

PH 0502561

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1977

DATE ENTERED

FEB 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Richmond Prison, and Detention and Workhouse

AND/OR COMMON

Richmond Penitentiary

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

* VICINITY OF

1

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0200

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

Virgin Islands Government/ Department of Public Safety

STREET & NUMBER

Charlotte Amalie

CITY, TOWN

St. Thomas

VICINITY OF

U. S. Virgin Islands

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
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

Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 6, 1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Richmond Prison, begun in 1834 and completed in 1835 (the perimeter walls were not completed until 1836), is located in the Richmond section of Christiansted, St. Croix 7/8 of a mile west of Fort Christian. Called the Detention and Workhouse, the facility initially consisted of a long low cell block housing 50 prisoners in individual cells with a guard house at the east end and a "Keeper's House" at the west end, a separate structure housing washrooms and a latrine along the north wall of the compound, and a kitchen and cistern along the south wall at the west corner. The cell block divided the walled prison yard on an east-west axis, with the guard house and keeper's house appended to, but outside the wall. The guard house, built as the west end of the cell block has been demolished at an unknown date. The yard is served by entrance gates in the east and west walls, at either side of the cell block, with internal access to the separate parts limited to cross halls in the cell block, two in each of the north and south facades, at the quarter points.

The cell block is 25 bays in length, constructed of dressed coral block with brick linings at the windows and brick quoins, all of which are stuccoed. The 6' x 10' cells are in two rows opening on a central corridor. The cells have barrel vaulted ceilings and are covered by a low shed roof forming the flanking wings to the monitor roofed corridor. Windows are located above each cell door, in the side walls of the higher corridor, lighting this space and appearing as a broken clerestory. The floor is brick and the interior walls have been plastered. Each cell has a 29" wide opening to the hall with brick lined splayed jambs and a heavy timber door hung on large elaborate "U" shaped wrought iron hinges with wrought iron slide bolts and lock. A 33" x 34" window, with brick sills and segmental heads on the exterior facade lights each cell, opening to the prison yards. The windows have wood casings and are provided with wrought iron grilles and wood shutters. The projecting entrances, two in each long wall, have battered pilasters supporting triangular pediments. The fan of the round arched door opening is divided into 12 parts by radiating wrought iron bars. The doors are heavy timber on wrought iron strap hinges.

The guard house originally located at the west end of the cell block, has been demolished, as mentioned, exposing the monitor roofed end wall. The flanking wings of the end wall have low parapet walls over the cells, while the gabled monitor is finished with a triangular pediment on engaged pilasters. The round

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 checked="" 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 1833- 1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Albert Løvmand
Johannes Sollingens

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richmond Prison is historically significant because it was the first prison erected in the Danish West Indies in an attempt to develop a state penal institution. During the first half of the 19th century there existed a growing demand for social reform. With the increasing number of free blacks and the possibility of the abolition of slavery, a need for social reform was expressed by many in the Danish West Indies. Governor-General Peter von Scholten (governor, 1827-1848) was instrumental in much of the social reform during the period, especially in the construction of many of the country schools and of Richmond Prison. Instituting a state penal system was von Scholten's attempt to improve the arbitrary punishment of slaves by their individual owners.

Albert Løvmand who was retained by von Scholten to design the public school was also credited with construction of Richmond Prison although several architects were involved with its design and construction. In 1833 a request was made to the Burgher Council by von Scholten to approve a proposal for the construction of a 100 man prison that might initially house 50 men. The Burgher Council approved the proposal with minor changes. The cost of construction of the prison was to be borne by a tax on the planters. However, labor and material could be accepted in place of cash.

The prison's simple and distinctive plan may have been inspired by the typical layout of a plantation stable as shown by Oxholm's plans of a plantation. Two plans were submitted to the Burgher Council. In 1833 Løvmand submitted to the Burgher Council a monumental cruciform project which had many features in common with the existing plan. Another rectangular plan was submitted which the Burgher Council preferred because it was more adaptable to two stages of construction and the yard layout was more functional.

Originally R. Stewart and his assistant, Hugh Miller, were contracted by the Burgher Council to build the prison.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

DeFine Lichte, Kjeld. Albert Løvmand and His Work in the Former Danish West Indies. Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XXI, No. 3, October, 1962

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

JFT 2/9/78

17° 44' 52" North Latitude
64° 42' 48" West Longitude

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ± 40.0

UTM REFERENCES

A []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C []

B []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on #3 Estate Richmond which is west of Christiansted.

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, Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION

Virgin Islands Planning Office

DATE

June 9, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE

(809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

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.

Thomas L. 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

Robert B. Rottig

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

[Signature] DATE 2/14/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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arched opening has a wrought iron gate and fan light. This end wall design is repeated at the east wall of the cell block, connecting it to the keeper's house. This structure is three by five bays, rectangular in plan with a hipped roof supported by a heavy flat cornice band with brick consoles. The stuccoed coral block walls have a continuous molded watertable and brick quoins at the corners. The rectangular window and door openings have splayed jambs, brick sills and shallow pedimented heads with molded brackets. All casings are timber, with later glass louvers added to the windows, replacing wood blinds. The door is panelled and is reached by a single flight of five stairs. The wood shutters shown in early photographs have been removed. The interior has been modified, but the timber Queen Post trusses of the roof system remain.

Wide Classic Revival gates are located in the east and west yard walls, at either side of the cell block. The coral block walls are stuccoed. The double doors are enclosed by a triangular pediment with a segmental fan light. The entire gate facade is panelled with radiating voussoirs terminating in quoins at the edges of the projecting wall. There is also a molded keystone.

The one story structure that originally housed the prisoners' washrooms and latrine, along the north perimeter wall, remains but has been considerably altered and enlarged with a two story cell block added to the east part and a series of one story sheds to the west. The south yard has been reduced in size by road construction with the loss of the original kitchen and other outbuildings. A later cookhouse, cistern and administrative offices have been built along the south wall. Other accessory structures have been added to the northeast corner, outside the walls, and opposite the east end wall gate of the cell block. Two watch towers at the northeast and northwest corners of the property, but separate from the walls, complete the complex, which, except for the keeper's house, is vacant and in a deteriorated condition.

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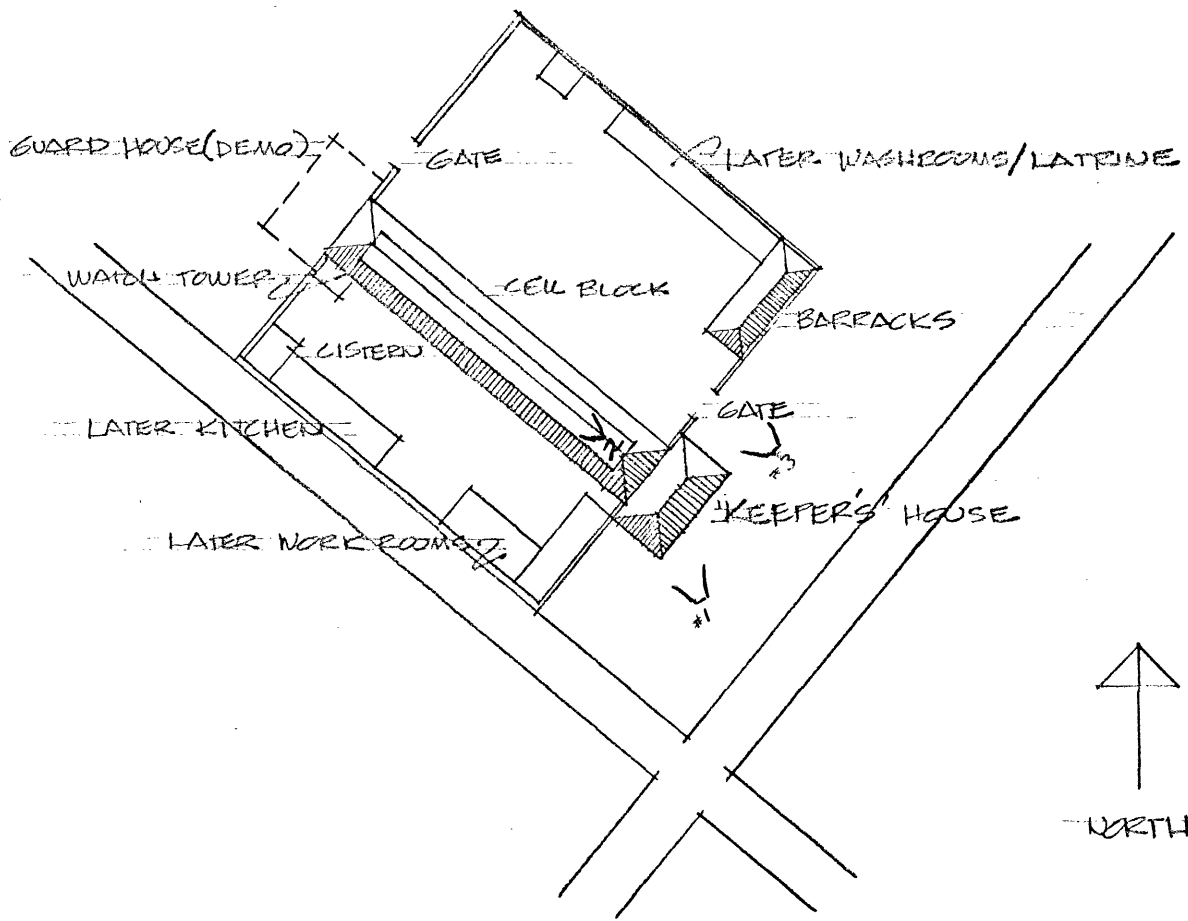
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE Two

Stewart died while the foundation of the prison was under construction. The Burgher Council had awarded Lovmand an appointment to a committee charged with the construction of the prison, and in 1836 he was given a contract for construction of the enclosing wall. As a result of that appointment, he was able to influence greatly the construction and design of Richmond. Moreover, many of his ideas were included in the final construction of the prison, but he considerably altered the plans which he had originally submitted. Building Inspector, Johannes von Solligen Magens (1791-1837) has been credited with the main features and Lovmand, after being awarded a contract to construct the enclosing wall in 1836, can be credited with its construction.

Richmond Penitentiary served the government of the Virgin Islands until the 1960's as the state penal institution and is presently being considered for adaptation to a community center.



RICHMOND PENITENTIARY, ST. CROIX, U.S.V.I. • SITE PLAN • SCALE 1"=100' RW