmental arched doorway at the ground level and a flat arched door above.

The factory section, 22 by 60 feet, is 3 by 7 bays, two stories at the south end, one story at the west. The missing room was hipped. The walls are made of coral block with some stone and brick rubble. The corners are quoined and there is a projecting belt course and corbelled

# 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 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

*ca. 1851*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Estate Grove Place is significant for its 19th century remains of typical buildings of a sugar plantation. The ruins of the factory are of architectural significance because of the classic revival details, the plan, the method of construction and the use of local building materials, all typical of sugar factories in the Virgin Islands at this period. The wagon depot is unique in its elaborate use of local materials in construction which clearly shows the amount of wealth connected with the estate.

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.

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.

After the Napoleonic wars, plantation agriculture began to decline in the Danish West Indies. Sugar production had expanded to other areas such as Cuba and Puerto Rico whose more fertile soil gave them an advantage over 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. 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.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Lewisohn, Florence. St. Croix Under Seven Flags. Hollywood, Florida: The Dukane Press, 1970.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

17° 43' 38" North Latitude  
64° 49' 24" West Longitude

UTM REFERENCES

A [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located within #332 and 33A Estate Grove Place, Prince Quarter, St. Croix.

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

Russel Wright, Annie Hillary

ORGANIZATION

V.I. Planning Office

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE

4-1730

CITY OR TOWN

St. Thomas, 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.

*James R. 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

*Charles Adams*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7-17-78  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Barbara Cole*

DATE

7-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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cornice. The upper space is divided into three equal rooms, with each of the stone rubble partitions pierced by two doors. The factory is entered at both the east and south facades, the latter served by one-half of a 'welcoming arms' stair. The east stair is missing. The central door in the east wall is segmental arched as are the windows, but these are flattened at the exterior face for the casings and heavy shutters. The jambs are splayed. The northern bay of the ground level of the east facade has a wide segmental arched carriage-way to permit the wagons to enter the lower shipping area.

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The earliest deed records the estate as Plasket's Estate (1851) including Hardlabor. In 1903 Grove Place was incorporated as part of the Danish Plantation Company which included: Castle Coakley, Nugent, Blessing, Lowry Hill, La Vallee, Petronella and Fair Ham. In 1916 the Labor Union in St. Croix purchased Grove Place and incorporated it into the Northside Estate. Grove Place was the Union's Headquarters.

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Lewisohn, Florence. Henry Morton Sketchbook and Diary, 1843-44,  
Copenhagen: Danish West India Society, 1975.

Recorder of Deeds Office, Christiansted, St. Croix

