

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 8 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1977

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

John
Emmaus Moravian Church and Manse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. John

CODE

0700

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Moravian Church

% Pastor Willard Prout

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

STATE

___ VICINITY OF St. John, Virgin Islands 00830

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas,

STATE

U.S. V.I. 00801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Virgin Island Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May, 1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Island Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD (church) RUINS
 FAIR (Manse) UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Emmaus Moravian Church and manse are 5.5 miles east of Coral Bay, St. John. The buildings are significant as an example on St. John of the 18th century Moravian mission style, which can be characterized as simple, functional and sober, in keeping with the tenets of the religion.

The manse is the older of the two buildings, with an approximate construction date of 1750, marking it as one of the earliest buildings on the island. The approximate construction date for the original church is 1782. The church was rebuilt twice due to hurricane and fire damage. The current main story was completed in 1918.¹⁹¹⁹

Since the Moravian architectural style changed little in the 18th century, the church's affinities in style with the Moravian church of New Herrnhut on St. Thomas, probably constructed around 1740, strongly suggest that the modern form of Emmaus is a close approximation of the original church, c. 1782.

The church is situated on the side of a hill with the fall line running to the southeast. The main facade faces to the south, and there are three entrances-- one on the south, and two on the north facade. The church is one story, with full basement rooms on the southern elevation, and a projection on the east end corresponding to the sacristy on the interior. It measures 40'9" by 60'7". There is a belfry attached to the west end, in the form of two tiers of square blocks, capped by a pyramidal roof. Both tiers have open arches on the exposed sides. The bell is contained in the upper tier.

The masonry foundation is constructed of rubble, ballast brick and native brain coral set in a lime mortar and stuccoed. The building materials of the main story are not immediately evident, but may be identical to those of the foundation.

The church is five bays by three bays, with all window and door openings in the form of semi-elliptical arches. The door on the front facade is approached by a two-flight staircase, with the second flight parallel to the main wall, and supported by two columns. The stringers along the exterior walls of both flights project slightly, and are highlighted with contrasting paint, creating a sawtooth pattern.

On the north facade, the second and fourth bays are doors. Brick pavement, with a herringbone pattern in front of the doors, runs along the north side, with access to it provided by a curved stair-

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 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 checked="" 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 land now containing the compound of Moravian buildings at Coral Bay originally belonged to Governor Suhm of the Danish West India and Guinea Company in 1717. His estate was called Forsynet (Providence) and contained simple buildings, now gone.

The property was acquired by Governor Thomas de Malleville in 1782 and given to the Moravians after his conversion by a free negro, Brother Cornelius, who became a church missionary. As a master mason, Cornelius built six or more churches for the Moravians, became an accomplished linguist and an eloquent preacher.

The Moravians were the first Protestants to send missionaries to the West Indies and were in the Danish islands as early as 1732. They were the only church allowed to minister to the slaves, and were instrumental in establishing Dutch Creole as the lingua franca spoken by masters and slaves to each other. When Governor-General Peter von Scholten decreed compulsory education for slave children in the early 1840s he chose the Moravian missionaries to teach in all the new school-houses built on the three islands.

The original church building on this site was built in or shortly after 1782 and was destroyed by a hurricane in 1790. The replacement was destroyed by fire in 1892. The present church was constructed in 1919.

The Manse dates from as early as the 1750s and was certainly constructed by the late 1780s. Parts of it still serve as church offices and other congregational uses. In addition to being one of the oldest remaining buildings on the island, it reflects the almost two and a half centuries of Moravian influence on the three islands' culture.

The Emmaus Moravian church and manse are significant as examples of the typical ascetic Moravian architectural style. While the church has been rebuilt (probably into a form not unlike its original state c. 1782), the manse is largely original, and a good example of the typical two-and-a-half-story masonry and wood construction of an 18th century Moravian manse. The site also includes a fine example of a West Indian "welcoming arms" staircase.

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case leading up from lower ground on the east. The date 1918 is incised in the stucco on the northeast corner.

There is no cornice. The roof is hipped, and covered with corrugated metal.

The interior of the church is a single room undivided by nave or aisles. The ceiling is the typical West Indian "tray", a plank surface with sharply indented corners. The trusses are exposed.

The manse lies on higher grade to the north about 15' from the church. A retaining wall built of rubble masonry and stucco, approximately nine feet high, runs along the south facade.

The manse is a two and a half-story rectangle, constructed of rubble masonry and stucco, with a later, second story wood frame gallery, supported on the ground level by paired brick columns on pedestals. The manse measures 36'8" by 50'11", with the gallery measuring 12'4" on the side, a projection approximately equal to one bay. The lower story projects slightly from the wall, serving as a string course. The current main entrance is on the west facade of the first story.

The manse is four by five bays, with flat-headed window and door openings. All openings have wood casings, and the second story windows have projecting drip caps and slip sills. There is one window in the end of the roof gable. All openings are equipped with two shutters, with drive pinles and strap hinges of wrought iron.

Access to the second story is provided on the east wall by a staircase built of rubble masonry and stucco, parallel and attached to the main wall. The outside wall is solid, except for an arched, barrel-vaulted opening under the landing, which provides an access to the side door of the lower story. On the west facade, access to the second story is provided by a fine example of the "welcoming arms" staircase (with walls fanning outwards at the base) with a single flight, divided into two sections by a center landing.

The roof, a later replacement, has wood-sheathed gables, and there is a window in the north and south gable ends. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

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A cookhouse is located about 20" to the west of the west of the manse, and there is a large cistern set into the hillside along the west facade of the church.

A cemetary dating to the 18th century is associated with the church and and is located 200 feet to the east of it.

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