

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

3526  
**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 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 Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*W of 3rd Road*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0800

## 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

Midland Moravian Church c/o Mr. Gaveston David

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 729

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

STATE

## 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

1959

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Friedensfeld Moravian Church and Manse are 5.3 miles west from Fort Christian, Christiansted, St. Croix. The church is one of the largest frame structures in the islands, and is significant for its unusual combination of Carpenter's Gothic and Classical Revival elements. The present church (built 1854) is a replacement of a smaller structure dedicated in 1819. It is reported, but unverified, that the building was prefabricated in Germany, and then assembled by German craftsmen with the aid of local builders.

The church is two-story frame construction over a sandstone foundation, measuring two feet in thickness. The church is a rectangle, measuring about 55' by 77', with a central section, measuring about 30' by 10', that projects one bay from the main, western facade. An addition to the east end probably dates from about 50 years later. The building has an open masonry drain on all sides, with masonry splashblocks at inner angles of the center nave projections on the west and east end of the church.

The entire structure has been sheathed and clapboarded, the earliest being beaded siding, with later, German siding used to patch deteriorated sections.

The building is seven bays long by five bays wide, with entrances on three sides approached by half pyramid of steps of cut limestone. The main doorway on the west has a flat head with entablature moldings of Tuscan precedent. The first floor windows are flatheaded with slightly projecting drip caps and a molded sill boards. The second floor windows have pointed arch heads without drip caps or sill boards. The windows of the upper floor are placed immediately above those of the lower, with the window casing of the first floor continuing into that of the second, creating an effect (when the shutters are closed) of tall, Gothic lancet windows.

The first floor windows have interior, two-panel jalousie shutters with movable louvers. The second floor has pointed casement windows with six rectangular panes and six smaller odd-shaped panes which are elements of a fanlight. All doors and windows are equipped with shutters, with wrought iron sill hooks, strap hinges and bar brackets. The doors have rim locks.

The outside corners are articulated with heavy wood quoins, and the interior corners of the center projection with flat corner boards. There is a narrow molded sill board, but no belt course.

The roof consists of three parallel gables running on the east-west axis, sheathed in wood, and covered with corrugated metal. The molded wood cornice continues across the face of the gable end.

A steeple is located on the west end, an open-four-sided pavilion, supporting a double-slope concave pyramidal roof covered in sheet metal. The bell is contained in the pavilion.

Immediately inside the main, western entrance of the church is a vestibule with

continued...

# 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 checked="" 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 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 Moravian missionaries were successful in Christianizing the slaves of St. Croix, whom other denominations tended to ignore spiritually. By 1800 the Brethern had two flourishing mission stations on St. Croix; Friedensthal (Valley of Peace) near Christiansted, and Friedensberg (Hill of Peace) outside Frederiksted. In 1807 the Brethern acquired six acres from Estate Mon Bijou in midisland at Friedensfeld (Field of Peace) as the site of a third mission. Although a foundation stage was laid, construction was delayed due to the disruptions caused by the 1807 - 1815 British occupation of the Danish islands. The church was completed and dedicated February 12, 1819. The ceremony was so well attended that only one-fourth of the audience could be squeezed into the new building.

The church prospered with a congregation of over 2,000 reported in 1854. The building is still in use by a small but active congregation.

The church and manse of Friedensfeld Moravian Church are superb examples of Moravian architecture of two different periods of construction. The two-and-a-half story manse, which probably dates to C. 1810 or earlier, represents the continuation of the typical 18th Century Moravian Manse style and building materials. The church is a very fine combination of Gothic and Clasical Revival elements, kept within the bounds of the sober Moravian style. It illustrates an adaption of the traditional 18th Moravian Church style to combinations of two Revival styles popular in the mid 19th century.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gjessing, Frederick C., Historic American Buildings Survey, 1959.  
 Maynard, G. Oliver. A History of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province, Trinidad: Yuille's Printerie Ltd., 1968.  
 Murphy, Patricia Shaibah. The Moravian Mission to the African Slaves of the Danish West Indies, 1732 - 1828. St. Croix: Prestige Press, 1969.

continued...

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

17° 44' 52" North Latitude

UTM REFERENCES

64° 46' 50" West Longitude

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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 Stokes  
Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer - 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, 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Thomas R. Blake*

TITLE Director of Planning DATE May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Active</i>	DATE <u>7/1/76</u>
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>6-25-76</u>
ATTEST <i>Active</i>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places  
May, 1976 State  
Virgin Island Planning Office  
Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

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two side staircases leading to the balcony, which is one bay deep and spans the north, south, and west sides. The balcony wall consists of a panelled wood lower section, crowned by a row of wrought iron pointed arches, topped by a wooden handrail. It is supported by columns, which divide the interior into a nave and two side aisles of seven bays. There are four balcony panels to each bay of the nave.

The columns, which continue upwards to support the trusses, have base and capital molds, and scroll brackets. The vertical lines of the columns are continued on the face of the balcony by slightly projecting pilasters, which have elaborate moldings.

The treatment of the ceiling is one of the most notable features of the church. In the nave, the sheathing and trusses are exposed and painted black. Below is a barrel vault constructed of an open-square grid with molded wood members. The grid is painted white and provides the effect of a coffered ceiling. The contrast in light value between the grid and the trusses above, is sufficient to make the trusses indiscernable.

The vestibule staircases have square balusters and a mahogany handrail that spirals into a rounded nevel post. There is a double scroll design on the brackets.

The two-and-a-half story manse lies about 75' to the northwest of the church, and is connected by a stone pathway. The cut limestone foundations and first floor and the frame second floor with dormers and rooms under the gable roof is typical for Moravian manse construction on the islands. The construction date of the manse is uncertain, but it may predate the church by 40 to 50 years or more.

The building is a rectangle, measuring 70' by 42', with the long axis running north-south. The coursed, dressed limestone foundation is expressed on the exterior by a slightly projecting plinth approximately 18" above ground.

The building is seven bays on the long axis and six bays on the short, with two entrances on the center of the second, main floor. Access to the entrance is by two limestone and stucco buttressed staircases perpendicular to the main wall, with arched niches on the side walls underneath the landing. The top of each staircase wall is rounded, and the walls fan outwards on the west side (the "welcoming arms" type) and inward on the east side.

The first floor has one carriage entrance in the south and two doors on the west side of the building. All the first floor entrances have storm doors of double board construction.

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The second floor entrances have flat casings with three-sectioned interior double doors (with movable louvers in the upper two sections) and exterior storm shutters. The second floor windows are equipped with two panelled shutters and double-hung sash (six by six). The window openings have flat casings, with drip caps and slightly projecting sills. The windows in the attic at the gable ends and in the dormers are similar to the second floor windows. The manse has a gabled roof, projecting slightly over the eaves. It is sheathed in wood, and covered with corrugated metal. The gable ends have molded eaves. Three dormers are riding on the cross (east-west) axis of the roof. The flanking dormers are pulled back about five feet from the main wall.

The following description of the interior is based on a 1959 HABS report by Frederick Gjessing, as access was not possible:

The building interior is divided into three sections of two, three and two bays respectively. The center section is divided into two rooms and the end sections into three rooms each. An enclosed wood staircase in the central section provides access to the attic and ground floor. The main floor and attic have tongue and groove pine floors.

All interior walls are plastered. Ceilings are wood with exposed beams or rafters throughout. The main floor rooms have base and ceiling molds and molded door casings.

The interior doors have H-and-L hinges, porcelain door knobs, rim locks, and wrought iron latches.

There is a small cook house (13' by 15') about 20' from the manse to the west. The walls are constructed of coursed dressed limestone. The door and window have flat, jack arches with wood casings and gauged brick voussoirs, and the arch over the door has a keystone. Both openings are equipped with casement shutters, with hardware on the window shutter including wrought iron strap-hinges with pointed cusps, and on the door shutter, similar strap hinges with lima-bean cusps.

The interior is a single undivided room with a pavement floor of limestone, rubble and brick. There is a brick chimney hood over a timber girt in the north end, with a chimney corresponding on the exterior.

As one approaches the church from the entrance road, there is a small graveyard to the right immediately alongside the road.

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St. Croix Agricultural Reporter. September 28, 1864. Christiansted; P. B. Hatchett.

Interview: Roger Kimball, Pastor, Friedensberg, Frederiksted, St. Croix, May 12, 1976. Interview by Margaret Proskauer and Annie Hillary.

Interview: Gaveston David, Lay Pastor, Midlands Moravian Church, St. Croix, May 12, 1976. Interview by Margaret Proskauer and Annie Hillary.