## 1 NAME

**Historic**

Estate Judith's Fancy

**And/or Common**

## 2 LOCATION

**Street & Number**

Christiansted

**City, Town**

Christiansted

**State**

U. S. Virgin Islands

**Congressional District**

1

**Code**

78

**County**

St. Croix

**Code**

0200

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building(s)</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Work in Progress</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Yes: Unrestricted</td>
<td>Government</td>
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</table>

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**Name**

T. I. Mosley

**Street & Number**

926 Branstone Road

**City, Town**

San Carlos

**State**

California

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.**

Recorder of Deeds

**Street & Number**

Government House

**City, Town**

Christiansted

**State**

U. S. Virgin Islands

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**Title**

Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

**Date**

May 6, 1976

**Depository for Survey Records**

Virgin Islands Planning Office

**City, Town**

Charlotte Amalie

**State**

U. S. Virgin Islands
Judith's Fancy is located on the north shore of St. Croix, two miles west of Christiansted. The complex consists of a "T" shaped sugar factory, a wind mill for grinding the cane, a large chimney from the later steam mill, a wind driven water well and a small house, greatly altered.

The factory consists of two parts, the top bar of the "T" being two bays by nine bays (22' x 96'), two stories in height with the remains of a timber trussed gabled roof. This part of the factory is divided by a stone rubble partition creating spaces of four bays to the south, five bays to the north. The upper floor was framed with heavy timbers that rested on a brick lined coping set into the two foot thick coral and rubble walls.

An 18'6" x 36' wing has been attached slightly to the north of center to the east facade of the long section of the factory. This gabled roof part was the boiling room and retains its three section boiling bench with fire boxes beneath. The east-west longitudinal walls are six bays long, with a paved elevated terrace along the south end wall. All openings in the factory have brick lined splayed jambs and segmental arches on the interior, tapering to flat heads on the exterior face. The jambs are plastered and the openings have wood casings and sills. The walls are predominately coral block, with some stone rubble occurring in scattered areas. A slightly projecting, flat cornice surrounds the entire factory.

A one story, gable roofed coral block cookhouse (10'8" x 15') is appended to the northeast corner of the boiling room section. The north wall has a charcoal stove and a chimney with single windows in each of the east and west side walls. Also, a gabled roof rubble cistern is attached to the south end wall of the larger part of the factory. There is a later shed roof addition at the southeast corner of the terrace to the rear of the boiling room.

The windmill tower, on a circular platform, is constructed of coral block and rubble and lies north of the factory. Conical in form, typical of sugar mills throughout the West Indies, the mill is 30' in diameter at the base. It has been enclosed with rubble and used as a cistern, probably shortly after it was replaced with a steam mill, after 1850. The massive coral block chimney from the steam mill, 9'7" square at its base, and four stories high, remains between the earlier windmill and the factory.
Estate Judith's Fancy is significant for its 19th century remains of typical buildings of a sugar plantation. Further, the site is the location of the government headquarters during the French occupation of St. Croix from 1651-1665 under the ownership of the Knights of Malta.

In 1651 the French government sold St. Croix to the Knights of Malta, a French religious order whose head was Louis XIV. The Knights of Malta took possession of St. Croix in 1653 and held the island for the Crown. As a religious order, they provided the French government with an establishment in the West Indies for the service and defense of Christianity. They were also engaged in conversion of the "savages" to the Catholic religion. Their headquarters were located at Judith's Fancy, then named Rosiere. In 1665 the Knights of Malta sold all of their privileges and possessions to the French West India Company for 500,000 livres.

Louis XIV took over the island in 1664 because it was proving to be an unprofitable investment for the French government. By 1695 the population of French settlers had decreased to 147 plus 623 slaves. The French abandoned the island for St. Dominique. In 1733 St. Croix was sold to the Danish West India and Guiana Company for approximately 758,000 livres.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the Danes joined other European nations in securing colonies in the West Indies. The Danes hoped that their colonies would provide them with a permanent site for their trading and commercial interests. Agriculture was to serve as a supplement to the income provided by commerce and trading.

St. Croix surpassed the other islands in the Danish colonies in its agricultural development and proved to be more beneficial to the Danes. By the 1780's, sugar plantations on St. Croix were prospering. By 1812-1814 sugar production on the island was at its height. There were 175 plantations in operation with 75% of their acreage in cane.

After the Napoleonic wars, plantation agriculture began
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
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**ZONE EASTING NORTHING**

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<th>5</th>
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<td>4</td>
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

### FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME / TITLE**

Annie Hillary and Russell Wright

**ORGANIZATION**

Virgin Islands Planning Office

**DATE**

June 9, 1977

**TELEPHONE**

(809) 774-1730

**CITY OR TOWN**

St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

**NATIONAL**

**STATE**

**LOCAL ✓**

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Director of Planning

**DATE**

5 August 1977

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTEST:**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**DATE**

7/17/78

**DATE**

6/29/78
A cylindrical wind powered well tower is located south of the factory, with a belfry built into the northeast quadrant and an animal watering trough constructed as part of the tower walls at grade.

A small residence, possibly incorporating the original slave quarters or an overseer's house, is situated northwest of the factory ruins. It has been greatly altered and is of little architectural value.
to decline in the Danish West Indies. Sugar production had expanded to other areas such as Cuba and Puerto Rico whose more fertile soil gave them an advantage over the Danish West Indies. Burdened by heavy debt, the planters found it impossible to take appropriate measures to maintain the soil. Agricultural methods were generally inefficient and milling operations were wasteful and uneconomic. Europeans added more competition for the Danes with the development of the sugar beet industry. Absentee landlordism made it difficult to maintain sufficient control over the plantations' production. Slavery, which provided the planters with cheap labor, was abolished in 1848 and, with the increase in operating expenses, many plantations discontinued production.

Estate Judith's Fancy was known as Hemmers Plantation or Hemmersfryd in 1766 and was patented to Jens Pieter Hekimers. Pieter Heyliger, who was an extensive land owner during the 18th century, named the estate Judith's Fancy after his daughter.

From 1873-1876 Judith's Fancy operated with estates Anna's Hope and Roberts Hill. Records reveal Judith's Fancy still in operation as a sugar plantation until 1889 with production decreasing. By the turn of the century, like many other plantations in St. Croix, Judith's Fancy ceased to operate as a sugar plantation.

The ruins of the factory at Judith's Fancy are of architectural significance because of the classic revival details, the plan, the method of construction and the use of local building materials, all typical of sugar factories in the Virgin Islands at this period. The windmill used to crush the sugar cane is also typical of the many conical structures that remain on St. Croix.
Zabriskie, L. K. The Virgin Islands of the United States of America - Historical and Descriptive Commercial and Industrial Facts, Figures and Resources: New York, 1918


Westergaard, Waldemar Christian. The Danish West Indies Under Company Rule (1671 0 1754), With a Supplementary Chapter, New York, 1917
Verbal Boundary Description

The north boundary of the Estate Judith's Fancy site commences at the intersection of Carib Drive and Hamilton Drive and runs 450' in a northeasterly direction, thence southeasterly 350' to a point, thence west 375' to a point in Hamilton Drive, thence north 350' to the point of origin.