

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 15 1977
DATE ENTERED JUN 9 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

Estate St. John, St. Jan Plantage

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Virgin Ilands

CODE
78

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0800

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

Eric and Jenny Lawaetz

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 916

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

STATE

St. Croix

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

STATE

St. Croix

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

V.I. Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

V.I. Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

St. Thomas,

STATE
V.I.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Great House of the St. John plantation is located 3 miles west of Christiansted. The large rambling factory complex, east of the Great House and separated from it by a modern road and wooded hillsides has been so altered and expanded that it is not included in this nomination.

The Great House is a one story structure set on a high foundation 7 by 4 bays, with a hipped roof now sheathed with corrugated tin. The walls are primarily of coral block, with some rubble, and have been painted. The south elevation has a five bay segmental arched arcade, with the central three bays set forward slightly to create a projected entrance, served by a straight flight of stairs with flared sidewalls. A two bay (13' wide) wing has been added to the east end wall of the Great House, and a one story kitchen attached to the northwest corner. All exterior openings have flat arches with splayed jambs, are provided with later sash, and have heavy board shutters hung on wrought iron straps and pintles.

The interior has a large living room with an exceptional triple arcade separating it from a full width hall at the rear. The arches of the arcade are supported by square reeded wood pilasters with Doric caps, reeded key-stones and panelled soffits. The two outer arches have panelled walls at chair rail height. The living room has an exceptional tray ceiling, panelled in wood with a continuous three part molded ceiling cornice, and a carved center medallion decorated with five tobacco leaves. The room is flanked by two bedrooms and a small office to the west and two bedrooms with a later center hall to the east. Both of these areas, and the rear hall, have flat wood ceilings. The rear hall has a double door in the center with single windows on either side. The east bedroom wing has had a later wall inserted between the two original walls to create the center hall - it was originally three equal rooms as is the west wing. The original partitions are frame, sheathed with horizontal boarding - the exterior walls are plastered. All door openings leading from the central living room are trimmed with molded architraves. There is a good raised three panel door in the rear east bedroom.

A free standing three room cookhouse is located off the northwest corner of the Great House. Gable roofed, 40' by 17', the structure is 3 by 2 bays, with a massive chimney and fireplace occupying the west end wall. The walls are coral, and the splayed jambs of the doors and windows are plastered. They are not lined with brick which is the typical treatment. There are three doors in the south facade, and three windows in the north, with wood heads and sills. The wood roof framing is now covered with corrugated tin, and the floor is coral block. There is an exceptional bee-hive oven and a cooking fireplace in the west cooking room.

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 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 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

c. 1810 (JPT 5/2/78)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Great House is an excellent architectural example of the smaller residences associated with the sugar industry. It's interior is largely intact, with exceptional detailing, especially the triple arcade partition, tray ceiling and medallion. The cookhouse and Belfry are also of architectural significance.

The estate was once owned by Colonel Charles Pym Burts and was called Pym Burst Plantage. St. John Plantation was burned during the St. Croix Labor Riots in October, 1878. An account describing the insurrection mentions St. John, "At St. John's Estate you could see them running in and around the dwelling house and the sugar factory - all in blaze in no time." ¹

An assessment of damages during the Labor Riots revealed: Fifty-one sugar plantations had been destroyed. In all the areas affected in St. Croix, 28 had been saved, St. John.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Jenny Lawaetz by Annie Hillary, November 23, 1976.

Dookhan, Essex. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Co., 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.18 acres

OK 17° 45' 56" North Latitude
64° 44' 50" West Longitude

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located off the Northside Road on #3 Estate St. John. *This is the lot number from tax records, where legal boundaries are filed.*

JFT 9-3-78

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary

June 9, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

V.I. Planning Office

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 2606

809-774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Thomas

Virgin Islands

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 R. 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

ATTEST:

Walter D. Cole

DATE 6/9/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 6-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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A 4' 10" by 8'5" coral block bell tower is located east of the Great House. Built on a raised platform, the tower consists of two tapered square columns capped by an architrave with a molded and scored frieze and a tile roof. The columns have molded caps and two part plinth blocks, and are tied together with a plastered panelled extrado with keystone.

And 18 by 46 one story stable and carriage house remains west of the Great House, now used as a studio and gallery.

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Special Publication No. 103 (Serial N. 269), United States Coast
and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce. Washington, D.C., 1925.

