

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEP 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fortsberg

AND/OR COMMON

Frederiksvaern

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

----- S. of Cruz Bay

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

 VICINITY OF

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. John

CODE

0700

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

Mr. Fred O. Samuel

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cruz Bay, St. John

STATE

-- VICINITY OF U.S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1960

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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

The ruins of Fortsberg, a typical 18th century citadel fortress, are located on the summit of a high hill commanding Coral Bay. Built over the ruins of an earlier breastwork completed in 1723, the present fort is a 120' by 60' rectangle with bastions at the salient angles. Laid out with the long sides on a southwest-northeast axis, the fort is one story in height with rubble masonry foundation and curtain walls, with brick linings at the door and window openings and at the corners. The curtains are battered on the exterior face and vary from 14 to 22 feet in height, due to the irregular terrain.

The fort is entered through a sally-port in the southwest curtain. The door has a flattened pointed arch and is flanked by narrow windows now bricked in. There are also arched window openings in the north ends of both the northwest and southeast curtains, and an opening centered in the northeast wall, all of which are brick lined. No traces of the windows or the entrance door remain. Also, no roof structure remains in-situ, but there are indications that the bastions had flat, brick roofs resting on a wooded frame.

The south and west bastions were divided into two and three rooms respectively. A rectangular structure measuring 18 by 30 feet is located in the center of the court, built on an elevated rubble platform. This structure has a door in the southwest end wall and is served by a short run of masonry steps, which remain. The walls are rubble masonry, two feet thick, to a point approximating window sill height, with the upper part being of half timbered construction. There is no evidence of the original roof structure or form.

An enclosed staircase in the southeast corner of the fort connects the court level with a continuous walkway along the curtains and the gun decks over the corner bastions. The staircase, built against the curtain wall, is brick with brick supporting arches, and encloses a small vaulted cell under the top landing.

There also exists the ruins of a foundation for an unidentified structure 50 feet west of the entrance to the fort.

The Water Battery

Ruins of a supporting shore battery are located on a hill approximately 1000 feet southeast of the fort. A trapezoid in plan, three of the five foot thick, six foot six inch high rubble curtains remain, enclosing a space of approximately 37 by 54 feet. The interior of the battery is heavily overgrown with vegetation, but the three foot ten inch parapet wall with a continuous gun deck and seven embrasures are clearly visible. Five cannon, without their carriages, remain inside the battery.

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 checked="" 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 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

The first fort, a stone breastwork, was constructed in 1717 as settlers moved to Coral Bay from nearby St. Thomas, under the aegis of the Danish West India and Guinea Company which laid out its first plantation, Carolina, nearby. The fort is shown on a 1720 map of Coral Bay. It was here that a successful rebellion was mounted on November 23, 1733. Slaves seized the fort, massacred the garrison and occupied most of the plantations of St. John. The plantation owners fled to Mr. Durlo's plantation, now Caneel Bay, which was fortified and successfully defended. Two attempts by the Danes to suppress the rebellion were unsuccessful. Finally aid was secured from the Governor of Martinique. Four hundred French soldiers encamped near Fortsberg and the rebellion was suppressed after a campaign of six months.

Fortsberg was rebuilt by 1760 into its present rectangular form with high walls, four bastions and gun decks. During the Napoleonic Wars the fort and adjacent "English Battery" were occupied by the British in 1801 and from 1807 until 1815.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dookhan, Issac. A History of the VIRGIN ISLANDS of the UNITED STATES. Epping, Essex: Bower Publishing Company, 1974.
- Knox, John P. A Historical Account of St. Thomas, W.I. St. Thomas, W.I. New York: Charles Scribner, 1852.
- Van Keulen Map, 1719
 May of 1720, Atteiguing paa Ey landet St. Jans havn...
 Oxholm May, 1780

POINT

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 101 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A	18°	20'	58"	N-	64°	42'	20"	W
B	18°	20'	49"	N-	64°	42'	08"	W
C	18°	20'	36"	N-	64°	42'	11"	W
D	18°	20'	28"	N-	64°	42'	32"	W
E	18°	20'	51"	N-	64°	42'	35"	W

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The eastern boundary of Fortsberg Historic District starts at point "A" on Popilleau Bay, 600' east of East End Road and extends 1400' southeast following the mean high water mark to point "B". From this point it continues south 1,250' along the mean high water to point "C" turning southwest 2,150' to point "D" and then north 2,400' to point "E". The line crosses the base of the Fortsberg peninsula running northeast from point "E", 1,400' to the beginning point of the boundary.

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

Thomas R. Richards

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, Virgin Islands

STATE

00801

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. Richards

TITLE Director of Planning

SHPD

DATE

May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William Huntley

DATE

9/1/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles Abney

DATE

8-27-76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #3 PAGE one

The Virgin Island Government, Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs has held internal discussions leading to a decision on the acquisition of all or a part of Fortsberg as an historic park. If acquired the Government would restore the structures where possible, stabilize the ruins and conduct a program of historic interpretation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE TWO

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
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE one

On-site inspections suggest that archeological investigation will probably add to our knowledge of the character of the earlier (pre-1800) fortifications on the site, as well as of associations with the St. John's slave rebellion of 1833 and the British occupation during the Napoleonic Wars.