

PH0502464

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 15 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 25 1978

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 Friedensthal Mission
AND/OR COMMON Friedensthal Moravian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SW of Christiansted
CITY, TOWN Christiansted VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1
STATE U. S. Virgin Islands CODE 78 COUNTY St. Croix CODE 0200

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Moravian Mission, Virgin Islands Conference
STREET & NUMBER 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 U. S. Virgin Islands STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places
DATE May 6, 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virgin Islands Planning Office
CITY, TOWN St. Thomas U. S. Virgin Islands STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Friedensthal, consisting of a manse, church, slave quarter and kitchen, and a 20th century schoolhouse, is located between Christiansted and Western suburb Road, just west of Christiansted. The manse, built in 1830, is a two and one-half story structure with a Jerkinhead roof and a full depth arcaded gallery along the west side. The walls are constructed of brick (unlike the typical rubble masonry walls used by the Moravians at Nisky and New Hernhut), with vertical board siding in the trapezoidal attic end walls. The roof is now covered with corrugated tin, and has a large, later shed roof dormer in the east side. The upper, or main floor of the building is 6 by 7 bays (46 x 62'6"), with brick flat keystone arches over the six windows in the end wall, and segmental brick arches, with keystones, over the central five bays of the west facade - the end bays have flat arched openings, shortened to make windows. The six bay east wall has a central door flanked by groups of three windows all of which have flat brick arches. This facade is served by a flight of straight stairs leading to the main entrance at the upper level. The ground floor end wall has six bays, two windows, a door and two more windows followed by a segmental arched opening serving the first level of the arcade. These flat arched ground floor windows are provided with horizontal iron bars and board shutters, hung on wrought iron straps and pintles. This is repeated for the windows on the ground floor in the east and west walls. The attic end walls have four rectangular windows with fixed horizontal louvres.

The ten foot deep arcade has brick segmental keyed arches, with molded caps and bases. A double "welcoming arms" staircase leads to the upper level. There is a five course high watertable surrounding the manse, which sits on a brick and coral block terrace. Panelled brick belt courses delineate the upper and attic floor levels, and a flat wood cornice and rake board is applied to the eaves. All window and door openings are cased in wood and have heavy board shutters with wrought iron straps and pintles.

A vaulted, rubble cistern and a two by four bay slave quarters, brick with a gable roof, are located to the south of the manse, with a ten foot by twelve foot cookhouse to the north. The cookhouse is built of brick and coral block, has a shed roof and retains its heavy timber chimney girt and plastered fireplace hood.

The church, built in 1852 to replace an earlier one, is a one story, hip-roof structure set on a high foundation which rests on a brick terrace. A single flight of brick stairs, with high parapet walls, leads to a central projecting portico. An octagonal bell tower on a square base rests on the ridge of the triangular pediment of the portico. The 10' deep by 23' wide portico is supported by four round brick columns set on square bases, with square caps and two round molded brick bands decorating the upper sections.

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The belltower and the pediment, which has a centered round headed opening with a board shutter, are framed with narrow weatherboarding. The spandrels linking the columns are finished with flush siding.

The body of the church is three by seven bays, 45' x 74', with a two by three one story flat roofed meeting room addition centered in the rear or south wall. The walls of the church are plastered brick and have tall, narrow openings with splayed jambs, which are divided by muntin bars to form two almost equal sections. The windows are protected with panelled shutters hung on wrought iron straps. The door in the west wall has board shutters, while the central main entrance is provided with a pair of round headed doors, divided approximately two-thirds to one-third, and hung on five sets of strap hinges and pintles. The church has a continuous, low, molded watertable and a panelled brick cornice. The roof is now covered with galvanized corrugated tin.

The interior of the church is of the auditorium plan, with a sloping gallery on three sides. The altar is placed in the east end, with a choir loft in the west end. The five bay side galleries are supported by slender wood columns with sawn brackets, and has a rail of turned balusters with a flat handrail. The three bay end gallery and the choir loft are supported by octagonal columns set on square bases, with the sawn brackets repeated. The wood ceiling reflects the form of the hip roof.

There is a vaulted, rubble cistern east of the church which has a date block, 1818. The 20th century school, of no architectural significance, is situated north of the church. It is not a visual intrusion.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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

Friedensthal Moravian Church is historically significant because it was one of the first Moravian Missions to be established in St. Croix and served an important role in Governor-General Peter von Scholten's program to prepare slaves for freedom.

Just three years after the young teacher, Augustus Gottlieb Spangenberg joined the colony in 1733, Count Zinzendorf, leader of the Moravian movement, asked him to conduct 18 missions to the Danish colonies. On St. Thomas, New Herrnhut (1737) and Niesky (1755) were established as plantations and missions by the Moravians. On St. John the Moravians established Bethania (c. 1750) and Emmaus (1782). The Moravians came to St. Croix in 1734 and by the 1800's had two flourishing missions, Friedensfeld and Friedensthal.

Friedrich Moth, the founder of the Moravian Missions in the Danish West Indies, sought to make them as self-supportive as possible through the purchase and development of plantations such as New Herrnhut on St. Thomas, Bethany on St. John and Friedensthal. By operating their own plantations with slave labor, Moravians ensured themselves of a livelihood and potential converts were close at hand to make their pastoral work easier.

Friedensthal means "valley of peace" in German. This mission is located on the western limits of Christiansted. The church dates to 1852 when it replaced a smaller church. Its architectural character, especially the columned portico in front is not typical of Moravian architecture on the island. The parish house, built in 1830 is very characteristic of Moravian parsonages. With its "welcoming arms" entrance stairs and gabled roof, it is quite close to Nisky in St. Thomas and Emmaus in St. John in its style.

During the 18th century, the desire to abolish slavery was a concern of many in the Danish West Indies. The Moravian missionaries, who had proved their concern for the treatment of slaves, were instrumental in von Scholten's plan to prepare slaves for emancipation.

Although the Moravians held active plantations in the Danish West Indies, and their labor force was supplied by the slaves, the

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fair treatment and sincere desire by the missionaries for slaves to assume responsible positions within the Church improved the relationship between slaves and whites. The Moravian Brethren directed their energies to instruction in both religion and general education. They taught that manual labor, freely undertaken, was not necessarily degrading and that such skills could bring economic security. The mission's example from 1732-1828 provided the foundation upon which emerging colonial social patterns were to be established.

Under von Scholten, the missionaries served as teachers and administrators in the Government schools. The Moravians learned Creole and taught English to the slaves. Von Scholten considered them to be the most capable of the religious orders to work with slaves.

On August 17, 1877 the islands experienced a hurricane. Brother Bonhoh in a letter gives the following report on damages. "All our walls and fences lay prostrate on the ground and our flourishing fruit-trees appeared either torn up by the roots or stripped of their branches...the rest of our mission premises, including our old dwellings-house, had been spared by a tempest."

The Friedenstahl Moravian Church complex is of architectural significance because of the manse, typical of Moravian construction and design in all their missions, and the church with its exceptional interior.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dookhan, Isaac. 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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

17° 44' 38" north latitude
64° 42' 38" west longitude

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

C

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

B

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

D

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in Estate Fridensthal on the western limits of Christiansted in the Company Quarter of St. Croix.

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

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary

June 6, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Virgin Islands Planning Office

(809) 774-1730

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

St. Thomas

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

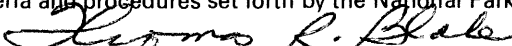
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director of Planning

DATE

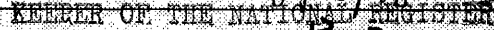
5 August 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST


DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION


KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/25/78

DATE

8. 15. 78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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McGuire, James William. Geographic Dictionary of the Virgin Islands. Special Publication No. 103 (Serial No. 269), United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce. Washington, D. C., 1925

Westergaard, Waldemar Christian. The Danish West Indies Under Company Rule (1671-1754), With a Supplementary Chapter, New York, 1917.

Maynard, Oliver. A History of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies, Province. Trinidad: Yuille's Printerie, 1969.

Murphy, Patricia Shaulah. The Moravian Mission to The African Slaves of the Danish West Indies, 1732-1828. St. Croix: Prestige Press, 1969.

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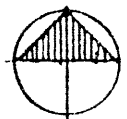
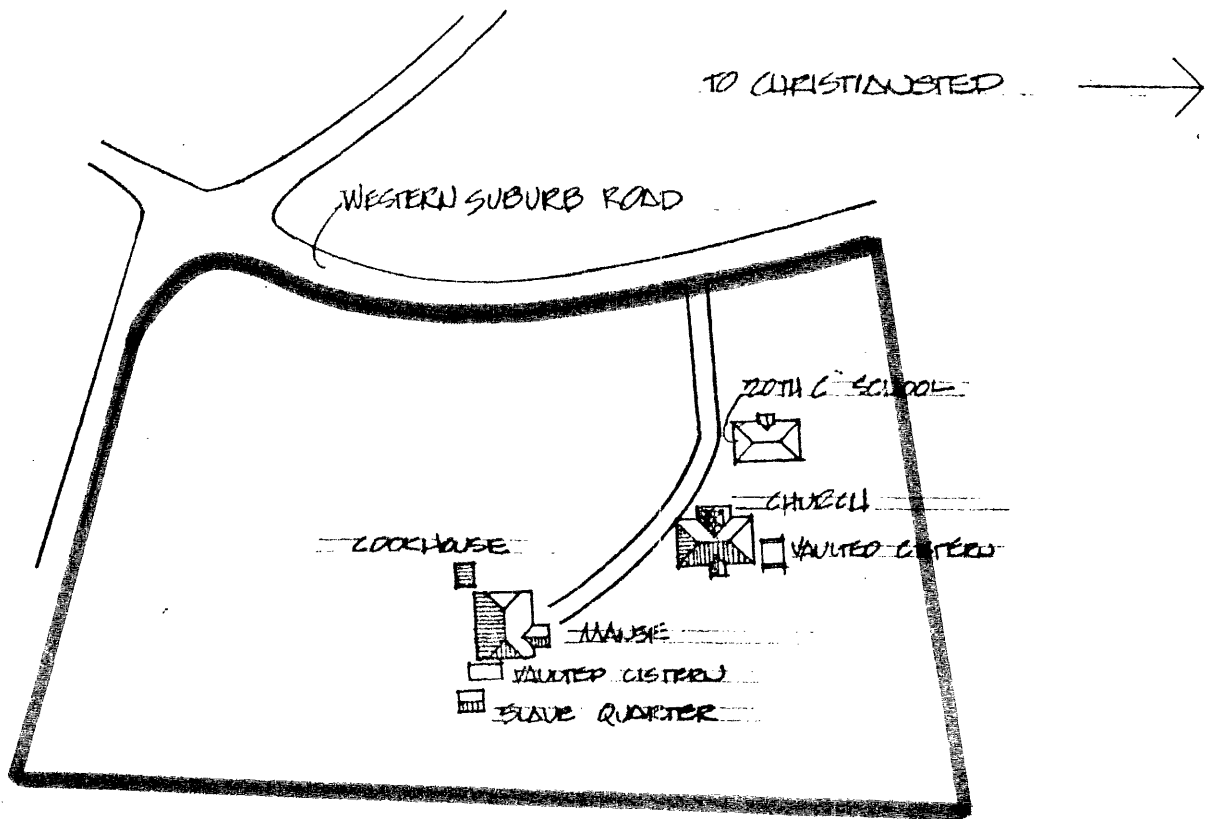
CONTINUATION SHEET Fredensthal ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

Acreage of Nominated Property 13.6 acres

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated site is that shown outlined in red on the accompanying map.

JUL 12 1978



SCALE 1" = 200' NORTH