

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	JUN 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 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 Little La Grange
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Frederiksted
STATE U.S. Virgin Islands

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1
VICINITY OF CODE 78
COUNTY CODE St. Croix 0800

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Kai Lawaetz
STREET & NUMBER Box 98
CITY, TOWN Fredericksted, St. Croix STATE U. S. Virgin Islands
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Government House
CITY, TOWN Christiansted STATE St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey
DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service
CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Little La Grange lies 1.5 miles northeast of Fort Frederik, Frederiksted, St. Croix. The site of an early 19th century sugar plantation and later cattle farm, Little La Grange is significant for its great house, animal and windmills, and its aqueduct, the only example on the island of St. Croix. Dates of construction are unclear for the complex of buildings at Little La Grange with the exception of the additions made to the great house -- a two-story porch and smaller entrance porch on the facade, probably built in the 1890s, and a two-story kitchen with upstairs bedroom, forming an addition on the northeast, reported by the owner to have been built in 1909.

The great house is a two-story rectangle approximately 40' by 48' with a two-story addition on the northeast corner of approximately 16' by 16'. The main facade faces west. Both the foundation and the main story are constructed of brick, coral and rubble masonry in a lime mortar and stuccoed. The main story is original to the building, while the upper story of wood frame construction, sheathed and clapboarded, is either a later replacement of an earlier story of similar type, or an addition without precedent. Flat corner boards articulate the corners, extending over both stories on either side of the main facade, and continuing only to the plain, slightly projecting belt course in the rear.

A later two-story Victorian porch with an enclosed gallery in the upper story, supported by six square columns framing a veranda on the lower story, has been added to the front facade. A decorative bargeboard with a trefoil pattern spans the bays between the columns on the first story, extending to the capitals of the columns. The lower story is approximately 12' high and the second story 10' high. The house has two entrances on the front (west) and rear (east) facades. On the west, the access is by a "welcoming arms" staircase with walls fanning at the base, covered by a small entrance porch with a gable roof and decorative bargeboard trim. The porch roof is corrugated metal. Access to the second floor of the addition on the northeast is by an exterior masonry and stucco staircase of two flights. The second flight is supported by a central pier, which divides the space under the staircase into two open arches that act as passageways under the staircase.

The house is four bays by three bays on the lower story, with the second bay, the entrance door. The upper story is unevenly divided. The enclosed porch on the front facade has six windows; the south facade, five; the north facade, three (due to the interruption of the addition) and the rear facade, seven (due to the full-length window with a central semicircular balcony). The bays of the later, upper story are not in alignment with those of the story below. The addition has a window on each of the three sides. The six bays of the first story of the front porch correspond with the upper porch story, rather than the four bays of the lower story. The columns partially obscure all but the door opening, which is framed by the third and fourth columns.

All windows and doors have molded casings with lug sills, and are fitted with shutters. The windows on both ends of the second story porch level are glazed two by two double hung, while all other windows are jalousies, fitted with two louvered panels. All the hardware on the shutters is wrought iron, and includes drive pintles,

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 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

Little La Grange is significant for the early 19th Century remains of the typical building of a sugar plantation as well as a noteworthy aqueduct and flume in fairly good condition. The brick and brain coral rubble masonry walls of the great house are original, dating from Ca. 1800, and there is an unusual Victorian frame two story enclosed gallery added to the front in or around the 1890's.

The first recorded owner of Little La Grange was Hendrick Jakob Fibiger (1776). During part of the 19th century, Little La Grange was part of the Logan Estate. After the decline of the sugar economy, the owners of Little La Grange grew pineapples and bananas and raised cattle. Little La Grange has been the property of the Lawaetz family since 1896.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dookhan, Issac. 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.
 Lewisohn, Florence, (ed.) Henry Morton Sketchbook and Diary, 1843-44,
 Copenhagen: Danish West Indian Society, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 10 SRR 17° 43' 46" North Latitude

UTM REFERENCES

64° 51' 56" 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 N. Stokes, Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer, Virgin Islands Historical Survey
ORGANIZATION	Virgin Islands Planning Office
STREET & NUMBER	Post Office Box 2606
CITY OR TOWN	Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801
DATE	May 18, 1976
TELEPHONE	(809) 774-1730
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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Thomas R. Blake

TITLE

Director of Planning

DATE

May 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attesting
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/22/76

ATTEST

DATE

10-20-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie

U.S.V.I.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE One

strap hinges, bar brackets and sill hooks.

The roof is without a cornice, and has a continuous metal gutter. It is hipped and covered with corrugated metal. The interior of the first floor is divided into four sections extending from the front to the rear on an east-west axis. The second section contains the two front and rear doors, allowing for cross ventilation. The third section contains the two-flight mahogany staircase leading to the upper story, while the flanking sections are divided into two rooms each. The kitchen is in the northeast corner, and is entered from a side room.

The second floor includes a gallery across the facade, and a large central room with a fine example of the typical West Indian "tray ceiling". There are two rooms on either side of the central space, that do not correspond exactly to the room division of the first floor. The gallery is partitioned from the main central room by a Greek revival arcaded wall, consisting of a wide semielliptical arch in the center, flanked by two narrower arches. The arches, which have a molded architrave trim with keystone, spring from square columns, with a molded pedestal, fluted shaft, and molded capital.

A six bay section of a two-story aqueduct is located approximately 150' north of the greathouse; Built of rubble masonry two feet thick, the aqueduct originally extended across the present access road to a cistern and the factory building, now in complete ruins. This is the only aqueduct to have been constructed on St. Croix. The remaining six round-headed arches are lined with brick and the walls have been stuccoed. One-story ruins of a flume used to transport the rendered cane juice to the factory lie between the aqueduct and the house. This remaining section also has six arches with brick linings, which are segmental in form. The stucco on rubble masonry walls have been consolidated and patched in many places, including the infilling of a number of arches when the enclosed area was used as a calf pen in the early 20th century.

There are also the ruins of an animal mill approximately 200' to the east of the great house. The mill is circular, approximately 20' in diameter at the outer face. The walls are of rubble masonry stuccoed and are five feet thick. The mill is entered through a barrel vaulted opening in the western quadrant, with the opening lined with brick. The walls, battered on the exterior, terminate in a shallow parapet, with a four foot wide pathway forming a concentric circle approximately two feet below the top of the wall.

There is an inaccessible windmill on a ridge approximately 600' to the east of the great house.

Little La Grange

Statement of Significance

While the 18th to 19th century estate of Little La Grange contains the remains of both an animal mill and a windmill, its most significant plantation structures are the great-house, small but ambitiously detailed on the main facade and on the interior, and the well-preserved remains of an aqueduct and flume, the only such structures extant on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The greathouse is the result of two major stages of construction: the first around 1800, following the typical domestic building style of this period, in which the rubble masonry walls of the main story and perhaps an original frame second story were built under a hipped roof; the second around 1890, in which a fine two-story gallerie in the decorative Victorian style was added to the main facade. The interior also contains some noteworthy embellishment from this later period, especially a fine example of the West Indian "tray" ceiling and additional detailing finished in the earlier, neo-classical style.

Reflecting both typical and outstanding characteristics of the Danish West Indian vernacular tradition in both the beginning and end of the 19th century, the greathouse represents an eclectic example of this plantation building type not found elsewhere in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Little La Grange (continued)

The primary reason for establishing a permanent European settlement on St. Croix was to develop agriculture. The aim was to cultivate cash crops that could be shipped to the mother country for high profits. The principle cash crop in St. Croix was sugar. Little La Grange was one of over 160 sugar plantations functioning on St. Croix in 1800. The structures and ruins of these plantations portray the agricultural economy at its peak and add interest and beauty to the Cruzian landscape.

The first recorded owner of Little La Grange was Hendrick Jacob Fibiger (1776). During part of the 19th century, Little La Grange was part of the Logan Estate. After the decline of the sugar economy, the owners of Little La Grange grew pineapples and bananas and raised cattle. Little La Grange has been the property of the Lawaetz family since 1896.