

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000699

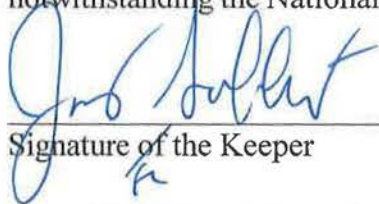
Date Listed: 10/4/2016

Property Name: Cruz Bay Town Historic District

County: St. John

State: VI

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10-4-2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

#### Section 3 and 8: Criteria

Criterion B and D are hereby deleted. The significance of the association of von Rohr with this district is not supported. Von Rohr's contributions to the planning of the town are undeniable, but the nomination does not satisfy the requirements for claiming significance under criterion B, as set forth in National Register guidance. Just like an architect, the association of design is not sufficient to satisfy B.

Criterion D is deleted, not because there may not be significant archeology within the district, but because the nomination form does not address the archeological significance of the district.

#### Section 8: Area(s) of Significance

ARCHEOLOGY and SOCIAL HISTORY are hereby deleted. Neither of these areas of significance are explicitly addressed, nor can significance be implied by the narrative. Although the Ethnic History of the town is also barely touched on, enough implication of the importance of this district to the economic and social life of the island's Afro-Caribbean population can be inferred to keep this area of significance

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property

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County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

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NRIS Reference Number: 16000698  
Property Name: Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
County: St. John State: VI

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Section 8: Significant Person

Criterion B has been deleted, therefore this section has also been deleted.

Section 8: Cultural Affiliation

“Black Freedmen,” “Free Colored”, and “Afro-Caribbean” are hereby deleted. Since Criterion D is not cited, this section should read N/A.

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The US Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**  
**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

699

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cruz Bay Town Historic District

Other names/site number: Christiansbay (von Rohr, 1766); Christians Bye (Oxholm, 1780);

Cruz Bay (Thomas, 1912)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: N/A

City or town: Cruz Bay State: VI County: St. John (020) Zip code: 00830

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Sean L. Knigge</u> <sup>Acting</sup> / Deputy SHPO	<u>September 22, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>V.I. State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Sean L. Knigge</u>	<u>September 22, 2016</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Acting Deputy SHPO Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

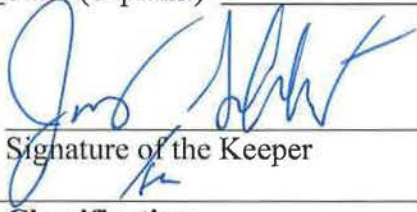
Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

10-4-2016  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
 Name of Property

St. John, VI  
 County and State

**Number of Resources within Property (District)**

<u>16</u>	<u>27</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>25</u>	<u>29</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Note: one building was removed from the Register in 1979: #76002220 Keating's Inn

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

**Historic District:**

DOMESTIC/village site

TOWN/government, commerce & domestic

**Contributing Features:**

DEFENSE/fortification, administrative  
LANDSCAPE/plaza  
HEALTH CARE/clinic  
OTHER/water reservoir  
TRANSPORTATION/water-related  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/marker  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
COMMERCE/specialty stores  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwellings  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
COMMERCE/specialty store

GOVERNMENT/government offices  
LANDSCAPE/plaza  
HEALTH CARE/clinic  
OTHER/water reservoir  
TRANSPORTATION/water-related (dock)  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/marker  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
OTHER/mixed restaurant & apartments  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
OTHER/mixed commerce & domestic  
OTHER/mixed commerce & restaurant  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
VACANT/ archeological site (historic)  
OTHER/mixed commerce & domestic  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
COMMERCE/restaurant

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/specialty store

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

LANDSCAPE/natural feature (tree)

COMMERCE/restaurant (bar)

COMMERCE/restaurant

COMMERCE/specialty stores

COMMERCE/restaurant & bar

OTHER/architectural features

OTHER/architectural features

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/religious facility

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

COLONIAL/West Indian

OTHER/Pre-Transfer Danish Colonial

OTHER/Post-Transfer Neo-Vernacular/American Modern

### Materials:

Foundation and walls: CONCRETE, STONE, BRICK, WOOD

Roofs: METAL, CONCRETE

## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

The historic town of Cruz Bay is located on the western side of the island of St. John in the Virgin Islands of the United States and comprises approximately 15 acres. It is situated on a small coastal plain surrounded by steep hills at the head of a well-sheltered harbor known as Little Cruz Bay. Being the only official town on St. John, Cruz Bay serves as the island's primary port of entry, as well as the center of commerce and most public services. It is also the seat of local governance having the office of the St. John Administrator and other USVI and federal government agencies. Cruz Bay's Historic District, which encompasses the entire town, retains a high degree of spatial and contextual integrity. Currently it has no less than 25 contributing and 29 non-contributing buildings, sites, structures and/or objects. The creation of the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John in 1956 led to the rapid transformation of Cruz Bay from a quiet rural village into a booming gateway town for one of America's treasured National Parks, which today hosts an average of about 500,000 visitors per year.

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### Narrative Description

The town of Cruz Bay (originally founded as "Christiansbay") was initially measured and plotted by Danish Crown Surveyor Julius Philip Benjamin von Rohr in June/July of 1766. Von Rohr's field notes and survey drawings indicate that the town was laid out in an orderly European-style grid pattern of three streets running parallel to the shoreline, and two cross-streets running inland from the harbor. As was the custom of the time, the primary streets of the town were named to honor of the Danish Crown: *Store Kongensgade* (Great King's Street), *Dronningens Tværgade* (Queen's Cross Street), and *Prinsensgade* (Prince's Street). Surveyor von Rohr's plan, set in

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

place two-and-a-half centuries ago, is the identical layout encountered in the town of Cruz Bay to the present day. Not only is Cruz Bay's original contextual setting wholly intact, the town also represents a *"unified entity... composed of a wide variety of resources"* all of which *"convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment."*

By virtue of St. John having been a part of the Danish West Indies until that colony's purchase by the United States of America in 1917, two distinct periods of cultural and architectural influence are evidenced throughout the town of Cruz Bay. Contributing historic buildings, therefore, often fall into a previously undefined category that represents a comingling of styles spanning the town's long period of historical significance, ca. 1766 through 1966. Although few examples of unaltered Danish Colonial architecture remain in Cruz Bay, there is certainly no shortage of notable historical buildings throughout the town. Among these, are a number of modest vernacular wooden cottages, which, up until not-too-long ago, represented a majority of Cruz Bay's domestic and commercial buildings.

After the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States in 1917, North American influences began to filter into Creole society, especially after a detachment of U. S. Marines was posted to Cruz Bay in the early 1920s. With this heightened outside presence came a growing sense of worldliness and a more cosmopolitan outlook. These perspectives quickly gained traction in the mid-to-late 1940s with the arrival of increasing numbers of Continental tourists and transplants, and the return of a first generation of local men from service in the U.S. Armed Forces after World War II. To the modern eye, the simple, timeworn vernacular cottages and aging colonial-era buildings of Cruz Bay began to appear passé or obsolete; for those who could afford it, cinderblock and concrete, reinforced with steel rebar, soon became the preferred building materials of the day. And with this shift in construction practices came a new architectural style influenced by a somewhat stark World War II-era United States aesthetic – which in the Virgin Islands often incorporated Latin-American (primarily Puerto Rican) inspired flourishes, such as cast-cement balustrades, decorative metal grillwork, and bright paint colors.

It was during the post-Transfer period of transformation and renewal, between the late 1940s and 1960s, that many of the buildings in the Cruz Bay Town Historic District were either significantly modified or first created. Depending upon the skills, financial resources, and design sensibilities of the individual owners, the buildings constructed or updated during this era reflect a merging of traditional Colonial West Indian and mid-twentieth-century American-modern architectural design and building practices. The resultant, somewhat utilitarian, character of these buildings might best be summarily categorized as *Post- Transfer Neo-Vernacular Architecture*.

One of the single most defining aspects of early post-Transfer construction on St. John, and what clearly distinguishes it as a discrete contextual era in which a unique vernacular form of architecture came into being as a result, was the ongoing use of West Indian-built sailing craft as the primary means of transport for imported materials and supplies. Powered only by sail, these stout wooden cargo vessels supplied St. John with everything from building block and cement, to fuel oil and Coca-Cola. There are few places under the United States flag where the maritime traditions of seamanship and sail-borne freight were upheld for as long as on St. John, where commercial sailing vessels regularly called at the port of Cruz Bay even through the 1960s.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

This long-upheld tradition of maritime commerce and transport has left an indelible mark on the architecture and cultural landscape of the Cruz Bay Town Historic District.

It must be noted that structures built during the early post-Transfer time frame are among the most critically endangered of Cruz Bay's (and the broader Virgin Islands') cultural resources. Not quite old enough to be popularly perceived of as historic and worthy of preservation, yet just old enough to be looked upon as antiquated and/or out of date, they are presently susceptible to unmindful demolition to make way for further development. It is hoped that the recognition of Cruz Bay town as a Historic District within the Territory will help call greater attention to the community's need to embrace these buildings as valued components of Cruz Bay's rich cultural patrimony.

NOTE: It should be noted that due to the popularity of what has been termed "West Indian Style" architecture beginning in the 1980s, many of the non-contributing buildings throughout the town of Cruz Bay have adopted vernacular aesthetics and traditional colonial-era features that generally blend well with the overall fabric of the Historic District. With only a few notable exceptions, the use of hipped and/or gable roofs sheathed with corrugated metal, arched door and window opening, strap-hinged wooden storm shutters, lapboard siding, and rubble stone masonry walls, is quite common – a trend that will hopefully be encouraged to continue, but with more attention to historic context and relevancy.

### **SURVEY OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

[See: Boundary Map A & Location Map B]

District Period of Significance 1766 through 1966

Today the official boundaries and layout of Cruz Bay remain the same as Crown Surveyor von Rohr depicted them on his original survey map in 1766. In fact, if one were to hand a copy of von Rohr's original map to a group of present-day tourists arriving at the Cruz Bay ferry dock for the first time, they would easily be able to navigate the town using this 250-year-old document. Along their way these casual visitors would pass numerous historical features that often go unnoticed and underappreciated. It is hoped that through the nomination of Cruz Bay as a Historic District within the Virgin Islands of the United States, and its placement on both the Territorial Registry and National Register of Historic Places, these features will finally receive due recognition and the respect of both Virgin Islanders and visitors alike.

[See: Maps C, D & E]

The following pages list the primary contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures, sites and objects within the Cruz Bay Town Historic District. Over the course of this study all of the town's parcels identified on the current VIGIS web site (<http://www.mapgeo.com/usvi/>), as well as both Crown Surveyor von Rohr's original 1766 Cruz Bay survey map, and F. Thomas's



Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

revised 1912 Cruz Bay tax map, were identified and to some degree investigated [See: Maps C & F]. In order to contextualize this material and present it in a concise, easily understandable format, whenever possible town properties are referred to in this text by their designated block numbers and alphabetical parcel letters as first recorded on Mr. Thomas's 1912 tax map, which corresponded with the yearly Danish tax rolls of the period. In situations where parcels have been subdivided or re-designated, current VIGIS plot numbers have been noted. The blocks within the town are as follows:

- Block 1; Lots 1A through 1F: situated in the north-east block of *Vestergade* (West Street)
- Block 2; Lots 2A through 2E: situated in the south-east block of *Vestergade* (West Street)
- Block 3; Lots 3A through 3H: situated to the south of *Dronningens Tværgade* (Queen's Cross Street) and *Strandgade* (Beach Street)
- Block 4; Lots 4A through 4C: situated on the shoreline west of *Store Kongensgade* (Great King's Street)
- Block 5; Lots 5A through 5I: situated in the town's central block, east of *Store Kongensgade* (Great King's Street), west of *Vestergade* (West Street), north of *Dronningens Tværgade* (Queen's Cross Street) and south of *Prinsensgade* (Prince's Street)
- Block 6; Lots 6A through 6D: situated in the north-west block of *Vestergade* (West Street), north of *Prinsensgade* (Prince Street), and east of the abutting "Crown's Land."

Historically, all of the town's six blocks were originally intended to be subdivided into town lots except block #6, the western half of which was owned by the Danish Crown and reserved for military garrison buildings that housed a detachment of soldiers who manned Cruz Bay's modest defensive fortification -- this area is roughly where the Cruz Bay Park and the Morris F. De Castro building are presently located. Immediately in front of the garrison structures was an open expanse of flat land known as the "King's Landing Place." This area fronted the Cruz Bay beach to the west, and a sheltered portion of Cruz Bay's inner "Creek" to the north. Beyond the flat, between the beach and the Creek, a rocky promontory jutted well out into the bay. Atop this feature stood a small fort called *Christiansfort* that overlooked both the town and the harbor -- today we refer to this place as Battery Point, and to the former fort as "The Battery."

## VIRGIN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

[See: Location Map B]

### Location 6I; Battery Point

Earliest documented ownership: 1734 [Martfeldt]; Owner: West India & Guinea Company

Transferred to the Danish Crown: 1755

Transferred to the Virgin Island of the United States: 1917

Today: Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

**Contributing building/Government/administrative offices** (with associated secondary buildings, structures, objects and site)

**The Cruz Bay Battery, AKA Christiansfort**

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

[See: Location Map B; Photo: 001]

Period of significance: 1774 - present

**Cruz Bay Battery:** The Cruz Bay Battery was originally constructed by the Danish West Indies government in 1774 as a defensive fortification named Christiansfort. It took its present form during the administration of Governor-General Peter von Scholten, who ordered the conversion of the fort to a civil administrative headquarters for the island of St. John in 1824. According to a building contract dated November 25, 1824, James Freeland and his partner John Wright, a St. John-born "Free-Colored" carpenter who had purchased his freedom from slavery in about 1796, were to undertake the project with local militia captain, Ingjald Mourier, as "inspector." The project would result in the construction of nearly all of the buildings and structures that stand on Battery Point to the present day, including a residence for the appointed local bailiff, "...walls, gates, jail house, slave quarters, kitchen, horse stable and privy." It was noted in the contract that Wright would be allowed to utilize any materials he could salvage "from the ruins of the old public buildings" at the site. In 1825 John Michel, the Creole son of a prominent St. John planter, became the first civil administrator to take up residence at the battery; he was dismissed four-years later for the brutal punishment of a slave.

Over time, the Cruz Bay Battery became an enduring symbol of peace and stable governance on St. John. By the mid-1800s its once intimidating cannons were buried upright in the ground at the entry to the Battery, and muzzle down at the head of the public dock, to be used as bollards and hitching posts for donkeys and horses. From that point onward, official salutes were quietly given with flags instead of gunpowder. Bailiffs and administrators came and went; some kind and benevolent, others bureaucratic and authoritarian. Some lingered and delighted in their exotic posting, while others succumbed to drink or fled before their time of service expired. Beginning in 1910 the position was filled, whenever possible, by a physician, and, on April 15, 1917, the first United States flag was hoisted up the Battery's flag pole after the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States in the previous month – a delay caused by the unavailability of a U. S. flag. In 1946 George Simmons became the first African-American Virgin Islander to be appointed as St. John administrator and reside at the Battery. In 1975, Elaine I. Sprauve became the first St. Johnian (and woman) to hold the post.

The architectural style of the Battery, as well as its associated secondary buildings and structures, is distinctively Danish Colonial. As a group, they reflect both eighteenth-century Danish military, and nineteenth-century Danish West Indies domestic and administrative elements, along with some tastefully executed Post-Transfer American-modern updates. The original wooden second-story of the administrator's residence, which was erected over a portion of the original military battery in 1824, was demolished in 1960. It was replaced with a second story of similar scale and design using plastered cast concrete and painted white. Wood framed divided-light windows, wooden doors, and wooden storm shutters were used on all openings. The hipped roof, and shed over the south-facing gallery, were sheathed with corrugated metal and painted red. Two large secondary buildings on the site date to the nineteenth-century time period, while the outer walls and foundations of the Battery's primary structure match a ground plan of the original fortification drawn by military engineer Peter Oxholm in 1780. A large vaulted-top cistern on the north side of the Battery also appears to be associated with the original eighteenth-

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

century fort. In addition to the two restored mounted cannons that stand on the south- and east-facing bastions of the fort, four unmounted historic cannons are present on the site. These cannons appear to date to the eighteenth century and were found buried on the Cruz Bay beach near the main entry gate to the Battery in 2015 and 2016. It is possible that they are among the original cannons on the site, which are documented to have been brought to Cruz Bay after the decommissioning of an earlier fort in Coral Bay in 1765 – a fifth cannon, now mounted at the Cruz Bay dock, seems to be of the same style and date of manufacture.

Overall, the Battery and its associated secondary buildings and structures are well maintained and retain a high degree of historical integrity. In one capacity or another, the Battery has watched over the historic town of Cruz Bay for nearly two-and-a-half centuries. As the oldest standing, and longest utilized structure within the Historic District, it is unquestionably the town's most distinguished and important landmark.

**Location 6II; King's Landing**

Earliest documented ownership: 1734 [Martfeldt]; Owner: West India & Guinea Company

Transferred to the Danish Crown: 1755

Transferred to the Virgin Island of the United States: 1917

Today: Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

**Contributing site/Government/town park**

**Cruz Bay Park**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 002-004]

Period of significance: 1737- present

**Contributing building/Government/health care /clinic/police sub-station]**

**Morris F. De Castro Building**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 005]

Period of significance: c1953 - present

**Contributing structure/Government/other/water cistern**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 006]

Period of significance: 1766 – present

**King's Landing:** For most visitors to St. John their first impression is shaped by the welcoming character of Cruz Bay's town park. Recently landscaped and repaved, this airy expanse has served as the island's primary entry point and public meeting space since well before the town's formal founding.

In 1766 when the town of Cruz Bay was initially laid out by Crown Surveyor Julius von Rohr, the first area to be measured was the "Crown's Land," which had originally been purchased by the Danish West India and Guinea Company in 1737. Within this area was a flat, open expanse referred to as the "**King's Landing Place.**" The landing area was not only used as a convenient staging point for passengers and freight, in the eighteenth century it was also used as a parade ground for the Danish military detachment posted to Cruz Bay. Later, in the early nineteenth century, it became a place to drill and train St. John's citizens' militia. Today, it is the general

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

location of the Cruz Bay Park, taxi stand, and **Morris F. de Castro building**. Along the park's eastern boundary once stood the buildings of the Cruz Bay garrison, a five-room barracks, cook-house, and officer's quarters, all constructed in 1765. Some of the components of these buildings were salvaged and repurposed for the upgrading of the Battery in 1824. Sometime in the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century, a scale-house and customs office was erected on the shoreline between today's dock and Battery Point. A **public dock** was added ca.1838. During the period of the U.S. Naval administration of the Virgin Islands in the 1920's, a Marine detachment was stationed in the King's Landing area and a radio-communications shack and privy were built in the general location where the park's bandstand is today. A **public water reservoir** was also constructed around this time at the north end of the Cruz Bay beach, just outside the outer perimeter wall of **The Battery**. The Marine's radio-communications building eventually became an iconic local landmark. Over the years it served the civilian population as a schoolhouse, clinic, customs facility, travel agency, seaplane ticket office, and the first "Contact Station" for the Virgin Islands National Park. Suffering from age and riddled with termites, it was removed to make space for the present bandstand in the 1980s. The broader area that once encompassed the old King's Landing remains government-owned property to the present day. In the mid-1950s, St. John's first permanent public health facility, the **Morris F. De Castro Clinic**, was built on the site of the former parade grounds in the northwest corner of the property. An agricultural outreach station and a small tourist office with a rest area were later added east of the clinic building.

While there is no longer any trace of the old garrison buildings or scale-house, the King's Landing Place, now in the form of the Cruz Bay Park, remains one of the St. John's most cherished and enduring historical landmarks.

**Location 6III; Cruz Bay Dock & Cruz Bay Creek Bulkhead (2 locations)**

Earliest documented ownership: c1838; Owner: Danish West Indies government

Transferred to the Virgin Island of the United States: 1917

Today: Virgin Islands Port Authority

**Non-contributing structure/Government/customs &  
Immigration/transportation/commerce/trade/water-related  
Cruz Bay Creek bulkhead**

**Contributing structure/Government/transportation/water-related  
Cruz Bay Dock**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 007]

Period of significance: c1838 – present

**Contributing object/Government/culture/monument/marker  
Historic Cannon**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 008]

Period of significance: c1838 – present

**Cruz Bay Dock:** Although the public dock in Cruz Bay has been lengthened and upgraded many times, the original structure has never been entirely removed or relocated. While no written

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

record has been found to conclusively document the date of the dock's original construction, a commemorative monument that once stood at the head of the structure was inscribed "1838." A navigational range light was mounted on the dock when the structure was upgraded in about 1937 and further lengthening and improvements have been periodically made since that time.

Until the dredging of the Cruz Bay Creek and the development of a barge ramp and freight bulkhead north of the main harbor, most passengers and cargo arrived or departed St. John by way of the Cruz Bay dock. As the island's primary lifeline to the outside world for the better part of two centuries, Cruz Bay's public dock is one of the Historic District's most important structural landmarks.

**Historic Cannon:** A monument that memorialized the construction date of the Cruz Bay dock was removed during recent improvements to the facility. A component of that monument was an old iron cannon, which was buried muzzle-down at the head of the dock for use as a bollard or belaying post. Thankfully, this cannon has been preserved, and it stands today in roughly the same location it has occupied for at least 150 years.

**Strandgade (Beach Street)**

**Block 3; Lot 3A**

Earliest documented ownership: 1765, Deed; Owner: Danish Crown

Today: Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

**Contributing site/Government/funerary/public cemetery**

**Gallows Point Cemetery, AKA Found Out**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 009 - 011]

Period of significance: c1766 – present

**Gallows Point Cemetery:** Historically utilized as the Cruz Bay public cemetery, the burial ground on Gallows Point holds graves dating as far back as the mid-eighteenth century. Today the oldest inscribed monument on the site is that of Lucretia Virginia Minor, nee Howard, a free-woman of mixed Afro-Caribbean heritage who was born on St. Croix in 1820. Lucretia was the child of Samuel Howard, a free-born "Mustice" tailor, and Anna Sophia Petrus, a free-born "Negro Woman." As an aging widow Lucretia relocated to Cruz Bay, where her daughter had purchased her a modest two-room cottage on Vestergade. This cottage is believed to be the same building that stands on Lot 6C to the present day. [NOTE: see Block 6; Lot 6C in the following section]

**Vestergade**

**Block 6; Lot 6A**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Anna Bole Falk (Free Colored)

1914 Tax Rolls - Colonial Treasury

1965 Judgment - concerning the heirs of E. A. Moorhead and all others claiming an interest in lots 1A, B, C, & D Cruz Bay Town

1970 – Lease between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the US Postal Service for lot on the corner of Vestergade

Today: Government of the VI - U. S. Post Office

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

**Non-contributing building/Government/post office**

## **PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

### **Properties along Store Kongensgade (Great King's Street)**

On July 5 Crown Surveyor von Rohr began the work of laying out the streets of the proposed town. The first street laid out was obligatorily christened Store Kongensgade (Great King's Street), which began at a point along the southwest border of the King's Landing and ran in a southerly direction parallel to the shoreline 700 Danish feet. It was along this street that the town's first private lots were taken up. According to von Rohr, there were three preexisting buildings on the waterfront side of Store Kongensgade at the time of his survey. One, situated at the corner of the northern end of the street on lot 4C, was referred to in a 1747 title document as "the High Company's residence house," suggesting that it may have been built by the Danish West India and Guinea Company sometime after their purchase of a parcel of land in Cruz Bay in 1737. The two other buildings, which stood on the corner of Store Kongensgade and Dronningens Tværgade (Queen's Cross Street) on lot 4A, may have been plantation structures associated with the former Leonard Lewis plantation, which was acquired by the Danish Crown in 1765 for the purpose of creating the town. Tax rolls indicate that most of the early owners of waterfront buildings in this vicinity owned agricultural properties in the interior section of the Cruz Bay Quarter. It is therefore assumed that the first buildings constructed along the bay were primarily warehouses and/or support structures associated with landlocked sugar plantations. And indeed, in 1802 parcel 4C on Store Kongensgade was noted on an inventory for Estate Adrian as the site of a "dwelling house, store-house, necessary, and smith's shop" associated with that property. As late as 1914 lot 4C was still being recorded in tax rolls as the location of the "Estate Adrian pack-house." Yet today, no trace of these buildings can be found.

#### **Store Kongensgade (West side)**

##### **Block 4; Lot 4C**

Earliest documented ownership: 1745, June 28, Deed; owner: Danish West India and Guinea

Today: Dockside Mall Inc.

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/stores/restaurants**

#### **Store Kongensgade (West side)**

##### **Block 4; Lot 4B**

Earliest documented ownership: 1766, Deed; Owner: Knevels

Today: Elaine Sprauve Wharfside Village Mall

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/stores/restaurants**

#### **Contributing building/commerce/store**

##### **John Wright Building**

[See: Location Map B; Photos 12 & 13]

Period of significance: c1800 – 1966

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

**Contributing building/commerce/other**

**John B. Sprauve Building**

[See: Location Map B; Photos 14 & 15]

Period of significance: c1864 – 1966

**Lot 4B:** Since the founding of Cruz Bay in 1766, Lot 4B has been successively owned by three of St. John's most notable families: Isaac Knevels and his heirs, from 1766 to 1809; John Wright and his heirs, from 1809 to 1860; and, John B. Sprauve and his heirs, from 1860 to the present day. Until the 1970s, when a shopping mall was developed on the Cruz Bay waterfront, the abandoned remains of at least four historic buildings were visible along the western side of Store Kongensgade. Two of the most well-preserved of these buildings can still be found on lot 4B. Both have now been repurposed as commercial spaces within the Wharfside Village Mall complex; however, these buildings retain enough of their original integrity and spatial context to be considered significant contributing resources to the Historic District. Each clearly demonstrates the unique architectural style and building practices of its respective period.

**John Wright Building:** The older of the two historic buildings on Lot 4B may well date to the eighteenth century. It is believed to have once been the home of John Wright, a "Free-Colored" builder responsible for the construction of a number of notable government buildings and private residences throughout St. Thomas and St. John – including the Cruz Bay Battery. It has one-story, un-plastered, rubble masonry walls, built from a mixture of native fieldstone, cut-coral blocks and beach-mined sandstone slabs, with imported Danish brick details and leveling courses, all set in a locally produced mortar of coral-based quicklime and beach sand.

**John B. Sprauve Building:** The second historic building on Lot 4B is known to have been under construction by a local mason, John B. Sprauve, in 1865. A respected craftsman and progenitor of the prominent Sprauve family on St. John, it is believed that J. B. Sprauve ceased construction on this building after a series of natural disasters caused widespread damage throughout the Danish West Indies in the fall of 1867. According to oral sources, Sprauve died before the building was fully completed, and it stood vacant and little utilized well into the twentieth century. Photographs of Cruz Bay taken near the close of the nineteenth century appear to support this assertion. Yet, even today the John B. Sprauve building remains an imposing two-story edifice. It was the tallest and most solidly built private building in Cruz Bay of its era. It was also the most valuable; with an appraised value in 1865 of \$3,000 - nearly twice the value of its nearest equivalent structure. The building is of similar un-plastered rubble masonry construction as the adjacent John Wright building, but with less attention to detail and fewer coral blocks and imported brick components.

**Store Kongensgade (West side)**

**Block 4; Lot 4A (and subdivided parcel #82)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1766, Deed; Owner: Peter von Beverhoudt

Today: Part: E. & J. N. Gibbs (Wharfside Village Mall)

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/stores/restaurants**

Today: Part: Dr. Gilbert Sprauve (subdivided Parcel # 82; VI property ID # 30810700)

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

**Contributing building/domestic**

**The Sprauve Cottage**

[See: Location Map B; Photos 16 & 17]

Period of significance: c1940 – 1966

**The Sprauve Cottage:** On a subdivided portion of Lot 4A, at the far southern corner of Store Kongensgade and Dronningens Tværgade, stands a well-preserved example of a traditional West Indian-style vernacular wooden cottage. The building has lap-board siding over a wood frame, with a gable-ended roof sheathed in corrugated metal. There is a small entry porch and enclosed room under a shed-roofed extension along the cottage's north side. The building is elevated off the ground on cast concrete pilings made from Portland cement and local beach sand, and there is a freestanding water cistern along its south side made from the same materials. Simple cottages such as this were once typical domestic dwellings found throughout working-class neighborhoods of the towns, and scattered across the rural districts of Virgin Islands. The style, materials, and construction methods of these buildings remained little changed for over two centuries. The exact age of the Sprauve cottage on lot 4A remains undetermined. According to oral sources it was already an older building when it was moved to this location from elsewhere in Cruz Bay sometime prior to 1951 – perhaps as early as when Louis Sprauve divided the parcel from the broader lot 4A in July of 1940. For a period of time in the 1970s the Sprauve cottage served as the St. John "Office of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands." Today it is under the able stewardship of respected linguist and cultural historian Dr. Gilbert Sprauve.

**Store Kongensgade (East side)**

**Block 5; Lot 5A**

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, Deed; Owner: Benjamin Fossy & Lieut. von Bang

Today: Catholic Church

**Non-contributing building/religious facility/church/church-related residence**

**Store Kongensgade (East side)**

**Block 5; Lot 5B**

Earliest documented ownership: 1766, Deed; Owner: Jan Stairkenberg Corneluszoon

Today: Raphalia Smith - commercial building

**Non-contributing building/commerce/stores/restaurants**

**Store Kongensgade (East side)**

**Block 5; Lot 5C (now listed on VIGIS as part of 5B)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1766 von Rohr Deed; Owner: Evangelistic Brothers (Moravian Mission Church)

Today: Alma Wesselhoft (VI property ID # 308101191400)

**Non-contributing structure/commerce/car rental lot**

**Store Kongensgade (East side)**

**Block 5; Lot 5E**

Earliest documented ownership: 1914, Tax Rolls: H. Clen's widow

Today: Theovald Moorhead heirs



Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

**Contributing site/other/yard (Note: merged with Lot F)**

**Store Kongensgade (East side)**

**Block 5; Lot 5F**

Earliest documented ownership: 1766 von Rohr deed; Owner: Benjamin Fossy

Today: Theovald Moorhead heirs

**Contributing building/domestic/commercial**

**Moorhead Building & Mooie's Rum Shop**

[See: Location Map B; Photos 18 & 19]

Period of significance: 1766 – 1966

**Moorhead Building & Mooie's Rum Shop:** On lots **5F&E**, on the west side of Store Kongensgade at the corner of Prinsensgade, stands perhaps the oldest continuously occupied private building in Cruz Bay. This building was purchased by Edward Moorhead in 1931, and, until recently, had been the home and business location of the Theovald Moorhead family since 1949. The lower story of this building housed the venerable St. John institution known as Mooie's Rum Shop, along with the office of Senator Theovald Moorhead and his numerous business ventures. One of the first town parcels deeded in 1766, lot 5F is documented to have been the location of a store owned by the prominent Vriehuis family of St. John as early as 1803.

Although the original wooden upper story of the building was replaced with concrete and cinderblock in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and its roof design was changed from hipped to gable, the building retains a good deal of historic character and integrity reflective of a mingling of Pre-Transfer Danish West Indies Colonial architecture, with Post-Transfer American-modern adaptations. It is believed that the grand double-entry stairway and landing on the eastern side of the building, as well as other existing components of the original design, date back to at least the second half of the eighteenth century.

**Properties along Strandgade (Beach Street) and Dronningens Tværgade (Queen's Cross Street)**

The second street measured and plotted by Crown Surveyor von Rohr was named Dronningens Tværgade (Queen's Cross Street), which ran inland from the harbor on the south side of the town, intersected and crossed Store Kongensgade, and ended at a corner near the western boundary of Madam Wood's plantation (Estate Enighed). From the point on the harbor where Dronningens Tværgade begins, the road curves and becomes Strandgade (Beach Street), which runs directly along the shoreline towards Gallows Point. Plot designations in Block 3 progress alphabetically from the southern end of Strandgade, past the corner at the head of Dronningens Tværgade, and end at the corner of Vestergade (West Street).

**Strandgade**

**Block 3; Lot 3A**

(Note: see Virgin Islands Government Owned Properties: Section 7 page 12)

**Strandgade**

**Block 3; Lot 3B**

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, July 20, Deed; Owner: Mr. Benjamin Fossy  
1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Maria Signarell (Free Colored)

Today: Grand Bay LLC

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/store/domestic/hotel/condominiums**

### Strandgade

#### Block 3; Lot 3C

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, July 20, Deed; Owner: Mr. Benjamin Fossy  
1804 Tax Rolls; Owner: John Henley (Free Colored)

Today: Grand Bay LLC

**Non-contributing buildings/domestic/hotel/condominiums**

### Strandgade

#### Block 3; Lot 3D

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls: Gottlibe Weyle (Free Colored)

Today: Grand Bay LLC

**Non-contributing buildings/domestic/hotel/condominiums**

### Dronningens Tværgade

#### Block 3; Lot 3E – now re-designated as 3F-88 and 3Fa

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls – Anna Bernhoff (Free Colored)

Today: Part - Shoreland Development Inc. (VI property ID# 308101021200)

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/stores/restaurant**

Today: Part – Albert & Lonnie Willis (VI property ID# 308101023400)

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/restaurant**

### Dronningens Tværgade

#### Block 3; Lot 3F – now re-designated as 3Fb

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, March 6, Deed; Owner: Lieut. von Bang  
1812 Tax Rolls, Sarah E. Martin's children (Free Colored)

Today: North part - S.D.W.L.L.C. (VI property ID # 308101023500)

**Contributing building/commerce/stores/restaurant**

**Former Helen Payne Cottages**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 20]

Period of significance: 1955 – 1966

Today: South part - Shoreland Development Inc.

**Contributing site/funerary/cemetery**

**Beverhoudt Cemetery**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 21& 22]

Period of significance: c1858 – c1944

**Former Helen Payne Cottages:** Constructed during Cruz Bay's post-Transfer period of transformation and renewal in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the former rental cottages owned

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

by Helen Payne are a fine example of post-Transfer vernacular interpretations of early twentieth century American-modern architecture. This style is generally represented by single- or two-story buildings constructed of cinderblock and/or reinforced concrete, with wooden storm shutters and/or U.S. manufactured windows and doors. Buildings of this period often incorporate Latin-American (primarily Puerto Rican) influences, such as flat cast-concrete roofs with generous overhangs, and decorative metal security grillwork. Although the Helen Payne cottages have been modified and updated a number of times over the years, their original character and spatial context remain evident, and the unique materials and building practices of its era are clearly represented.

**Beverhoudt Cemetery:** Soon after the town's founding in 1766, Cruz Bay began to be populated by members of the Danish West Indies' "Free-Colored" community and their slaves. By the turn of the nineteenth century, two discrete "Free-Colored" neighborhoods had developed in Cruz Bay, and by the time Emancipation was achieved in 1848, Cruz Bay had effectively become a Free-Colored town.

The two areas of Cruz Bay with the highest concentrations of Free-Colored ownership by 1803 were the northwestern and western blocks of Vestergade (block numbers 1, 2 & 6), and the southwestern block of Dronningens Tværgade and Strandgade (block number 3). Of these, the occupied lots within blocks 1, 2, and 6, were exclusively Free-Colored owned; while all but one of the occupied lots in the southwest section of Dronningens Tværgade were Free-Colored owned. Yet, despite their numbers, tangible resources that testify to the nearly century-long Free-Colored presence within these neighborhoods are difficult to discern. Today, this group's most evident contributions to the development of Cruz Bay are found in the monumental structures that free tradesmen and their enslaved laborers had a hand in creating -- such as the Battery, which was significantly modified by John Wright in 1824, and the public dock built in 1838.

There are, however, a number of less-recognized, but no-less-important, features that remain within the town's historically Free-Colored neighborhoods. The most important of these is the Beverhoudt cemetery, located on the southern portion of Lot 3F (now designated as a portion of lot 3F-88 on the VIGIS map).

The Beverhoudt cemetery is represented by a rectangular, un-plastered rubble-masonry wall surrounding six rubble stone and brick burial monuments of varying designs, all dating to the 19th century. Two of the cemetery's monuments are identified by plaques. The older of these is that of the matriarch of the Free-Colored Beverhoudt family of Cruz Bay, Sarah Elizabeth Martin, who died on August 1, 1858; the other, is the grave of one of Sarah's eleven children, Ann Louisa von Beverhoudt, who died on August 24, 1879.

Sarah Martin first appears in tax rolls for Cruz Bay around 1812 as custodian for her children, who are the recorded owners of Lot 3E on Dronningens Tværgade. Records documenting Sarah's age are inconsistent, but her baptism was entered into the St. Thomas/St. John Lutheran Church register on August 1, 1779. At an unspecified date prior to 1797 Sarah gained her freedom through gift or purchase from brothers John and Isaac Knevels, owners of the Susannaberg plantation in the Cruz Bay Quarter. Between 1794 and 1816 Sarah bore eleven children by the planter and militia captain Peter von Beverhoudt, who acknowledged them as his

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

rightful heirs and generously provided for their ongoing support in his will. Peter's and Sarah's final child, Peter, was baptized in the Bethany Moravian Church on St. John on March 19, 1817. The baptismal register records him as "the infant son of Mr. Peter Beverhoudt and the Negro Woman Sara." Their other children were named: Maria, William, Engelina, Petronella, Wilhelmina, Sarah, Gertrude, Johanna, Anna and Susanna.

Sarah Martin's children and grandchildren, who are collectively referred to in tax rolls and census documents as "Beverhoudt's heirs," remained central figures in the Cruz Bay community for more than a century. They were also the recorded owners of estates Sans Susi and Guinea Gut between 1818 and 1910. There are numerous decedents of this line in the Virgin Islands to the present day.

The overall contextual integrity and general condition of the Beverhoudt cemetery is good, although the surrounding wall is in poor condition and shows signs of natural deterioration due to age and a lack of periodic maintenance. The monuments within the cemetery are all in stable condition having been carefully restored by the St. John Historical Society under the guidance of the St. Thomas/St. John Committee of the VI Historic Preservation Commission in 2014.

NOTE: The grave of Sarah Elizabeth Martin is the only identifiable burial of an individual born into slavery on St. John in the eighteenth century.

**Dronningens Tværgade**

**Block 3; Lot 3G – now subdivided)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Madam Anna Beal

1822 Tax Rolls – Minchy Vriehuus (Free Colored)

1954 Adjudication - the estate of deceased Thomas Boynes, and widow Geraldine (Sprauve)

Boynes as title for James Boynes, Anthon Boynes, and Loredon Boynes

Today: Part – Albert & Lonnie Willis (VI property ID # 308101021300) – commercial building

**Non-contributing building/commerce/car rental**

Today: Part – Anthon Boynes & others (VI property ID # 308101022700) – residential building

**Non-contributing buildings/domestic**

Today: Part – Loredon Boynes Jr. & others (VI property ID # 308101020600)

**Contributing building/domestic/commerce/store**

**Boynes Cottage**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 23]

Period of significance: c1917 – 1966

**Boynes Cottage:** On the south side of the intersection of Store Kongensgade and Dronningens Tværgade stands another example of a traditional West Indian-style vernacular cottage. The original portion of this building has lap-board siding over a wood frame, with a hipped roof sheathed in corrugated-metal. There is a porch or small gallery under a raised shed roof along its north side, and cast-concrete and/or block shed-roofed additions to the building along its north and east sides. The cottage sits on grade, but is supported off the ground on its north face by a

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

rubble-masonry foundation wall, bonded and plastered with Portland cement and local beach sand. Simple cottages such as this were once typical domestic dwellings found throughout working-class neighborhoods of the towns, and scattered across rural districts of the Virgin Islands. The style, materials, and construction methods of these buildings remained little changed for over two centuries. This example is believed to date to the early 1900s. It is in fair condition and appears to have good contextual and structural integrity. Although the Boynes cottage has been modified a number of times, the building is a valuable cultural asset to the Cruz Bay Town Historic District. Local informants have stated that there are currently plans to have the cottage demolished. Further investigation into this situation is clearly warranted. Members of a local non-profit organization, the St. John Historical Society, have expressed interest in relocating the cottage if it is indeed in danger of being torn down.

**Dronningens Tværgade**

**Block 3; Lot 3H Kambeck Hill**

Earliest documented ownership: 1789, sale document; Owner: Anthony & Helena Kambeck.

Today: Heirs of Roberta Kean (VI property ID # 308101021400)

**Non-contributing building/domestic/multi-family dwelling**

(Located on south-central portion of lot with entry off Hill Street)

**Contributing archaeological site/domestic ruins**

**Kambeck Hill Site**

(Located on north section of lot along Dronningens Tværgade)

[See: Location Map B; Photo 24]

Period of significance: c1789 – 1867

**Kambeck Hill Site:** The steep far eastern section of Block 3, from the intersection of Store Kongensgade, to where Dronningens Tværgade takes a turn to the left and becomes Vestergade, has long been known as “Kambeck Hill.” Historically, Lot 3H has been the only privately owned parcel in this section of Block 3. The first record of ownership of this property is found in the 1789 St. John tax rolls, where it is noted as belonging to “Kambeck’s children.” The Kambeck children were the siblings Anthony and Dina Kambeck, heirs of deceased St. John planter Anthony Kambeck Senior, one of the earliest Danish-sanctioned settlers on St. John who died in 1766. In the 1803 tax rolls for Cruz Bay Anthony and Dina Kambeck are listed as owners of a parcel of land in Cruz Bay with a 240-square-foot dwelling. They reportedly owned no slaves and were two of only four White resident property owners in the town at that date – the others being Anna Beal and her son, who lived directly adjacent to the Kambeck heirs on what is now Lot 3G. On August 13, 1810, Anthony Kambeck Jr. and his wife Helina purchased two additional lots adjoining their property on Kambeck Hill. Dina Kambeck died in 1815, leaving her brother, Anthony, as sole heir to their jointly-held property. Anthony Kambeck Jr.’s daughter, Mary, was the last family member to reside on the Kambeck Hill property. She is listed in the 1860 Cruz Bay census as “Miss Mary Susanna Kambeck,” born in Cruz Bay, 42-years old, an unmarried, Lutheran, seamstress. Tax rolls for that year indicate that her house had a taxable area of about 750 square feet; by 1870, no taxable structure was recorded on the property. In all likelihood the house was destroyed in one of three major natural disasters that occurred around this period.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

NOTE: Kambeck Hill is an extremely valuable cultural and archeological resource within the Cruz Bay Town Historic District. The ruins on this property represent the only undisturbed eighteenth- to nineteenth-century urban dwelling site in the town of Cruz Bay.

**Dronningens Tværgade**

**Block 5; Lot 5AA** (subdivision of lot 5A)

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, Deed; Owner: Benjamin Fossy

1822 Tax Rolls - Jane Braithwaite's children (Free Colored)

Today: Albert & Lonnie Willis

**Non-contributing/building/commerce/domestic/store/restaurant/hotel**

**Properties along Vestergade (West Street)**

On July 10 and 11 Crown Surveyor von Rohr continued with the "clearing, staking out, and measuring" of Dronningens Tværgade. While in the process of dividing the blocks he determined the intersection of the town's third street, which he initially referred to as Dronningensgade, but later changed to Vestergade (West Street) – most likely to avoid confusion with Dronningens Tværgade, and because the street ran roughly parallel to the long western boundary of the abutting Enighed plantation. Vestergade begins at the northern ends of blocks 1 and 6, near the Cruz Bay Creek; it terminates at the southern ends of Blocks 2 and 5, where Vestergade curves and merges into Dronningens Tværgade. The longest street in the town of Cruz Bay, lot designations along Vestergade ascend alphabetically from north to south along Block 1, Block 2 and Block 6, but are nonconsecutive along Block 5.

**Block 1: North-East Section of Vestergade**

**Vestergade**

**Block 1; Lot 1A** (subdivided lot)

Earliest documented ownership: 1914 Tax Rolls; Owner: Colonial Treasury

Today: VITELCO (and others)

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/offices/vendors/restaurants**

**Vestergade**

**Block 1; Lot 1B)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1831 Tax Rolls; Owner: Peter Titcomb (Free Colored)

Today: V. Stephens & D. Stephens

**Non-contributing building/commerce/restaurant**

**Vestergade**

**Block 1; Lot 1C**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Susanna Bramy (Free Colored)

Today: Lookshin Corp.

**Non-contributing building/commerce/restaurant**

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

**Vestergade**

**Block 1; Lot 1E**

Earliest documented ownership: 1844 Tax Rolls; Owner: Wm. Blyden (Free Colored)

Today: Andromeada T. Childs Revocable Trust

**Non-contributing building/commerce/store/office**

**Block 2: South-East Section of Vestergade**

**Vestergade**

**Block 2; Lot 2A)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Betzy Zytzema (Free Colored)

Today: Solomon's Plaza Inc.

**Non-contributing building/commerce**

**Vestergade**

**Block 2; Lot 2B)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1910 Tax Rolls; Owner: J. W. Jacobs

Today: Solomon's Plaza Inc.

**Non-contributing site/commerce/parking lot**

**Vestergade**

**Block 2; Lot 2C)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1812 Deed; Owner: Peter Frested to Sarah Rebecca and Maria Susanna Clark (Free Colored)

Today: Marjorie Samuel Christian Revocable Trust

**Non-contributing building/commerce/stores/restaurant**

**Vestergade**

**Block 2; Lot 2D**

Earliest documented ownership: 1832 Tax Rolls; Owner: Lucy Creque (Free Colored)

1939, November 30 Deed – L. Richard & M. Keating to Julius E. Sprauve

1955, August 2 Adjudication - 13 Sprauve heirs in common

1958, October 27 Lease - to the West Indies Bank & Trust Company

1959, September Assignment of lease - to the Chase Manhattan Bank

Today: Hilton Sprauve and others

**Contributing building with secondary buildings, structures and objects  
/domestic/commerce/store/bank/restaurant**

**Julius B. Sprauve Building**

[See: Location Map B; Photos 25, 26, 27 & 28]

Period of significance: c1839 – 1966

**Julius B. Sprauve Building:** The Sprauve heirs' property on Lot 2D is one of the most important contributing sites in the Cruz Bay Town Historic District. It is notable not only for being a historic property, but also for it being the home of Julius Ebenezer Sprauve, the first elected St. John representative to the Virgin Islands Legislature, and the location of St. John's

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

first bank (The West Indies Bank and Trust Company, which later became the Chase Manhattan Bank). The property's primary domestic/commercial building, with its associated secondary buildings and structures (a store, storage building, detached kitchen, utility shed, privy and a free-standing bake oven in the yard), retains a high degree of spatial and structural integrity. The date of construction of the original building on this site has not been determined, but tax records reveal that a domestic building has stood on this lot since at least the 1830s. USCGS and USGS maps dating to 1919, 1922 and 1934, all depict two buildings in the area of Lot 3D, so it is possible that the current buildings incorporate at least elements of preexisting structures on the property. The buildings that stand on Lot 2D today are believed to have been constructed, or majorly modified, soon after the property was purchased by Julius E. Sprauve in 1939. As a domestic/commercial grouping they represent a superb example of the commingling of traditional pre-Transfer Colonial Danish West Indies, and Post-Transfer Neo-Vernacular American architecture. The primary buildings on the property are all in generally good-to-fair condition, but there are numerous indications of long-deferred maintenance. The corrugated metal roof on the main building is currently failing and in need of repair or replacement. Other important historical structures on the site, such as the cast-masonry two-stall privy, and the free-standing brick and stone bake oven in the yard, are likewise in need of repair.

**Vestergade**

**Block 2; Lot 2E**

Earliest documented ownership: 1888 Deed; Owner: Elizabeth Smothergill to Charles O. Hope  
1945, October 3, Deed – Casilda Battiste to James Frazer

Today: Enid Hendricks

**Non-contributing building/commerce/domestic/apartment building**

(Located on southern portion of lot)

**Contributing building/domestic dwelling/multi-family**

(Located on central portion of lot)

**The Sophina Frazer Cottage**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 29]

Period of significance: c1950 – 1966

**Contributing building/domestic dwelling/multi-family**

(Located on north portion of lot)

**The James Frazer Cottage**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 30]

Period of significance: c1945 – 1966

**The Sophina Frazer Cottage:** In the eastern section of Lot 2 along Hill Street (which forms the boundary of Cruz Bay Town and Estate Enighed) stands a rather ramshackle traditional West Indian-style wooden cottage. The main hipped-roof portion of this building is wood framed and sheathed in plywood. Shed-roofed wood and plywood extensions have been added along the western face of the building. The roofs are all sheathed with corrugated metal. The cottage sits on a beach-sand concrete cistern and slab on grade, with cast concrete or block ring walls enclosing a lower-story apartment on its western side. The building is believed to have been built



Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

sometime in the early 1950s. In style, materials, and layout it retains a high degree of contextual integrity. The building is notable as an example of a Post-Transfer-era interpretation of a traditional West Indian-style vernacular cottage, with a mixture of original wooden storm shutters and more recently installed manufactured window and door units.

**The James Frazer Cottage:** In the northwestern section of Lot 2, down slope of the Sophina Frazer Cottage, stands another example of a Post-Transfer era interpretation of a West Indian-style cottage with a somewhat haphazard appearance. Built on-grade atop a rubble-stone retaining wall on the eastern side of Vestergade, the James Frazer cottage is an intriguing blend of traditional building practices and materials, comingled with early twentieth-century American manufactured components, resulting in a rather utilitarian post-WWII aesthetic (or lack thereof). While to some, the James Frazer cottage may be difficult to appreciate from an architectural standpoint, it is clearly representative of a discrete period in the development in Cruz Bay, and therefore worthy of being recognized as a contributing building within the Cruz Bay Town Historic District. Overall, the building occupies its original historic setting and possesses a high degree of both special and structural integrity.

#### **Block 5: South-West Section of Vestergade**

##### **Vestergade**

###### **Block 5; Lot 5AB** (subdivision of lot 5A)

Earliest documented ownership: 1767, Deed; Owner: Benjamin Fossy

Today: Thomas family

**Noncontributing site/vacant**

##### **Vestergade**

###### **Block 5; Lots 5BB, 5BC, 74-1, 74-2** (subdivided from Lot 5B)

Earliest documented ownership: 1804 Tax Rolls; Owner: William Turnbull

Today: Part – A. Wesselhoft

Today: Part – F. Smith

Today: Part – Steadfast Investments LLC

Today: Part – L & M Hodge

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/domestic/stores/hotel/restaurant**

##### **Vestergade**

###### **Block 5; Lot 5D**

Earliest documented ownership: 1812 Tax Rolls; J. S. Weyle

1835 Tax Rolls – Wm. Henry Lind (Free Colored)

1838 Tax Rolls – Wm. H. & Anne E. Lind

1860 Census - Widow Anne Eugenia Lind - born at Beverhoudtsberg

1875 Tax Rolls - Lind/Petronella Lund

March 17, 1898 Deed - Petronella C. Lund [born Ebeling] (vacant lot) to Mrs. Malvina Fraas [born Weinmar] and Miss. Caroline Weinmar, \$25.

1914 Tax Rolls: Mrs. Fraas & Miss Weinmar

Albert Sewer's Store

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI  
County and State

Name of Property

Today: Sam-Glob Inc. (Fred's Bar)

**Contributing building/commerce/store/restaurant  
Sewer's Store**

[See: Location Map B: Photos 31]

Period of significance: c1950 – 1966

**Sewer's Store:** With its blending of post-WWII era American-modern building practices, utilizing both imported and local materials, and its early twentieth century Latin-Caribbean influences, the former Sewer's Cut-Rate Store is one of the Cruz Bay's finest examples of Post-Transfer Neo-Vernacular architecture. Simple cast concrete and cinderblock structures such as this are characteristic of a discrete period in the post-WWII development of Cruz Bay Town. Although the Sewer's store building has been modified and added onto a number of times over the years, it is in fine condition, retains its distinctive original character, and possesses a high degree of both spatial and structural integrity.

**Block 6: North-West Section of Vestergade**

NOTE: January 7, 1965, Judgment VI Government vs the heirs of E. A. Moorhead determining the boundaries of lots 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D Cruz Bay; recorded January 16, 1965.

March 2, 1967 – Adjudication, Probate of the estate of Edward A. Moorhead as title to 1/5 interest each: Theovald Eric Moorhead, Edward Alfred Moorhead Jr., Myra Keating Smith, Andromeda Keating Titley, and Ruth Keating Stephens.

June 15, 1967 – Deed of partition between the above 5 heirs

**Vestergade**

**Block 6; Lot 6A** (See VI Government owned properties)

**Vestergade**

**Block 6; Lot 6B**

Earliest documented ownership: 1774, January 3, Deed; Owner: Benjamin Lind

1803 Tax Rolls - Johannes Zytzema (Free Colored)

1914 Tax Rolls - Ophelia A. Steel

1915 - August 12, 1915, Deed Ofelia Steel to E. A. Moorhead

Today (Moorhead/Keating heirs) Medea's Mall – commercial buildings

**Non-contributing buildings/commerce/stores/restaurant**

**Vestergade**

**Block 6; Lot 6C** (1 building; 1 object)

Earliest documented ownership: 1774, January 3, Deed; Owner: Benjamin Lind

1803 Tax Rolls - Phillipena Dunklau (Free Colored)

1823 Tax Rolls – Eva Maria Wilthagen (Free Colored)

1886, March 16, Bill of sale - "I the undersigned Margreth Ernesta Cronenberg do hereby declare to have bargained for and sold... unto Alexandria Minor of Christiansted St. Croix the small two-room house and half lot of land situated in the town of Cruz Bay, St. Jan which I have inherited from my aunt, the late Miss Sophia Margeritha Weinmar of St. John for the sum of

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

\$55..." Alexandria's mother, Ms. Lucretia Minor, has the use and benefit of the property during her lifetime.

1904, June 1, Bill of sale - Alister Thomas a house in Cruz Bay previously was Miss Alexandria Minor to Policeman F. A. Thomas

1908, November 12, Deed - from F. A. Thomas and C. A. Thomas, to E. A. Moorhead

1972 Deed - Edward Alfred Moorhead Jr. to Daniel Sullivan

1978 Deed - D. Sullivan to Richard and Janet Shannon

1980 Deed - R. Shannon to Fran J. Attard

Today: Fran J. Attard (American Paradise Real Estate & Back Yard Bar)

**Contributing building/Domestic/Commerce/store/office**

**Lucretia Minor Cottage**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 32]

Period of significance: c1900 – 1966

**Contributing object/tree**

**Ancient Genip Tree**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 33]

Period of significance: c1766 – 1966

**Lucretia Minor Cottage:** Hidden behind a modern stone façade on Lot 6C, stands what is perhaps the oldest traditional West Indian-style vernacular cottage in Cruz Bay. The building has hand-planed, bead-edged lap-board siding over a wooden frame, with a gable roof and shed-roofed extensions along its east and south sides. The entire roof is sheathed in corrugated-metal. The cottage is raised off the ground on cast-concrete footings made of Portland cement mixed with local beach sand and stones. There are wooden storm shutters on all of the openings. Having been regularly maintained, the Lucretia Minor cottage is in remarkable condition for its age, and retains a high degree of both spatial and structural integrity. Its materials and construction methods reflect a unique vernacular style that was little changed for over two centuries.

Although a precise date of construction for this building has not been determined, the Lucretia Minor cottage is believed to be over 100-years old. The documentary chain of title to Lot 6C reveals that a house of this general size and position has stood at this location since at least 1802. The first recorded deed to this lot was issued to Benjamin Lind in January 1774. Lind, an employee of the Danish Crown, served as Provisions and Materials Master for the Cruz Bay garrison. He most likely used the property to house a group of Crown-owned slaves under his charge. At some point in the latter part of the eighteenth century Lind deeded the property to a free-woman of African heritage, Phillipena Dunklau. By 1823 the parcel had passed into the hands of a venerable matriarch of Cruz Bay's Free-Colored community, Eva Maria Wilthagen. Wilthagen and her heirs held the property until 1886, when it was purchased by Alexandria Minor of Christiansted, St. Croix, as a home for her aging mother, Lucretia Virginia Minor. In the deed of transfer for the property it was described as "a small two-room house and half-lot of land situated in the town of Cruz Bay." The purchase price was \$55. In 1914 the cottage was recorded as having a taxable measurement of roughly 350 square feet. It is clearly depicted on

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

the first USCGS map of St. John in 1919, and it appears on all successive updated USGS maps and aerial surveys to the present day.

NOTE: The resting place of Lucretia Virginia Minor is the oldest identifiable grave in the Gallows Point Burial Grounds in the Cruz Bay Town Historic District (see Lot 3A).

**Ancient Genip Tree:** On the western side of Vestergade, immediately northeast of the Lucretia Minor cottage, stands an ancient genip tree that is believed to be over 300 years old. If this is true, it may predate the founding of the town of Cruz Bay in 1766 and be the oldest tree in the Historic District.

**Vestergade**

**Block 6; Lot 6E**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Phillipena Dunklau (Free Colored)  
1914 Tax Rolls - Colonial Treasury

Today: Theo Moor Co. (Moorhead Building/Connections)

**Non-contributing building/commerce/offices**

**Properties along Prinsensgade (Prince's Street)**

Prinsensgade (Prince's Street) runs directly through Cruz Bay Town from West to East. It begins on the harbor at the Cruz Bay dock, passes Store Kongensgade to the south, intersects Vestergade at the corners of Blocks 2, 4, 3 and 5, and terminates at the boundary of Estate Enighed at the foot of Hill Street. There are only five properties in Cruz Bay Town that are fronted by Prinsensgade.

**Prinsensgade**

**Block 1; Lots 1F & 1Fa (subdivided property)**

Earliest documented ownership: 1847 Tax Rolls; Owner: William Blyden (Free Colored)  
1955 Deed - Charles F. & Avis Smith to son Austen Smith

Today: 1Fa - B. Smith & others

**Contributing building/commerce/restaurant-bar**

**Austin Smith's Rum Shop**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 34]

Period of significance: c1955 – 1966

Today: 1F - A. Wesselhoft & A. Smith

**Contributing building/commerce/restaurant/bar**

**Smith's Grocery Building**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 35]

Period of significance: 1847 – 1966

**Austin Smith's Rum Shop:** With its flat cast-concrete roof with generous overhangs and wooden storm shutters, the building that once housed Austin Smith's rum shop is another fine example of Post-Transfer Neo-Vernacular Architecture in Cruz Bay. Simple cast concrete and cinderblock structures such as this are characteristic of a discrete period in the post-WWII

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

development of Cruz Bay Town. Although the building has been slightly modified, it retains its distinctive original character and possesses a high degree of both spatial and structural integrity.

**Smith's Grocery Building:** The building that once housed the Smith family grocery is Cruz Bay's last remaining example of a large West Indian-style vernacular building, with both Danish- and British-Colonial architectural influences. The masonry ground floor portion of the building, where the grocery store was located, has three large arch-topped door openings along its south, roadside face, all with heavy double-hung wooden storm shutters. Five square cast-masonry columns down the front of the building support a second-story gallery, which runs the full length of the south face and eastern side of the building. On the western end of the building, a plastered masonry stairway and landing provides access from the street to the second-story gallery. The second story is wood-framed and covered with wide lapboard siding. The walls are painted white, and there are three large door opening with double-hung wooden storm shutters along its south face, and one on the eastern side. There are window openings with double-hung wooden storm shutters on the west, north, and east walls. A well-proportioned hipped roof covers the primary structure, with shed roofs over the gallery to the south and east. The roofs are all sheathed in corrugated metal painted red. Overall the building is in good condition and there have been few significant modifications to its exterior appearance since it was built or majorly upgraded in the early post-Transfer period. It retains much of its distinctive original character and displays a high degree of both spatial and structural integrity.

**Prinsensgade**

**Block 1; Lot D**

Earliest documented ownership: 1914 Tax Rolls; Owner: Mrs. Petranella Lund

Today: 1D - Robert O'Connor

**Non-contributing buildings/government/St. John annex of the VI Legislature**

Today: 1DA – Ramon & Delita O'Conner

**Non-contributing building/domestic**

**Prinsensgade**

**Block 6; Lot 6D**

Earliest documented ownership: 1803 Tax Rolls; Owner: Phillipena Dunklau (Free Colored)

1913, May 21, Deed - from Henriette Anthony, born Lucas, to E. A. Moorhead

1914 Tax Rolls - E. A. Moorhead

Today: MASK Trust

**Non-contributing building/commerce/domestic/inn & guest house**

**Contributing structures**

**Former Keating Inn entryway, cistern and planters**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 36]

Period of significance: 1958 – 1966

**Former Keating Inn structures:** Regrettably, little remains of the once cherished Keating Inn. The building was demolished and removed from the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 – only a short time after being placed on the Register. Built around 1913, the building's beach-

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

sand cement “welcoming-arms” staircase and arched-top cistern with two ornamental planters are all that are left to testify to its once commanding presence. Today these structures represent important cultural resources and are worthy of recognition and preservation.

### Prinsensgade

**Block 5; Lots 5G, 5H, 5I** (merged properties)

**5G)** Earliest documented ownership: 1884 Deed; Owner: Brown to Martha Bastian

1915 Tax Rolls - M. Bastian to the Lutheran Sunday School

Today: Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

**5H)** Earliest documented ownership: 1767 Deed; Owner: Benjamin Fossy

1803 Tax Rolls - William Turnbull

1820, March 7 Probate - contract of sale from Louis Michel to Alexander Cameron

1820, March 7, 1820 [same day and document as above] Contract of sale - from Alexander

Cameron to “free woman Maria Romney”

1823 Tax Rolls –Maria Romney & Maria, Ann, Julianna and Alexander Comeron (Free Colored)

1914 Tax Rolls: Lutheran Sunday School

Today: Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

**5I)** Earliest documented ownership: 1804 Tax Rolls; Owner: William Turnbull

1832 Tax Rolls – William James

1836 Tax Rolls – Sophia Weinmar (Free Colored)

1885 Tax Rolls – Sophia Lucas

1910, October 24, Deed - from Olivia Lucas, John Anthony and James Lucas, to the Lutheran Sunday School, a house with cistern and oven previously owned by Sophia Lucas.

1914 Tax Rolls - Lutheran Sunday School

Today: Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Contributing buildings/religious facility/church** (with associated secondary buildings on Lots 5I, 5H & 5G)

**Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church**

[See: Location Map B; Photo 37]

Period of significance: 1958 – ongoing

**Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church:** The Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church was constructed in 1958 on the grounds of the former Lutheran Chapel and Sunday school, which had been organized in Cruz Bay on September 2, 1904. It is home to the Lutheran congregation of St. John, which dates its founding to 1720. An adjoining church hall and parsonage was added to the site in 1976. Displaying a mingling of classic Danish-colonial and American-modern influences, the Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fine example of Post-Transfer Neo-Vernacular architecture. It is constructed of cast-concrete and cinderblock, with raised detailing along its corners and roof lines, as well as around door and window openings. The entire building is plastered and painted white. The steep gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and painted red. There is a simple cast-concrete and/or cinderblock bell-tower topped with a white cross on the church’s north-facing front façade, with a round louver air vent above wide double-hung wooden entry doors, which are painted red. A small, red-roofed portico over a low landing frames the entry. The church is in very good condition and is well maintained. It retains its distinctive original character and possesses a high degree of both spatial and structural integrity.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MILITARY

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

MARITIME HISTORY

ARCHEOLGY/HISTORIC

**Period of Significance**

1766 to 1966

**Significant Dates**

1766 (founding of the town of Cruz Bay)

1774 (construction of the Battery as a military defensive position)

1824 (conversion of the Battery to a civil administrative headquarters)

1838 (construction of Cruz Bay dock)

1848 (Emancipation in the Danish West Indies)

1867 (hurricane, earthquake & tsunami)

1917 (Transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States of America)

1957 (founding of the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John)

**Significant Person**

Von Rohr, Julius Benjamin, surveyor, engineer, scientist

Wright, John (AKA Jannis, Johannes), builder

Sarah Elizabeth Martin, Free-Colored matriarch

Sprauve, Julius E., politics and government

**Cultural Affiliation**

BLACK FREEDMAN - collectively referred to in the Danish West Indies as:

"FREE COLORED"

AFRO-CARIBBEAN

**Architect/Builder**

Wright, John

Sprauve, John B.



Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Cruz Bay Town Historic District retains remarkable contextual integrity and possesses a high degree of historical significance. It clearly meets applicable National Register Criteria in areas A, B, C and D.

The town of Cruz Bay (AKA Christiansbay) was first surveyed and plotted by **Danish Crown Surveyor Julius Philip Benjamin von Rohr** in June/July of 1766. Von Rohr's field notes and survey drawings indicate that he laid out the town in an orderly grid pattern of three primary streets running parallel to the shoreline, and two cross-streets running inland from the harbor. This plan, set in place nearly 250 years ago, is the same layout encountered in the town of Cruz Bay to the present day. Therefore, as per National Register guidelines, Cruz Bay possesses "*... a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.*"

Not only is Cruz Bay's historical setting wholly intact, it also represents a "*... unified entity... composed of a wide variety of resources...*" all of which "*convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment.*" Among Cruz Bay's most notable contributing historic buildings, sites, structures and objects are:

- A fortified courthouse and jail (known locally as "The Battery") along with its associated secondary structures and infrastructure. First constructed as a **military defensive position** in 1774, the Battery was converted into a **civil administrative headquarters** for St. John by a local **Free-Colored** builder, **John Wright**, in 1824.
- A **town square or park**, historically referred to as "The King's Landing," which was measured and laid out by **Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr** as a **public common** in 1766.
- A number of domestic and commercial buildings with associated secondary structures and yards dating from the early-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. These buildings represent Cruz Bay's **cultural and economic progression from a small, rural village to a thriving center of commercial activity by the late 1960s**. One notable example of a well-preserved historic domestic/commercial compound in Cruz Bay is the former home of **Julius E. Sprauve, who was St. John's first elected representative to the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands** and an outspoken **advocate for the creation of the Virgin Islands National Park**.
- The ruins and/or repurposed remains of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century warehouses, homes and commercial buildings, some retaining remarkable integrity that clearly demonstrate the **architectural styles and building practices** of their respective eras. One

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

of the most notable examples of these is documented to have been built by **local builder John B. Sprauve** c1865.

- Two historic cemeteries and other burial sites: one cemetery dating to the mid-nineteenth century is exclusively associated with a **notable “Free-Colored” family** of the period and is the resting place of **Sarah Elizabeth Martin**, the only identifiable burial of an individual born into slavery on St. John in the eighteenth century. The other, currently utilized as a public cemetery, is potentially much older and surely holds burials dating as far back as the founding of the town in 1766, or earlier.
- The Cruz Bay dock, constructed in **1838** and still in use to the present day. There are few places under the United States flag where the **maritime traditions of seamanship and sail-borne freight** were upheld for as long as on St. John, where commercial sailing vessels regularly called at the port of Cruz Bay through the 1960s.
- A public reservoir, or cistern, built during the period of **United States Naval Government** in the U. S. Virgin Islands in the 1920s. This structure is a component of the **first public water-supply system** for the town of Cruz Bay, which appears never to have had an abundance potable ground water.
- Numerous stately “heritage trees,” along with other plantings, reflective of the town’s **rich cultural landscape**. Among these trees are mature *lignum vitae*, tamarind, saman, mahogany, a wide variety of palms, and one particularly notable genip tree, which is believed to be more than 300-years old.
- An important historic-period **archaeological site** in the southeast quadrant of the Historic District on Kambeck Hill. This site holds the only undisturbed remains of an early-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century urban homestead in the town of Cruz Bay.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### General Background; Danish Settlement of St. John

On March 25, 1718, the governor of the Danish West India & Guinea Company colony of St. Thomas, Eric Bredal, accompanied by five soldiers, twenty planters, and sixteen enslaved Africans, landed in Coral Bay to claim the island of St. John in the name of the Danish Crown. After selecting a site for the Company’s plantation the governor instructed the planters to make known the parcels of land they intended to occupy. His mission accomplished, Bredal hastily returned to St. Thomas, where he awaited any repercussions that might have been prompted by his actions. But, while the British governor on nearby Spanish Town (Virgin Gorda) quickly filed protest, sternly threatening the Danes with dire consequence if they did not remove

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

themselves from St. John, no significant action to dislodge the Danish-sanctioned settlers was ever taken.

Early eighteenth-century tax documents indicate that the first formally deeded plantations on St. John were taken up by experienced sugar planters from the Danish-held island of St. Thomas between 1718 and 1719. Once the most desirable planting grounds had been allotted, a second wave of multi-national settlers rushed in to make their claims. By 1728, when the first St. John property tax lists were compiled, nearly all of the available land on St. John had been parceled out and ninety-one plantation properties were accounted for across the island. [SJLL, 1728-1739; LD, 1722; Martfeldt, c1765]

### **The founding of the town of Cruz Bay**

[Criteria A & D]

In the early hours of Monday, November 23, 1733, a well-planned insurrection carried out by a determined group of enslaved Africans interrupted Danish-colonial rule on St. John. Although the combative spark of this revolt was relatively brief, ongoing skirmishes with entrenched rebel factions, and failure on the part of colonial authorities to bring swift closure to the conflict, resulted in a protracted period of uncertainty that lingered well beyond the brutal ending of this episode in August of 1734. [Westergaard, 1917; Bro-Jørgensen, 1966; Caron & Highfield, 1983; Pannet, 1733; Martfeldt, c1765]

Encouraged by promises of compensation and security, the Danish-backed St. John settlers cautiously reoccupied their ravaged properties and pressed onward. As life on St. John slowly returned to the status quo, in 1736 a concerned group of plantation owners petitioned the Governor and Commandant of St. Thomas and St. John, Frederick Moth, for the establishment of a fortress at Little Cruz Bay as a place of "refuge and protection" for the western side of the island. The planters argued that while inhabitants on the eastern portion of St. John enjoyed the benefit of security offered by the recently strengthened fort at Coral Bay, the planters to the west were left with no protection against external or internal threats to their lives and property. In answer to their plea, in 1737 the Danish West India & Guinea Company purchased a parcel of coastal land at Little Cruz Bay from a poor Mulatto cotton planter, Frank Gonsal, with the expressed intent of constructing a fortress. This, however, was where the company's initiative ended and it was not until the Danish Crown took over governance of the colony in 1755 that any further actions were taken. [LD, 1745; SJLL, 1728-1739; Larsen, 1940; Martfeldt, c1765; von Rohr, 1766]

In 1756 Governor-General von Prock visited St. John to re-investigate the idea of constructing a fortress at Little Cruz Bay. Two years later, formal plans to build a fort and establish a garrison were put into writing, and the necessary funds were requested from Denmark. At that time it was also suggested that a small "flat" on the land purchased by the West India & Guinea Company in 1737 be measured out and divided into house lots. Approval of von Prock's plan finally came in 1764 and a building commission was established and funded. It was recommended by the commission that along with the construction of a defensive battery and garrison buildings, the remaining land adjoining Little Cruz Bay should be acquired for the establishment of a proper

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

town. Consequently, on August 8, the bankrupt Little Cruz Bay cotton plantation was purchased on behalf of the Crown for the sum of 1,900 Rigsdalers – more than twice the land's appraised value. The new town was to be named *Christiansbay*, in honor of the Danish King. Clearing of the land for the garrison buildings commenced in September, and twenty-eight enslaved laborers were provided by local planters each week to man the project. [Larsen, 1940; Hoff, 1986; Martfeldt, c1768; Oxholm, 1780; von Rohr, 1766; SJPP, 1752-1772]

By April of 1765 a five-room barracks, kitchen, and officer's quarters stood near a convenient landing place at Christiansbay. The cost of project was reportedly between 15,000 and 16,000 Rigsdalers. Earlier that year the old fortress at Coral Bay (Fredericksvaern) was decommissioned and its cannons and ammunition brought to Little Cruz Bay for placement in the new fort. However, due to ongoing discussions over the best location for a battery, construction had not yet begun. As a result, the cannons and ball were temporarily placed in a crude earthwork on the beach where they quickly rusted and became unusable. [Martfeldt, 1765; Oxholm, 1780]

**Surveyor Julius Philip Benjamin von Rohr and the establishment of the town of Cruz Bay**

[Criteria A, B & C]

In June of 1766, Danish Crown Surveyor Julius Philip Benjamin von Rohr was dispatched to St. John to begin the task of measuring the Crown's holdings and laying out the streets and lot divisions for the new town of Christiansbay (AKA Cruz Bay). [von Rohr, 1766]

An accomplished surveyor and avid amateur botanist, Julius von Rohr had been born in Merseburg, Saxony, in 1737. After studying medicine at Halle University, von Rohr immigrated to Denmark at the age of nineteen. On April 13, 1757, he was appointed to the post of municipal buildings inspector and land surveyor on the island of St. Croix in the Danish West Indies. [von Rohr, 1766; Dahl & Licht, 2004; Hopkins, 2013; Global Plants, 2013; Wikipedia, 2013]

Upon arrival on St. John, von Rohr began his survey by establishing the boundaries of the parcel of land purchased by the West India & Guinea Company in 1737. Once these boundaries were conclusively determined, von Rohr immediately turned his attention to measuring the broader extent of the Crown's property, which was now made up of both the 1737 purchase and the adjoining Little Cruz Bay plantation acquired in 1764. After locating a single verifiable boundary marker on the neighboring Enighed plantation, it took von Rohr less than a week to reconcile the broader boundaries of what we know of today as the town of Cruz Bay. [von Rohr, 1766; Hoff, 1986]

On July 5, 1766, von Rohr began the work of laying out the streets of the proposed town. That day's entry in his survey journal clearly expresses his approach and attitude towards the process: "I thought it best to focus on the layout of the streets as the royal buildings were already built, which occupy a place of 200 feet long and 20 feet wide. These buildings are surely in the most inconvenient place, both in prospect of the town itself and its position ... As this at the time does not concern me, and as they already are standing, it is best that the streets be aligned according to the buildings ... [I] made each street 40 feet wide, having as my objective the health and comfort

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

of the future inhabitants as well as the respectability of the city itself ..." [AOTA, July 5, 1766  
(Translated from von Rohr's original German by Dr. Gary T. Horlacher)]

The first street laid out by von Rohr was christened in his native German, "Großen Königs Straße" (Store Kongensgade [in Danish]; Great King's Street [in English]), which began at the southwest corner of the recently completed officer's quarters and ran in a southerly direction along the shoreline 700 Danish feet. He named the second street "Königins Quer Straße" (Dronningens Tværgade; Queen's Cross Street), which ran inland from the bay on the south side of the town, intersected and crossed Store Kongensgade, and ended near the western boundary of the Enighed plantation. In the process of measuring Dronningens Tværgade, on July 9 von Rohr briefly paused to survey the first privately held parcel within the town: "[While] I was busy with the adjusting of Dronningens Tværgade I measured also at the same time Madam Lewis' retained lands that stood there. ... Madam Lewis' place in the town of Little Cruz Bay is south and westward on the Dronningens Tværgade 140 feet long, southward from the street 100 feet wide, and its length on the [south] side is 190 feet. ... Madam Lewis' is not by the sea; a decent country road must remain between her place and the shore." Von Rohr's statement informs us of his planned creation of another of the town's streets, which he later named "Strand Straße" (Strandgade; Beach Street). [AOTA, July 5, 1766 (Translated from von Rohr's original German by Gary T. Horlacher)]

On July 10 and 11 von Rohr continued with the "clearing, staking out, and measuring" of Dronningens Tværgade. While in the process of dividing the blocks he determined the intersection of the town's third street, which he initially referred to as Königins Straße (Dronningensgade; Queen's Street), but later changed to "Vester Straße" (Vestergade; West Street) – most likely because it ran roughly parallel to the western boundary of the Enighed plantation. [von Rohr, 1766]

On July 12 von Rohr moved on to completing his measurement of the southern extension of Store Kongensgade. At the terminus of this street he found himself at the top of a steep hill overlooking Cruz Bay. Here he envisioned the eventual creation of yet another cross street, which would run along a ridge-line that defined the southern boundary of the town. From this point he first measured a line eastward until, by mid-day, he had reached the western boundary of Madam Wood's property. Later that afternoon von Rohr returned to the southern terminus of Store Kongensgade, where he took up the same line in a westerly direction towards the shore on Gallows Point. Delayed by rain and heavy brush, it was not until July 14 that von Rohr recorded in his journal that he had finally reached the 1,075-foot mark, where he "... came to the place on the point that would have been the most advantageous location for both a battery as well as the royal buildings." [von Rohr, 1766]

Von Rohr now began the final phase of his survey. Having previously determined the town's boundaries to the North, East, and South, it was only left to accurately map its western coastline. To this end, on the morning of July 16 he returned to a spot on the shore where on June 23 he had planted a turpentine-tree post to mark the northwest corner of the boundary between the Crown's land and von Schleu's plantation (Estate Lindholm), and slowly began to wend his way along the shoreline of Little Cruz Bay. [von Rohr, 1766]

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

Over the next few days von Rohr also took time to measure out and record the ownership of three additional town plots: two on Store Kongensgade, taken up by the Moravian Brothers and Torsten Roseweld, and one large shore-front parcel measuring one-and-a-half town lots on the corner of Dronningens Tværgade and Store Kongensgade, given over to Peter von Beverhoudt. After a period of persistent rain kept him from the field for the better part of a week, on July 24 von Rohr finally arrived at the southwest corner of the town on Gallows Point, thereby completing his survey. Late that afternoon he received orders to proceed to St. Croix, and so, after hastily preparing for travel, Crown Surveyor Julius von Rohr unceremoniously departed St. John, leaving behind an enduring legacy in the muddy streets of the newly created town of Christiansbay. [von Rohr, 1766]

Von Rohr next returned to St. John in September of 1766 to survey the Carolina plantation in Coral Bay. Although he continued to measure and record new lots at Cruz Bay in his journal through 1774, there is no indication that he carried out any further survey work on the layout of the town. This leaves us with two maps of Christiansbay that are known to have been rendered by von Rohr during his survey. One of these can be found affixed alongside corresponding field notes in von Rohr's survey journal labeled, Book A, Maaleprotokol for Øerne St. Thomas og St. Jan fra 1764, which is presently held at the Office of the Tax Assessor on St. Thomas. The other, a rather formal color version, is in the map collection of the Danish National Archives (Rigsarkivet), in Copenhagen, Denmark. [AOTA, 1766-1774; Rigsarkivet Map Collection]

Only a few years after completing his survey of Cruz Bay, Rohr abruptly retired from survey work and turned his attentions to the field of tropical agronomy, particularly cotton cultivation, which became his passion. To this end, he began traveling throughout the West Indies and the Caribbean Coast of South America, collecting botanical samples and corresponding with many of the most noted naturalists of his time. His observations on cotton plants in the West Indies represent the primary source of information on that crop from the eighteenth century. Ultimately, von Rohr's documentation was used as the basis for naming thirty-eight species and/or varieties of cotton, two of which are named in his honor, *G. rohrianum* Raf. and *G. rohrii* Tod. [Dahl & Licht, 2004; Hopkins, 2013; Global Plants, 2013; Wikipedia, 2013]

Today, Julius Philip Benjamin von Rohr is best known for his contributions to the fields of botany and horticulture, while his meticulously rendered survey maps and plans of the Danish West Indies languish in obscurity. He left New York City in 1793 on a mission to investigate the establishment of cotton plantations in what is today the nation of Ghana, but died before reaching Africa. Some accounts claim his ship was lost at sea; others, state that he died on route of a fever. [Oxholm, 1780; Dahl & Licht, 2004; Hopkins, 2013; Global Plants, 2013]

### **The development of the town of Cruz Bay**

[Criteria A, C & D]

From the few resources available regarding the situation in Cruz Bay during the decades immediately following the town's founding, it is evident that significant development was rather slow to occur. Crown Surveyor Von Rohr's 1766 draft map depicts six preexisting buildings within the boundaries of the town. Three of these are the recently constructed garrison buildings

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

owned by the Danish Crown (a barracks, cook house, and quarters for a commanding officer), while the others are referred to by von Rohr as “burger houses,” indicating that they were owned by male inhabitants of the Danish West Indies who held “burger briefs” -- meaning that they had official permission to work or conduct business within the colony, similar to having a business license today.

While von Rohr documents the ownership of nine town parcels by 1774, there is no indication how many of those lots were actually built upon or occupied at that date. As the world slipped deeper into war, Danish West Indies officials turned their attentions to bolstering defenses in preparation for what would prove to be a prolonged period of global conflict, marked by the American, French and Haitian revolutions, as well as the Napoleonic Wars. Although this posturing finally prompted the construction of the long-planned Cruz Bay battery in ca.1774, little interest appears to have been shown in providing administrative oversight for the town or fostering the development of its infrastructure. In 1780 when military engineer, cartographer, and future Danish West Indies governor, Lieutenant Peter L. Oxholm, visited Cruz Bay to inspect the situation of its defenses, he observed in his journal that: “... a concealed, poor bay was selected [for the placement of the battery] where even the smallest vessel would have trouble navigating and were enemies standing on mountains around the bay could shoot anyone they see without fear of being shot themselves, here the town and battery are penetrable on all sides. ... After choosing this location the barracks were the first buildings to be built, they stand on a completely uncomfortable and unsuitable ground. A town was also laid out here, but not more than 4 or 5 houses are yet there, consequently I doubt that there ever will be any more. I don’t find it necessary to report any of this. To plan a town on a location beneficial neither to domestic nor foreign trade is like building a house with no foundation ...” [AOTA, 1764-1774; Oxholm, 1780]

Despite Oxholm’s skepticism, by the close of the eighteenth century Cruz Bay had indeed begun to flourish, perhaps due in part to the posting of a military detachment with its officers, troops, support staff and slaves after the completion of the battery. But this alone does not explain the town’s sudden growth. Throughout this period the Danish West Indies had been experiencing a dramatic rise in its “Free-Colored” population. Many of these “free folk” were war refugees and immigrants from the French islands of the Caribbean, where freedom from slavery had been granted in 1793, only to be rescinded a short time later. Others, however, were mixed-race persons who were free-born Danish subjects or individuals of African descent transitioning out of slavery through manumission or purchase. This upwardly mobile group and their offspring were forging the development of a new middle class, composed largely of skilled tradespersons and service providers. While the free working-class population had been steadily growing in the established towns on the larger islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix for the better part of a century, this was an entirely new occurrence on rural St. John. It is import to note that the establishment of the town of Cruz Bay in 1766 was a departure from the exclusionary practices of St. John’s entrenched plantocracy. By making modest town lots available for private purchase, and allowing Free-Colored tradespersons with their families and slaves to populate them, a locally based economy that opened opportunities for self-advancement soon emerged. [Oxholm, 1780; Hall, 1992; Tyson, 1998; Knight & Prime, 1999; Knight, 2000]

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

Cruz Bay reached a pinnacle in its Danish-colonial period development of twenty privately owned buildings in 1812. Although there was a downward dip to fourteen structures after a destructive hurricane passed through the islands in 1816, by 1824 — the year in which Governor von Scholten ordered the conversion of the former Cruz Bay military battery into a civil administrative headquarters for St. John — the town had largely been rebuilt. After 1825 the number of buildings in the town remained stable for a period of just over a decade, until 1836 when another powerful hurricane caused widespread damage throughout the island. Tax rolls indicate that there were fifteen buildings in Cruz Bay when the first Cruz Bay population census was carried out in 1841. It is from this point onward that periodic population censuses allow us to accurately analyze the make-up of individual households within the town, and we learn that by the time Emancipation was achieved in 1848, Cruz Bay had effectively become a Free-Colored town. [SJA, 1766-1848; SJR, 1841-1911]

With the unraveling of the Danish-colonial plantation system during the second half of the nineteenth century, Cruz Bay's remote setting and small natural harbor set it apart from established networks of international trade and commerce. Outbreaks of yellow fever, a devastating cholera epidemic in 1854, hurricanes in 1867 and 1871, and an earthquake in the fall of 1867, which triggered a tsunami that sent an estimated eighteen feet of seawater surging into the town, greatly diminished Cruz Bay's population and damaged or destroyed many of its old colonial-era buildings. [STMC, 1853-1854, SJLD, 1854; SJR, 1855; Knight, 1999; N. Zahibo, 2003; SJA, 1867-1870; SJR, 1855, 1860 & 1870; Knight, 2000]

As the turn of the twentieth century approached, Cruz Bay all but lost the characteristics of a town and became little more than a dusty rural hamlet on the margins of a failing colony. Left to its relative solitude, a distinct Creole society evolved there, informed by age-old traditions and steeped in Afro-Caribbean life-ways and belief systems. Self-reliant, grounded in deep religious faith, and supported through hard work and cooperation among close-knit family networks, the people of Cruz Bay endured long years of hardship with little prosperity, yet remained rich in spirit and fortitude. [SJR, 1870-1911; STA, 1870-1915]

After the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States in 1917, North American influences began to filter into Creole society, especially after a detachment of U. S. Marines was posted to Cruz Bay in the early 1920s. With this heightened outside presence came a growing sense of worldliness and a more cosmopolitan outlook. These perspectives gained traction in the mid-to-late 1940s with the arrival of increasing numbers of Continental tourists and transplants, and the return of a first generation of local men from service in the U. S. Armed Forces after World War II. But it has only been in more recent decades that outside economic forces and invasive exposures have seriously begun to erode the underpinnings of this proud and culturally unique Afro-Caribbean community. St. John's late economic reawakening upheld traditional lifeways and prolonged its historical integrity well into the second half of the twentieth century. What most of the western world regards as modernization was indeed slow to occur on St. John, where much of its infrastructure and public services - health care, sanitation, electrical power, telephones, and drivable road networks - did not begin to be developed until the 1950s. Even then, common commercial goods such as household appliances and manufactured building materials continued to be scarce and difficult to obtain, while their costs remained prohibitive for



Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

much of St. John's population well into this period. In the end, it was the creation of the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John in 1956 that prompted the rapid transformation of Cruz Bay from a quiet rural village into a booming gateway town for one of America's treasured National Parks, which today welcomes an average of roughly 500,000 visitors per year. [De Booy & Faris, 1918; Low, 2010; VIC, 1920, 1930 & 1940]

In assessing this Historic District nomination it may be worthwhile to note that there are few places under the United States flag where old-world Afro-Caribbean traditions and lifeways were upheld for as long as on St. John; a place where "Native" built commercial sailing vessels continued to call at the port of Cruz Bay throughout the 1960s. This fact serves to remind us that the preservation of memory and cultural identity, while less tangible than physical features on the landscape, are no less important components of an Historic District; they represent the true soul and essence of a place.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

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Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

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Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

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[CSP] Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, America and West Indies, 1681 – 1725 (Public Records Office, London, England]

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Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

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[SJLBP] West Indies Local Archives, St. John Landfoged, Bailiffs' Protocols, 1789 - 1913 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark).

[SJLDC] West Indies Local Archives, St. John Landfoged, Diverse Correspondence, 1851 -1859 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark).

[SJLPP] West Indies Local Archives, St. John Landfoged, Probate-protocols, 1741 - 1823 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark).

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[SXR] Central Management Archives, Registers for St. Croix, 1835 - 1911 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark).

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Cruz Bay Town Historic District

Name of Property

St. John, VI

County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Danish State Archive & NARA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** +/-15

#### **Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: VIGIS

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Latitude 18° 19' 55.95"  | Longitude: 64° 47' 36.02" |
| 2. Latitude: 18° 19' 55.82" | Longitude: 64° 47' 33.93" |
| 3. Latitude: 18° 19' 43.44" | Longitude: 64° 47' 45.15" |
| 4. Latitude: 18° 19' 51.27" | Longitude: 64° 47' 55.96" |

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

[See: Boundary Map A]

The boundaries of the Cruz Bay Town Historic District begin at point #1 on the northeast shore of the Cruz Bay Creek bulkhead (Latitude 18° 19' 55.95"; Longitude: 64° 47' 36.02"). From point 1, the boundary runs in a straight line ESE approximately 230' to point 2 (Latitude: 18° 19' 55.82; Longitude: 64° 47' 33.93"). From point 2, the boundary runs in a straight line SW approximately 1,688' to point 3, which is located at the top of a hill at the intersection of Hill Street and Frangipani Lane (Latitude: 18° 19' 43.44"; Longitude: 64° 47' 45.15"). From point 3, the boundary runs in a straight line NW 1,311' to point 4 on the shoreline of Gallows Point (Latitude: 18° 19' 51.27"; Longitude: 64° 47' 55.96"). From point 4, the boundary follows the coastline of Little Cruz Bay, rounds Battery Point, and continues along the shore of the Cruz Bay Creek until it reaches point 1.

#### **Boundary Justification**

[See: Maps A, C, D, E and F]

The boundaries of the Cruz Bay Town Historic District conform to the original boundaries of the town as measured and laid out by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr in his field journal and sketch maps created in June/July of 1766, and a revised tax map created by Francis Thomas in 1912. The official boundaries of the town have remained unchanged to the present day.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

### Section 10 - Clarification

#### Boundary description and Justification

The boundaries of the Cruz Bay Historic District are depicted on the following map (B-2). Lat/long points noted on map A-2 serve as reference points for the district as nominated and as a representation of the originally surveyed boundaries of the town. Map B-2 delineates the nominated district with a green line, conforming the district to the present-day legal parcels, while respecting the original town boundaries. Where necessary, the district boundaries vary from the original town to either include resources associated with the historic development of the town and excluding more modern development that has occurred along the edges of the historic town.



Cruz Bay Town Historic District  
Name of Property

St. John, VI  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David W. Knight Sr., Historian  
organization: St. Thomas - St. John Committee of the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission  
street & number: 313U Mahogany Run Golf Village  
city or town: St. Thomas state: VI zip code: 00802  
e-mail: daypress@earthlink.net  
telephone: (cell) 207 837 0087  
date: June 2016

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### Additional Documentation

#### Maps

Map A: Cruz Bay Town Historic District Boundary Map  
Map B: Cruz Bay Town Historic District Site Location Map - Contributing features highlighted in yellow; non-contributing not highlighted.  
Map C: Sketch map of "Christiansbay" from the field journal of Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, June/July 1766 (St. Thomas Office of the Tax Assessor, USVI)  
Map D: Copy of a map of "Christiansbay" by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)  
Map E: Map of "Christiansbay" by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)  
Map F: Revised Tax map of Cruz Bay by Francis Thomas, c1912 (St. Thomas Office of the Recorder of Deeds, USVI)

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Photo Log

Name of Property: Cruz Bay Town Historic District

City or Vicinity: Cruz Bay Quarter

County: St. John State: Virgin Islands of the United States

Photographer: David W. Knight Sr.

Date Photographed: 2012 through 2016

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

- Photograph #001 Location 6I, Cruz Bay Battery, facing north from the Cruz Bay Dock (12-16-2012)
- Photograph #002 Location 6II, Cruz Bay Park, facing east (04-18-2014)
- Photograph #003 Location 6II, Cruz Bay Park, facing northeast (04-18-2014)
- Photograph #004 Location 6II, Cruz Bay Park, facing southeast (03-01-2013)
- Photograph #005 Location 6II, Morris F. De Castro Clinic, facing southeast (01-04-2013)
- Photograph #006 Location 6II, Water Cistern, facing northwest (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #007 Location 6III, Cruz Bay Dock, facing northwest (03-24-2009)
- Photograph #008 Location 6III, Historic Cannon, facing northeast (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #009 Location 3A, Gallows Point Cemetery, facing north (01-08-2013)
- Photograph #010 Location 3A, Gallows Point Cemetery, facing southwest (01-08-2013)
- Photograph #011 Location 3A, Gallows Point Cemetery, headstone of Lucretia Virginia Minor, facing southwest (01-08-2013)
- Photograph #012 Location 4B, John Wright Building, facing west from Store Kongensgade (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #013 Location 4B, John Wright Building, facing south (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #014 Location 4B, Sprauve Building (in the rear), facing northwest (12-09-2012)
- Photograph #015 Location 4B, Sprauve Building corner detail, facing northwest (12-09-2012)
- Photograph #016 Location 4A, Sprauve Cottage, facing south (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #017 Location 4A, Sprauve Cottage, facing northwest from Dronningens Tværgade (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #018 Location 5E & 5F, Moorhead Building, facing west from Prinsensgade (01-04-2013)
- Photograph #019 Location 5E & 5F, Moorhead Building, facing east from Store Kongensgade (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #020 Location 3Fb, Helen Payne Cottages, facing west from Dronningens Tværgade (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #021 Location 3F, Beverhoudt Cemetery, facing north (04-30-2014)
- Photograph #022 Location 3F, Beverhoudt Cemetery, facing south (04-30-2014)
- Photograph #023 Location 3G, Boynes Cottage, facing east (01-08-2013)
- Photograph #024 Location 3H, Kambeck Hill, facing south from Dronningens Tværgade (04-22-2013)
- Photograph #025 Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings, facing northeast from Vestergade (12-07-2012)
- Photograph #026 Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings, facing south from Vestergade (03-01-2013)
- Photograph #027 Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings yard, facing northwest (04-22-2013)
- Photograph #028 Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings bake oven, facing east (04-22-2013)
- Photograph #029 Location 2E, Sophina Frazer Cottage, facing north from Hill Street (04-22-2013)

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

- Photograph #030 Location 2E, James Frazer Cottage, facing south from Vestergade (04-22-2013)  
Photograph #031 Location 5D, Sewer's Store, facing west from Vestergade (12-17-2012)  
Photograph #032 Location 6C, Lucretia Minor Cottage, facing southeast towards Vestergade (03-01-2013)  
Photograph #033 Location 6C, Ancient Genip Tree & Lucretia Minor Cottage, facing west from Vestergade (04 22-2013)  
Photograph #034 Location 1Fa, Austin Smith's Rum Shop, facing north from Prinsensgade (01-03-2014)  
Photograph #035 Location 1F, Smith's Grocery Building, facing north from Prinsensgade (04-22-2013)  
Photograph #036 Location 6D, Former Keating Inn entry and cistern, facing northeast from Prinsensgade (03-07-2014)  
Photograph #037 Location 5G, 5H & 5I, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church, facing south from Prinsensgade (12-07-2012)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# **CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

## **ST. JOHN, USVI**

### **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

#### **MAPS & PHOTOS**

##### **Maps**

Map A: Cruz Bay Town Historic District Boundary Map

Map B: Cruz Bay Town Historic District Site Location Map - Contributing features highlighted in yellow; non-contributing not highlighted.

Map C: Sketch map of “Christiansbay” from the field journal of Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, June/July 1766 (St. Thomas Office of the Tax Assessor, USVI)

Map D: Copy of a map of “Christiansbay” by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)

Map E: Map of “Christiansbay” by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)

Map F: Revised Tax map of Cruz Bay by Francis Thomas, c1912 (St. Thomas Office of the Recorder of Deeds, USVI)

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State



**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC BOUNDARY MAP A-2**

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Latitude 18° 19' 55.95"  | Longitude: 64° 47' 36.02" |
| 2. Latitude: 18° 19' 55.82" | Longitude: 64° 47' 33.93" |
| 3. Latitude: 18° 19' 43.44" | Longitude: 64° 47' 45.15" |
| 4. Latitude: 18° 19' 51.27" | Longitude: 64° 47' 55.96" |

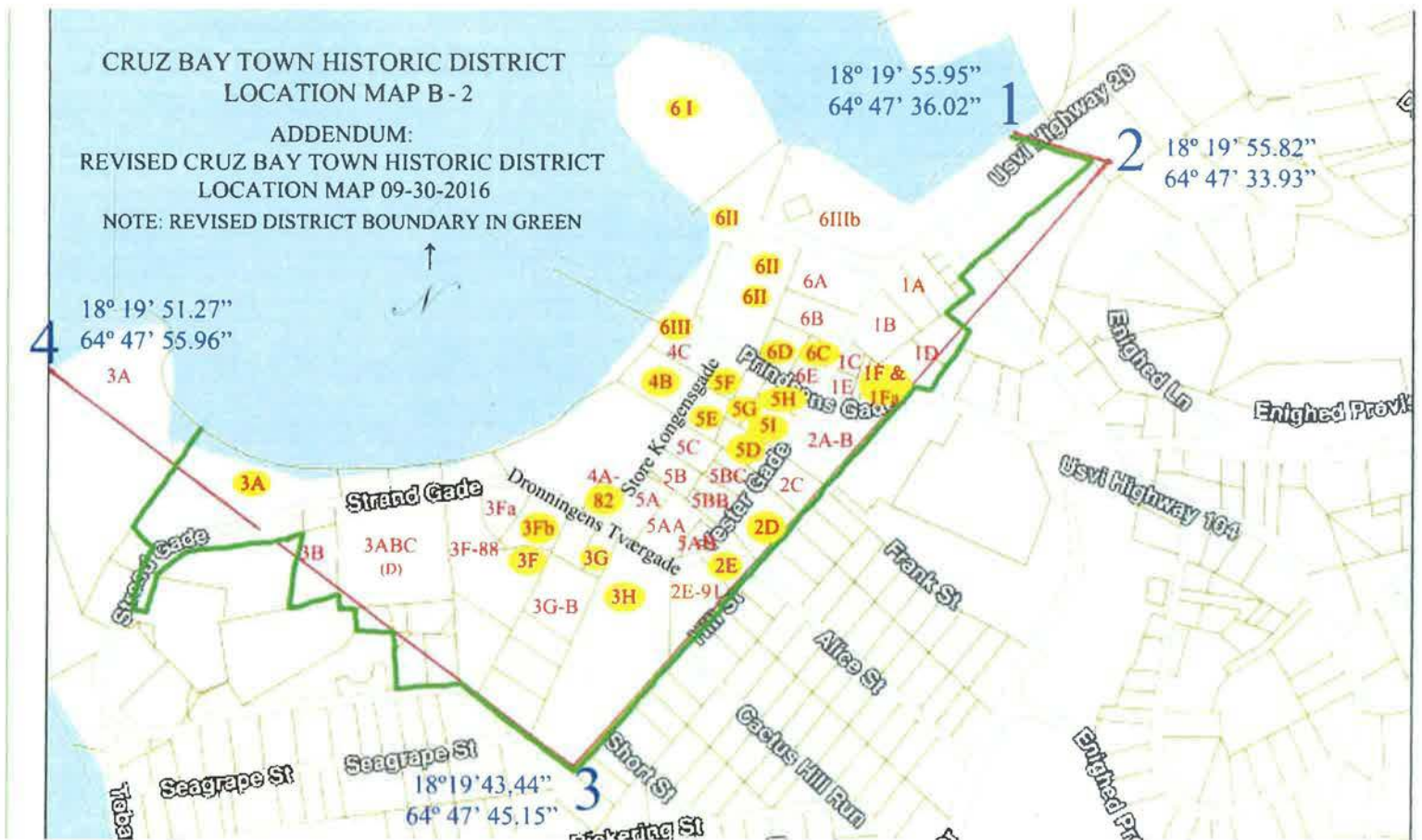
As originally laid out by Danish Crown Surveyor Julius von Rohr in 1766, the boundaries of Cruz Bay Town begin at point #1 on the northeast shore of the Cruz Bay Creek bulkhead (Latitude 18° 19' 55.95"; Longitude: 64° 47' 36.02") and run in a straight line ESE approximately 214' to point #2 (Latitude: 18° 19' 55.82; Longitude: 64° 47' 33.93"). From point #2 the boundary runs in a straight line SW approximately 1,594' to point #3, which is located at the top of a hill at the intersection of Hill Street and Frangipani Lane (Latitude: 18° 19' 43.44"; Longitude: 64° 47' 45.15"). From point #3, the boundary runs in a straight line NW 1,274' to point #4 on the shoreline of Gallows Point (Latitude: 18° 19' 51.27"; Longitude: 64° 47' 55.96"). From point 4, the boundary follows the coastline of Little Cruz Bay, rounds Battery Point, and continues along the shore of the Cruz Bay Creek until it reaches point #1.

Cruz Bay Town Historic District

St. John, VI

Name of Property

County and State

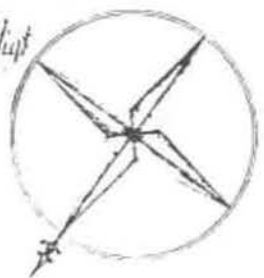


**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT LOCATION MAP B-2**

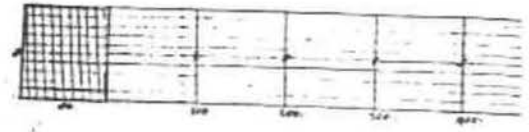
Map B-2 of the proposed bounds of the Cruz Bay Town Historic District conforms to present-day (09-30-2016) property lines as represented on the U. S. Virgin Islands Government GIS, maintained by the Office of the VI Tax Assessor. It must be noted that there has been no effort to define or maintain the historical boundaries of the town since the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States in 1917 - the last known survey map depicting the historical boundaries of the town dates to 1912 (see Map F in nomination). As a result, the current situation in Cruz Bay is quite fluid, with plot lines and parcel numbers being modified (and/or created) as development progresses. Therefore, parcel numbers used on maps and in text for this nomination may not be wholly reconcilable to current, or past, registered surveys, and subdivisions depicted within established plots do not always indicate legitimate independent properties. Parcel designations used in this nomination are solely for reference purposes relating to this document. Also note that ongoing rapid development in Cruz Bay will inevitably result in additional non-contributing structures and new parcels appearing within the proposed district.



Die Stadt Christiansbay auf der  
 Insel St. John  
 welche vor Jahr angelegt und  
 bebauet ist.  
 .. Casernen  
 .. syte welche selb bestuht  
 .. Bürger Häuser



CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 ST. JOHN, USVI

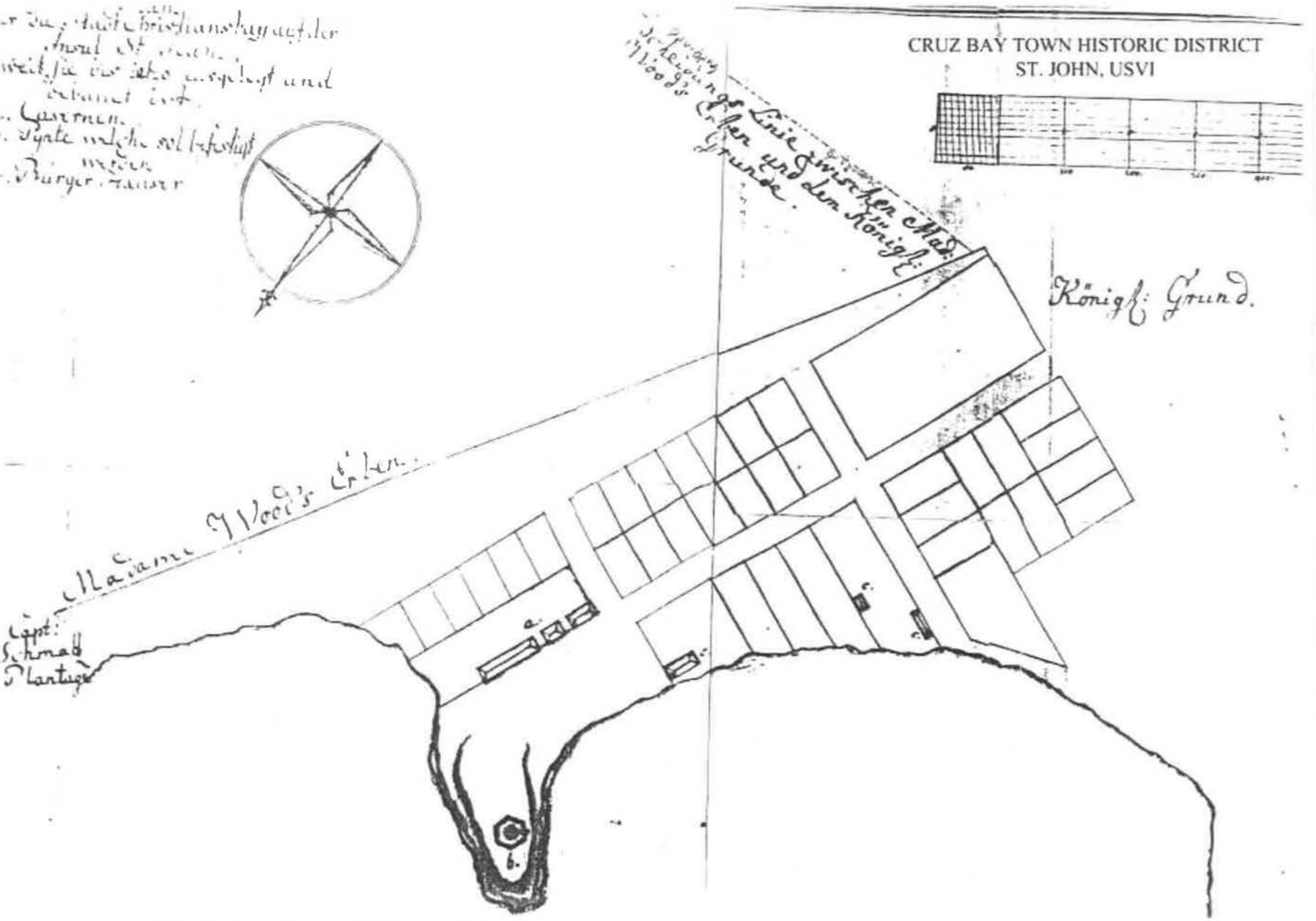


Grenzlinie  
 zwischen  
 171000's Grund  
 Linie zwischen d. Med.  
 und dem Königl.  
 Grunde.

Königl. Grund.

Name Wood's Erben.

Capt.  
 Schmidt  
 Plantage



Map D: Copy of a map of "Christiansbay" by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)



N. 7

Plan über die Stadt Christiansbay auf dem West-Ende von S. Jan.  
S. Königshaus. A. Carreenen. B. Kirchen. C. Des Ueffe. Haues.

**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI**



**Map E: Map of "Christiansbay" by Crown Surveyor Julius Benjamin von Rohr, c1766 (Rigsarkivet, Denmark)**

*Julius von Rohr*

337 227

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI

*Cruz Bay*



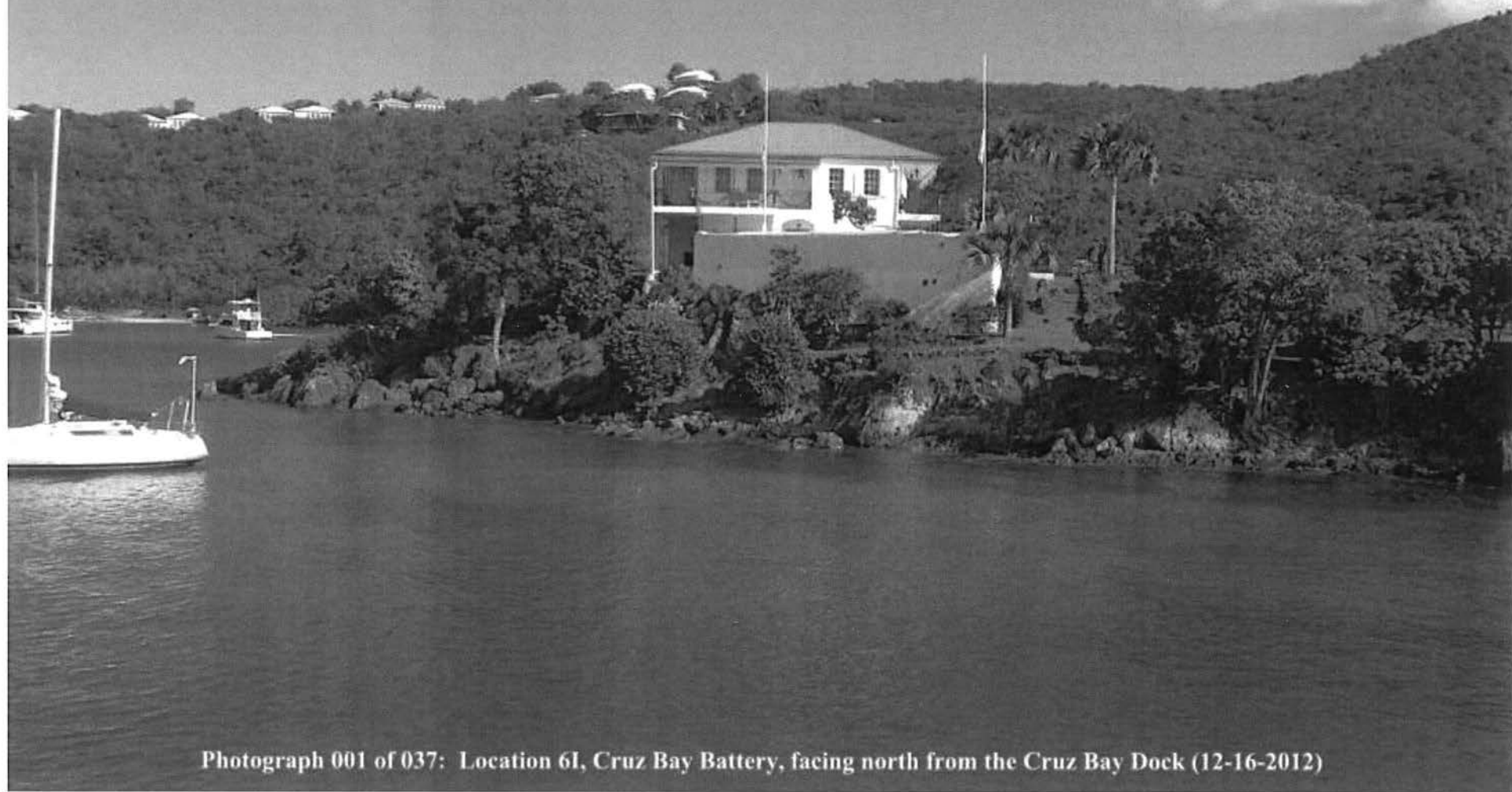
*Det er ikke gjort noget Forsøg  
her at angive de forskellige  
Eiendoms Størrelser. Det er kun  
forsøgt at vise den omtrentlige  
Beliggenhed af Grundene, således  
som det faktiske Forhold er.  
3-4-1912*

*Indvigningskort*

*(X) den del af  
der forbeholdes*

Map F: Revised Tax map of Cruz Bay by Francis Thomas, c1912 (St. Thomas Office of the Recorder of Deeds, USVI)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
St. John, USVI



Photograph 001 of 037: Location 6I, Cruz Bay Battery, facing north from the Cruz Bay Dock (12-16-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 002 of 037: Location 6II, Cruz Bay Park, facing east (04-18-2014)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



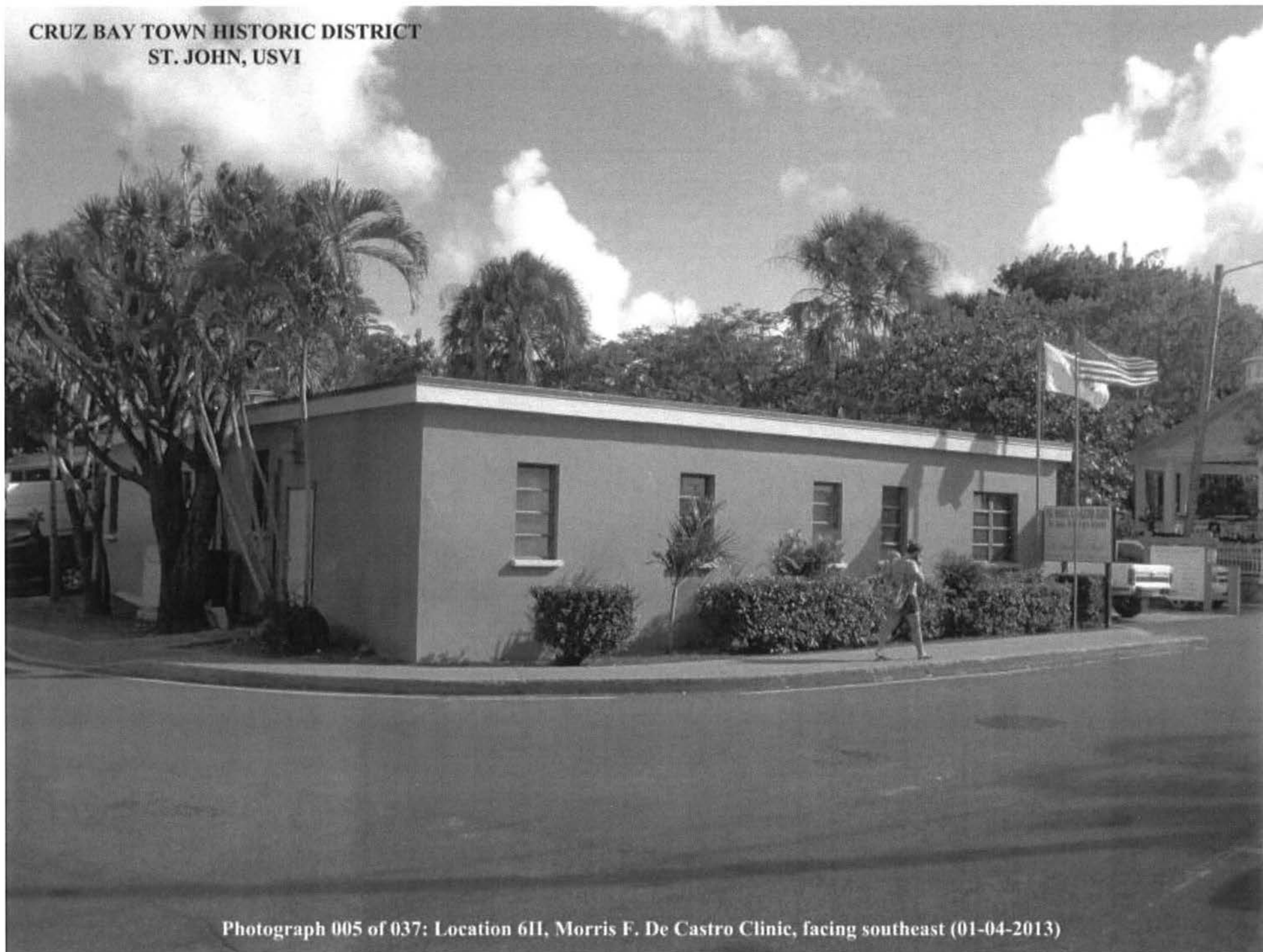
Photograph 003 of 037: Location 6II, Cruz Bay Park, facing northeast (04-18-2014)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 004 of 037: Location 611, Cruz Bay Park, facing southeast (03-01-2013)

**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI**



Photograph 005 of 037: Location 6II, Morris F. De Castro Clinic, facing southeast (01-04-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 006 of 037: Location 611, Water Cistern, facing northwest (12-07-2012)



**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI**



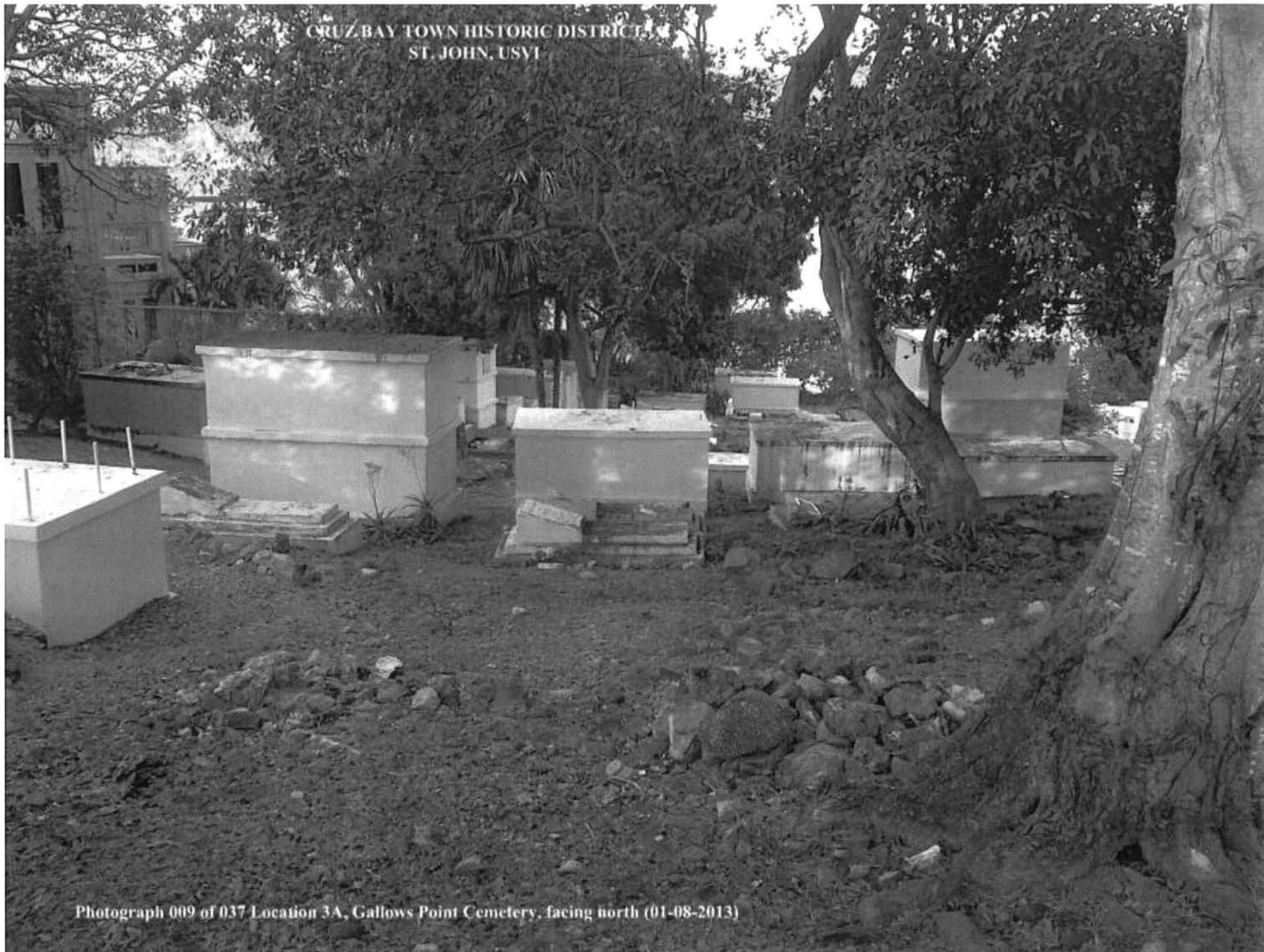
**Photograph 007 of 037: Location 6III, Cruz Bay Dock, facing northwest (03-24-2009)**

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 008 of 037: Location 6111, Historic Cannon, facing northeast (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 009 of 037 Location 3A, Gallows Point Cemetery, facing north (01-08-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 010 of 037: Location 3A, Gallows Point Cemetery, facing southwest (01-08-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI

IN MEMORY OF  
LUCRETIA VIRGINIA  
MINOR,  
Nee HOWARD  
OF Christiansted  
ST. CROIX  
★ 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1820  
† 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1895

REST IN PEACE

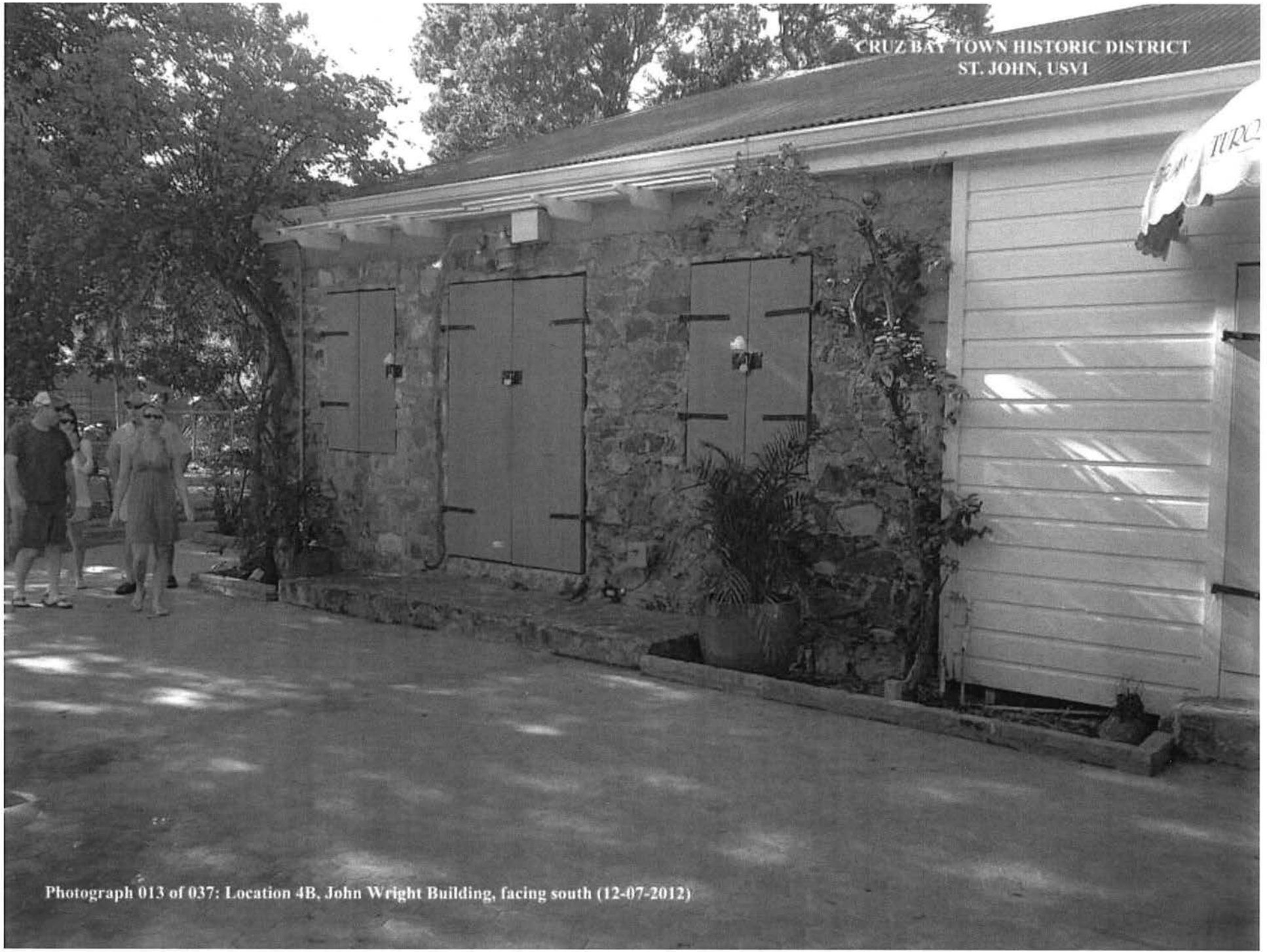
Photograph 011 of 037: Location 3X, Gallows Point Cemetery, headstone of Lucretia Virginia Minor,  
facing southwest (01-08-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 012 of 037: Location 4B, John Wright Building, facing west from Store Kongensgade (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 013 of 037: Location 4B, John Wright Building, facing south (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 014 of 037: Location 4B, Sprauve Building (in the rear), facing northwest (12-09-2012)



**CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI**



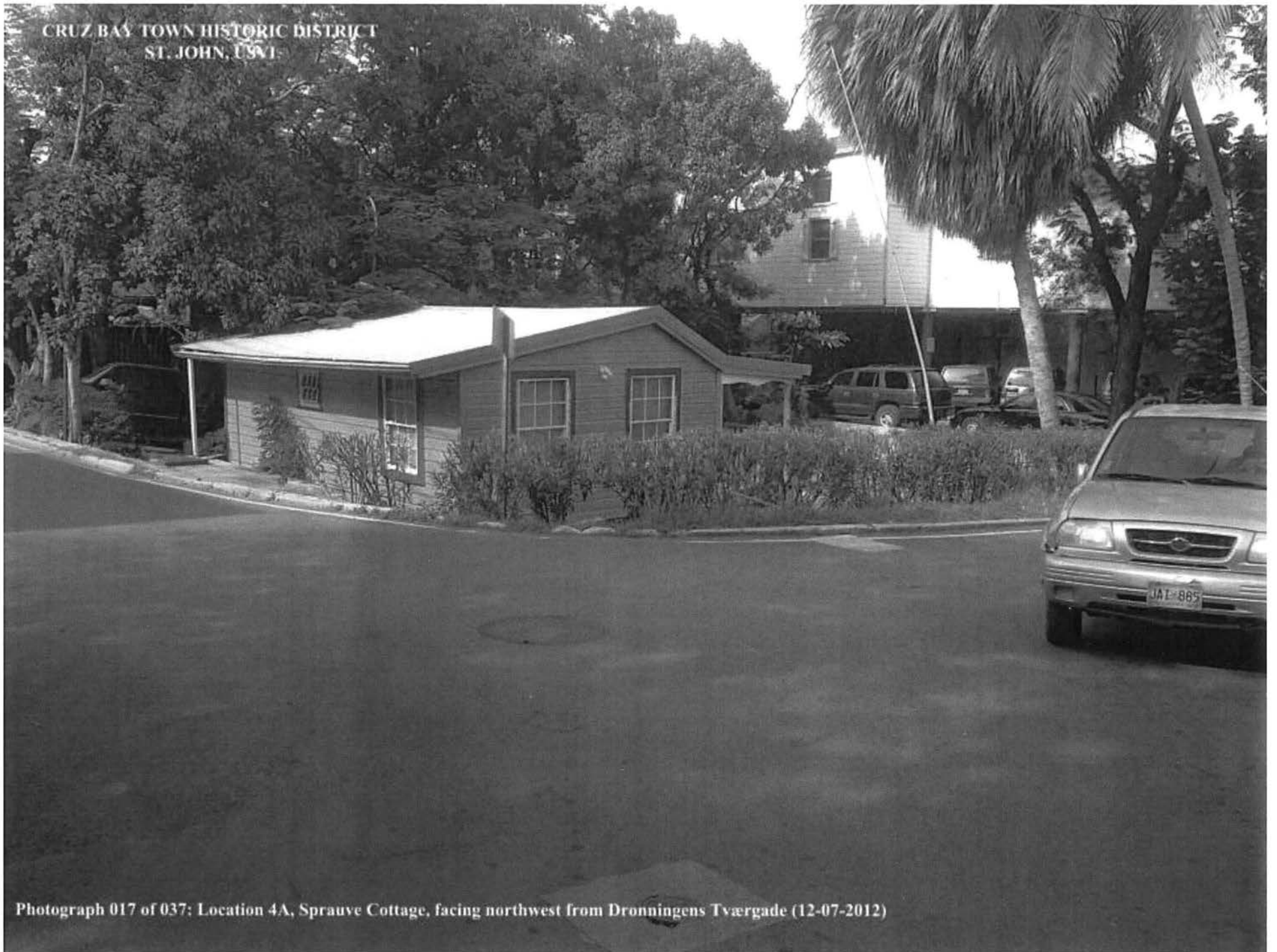
**Photograph 015 of 037: Location 4B, Sprauve Building corner detail, facing northwest (12-09-2012)**

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



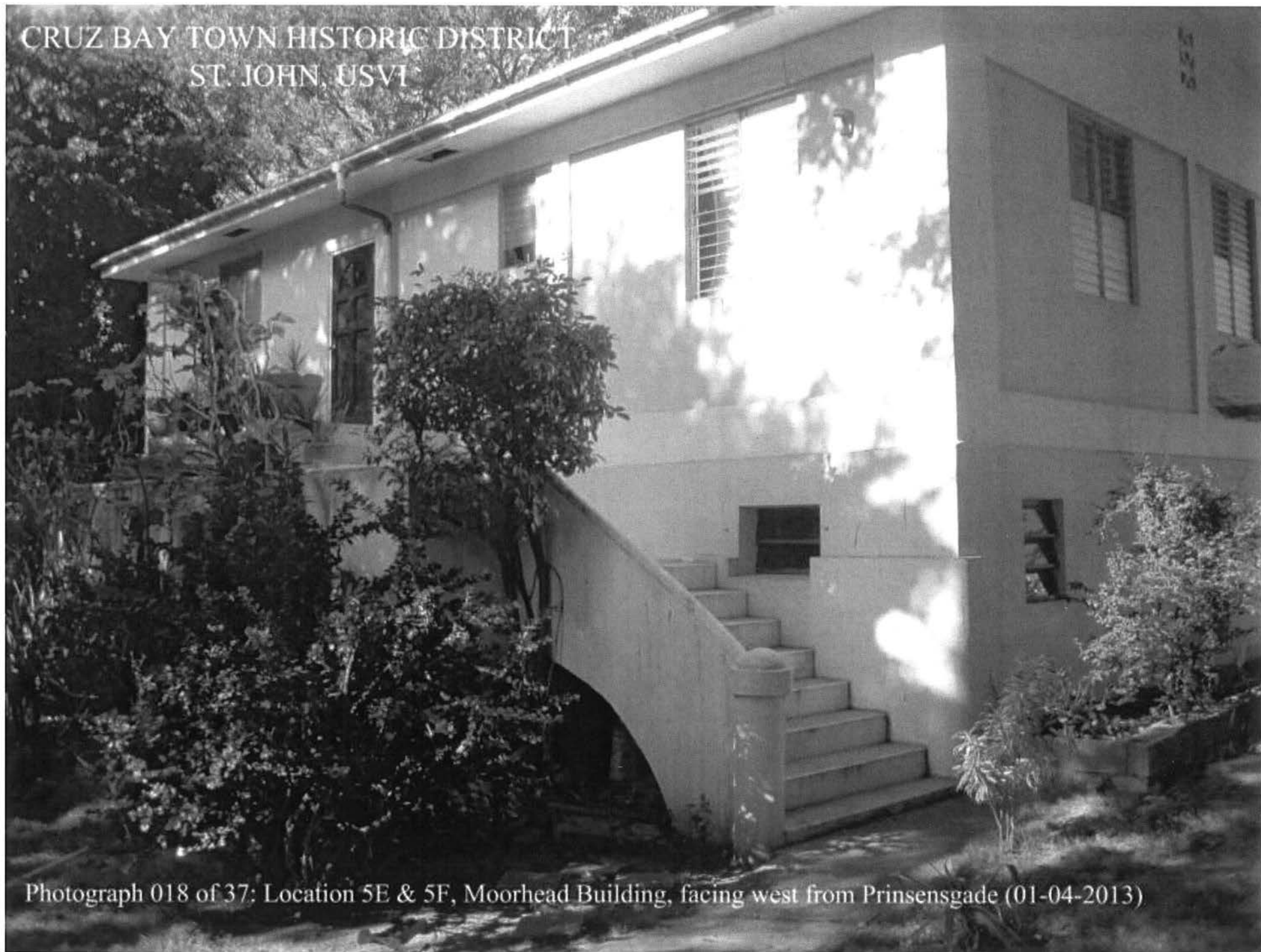
Photograph 016 of 037: Location 4A, Sprauve Cottage, facing south (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 017 of 037: Location 4A, Sprauve Cottage, facing northwest from Dronningens Tværgade (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 018 of 37: Location 5E & 5F, Moorhead Building, facing west from Prinsensgade (01-04-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI

RFS/DE  
NDING

MODIES

Photograph 019 of 037: Location 5E & 5F, Moorhead Building, facing east from Store Kongensgade (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 020 of 037: Location 3Fb, Helen Payne Cottages, facing west from Dronningens Tværgade (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 021 of 037: Location 3F, Beverhoudt Cemetery, facing north (04-30-2014)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 022 of 037: Location 3F, Beverhoudt Cemetery, facing south (04-30-2014)

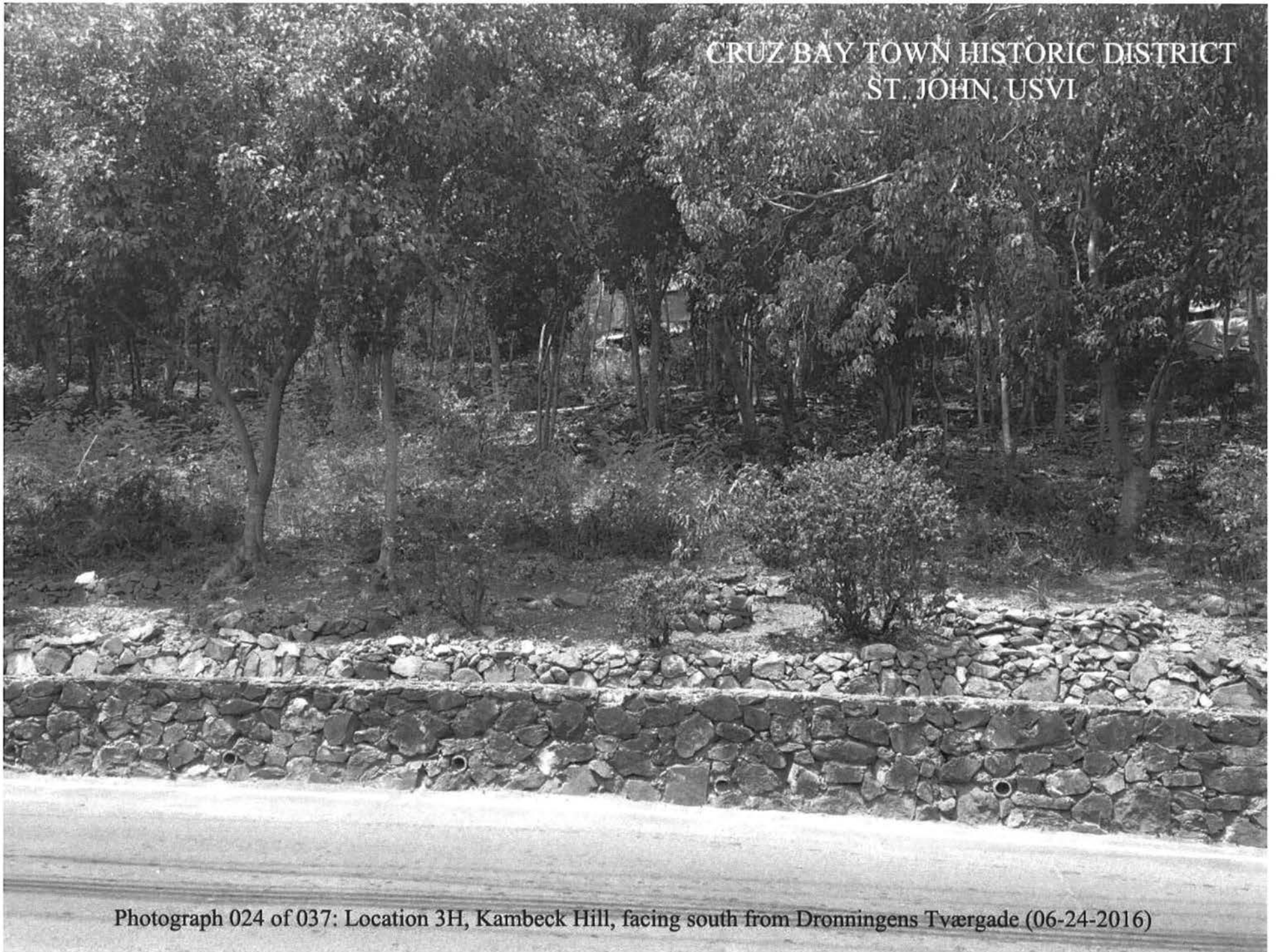


CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



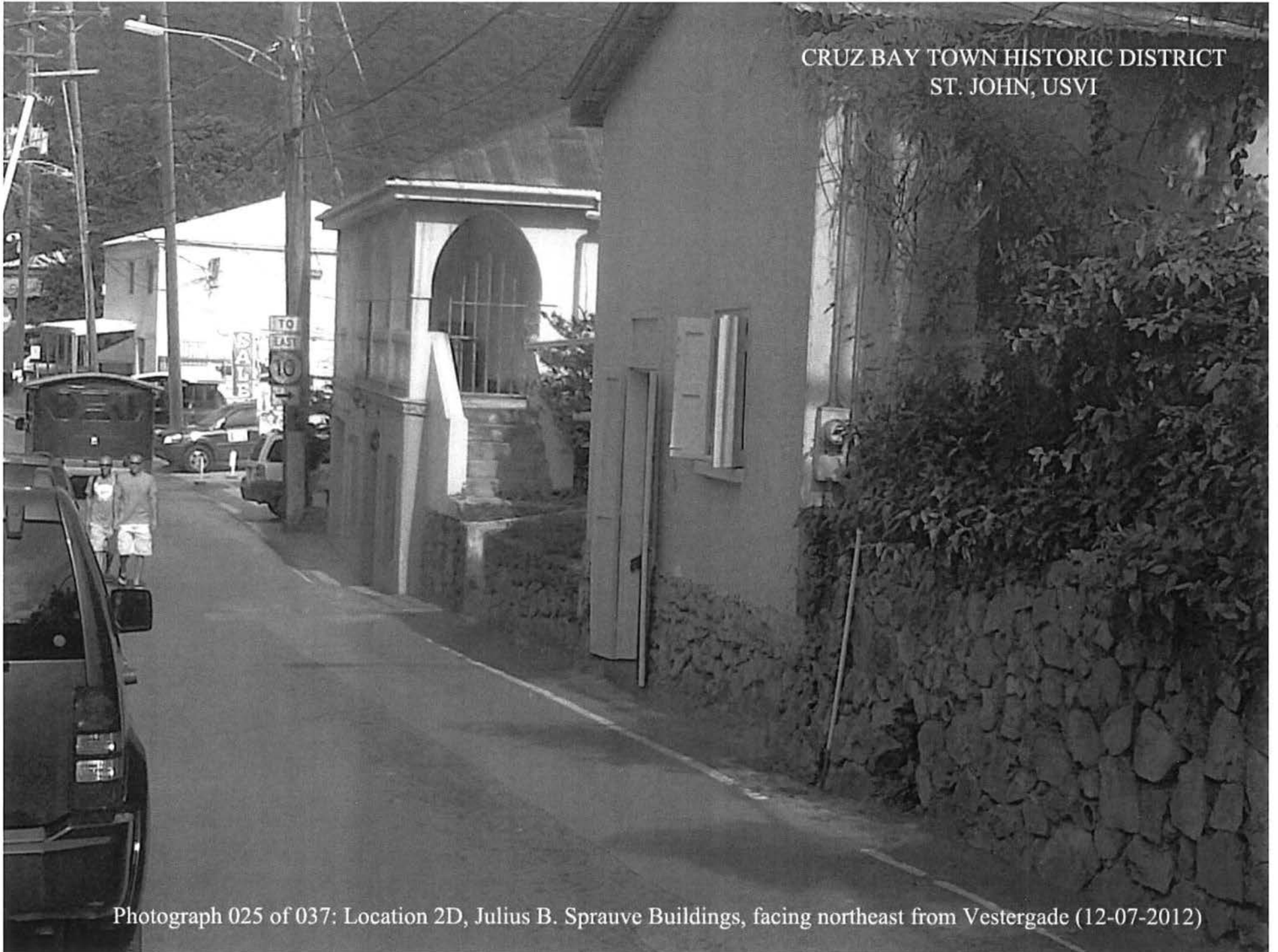
Photograph 023 of 037: Location 3G, Boynes Cottage, facing east (01-08-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



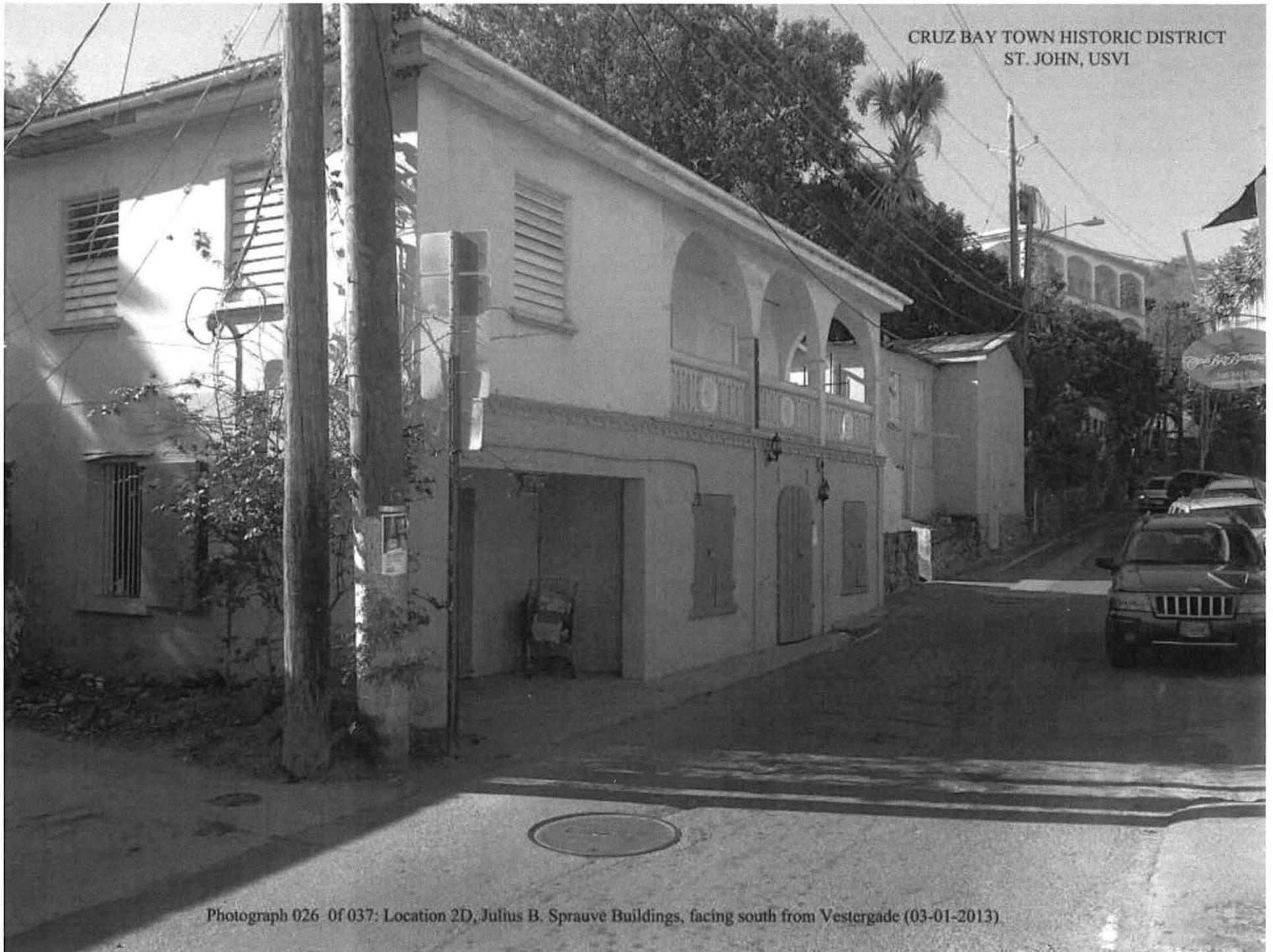
Photograph 024 of 037: Location 3H, Kambeck Hill, facing south from Dronningens Tværgade (06-24-2016)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 025 of 037: Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings, facing northeast from Vestergade (12-07-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 026-0f037: Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings, facing south from Vestergade (03-01-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 027 of 037: Location 2D, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings yard, facing northwest (04-22-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 028 of 037: Location 219, Julius B. Sprauve Buildings bake oven, facing east (04-22-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 029 of 037: Location 2E, Sophina Frazer Cottage, facing north from Hill Street (04.22.2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 030 of 037: Location 2E, James Frazer Cottage, facing south from Vestergade (04-22-2013)



CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI

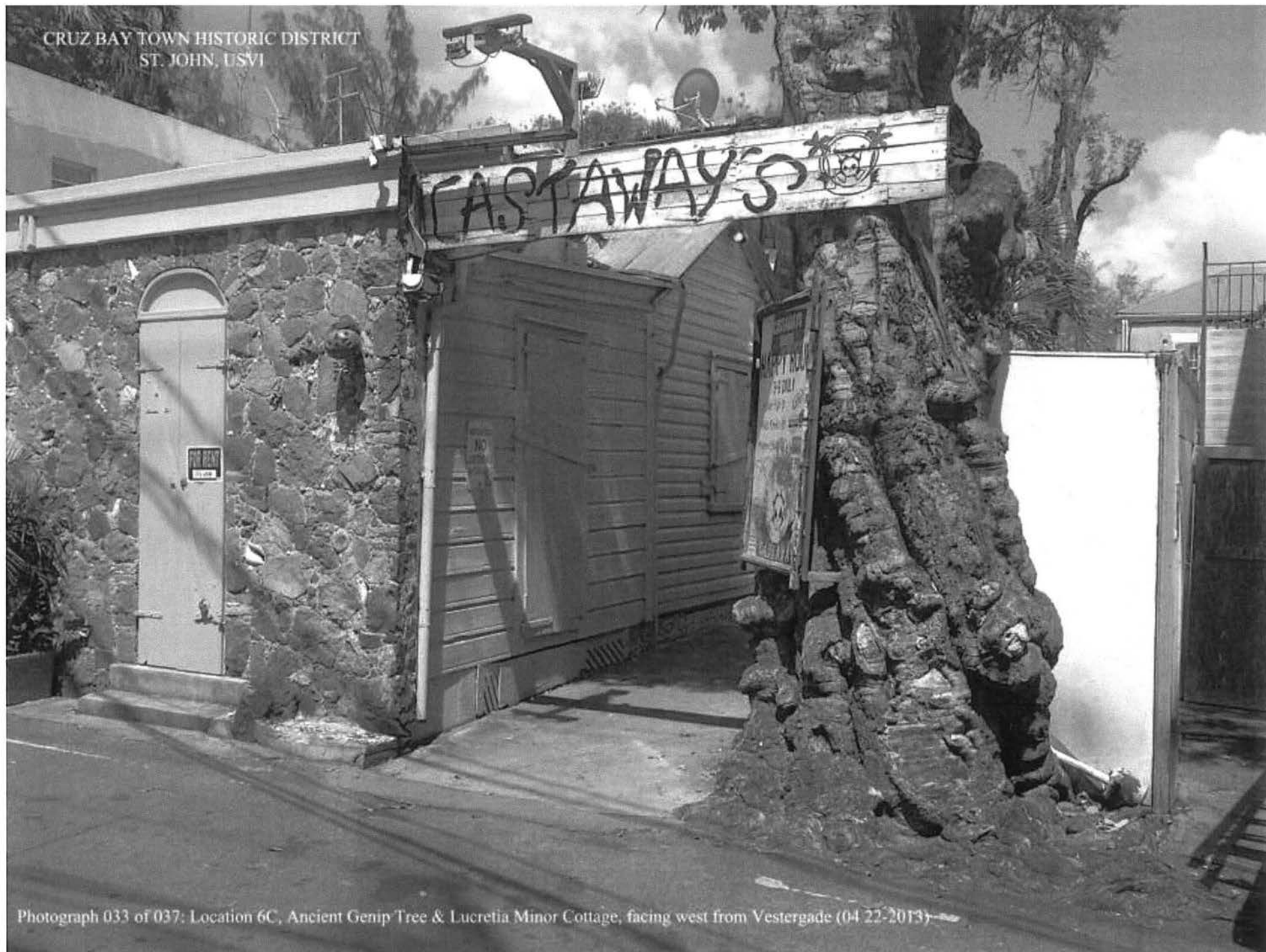
SEWER'S  
BAR  
RESTAURANT  
CENTER

Photograph 031 of 037: Location 5D, Sewer's Store, facing west from Vestergade (12-17-2012)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI

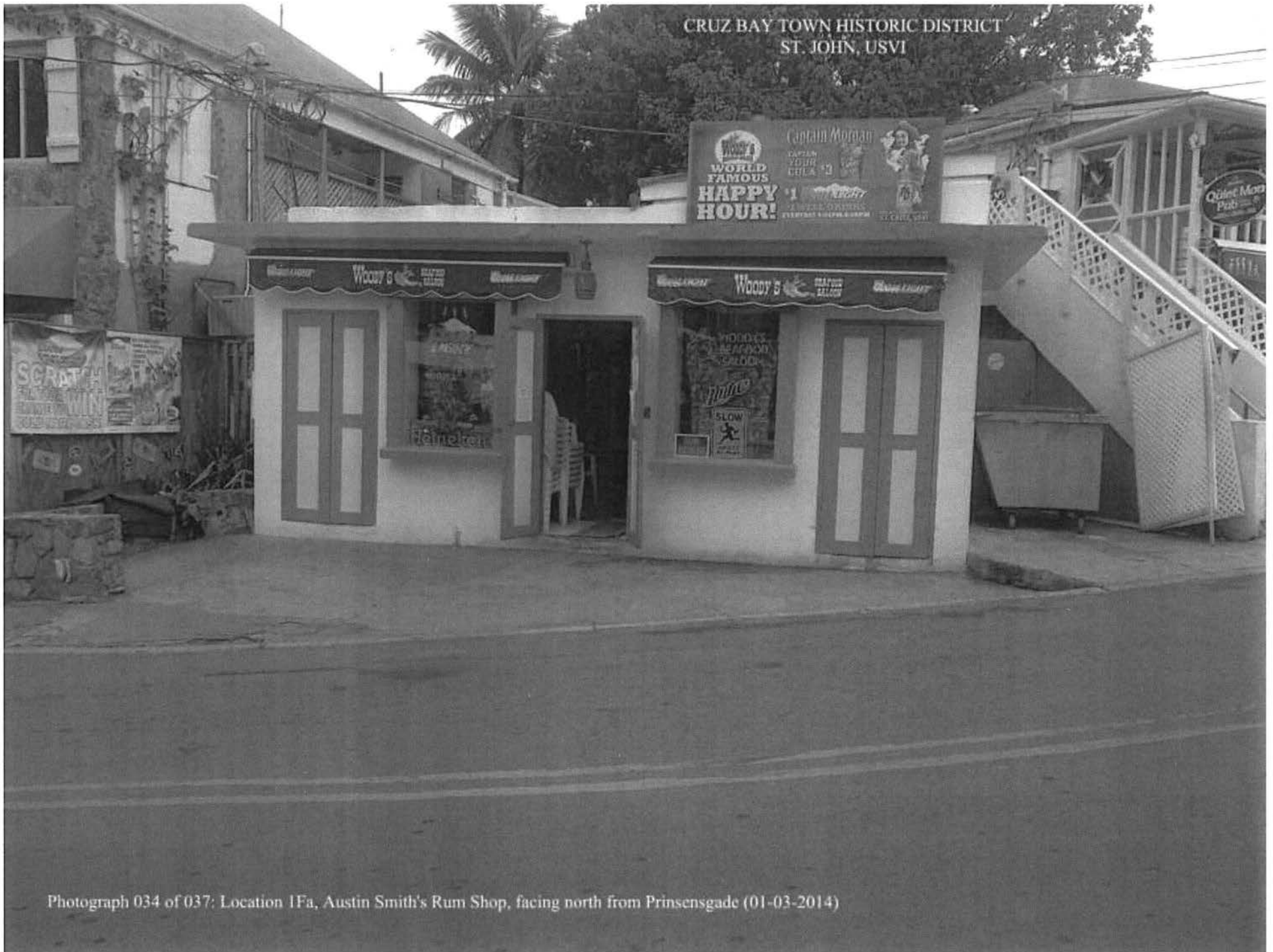
Photograph 032 of 037: Location 6C, Lucretia Minor Cottage, facing southeast towards Vestergade (03-01-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 033 of 037: Location 6C, Ancient Genip Tree & Lucretia Minor Cottage, facing west from Vestergade (04-22-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 034 of 037: Location 1Fa, Austin Smith's Rum Shop, facing north from Prinsengade (01-03-2014)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



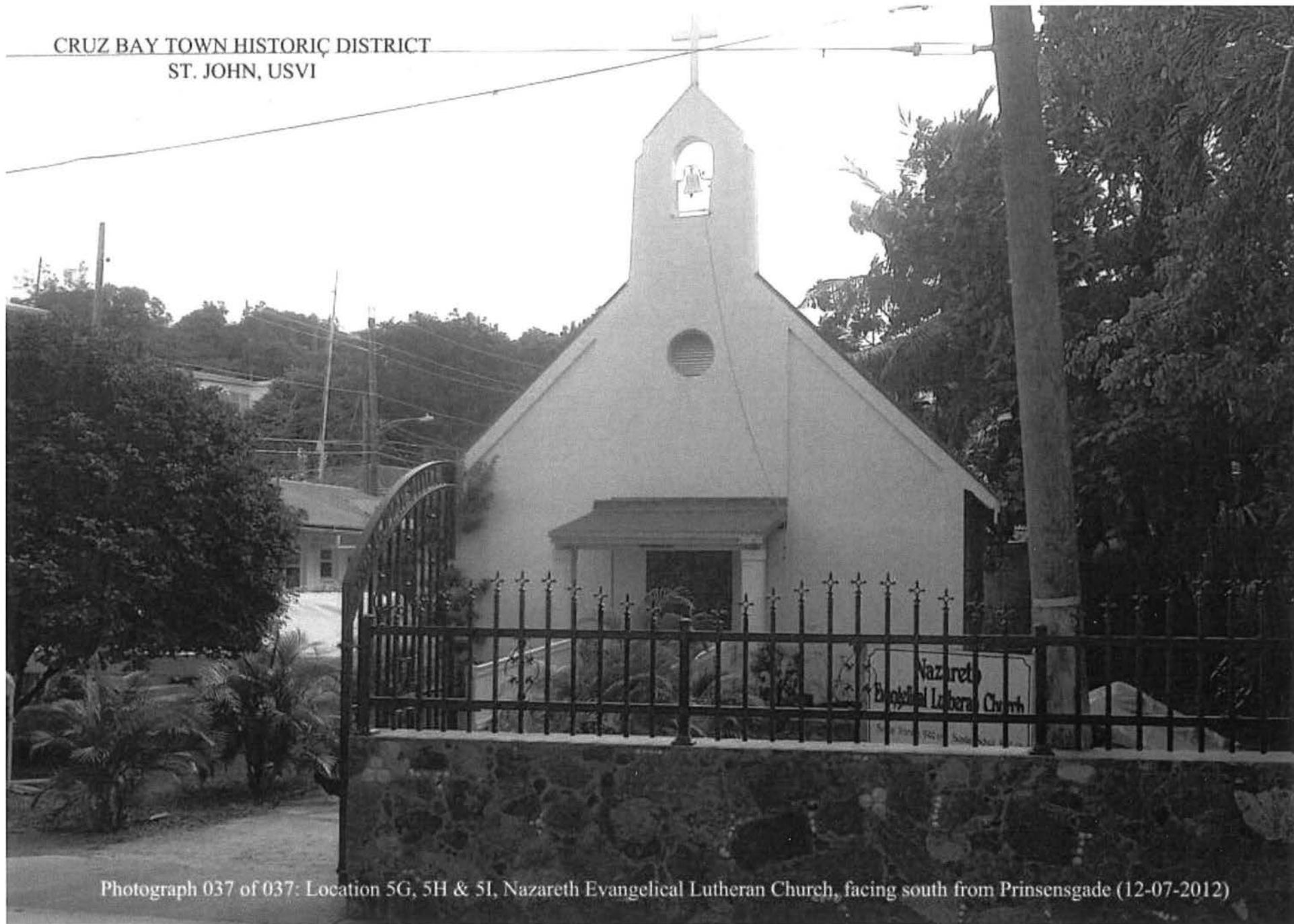
Photograph 035 of 037: Location 1F, Smith's Grocery Building, facing north from Prinsensgade (04-22-2013)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 036 of 037: Location 6D, Former Keating Inn entry and cistern, facing northeast from Prinsensgade (03-07-2014)

CRUZ BAY TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ST. JOHN, USVI



Photograph 037 of 037: Location 5G, 5H & 5I, Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church, facing south from Prinsengade (12-07-2012)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cruz Bay Town Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGIN ISLANDS, St. John

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/16      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/19/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/04/16      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000699

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT       RETURN       REJECT 10-4-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*SLR - Remove Criteria B & C*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A + C

REVIEWER J. Hobbs      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office**

Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library  
4607 Tutu Park Mall  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 19 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
Facsimile National Park Service

Telephone: (340) 776-8605

August 8, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Toothman  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

**Ref: National Register of Historic Places Nominations from the Virgin Islands for the  
St. John's Episcopal Church and the Cruz Bay Town**

Dear Ms. Toothman:

I am pleased to forward to you two (2) National Register of Historic Places nominations from the Virgin Islands for your review, approval and addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nominations are for the Saint John's Episcopal Church in the City of Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands and for the Town of Cruz Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands. Both sites are of significance to the architectural, cultural and social heritage of the former Danish West Indies (1672-1917) and the continued heritage of the Virgin Islands (1917-present).

Thank you in advance for your time and that of your Staff in reviewing these nominations for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions or wish to contact me, I can be reached at 340-776-8605 and by email at [sean.krigger@dpnr.vi.gov](mailto:sean.krigger@dpnr.vi.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Sean L. Krigger  
Acting Director and Deputy SHPO

Enclosures: St. John's Episcopal Church, VI, NR nomination forms and CD set  
Cruz Bay Town, VI, NR nomination forms