

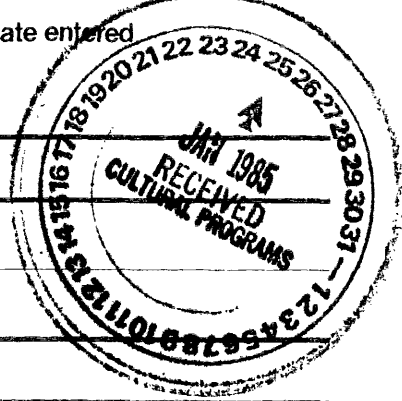
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 2 1987  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name** Bethlehem Middle Works Historic District

historic Estate Bethlehem Middle Works

and/or common Bethlehem Middle Works

## 2. Location

street & number King's Quarter

not for publication

city, town Christiansted  vicinity of

state US Virgin Islands code 78 county St. Croix code 0800

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: undeveloped

## 4. Owner of Property

name V. I. Corp. see continuation sheet #14, page 1.

street & number c/o Dept. of Property and Procurement

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix vicinity of state US Virgin Islands 00820

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Government House

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix state US Virgin Islands

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virgin Islands Inventory  
title of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date February 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virgin Islands Planning Office

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix state US Virgin Islands

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved

date

1984

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bethlehem Middle Works is one of three works at Bethlehem Estate in Kings's Quarter, St. Croix. The estate is located in the middle of the island in an area originally reserved for King Christian VI of Denmark in 1736 when Denmark acquired the island of St. Croix. Bethlehem Middle Works is now situated north of Fairplain and south of Bethlehem Old Works between the modern four-lane road known as the Melvin Evans Highway and the far earlier built Centerline Road.

A detailed plan of Middle Works is represented on a map drawn in two scales by F.C. Von Melbye in 1779. Melbye's map shows the original structures of the sugar estate arranged on the hillside west of the road oriented north to south. The structures used to operate the plantation are represented on the south side of Middle Works (the left side of the map). They include the curing and still house, the boiling house, mule and cattle mill, pens, cooper shop, cistern, stills, bagasse heap, cattle mill, windmills, negro houses, and pigeon house. To the north (right side of Melbye's map) are the dwelling house with cistern, kitchen and oven, pigeon, duck and fowl houses, sick house, stable, smith shop, sheep and hog pens, gardens and watch houses surrounded by guinea corn and cane fields.

Some of the original estate buildings still exist today. Other parts of the site have been developed for subsequent uses somewhat altering the original plan. The historic remains of the Middle Works are (1) the overseer's house, (2) windmill, (3) animal mill site, (4) site of steam factory, (5) site of original slave village, (6-27) later workers' quarters, (28) raised cistern, (29) animal pen, (30) stables, and (31) greathouse.

#### (1) Overseer's House (c. 1820 with later changes)

The overseer's house is not shown in Von Melbye's map. One of the buildings later added to the site, it was probably constructed in the early 1800's. The rectangular structure located on the summit of the hill is covered with a hip roof oriented east to west. The major core of the building, three by three bays, measures 37 feet by 35 feet. It has been conscientiously converted to a modern residence. Originally, consisting of two stories, the building now has one. Alterations include a modern addition incorporating part of the gallery on the east end, 13 feet by 35 feet. The open part of the gallery, located on the southeast, is covered by a galvanized metal shed roof supported by masonry columns. Openings are splayed with prominent keystones above them. The two panelled shutters are made to look like the originals. Much of the original hardware still exists. Latticework covers the addition on the west end. A pressurized vessel used in the original steam operated sugar factory is being used for a cistern. A badly deteriorated retaining wall rising up to four feet above the ground stands about ten feet away from the house on the west and north sides. The two feet thick rubble masonry wall on the west measures 30 feet long; the north wall measures 60 feet.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	XX community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	XX archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___XX agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
XX 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
XX 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
XX 1900–	___ communications	XX industry	XX politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		XX other (specify) social history

Specific dates c. 1740–1902

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The history of Bethlehem Middle Works, along with Upper Bethlehem (Upper Works) and Fairplain (Bayworks), dates back to 1736 when a deed for the entire Bethlehem estate was made out to King Christian VI and his queen. Middle Works was at the time one of three estates reserved for the king. All were located at the middle of the island to take advantage of the rich flatland and relatively—at least by St. Croix standards—plentiful water supply. For three years the estate was supervised by a clerk named Schuster. He was assisted by two carpenters, a doctor "to attend the negroes" and a boy. In 1738, seven whites and eighty-three negro slaves lived in King's Quarter, all of them apparently associated with Bethlehem.

The name of the estate is of uncertain origin. The property was first called Bethlehem in an engraved map (produced by Kuffner) published in Oldendorp's Geschichte de Mision der Evangelischen Bruder auf den Caralbischen, S. Thomas, S. Croix und S. Jan of 1767 (published 1777). The Moravians had first arrived in the Danish West Indies in the 1730's, first establishing missions in St. Thomas and St. John and, after purchase of St. Croix from the French in 1734, in St. Croix. Eventually a Moravian mission would be established just north of Bethlehem at Friedensburg. The main patron of the Moravians was one Count Zinzendorf, who himself visited the islands. Von Plessen, a close friend and counselor to the King, was also a strong supporter of the Moravian community. It is likely that this influence passed on in the form of the naming of the royal estates, as with many other Moravian communities and missions. No Moravians actually settled on Bethlehem, however, although this may have been contemplated.

After three years of cultivation, the royal estate was subdivided, most of its lands, and incipient dwellings, passing to the Heyliger brothers, Johannes and Peter. The Heyliger family were residents of the island of St. Eustatius, then a prosperous Dutch trading post in the Caribbean. Johannes at the time was in fact governor of the Dutch colony. The Heyligers and their offspring (or in-laws) were to hold the estate until the beginning of the nineteenth century when sugar profits began to decline and they, along with many other Cruzan landed families, began to divest themselves of their often enormous holdings.

As of 1745, or six years after the Heyligers took possession, Bethlehem claimed a total of 72 capable slaves. Little else is known of the plantation during that period. But in 1754, or the time of Beck's map, the estate possessed at least an animal mill and other facilities necessary for processing sugar cane; these were no doubt legacies from the king. A short time later, probably in the late 1760's, the estate gained its first windmill, the remains of which can still be seen on the crest of the hill of the center of the estate.

The Heyligers were also responsible for constructing a large and ambitious greathouse. This is pictured in detail on the 1779 von Melbey map of the former royal estates, as a separate vignette above the map. The house is shown as roughly palladian in elevation and plan, with a projecting and pedimented central bay, a

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Beck, L.M. S. Croix Map, 1754, 1767.  
 Børgesen, F. Map of the DWI Islands, 1898.  
 British Admiralty Chart 2019 of St. Croix, 1918.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 34 acres

Quadrangle name Christiansted

UTM References (A) 17°43'10", 64°47'43"  
 (B) 17°43'10", 64°47'40"

Quadrangle scale  
 (C) 17°42'55", 64°47'28"  
 (D) 17°42'55", 64°47'32"

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwesternmost Point (A) of the historic district at latitude 17°43'10", longitude 64°47'43", the boundary line follows a southeastern direction along the Frederiksted/Christiansted jurisdiction border to Point (B) at latitude 17°43'10", longitude 64°47'40"

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 Betty Ausherman, William Chapman, Claudette Lewis

organization Virgin Islands Planning Office date 16 November 1984

street & number PO Box 7818 telephone 809/774-7859

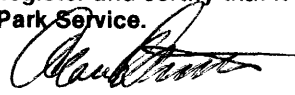
city or town St. Thomas state US Virgin Islands

## 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 Alan D. Smith 

Title Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources date 9/12/87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date July 6, 1988  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Vernon Ball  
PO Box 1579  
St. Thomas, USVI  
00801

Lambert and Julian Pierce  
PO Box 2389  
Kingshill, St. Croix  
USVI 00850

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Remnants of rubble masonry wall are located south and west of the house, partially covered by a natively grown, commonly known "bread and cheese" bush. The bush was likely planted to prevent trespassing, commonly near the bake oven.

(2) Sugar Mill (c. 1760-1770)

Approximately 12 feet to the southwest of the manager's house are the remains of the original sugar mill. It rises up to four feet above grade. It measures 28 feet in diameter. A boiler, originally used in the steam factory, stands inside the diameter. Further west, down the hillside from the sugar mill is the terrace originally the site for the animal mill.

(3) Animal Mill Site (c. 1740s)

A modern residence covered by a gable roof oriented east to west is now located on the site. Cement blocks have replaced the original rubble masonry foundation.

(4) Site of Sugar Factory (c. 1770)

None of the sugar factory remains on the Middle Works site. According to the Von Melbye map, it was a building consisting of two flanking hip roofs oriented north to south. The rectangular structures were located directly north of the animal mill, on the hillside. A modern residence is now situated on the location of the original factory as well as a small portion of a rubble masonry retaining wall running north to south.

(5) Site of Original Slave Village (c. 1750)

Nothing remains above ground of the original slave village consisting of wattle and daub houses south of the factory on the hillside. Melbye indicates there were at least 40 buildings, each originally covered with a thatched roof. The original animal pens were located adjacent to the village directly north on the hill. There are pieces of ceramics and hardware scattered throughout this area, so that it has significant archaeological potential. This area has been greatly altered with more recent residences some of which were more recent workers' quarters.

(6-27) Later Workers' Quarters (c. 1831-1851)

The more recent workers' quarters village of the early nineteenth century is now located in the valley north of the mill and south of the greathouse. There are approximately 21 plastered rubble masonry rowhouses approximately five or six bays long. Three of the rowhouses furthest south and with lengths oriented north to south were constructed later than the rest of the

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nineteenth century village. Each is covered with a metal corrugated, hip roof oriented north to south. The rest of the workers' quarters have lengths oriented east to west situated in approximately three rows. Another more recent eight bay by two bay rowhouse is located west of the hill where the manager's house and and mills are located at its base. Its length is oriented north to south and lines the paved road leading to the south shore. The walls have standing gable ends on the east and west, and a shed addition flanking along the north sides. Each plastered rubble masonry structure approximately 60 to 70 feet by 27 feet, has splayed openings. These structures were occupied until the early 1970's.

(28) Cistern (c. late 19th century)

A raised cistern is located south of the village. Composed of rubble masonry plaster, it consists of two square pools. Buttresses extend from the interior walls towards the center.

(29) Animal Pen (c. mid-19th century)

A more recently constructed animal pen with handsome gateposts indicate that they were constructed in the 1830's after the Von Melbye map was completed. The remains are located at the western base of the hill, across the street on the slightly sloping ground toward the Fairplain Gut. The site is now overgrown with thorny bush. The two feet thick, round capped rubble masonry walls of the animal pen rise to five feet above ground, and extend east from the road for at least 150 yards. The walls are punctuated on the west facade by two principal entrances flanked on either side by masonry cone capped gateposts seven feet high and six feet in diameter. The remains of the original hardware such as the pintles are still attached to the masonry posts.

(30) Stables (c. early 19th century with later changes)

Directly south of the animal pens on the same side of the road is a long narrow rectangular building punctuated by splayed openings that still retain their wood lintels. All have bricklined flat arches with projecting keystones. The three by six bay structure was probably for stables added in the early to mid-nineteenth century. The principal entrance faces the paved access road on the west facade. It consists of five long narrow windows five by three and a half feet beginning one and a half feet above grade. A large opening at the south end of the west facade may have been used for a carriage entrance. The metal corrugated roof once covering the building has collapsed.

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(31) Greathouse (c. late 18th century with later changes)

The original greathouse is illustrated on the Von Melbye map. It was located north of the factory complex on the ridge of a hill past the dividing valley. The 1779 drawing shows that the original greathouse consisted of a one-storied wooden building above a masonry basement. The structure was topped with a shingled hip roof. The central entrance had a gabled portico approached by a double staircase. On each side of the central portion of the house were four narrow windows with shutters. A raised cistern was located west of the house. The original greathouse was originally oriented southeast to northwest. Little remains of the original structure except for a rubble masonry retaining wall surrounding the site.

A later replacement of the original greathouse, which has a commanding view of the Middle Works, was built in the 1830's when Heyliger owned the property. It is located on the first hill directly west of the original greathouse site, north of Centerline Road and east of Golden Grove estate. It is now the location for the Department of Agriculture.

The mid-1830's greathouse is entirely composed of plastered rubble masonry except for the southwest addition covered by a gable roof oriented north to south. The 15 feet long wood novelty board siding stands on a raised rubble masonry foundation of limestone blocks.

The main core of the more recent greathouse measures 40 feet by 62 feet covered by a hip roof its length oriented east to west. The principal entrance is located on the west facade, approached by narrow four feet wide masonry stairs and a railing leading to a shed porch. The porch's metal galvanized roof is supported by wood campher posts evenly spaced. The doors have vertically planked shutters. All other openings have double panelled shutters most of which have the original hardware including horizontal crossbeams. A second staircase approaches the shed porch from the south. The welcome arm staircase of eleven steps has a wide, flat masonry rail ending in flat circular columns. On the south side of the masonry foundation and east of the stairs is an arched opening leading to a storage area. Another storage area is located underneath the novelty board addition. A hip dormer-like roof extends from the center of the north side of the main hip roof. It covers a raised landing that is approached by the north and south stairways. Latticework is located at every corner. The masonry railing is decorated similar to the other railings of the structure. Openings are splayed; most have retained the original hardware. A shed addition attached to a hip addition with its length oriented east to west is located on the west side.



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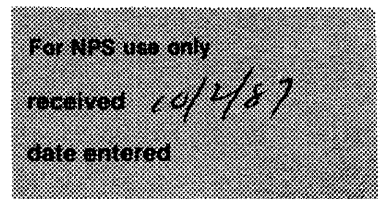
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(32-33) Rowhouse<sup>s</sup> (late 18th century)

A long rowhouse structure with masonry standing gable ends oriented east to west stands west of the main building. It measures 120 feet by 14 feet and is divided into two by ten bays. The entire rubble masonry structure has splayed openings with two panelled shutters along the north and south sides and one leaf shutter at the east and west ends. Window openings have exterior projecting sills. The limestone block building now houses offices. Directly north of the rowhouse about 60 feet away is another historic buildings, now referred to as the shop and garage. The limestone block structure has been covered with lime masonry measuring 30 feet by 23 feet. Three large altered openings on the south facade serve as vehicle entrances. The building has horizontal planks under a metal corrugated gable roof.

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SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION: ESTATE BETHLEHEM MIDDLE WORKS

Present Physical Appearance:

Estate Bethlehem Middle Works Historic District consists of buildings and structures arranged on a hillside and surrounding flat land. The estate, located near the middle of the island, lies north of Fairplain and south of Bethlehem: Old and New Works. The historic remains consist of (1) an overseer's house dating to c. 1820 with later changes; (2) a sugar mill dating to the 1760s; (3) animal mill site (c. 1740s); (4) site of factory built c. 1770; (5) site of original slave village (c. 1750); (6-27) later workers' quarters dating to c. 1831-1851; (28) a late 19th-century cistern; (29) a mid-19th-century animal pen; (30) stables constructed in the early 19th century with later changes; (31) a late 18th-century greathouse with later changes and (32-33) two rowhouses dating to the late 18th century. Cultural materials identified in the course of surface observation include 18th and 19th-century Delft, English transfer ware and Afro-Cruzan ware pieces. Scattered above the surface are also remains of iron hardware and tools and rubble masonry debris. Below surface archaeological remains are as yet not fully accounted for.

Original Physical Appearance:

As with most Cruzan estates, Estate Bethlehem Middle Works was built up and added to over the course of its existence. Early maps and other written accounts document this growth. Melby's 1779 map shows in detail that the original components of the estate consisted of a curing house, still house, animal mill, pens and stables, cooper shop, cistern, windmill, "negro houses", pigeon house, dwelling house with cistern, cook house. The overseer's house, not shown in the 1779 map, was added later to the site in the early 1800s. The more recent workers' quarters, raised cistern south of it, greathouse, rowhouse, animal pen and stables that stand on the site today were also built in the early to mid 19th century, added after the 1779 map was drawn of the original estate. The estate has undergone minor superficial changes since then and preserves its historic appearance and character as a Cruzan sugar estate as it was c. 1800-1850.

Boundary Selection/Justification:

The boundaries of the district were chosen to adequately circumscribe the known buildings, structures and other cultural remains associated with the historic estate ~~as well as to provide an adequate visual boundary in the event of future development.~~ The incidence of cultural remains drops off dramatically at the edge of the nominated historic area. They may exist outside the boundaries but it is unlikely given the present knowledge and procedures for investigation.

Alterations/Integrity:

Estate Bethlehem Middle Works preserves a high degree of visual and material integrity. Essentially unchanged in outline and general appearance are most of the remains including the sugar mill, the later workers' quarters, cistern, animal pen, stables and rowhouse, all constructed of rubble masonry. Of particular interest is the unusually elaborate gate posts of the animal pen which have retained the original iron hardware. Also elaborate are the stable's windows which have brick-lined flat arches with projecting keystones. The

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wood housing has been preserved. The overseer's house, later added to the site in the early 19th century has been conscientiously converted to a modern residence so that it does not detract from its historic character. The later replacement of the original greathouse built in the late 18th century and now the location for the Department of Agriculture, also has kept its original character and appearance. Noteworthy features include the welcome-arms stairway with wide and flat railing which ends in flat circular columns at either side, as well as the arched opening punctuating the south side of the masonry foundation. All openings have double panelled shutters, most of which have retained their original hardware and horizontal crossbeams. The original animal mill and slave village no longer stand today, although their sites have been identified. Archaeological potential is great in these areas and would yield more information about the former structures. Overall, the historic district preserves its integrity of setting. Non-contributing buildings are few and do not distract from the estate's integrity of construction materials and design.

Dates/Chronology:

The buildings, structures and other cultural remains of Estate Bethlehem Middle Works date to the mid-18th century (c. 1740) through the early 20th century (1902) when the last major alteration took place. Archaeological evidence, not yet fully accounted for, would appear to date from the earliest part of occupation. The estate preserves much of its 1800-1850 appearance as a sugar estate on St. Croix.

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staircase descending to either side, and a separate cistern and kitchen. The roof was hipped and covered by tiles. The base was rough-coursed limestone, the second floor of weatherboard construction. Windows were fitted with storm shutters and jalousies. All indications are that this is the origin of the present building on the site, a structure which, while being altered in some respects, retains much of its original appearance. It was obviously a grand house by contemporary standards, reflective of the Heyligers' place in the Cruzan community.

Von Melbey's map is instructive in that it provides a detailed description of the estate at the time of Heyliger ownership--or during its peak sugar producing years. The greathouse, as shown in the vignette, was located on a sharp outcropping west of the fields and above the factory and slave village. Around the greathouse were situated an oven, hen house, stable, forge and an infirmary for slaves. East of the greathouse and lining the approach from the same direction, was an ornate garden laid out with symmetrical flowerbeds in a style associated with both French and British (as well as Dutch and Danish) estates of this period. If the scale of the map is accurate, the garden would have measured 700 feet by 150 feet, making it an important embellishment for the estate.

The slave village, according to von Melbey's map, was located to the south of the garden along the side of the lower hill. This was a typical location for a village--away from the greathouse and upon steep land unfit for growing sugar. Nothing remains of the original village which was located south and above the present village. The site is relatively undisturbed, however, and still possesses research potential. The map shows four rows of ten houses each making Middle Works the largest of three Bethlehem estate villages. The construction apparently was of wattle and daub and the roofs were of thatch. Unusually, there is no provision ground indicated on the map, suggesting that the slaves grew their provisions on allotments elsewhere or were unable to grow their own vegetables.

The factory and other buildings associated with the business were located between the village and the greathouse, again on the slopes of the south hill. The windmill was sited above all else, at the crest of the hill overlooking the valley formed by Fairplain (or Bethlehem) Creek below. Its location is still easily visible, although little remains other than the footing and lower walls of the once conical base. The original animal mill was located on a terrace just below this (since built on by a present-day resident) and the curing house and still were below these on the hill. There are no above ground remains of the original factory, although a later factory, converted to an overseer's house, is located beside the windmill to the south. Finally, a mule or oxen pen to house animals used for grinding, was located south of both crushers besides the main north/south road.

During the late eighteenth century, the plantation passed through a variety of names but remained with the Heyliger family. Between 1755 and 1758, David Derrick, Jr., William Downis, Daniel Bryant's widow and their families all lived as residents (possibly managers) of the estate; Bryant was also connected with nearby Anguilla.

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The heirs of Johannes Heyliger succeeded to the estate in 1766. In 1774, Middle Works became the property of Jan Jacob de Windt, Heyliger's son-in-law through a marriage to his daughter, Elizabeth. From that point on, the estate was called the "de Windt Plantage" after its owner.

Little is known of the estate's prosperity during the late eighteenth century. De Windt and his family lived in the greathouse, managing both Middle Works and Upper Works, which also became his property at the time. Oxholm in his 1794 map of the estate shows the windmill and greathouse and dependencies, but little else.

By 1784, the de Windt brothers had sold the entire Bethlehem estate and in 1831, Benjamin DeForrest bought all three estates at an auction. The estate still belonged to DeForrest in 1851 as evidenced by the Scorpion Survey made in that year. Middle Works, at that time, was called Old Bethlehem, Upper Bethlehem was known as New Bethlehem, and Lower or Bay Works became known as Fairplain. Executors sold Bethlehem estate in 1858 with Mt. Victory to William Moore.

It was apparently DeForrest who built the second village, the newer factory and overseer's house, and the large animal pens to the east of the road. (It is possible that these were built just prior to sale by the de Windts, although this seems unlikely.) DeForrest was obviously concerned with reinvesting in the property at the time. Although sugar prices had been lower during the periods of British occupancy during the early part of the century, the end of the Napoleonic War promised a boom in sugar revenues. As a result, many sugar investors recapitalized, hoping to pay for their improvements with later profits. DeForrest constructed a village of at least 20 rowhouses, all with slanting gables and tile roofs and walls of rough-covered limestone taken from the nearby King's Hill beds. They were laid out along the south side of the north hill, below what was once the Heyliger gardens. The animal pens were also extensive and included the impressive cone-topped gates and auxiliary stables. All of this was a clear investment, but one which was not to pay out in the end.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars in 1816, Bethlehem Middle Works had 450 acres of cane cultivation. The average crop was 383 hogsheads of 1,500 pounds of sugar. The normal crop in 1861 was reduced due to a preceding four year drought. 1867 was the worst sugar producing year for the island due to epidemics of smallpox, cholera, a hurricane, earthquake and tidal wave. In 1876, there was another hurricane and in 1878, plantation life was disrupted severely again, this time by laborers discontented with the provisions of the 1849 Labor Act and the debilitating effects of the previous natural disasters on the lagging sugar economy. Other sugar producing areas, creating stiff competition, further caused the Cruzan sugar industry to suffer. As a result, DeForrest's investment fell increasingly in value. In 1882, Bethlehem was sold to William M. Carson, a private Danish investor. In 1884, Fredensborg (450 acres), 265 acres of Upper Bethlehem and Jealousy (300 acres) were combined so that the estate grew in size comprising a total of 2,165 acres. From 1862 to 1889, 621 acres was the average area under sugar cultivation, 431 hogsheads of sugar were produced on the

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average. From 1880-1889, the average area under sugar cultivation increased to 876 acres, 672 hogsheads of sugar were produced. New machinery and a vacuum pan were added to Middle Works in 1891. But this was only a stopgap measure.

In the early part of the century, the government approved a plan to build a large central sugar factory furnished with the most modern machinery for processing cane into sugar to be operated and owned by Jacob Lachmann, a Swedish investor. Lachmann's works were to supplement the Bartram Brothers' processing company at Lower Love and those already established outside Christiansted and at La Grange near Frederiksted. In the end, the New Bethlehem Works became the model factory for the island and processed most of its sugar. In 1902, Lachmann acquired Middle Works, along with Upper Bethlehem, Fredensborg and several other estates and began to cart Middle Bethlehem's sugar to be crushed there as well. Many of the workers employed at the Central Factory were housed at Middle Works, living in a village constructed there at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The quarters were occupied until recently by workers connected with this factory.

The remains at Middle Works convey a vivid sense of typical plantation arrangement during late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most impressive in its visual appearance is the expansive workers' village, regularly spaced along the contours of the hillside that were occupied until the early 1970's. Also visible are the extensive animal pens and stables of the same period; a possible early factory (c. 1820) later used as an overseer's house and now a private residence; the remains of the original (c. 1770) windmill; the foundation remains of the early factory; the original, although altered, greathouse; and possible remains of the original slave village (c. 1750).

Bethlehem Middle Works can best be considered as a representative St. Croix sugar plantation and it is in this light that its main claims for significance lie. The estate is also unusual for its one-time identity as a royal estate and for its well-documented early history. Its association with such well-known St. Croix names as Heyliger, de Windt, DeForrest, and Carson are of additional interest in understanding the site. Finally, Middle Works' place in the labor history of St. Croix, from the early and well-documented slave village through the elaborate stone rowhouses occupied until recently, is underwritten clearly by the material evidence and by the buildings still on the site.

Middle Works possesses considerable archaeological potential in understanding the early settlement patterns, residential patterns and nature of the sugar industry in St. Croix. Its boundaries have been drawn with this consideration in mind and are drawn to contain all of the known structures and remains of structures associated with the plantation.

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**SIGNIFICANCE/SUMMARY:** ESTATE BETHLEHEM MIDDLE WORKS

Significance Summary:

Estate Bethlehem Middle Works is significant as a relatively well-preserved estate providing information about the origins and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix from the mid-18th century through the 19th century. The remains of the estate consist of an overseer's house, windmill, animal mill site, site of the factory, site of the slave village, later workers' quarters, raised cistern, animal pen and stables and greathouse. Like Upper Bethlehem and Fairplain, Estate Bethlehem Middle Works dates to 1736 when initially it was a royal estate assigned to Danish King Christian VI and his Queen. The estate has retained much of its original development including buildings and structures of the 19th century. The estate has added significance for its association with the Heyliger and deWindt families, merchants and planters important to the early commercial and political history of St. Croix and later, with William Moore and William Carson, Cruzan merchants of the late 19th century.

Applicable Criteria:

Estate Bethlehem Middle Works' historic remains embody characteristics of building type, period and method of construction that are typical of St. Croix estates during the 18th and 19th centuries (criterion C); for its association with broader patterns of St. Croix's early history (criterion A); for its association with a number of figures important in the commercial and political history of the island (criterion B) and for its potential value in yielding information on the rise and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix, a subject that is yet to be fully and clearly documented as an important chapter in the history of the Danish and later American colonies (criterion D). \*See Note.

Areas of Significance:

**Archaeology-historic:** The full extent of Estate Bethlehem Middle Works' archaeological materials has not been established. A systematic visual survey of the estate indicates a high concentration of cultural materials which should yield further information about the sequence of development and life patterns of the estate's inhabitants over the course of its occupation. These remaining cultural materials include rubble masonry debris, European transfer ware, locally made Afro-Cruzan ware and iron hardware and tools. All are of great archaeological value in allowing for greater understanding of estate functions and planning. As yet, no sugar estate has been fully excavated or studied on St. Croix. Estate Bethlehem Middle Works represents an important resource for further investigation because the remains are relatively undisturbed and represent a Cruzan sugar estate that was at its peak of production during the early to mid 19th century.

**Agriculture:** Estate Bethlehem Middle Works commemorates St. Croix's agricultural base and predominant industry. The estate was under cultivation by 1740 and remained a sugar estate for at least 200 years. Questions about residential patterns of workers, the ratio of workers to field size, the location of individual gardens, etc. are likely to be answered through further study of the estate's cultural remains -- particularly as it operated during the early to mid-19th century.

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Architecture: Estate Bethlehem Middle Works contains a number of important representative buildings that are crucial to an understanding of the full-scaled organization and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix. These buildings include the remains of the sugar mill, workers' quarters, cistern, animal pen and stables, all composed of rubble masonry. The animal pen and stables have retained the original hardware and wood housing. Of particular interest are the elaborate features of the greathouse including the welcome-arms stairway. All openings have double-panelled shutters, most of which have retained their original hardware and horizontal crossbeams. All of the buildings embody characteristics of materials, construction methods and craftsmanship important to an understanding of Cruzan architecture during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Community Planning: Estate Bethlehem Middle Works' historic district includes the site of the original slave village as identified on the 1779 Melby plans. Since it has not been greatly disturbed, the site is ideal for learning more about the daily life of slaves on Cruzan plantations during this early period of sugar manufacturing. The more recent workers' village of the early 19th century is also located within the boundaries of the estate grounds. Such masonry cottages represent a response to agricultural village planning in Britain which began to be reflected in St. Croix in the late 18th to early 19th centuries. These buildings are an important advance over earlier workers' housing known through documentation such as Melby's detailed drawings.

Industry: The production of sugar was the mainstay of St. Croix's economy throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, extending to the 20th century. Estate Bethlehem Middle Works' buildings and structures document the development of that industry. The remains of important buildings and structures which still stand today include the sugar mill, animal mill site, factory site and later workers' housing. The archaeological remains, not yet fully accounted for, may yield further information about other buildings and structures related to the sugar process in St. Croix.

Politics/Government: Estate Bethlehem Middle Works has commemorative value with a number of figures important in the political and commercial history of St. Croix. These people include the Heyliger and deWindt families, important landowners, merchants and planters and later, William Moore and William Carson, important Cruzan merchants of the late 19th century.

Social History: Estate Bethlehem Middle Works is significant in the social history of St. Croix, its archaeological remains yielding information on daily working class life on sugar estates during the early stages of the sugar industry. Also, Estate Bethlehem Middle Works contains the later workers' quarters of the mid-19th century documenting the social history of the estate at this time. Further study of these remains may yield further information about the duties of workers needed to grow and harvest sugar cane and family life on the estate.

Context:

Estate Bethlehem is one of a number of St. Croix estates being nominated to the National Register, either as districts, as parts of multiple resource areas or as complexes. Each estate yields a significant amount of new and often different information about the



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nature and history of the sugar industry on St. Croix, and elsewhere in the West Indies through typical examples of building types. The estate has been nominated for the special characteristics of its layout and design, particularly as it existed 1800-1850.

\*NOTE. The collection of individual owners of each plantation illustrates the traditions of plantation growth and development over the centuries of operation (adding to the importance of these properties under Criterion A), but the case for any one of these individuals cannot be fully documented at this time (and therefore the properties are not being submitted under Criterion B).

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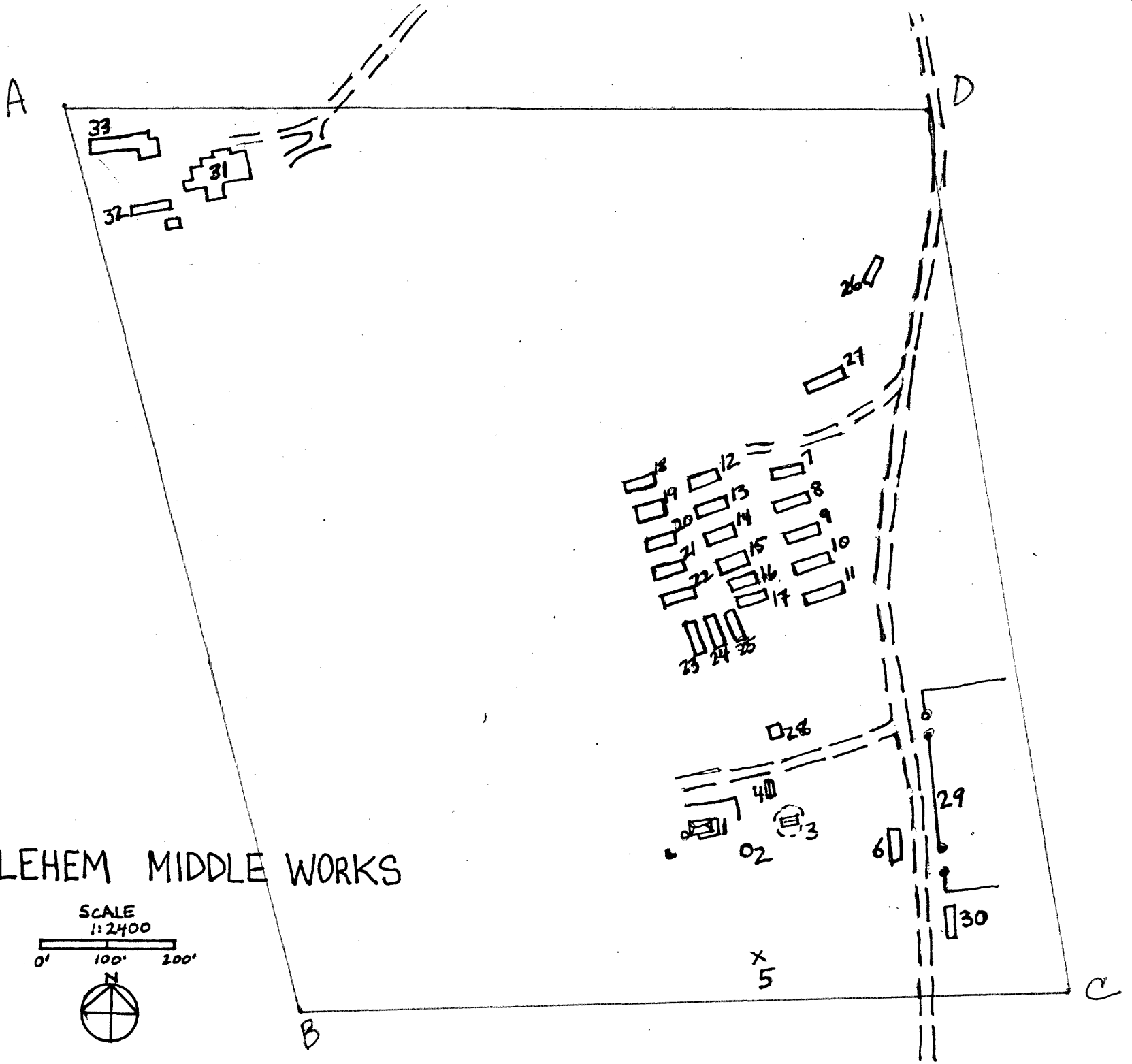
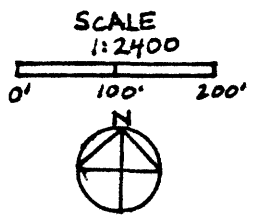
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turning east to Point (C) at latitude  $17^{\circ}42'55''$ , longitude  $64^{\circ}47'28''$  then turns north to Point (D) which meets the paved access road at latitude  $17^{\circ}42'55''$ , longitude  $64^{\circ}47'32''$  returning west to Point (A).

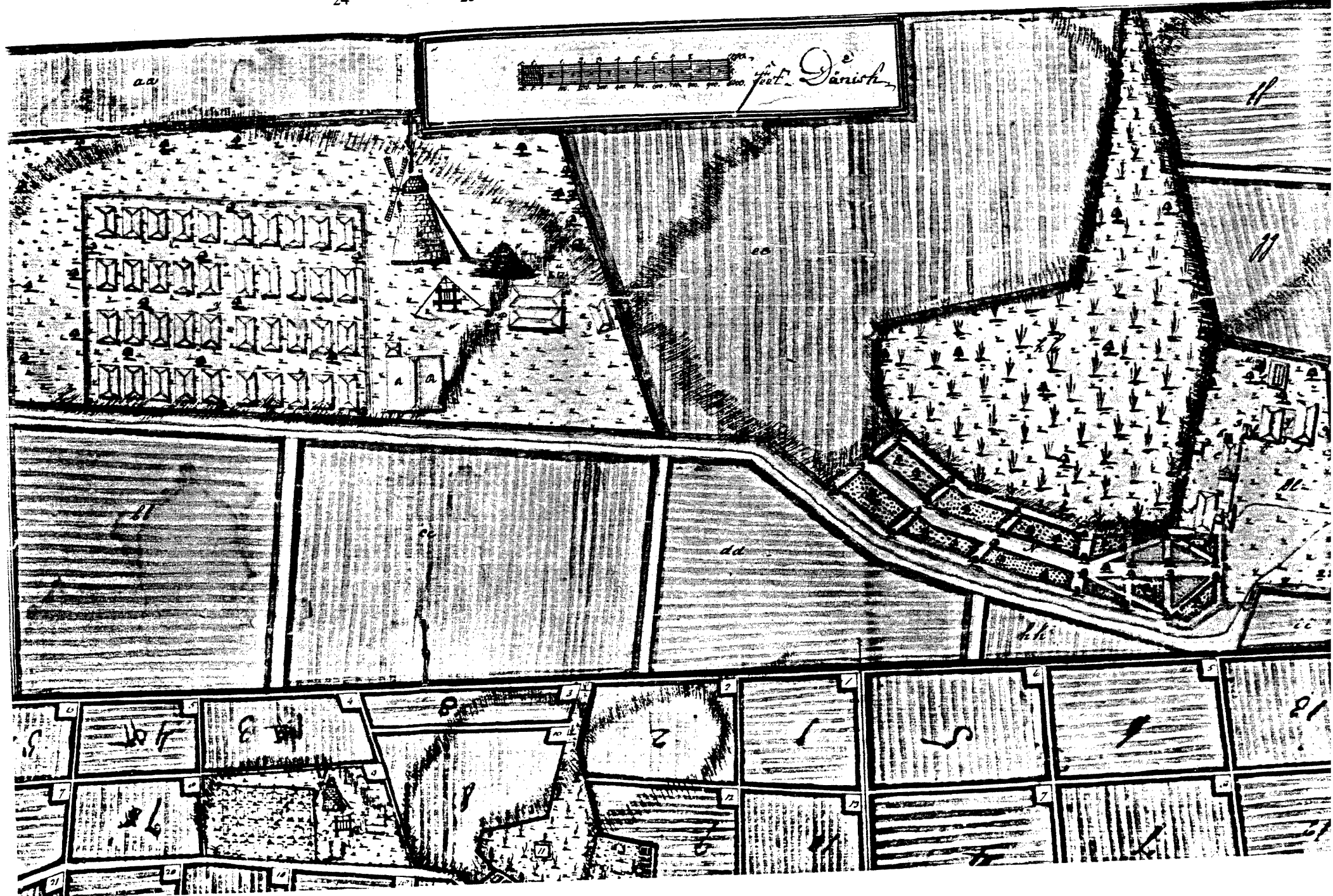
# BETHLEHEM MIDDLE WORKS



Middle Works  
F.C. von Melbye  
1779

24

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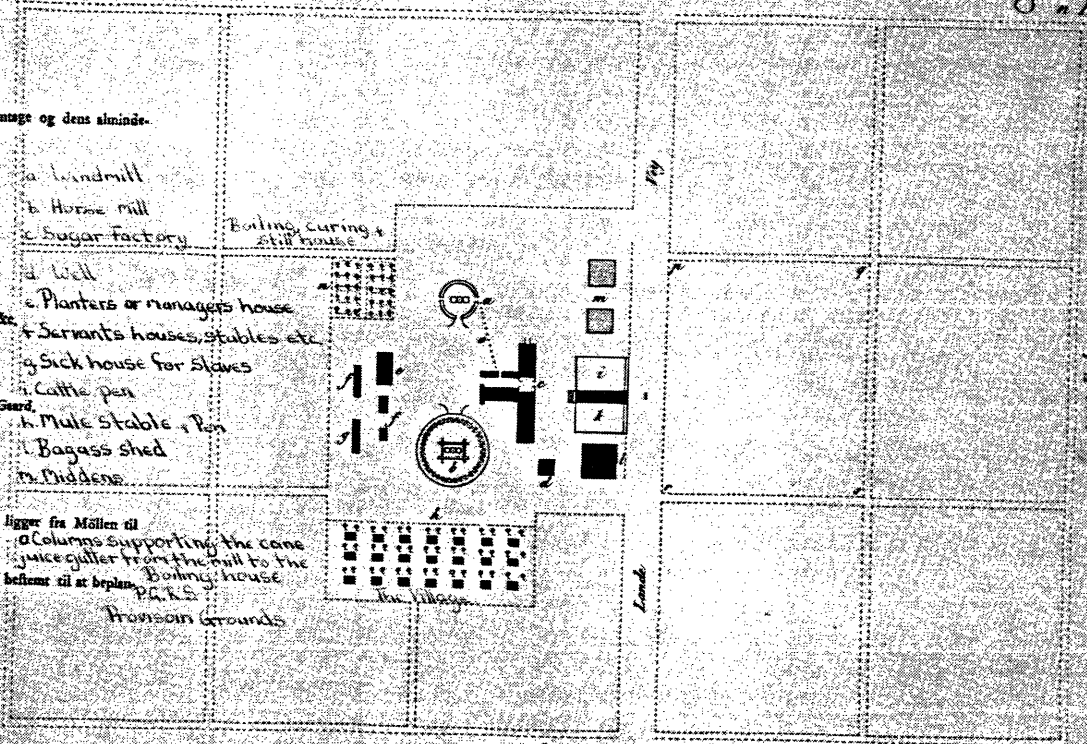


# A Typical Plan of a Plantation and its Standard Buildings

Plan I

er en Grundrisning af en Plantage og dens almindelige Inddeling.

- a. En Vindmølle. Windmill
  - b. En Hestemølle. Horse mill
  - c. Sukkerkøbst. Sugar factory
  - d. En Brønd. Well
  - e. Væningshuset. Planters or managers house
  - f. Domestikkøst, Stalde &c. Servants houses, stables etc.
  - g. Sygehuset. Sick house for slaves
  - i. En Overgård. Cattle pen
  - k. En Mulestabel, Pen. Mule stable, Pen
  - l. Mages-Sugs. Bagass shed
  - m. Møding-Pladse. Middens
  - n. Køkkenhøge. Kitchens
  - o. Piller, hvorpas Røden ligger fra Møllen til Kogehuset. Columns supporting the cane juice gutter from the mill to the boiling house
  - p, q, r, s. Et Strykke Land, bestemt til at beplante med Rø. Boiling house
- See Pl. II.



De Danske Vestindiske Øers Tilstand  
 by Lothar P Oxholm 1797  
 Courtesy of the Royal Library, Copenhagen.

