

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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 Neltjeberg

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 mi NW of Charlotte Amalie at Neltjeberg Bay

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Charlotte Amalie vic

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

U. S. Virgin Islands

78

St. Thomas

0100

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

Mr. George Moolenaar

STREET & NUMBER

Box 693

CITY, TOWN

STATE

St. Thomas

VICINITY OF

U. S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Charlotte Amalie

St. Thomas

U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 6, 1976

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Charlotte Amalie

St. Thomas

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 Neltjeberg is located on the shore of Neltjeberg Bay on the north side of St. Thomas, three miles northwest of Charlotte Amalie. Existing remains from the sugar plantation include a factory, an animal mill, a stable, slave quarters and a number of dry stone walls.

The factory is an L-shaped structure consisting of a partially intact, two story, 16' x 30' wing running on an east-west axis; and a one story 15' x 25' wing at the west end. The two story part once had a gable roof, while the one story section, the boiling room, had a shed roof, unusual for such an important part of the sugar factory. A low terrace runs parallel to the west wall of the boiling room, with the segmental arched fire-boxes used to heat the coppers intact under the boiling bench.

The two story section is divided into two parts by a stone partition; the west part has corresponding doors and windows in its north-south walls. The double entrances are seven feet high by four feet wide, while the flanking rectangular windows, four feet above grade, measure 4' x 3'. The walls of the structure are stuccoed rubble masonry, with the interior faces plastered. The small space east of the partition has two additional rectangular windows. All openings have brick lined splayed jambs, plastered, and the corners of the factory are also finished with the yellow brick.

A two story high stone wall separates the eastern section from the remainder of the factory. This part of the structure has three levels on the interior but retains the two story exterior height of the rest of the factory. The rooms on the lower two levels have small rectangular windows delineating the six bays, which were once barred and provided with board shutters, indicating their possible use as store rooms, probably for rum. The middle level is reached by a short flight of stone stairs running parallel to the south wall of the factory. The lower level is entered through a low wide arched opening beneath the stair landing. A small cistern, 6' x 10', possibly used in connection with the manufacture of rum, is appended to the east wall of this wing.

The height of the lower story in the two story section is 12', with the second floor marked by a double brick beltcourse. The second story walls, which exist only on the north facade, are 8' high, with three symmetrically placed windows that do not

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 in commerce and trading.

St. Thomas, which the Danes purchased in 1671 to serve as a commercial port, had less agricultural development than the other islands. However, there were some sugar plantations in operation. By 1725 St. Thomas reached its peak in sugar production and by 1754 it was no longer very important to the industry. Moreover, during the 19th century the island's commercial and trading interests were finally prospering.

Although sugar production reached its peak in St. Thomas in 1725, Neltjeberg continued in profitable production until the 1830's. The estate is unusually well watered, has fertile volcanic soil and, as a holding of several hundred acres, experienced economic success on a scale unavailable to smaller plantations.

During its heyday Neltjeberg was never the residence of its owners. At the time of his death in 1794, the plantation was the property of Thue Thueson Wulffsberg, Collector of Customs for St. Thomas. Wulffsberg was appointed to that demanding and highly remunerative position in 1763, the year St. Thomas was declared a free port. When Mrs. Wulffsberg's new husband sold the estate in 1802 for 30,000 pieces of eight plus the discharge of debts, the sale included Brass Cay, 39 negroes, 12 mules, 7 milk cows, 3 calves, 14 sheep, 1 horse and 2 colts.

From 1802-1830, Neltjeberg was the property of the Hassel family which had widespread commercial interests and landholdings throughout the Virgin Islands. The estate appears to have declined rapidly after 1830.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Zabriske, L. K. The Virgin Islands of the United State of America - Historical and Descriptive Commercial and Industrial Facts, Figures and Resources: New York, 1918

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres 18° 22' 14" North Latitude
 UTM REFERENCES 64° 58' 00" West Longitude

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located within No. 7 Estate Neltjeberg in the Northside Quarter of St. Thomas' northern shore.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Annie Hillary, Timothy Stills, Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION: Virgin Islands Planning Office DATE: June 9, 1977

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 2606 TELEPHONE: (809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN: Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas STATE: U. S. 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.

Lionel A. 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	
<i>Robert B. Ketting</i>	DATE <u>2/17/78</u>
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Charles A. Sturges</i>	DATE <u>2-2-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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line up with the openings below. These window openings are rectangular on the exterior with wood casings, but are segmentally arched on the interior, a design feature common to much of the sugar factory construction extant in the islands. The interior had louvered blinds, the exterior, board shutters, hung on straps with iron pintles.

The animal mill lies approximately 10 feet south of the factory and consists of a circular terrace 35' in diameter, 5' above grade at most points and is enclosed by a dry stone wall. Unlike most surviving animal mills, which are at grade at some point, this mill terrace is reached by a flight of eight stone stairs. While it no longer remains, it is probable that the animals were lead to the horse walk over a ramp from the stable area. The pocket for the sugar syrup trough remains, but no remains of the grinding platform or the roof structure were observed.

The stable lies 20feet southeast of the animal mill, and consists of an 18' x 6'6" rectangular structure open to the west side. The walls are 18" thick masonry rubble with the interior face plastered. Each end wall has a centered window and is 9' high at the open west end, 6' high at the rear, with a timber shed roof. The eastern wall has a series of six vents on 3' centers, 6" by 1' high, 5'6" above grade. Ghostings in the surviving interior plaster indicate that board partitions divided the stable into five stalls.

Two slave quarters remain south of the animal mill, the first a 7'6" square structure with evidences of a hip roof. Its rubble masonry walls, 18" thick, are plastered on both faces, and survive to a height of 9', except for the collapsed west wall. There is a door centered in the north wall with a large window in each of the remaining side walls.

A second structure lies 15' south of the first and is an 8' x 12' rectangle. The 6'6" high walls have a door centered in the east wall, and single windows in the north and south end walls. The interior wall surfaces are plastered.

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Neltjeberg was purchased by Jacob Roger Maalenaar (Moolenaar) around 1850, and has passed by inheritance in his family ever since. The Moolenaars converted the factory structure to a residence and used the estate as a dairy. The factory/residence was destroyed by the hurricane of October 29, 1867 and abandoned thereafter.

In large part the rubble thrown down by the 1867 hurricane has been undisturbed. The factory building and slave quarters undoubtedly present an unequalled opportunity for securing historical archaeological information about the 18th and 19th century economy of the Virgin Islands.

The Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs recently purchased adjoining property in the Neltjeberg Estate to include in the Territorial Park System. The expansion of the park to include the ruins complex in order to capitalize on its outstanding interpretive values is under consideration.

The ruins of the factory at Neltjeberg are of architectural significance because of the classical revival details, the plan, the method of construction and use of local building materials, all typical of sugar factories in the Virgin Islands at this period.

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Westergaard, Waldemar Christian. The Danish West Indies Under Company Rule (1671 0 1754), With a Supplementary Chapter, New York, 1917

Taylor, Charles Edwin. Leaflets from the Danish West Indies Descriptive of the Social, Political and Commercial Conditions of These Islands. London, 1888

Knox, John Pary. A Historical Account of St. Thomas, W. I.... and Incidental Notices of St. Croix and St. John. New York, 1852 (1966 reprint).

Kai Larson, Personalia, Enid Baa Public Library, St. Thomas, V. I.

Interview with Mr. George Moolenaar, October 22, 1976 by Timothy Stills.

Letter from Harold Larson, Arlington, Virginia to Timothy Stills, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands., November 28, 1976