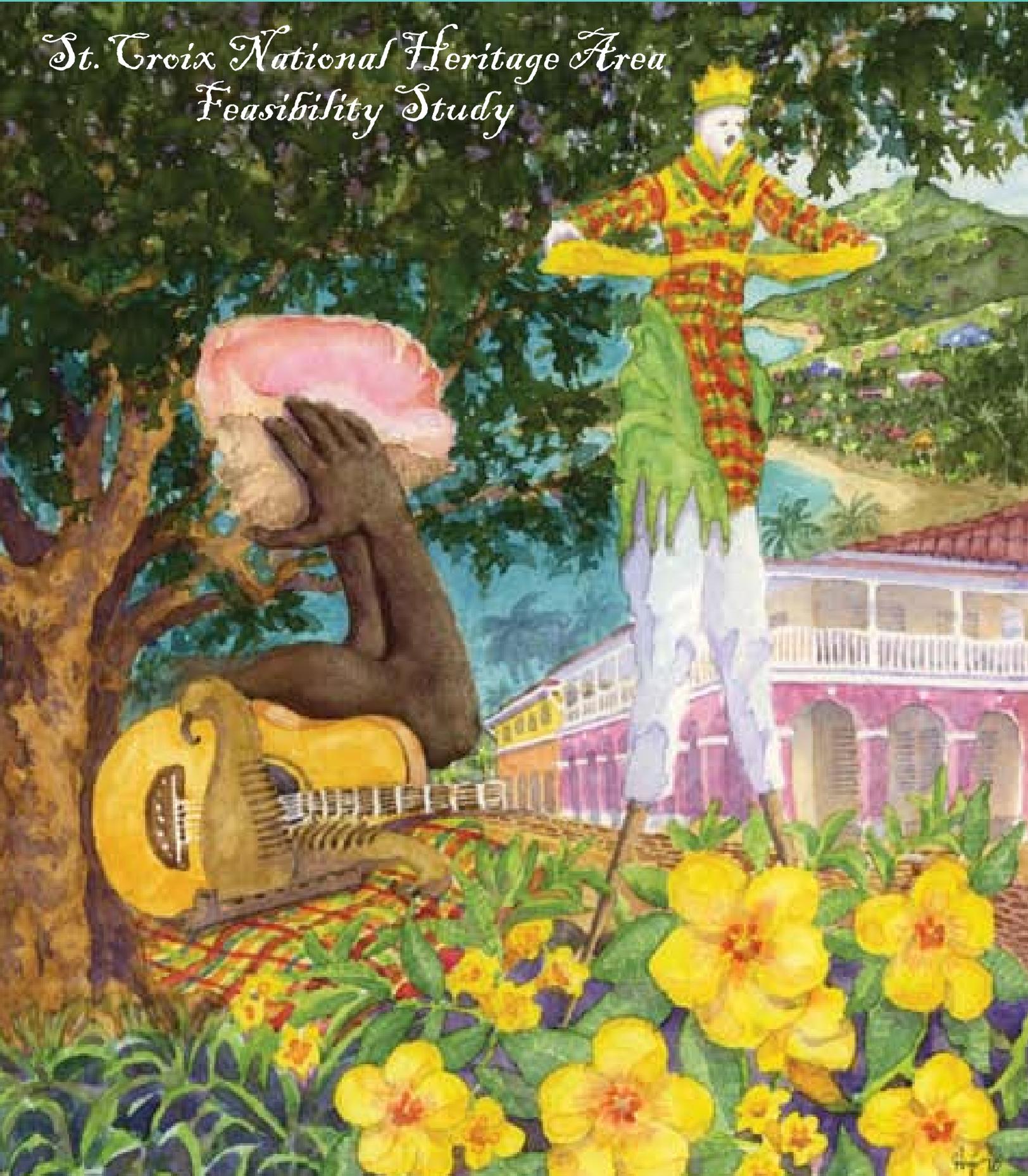


*St. Croix National Heritage Area
Feasibility Study*



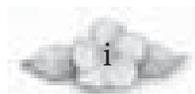


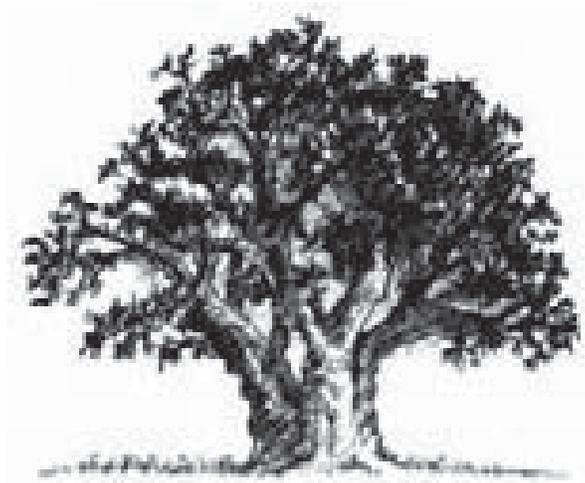
Feasibility Study for a St. Croix National Heritage Area

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating the island of St. Croix as a national heritage area. This study meets the requirements of the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003) and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The United States purchased St. Croix and the other U.S. Virgin Islands (St. John, St. Thomas, Water Island, and several smaller islands) from Denmark in 1917. Today the island is an unincorporated territory of the United States. Located in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 1,100 miles from Miami, St. Croix covers 84 square miles and contains the easternmost point of the United States. The island has two primary towns — Frederiksted with a population of 3,765 and Christiansted with a population of 2,865. The 2000 U.S. Census estimated the total population of the island to be 53, 234.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a national heritage area feasibility study for St. Croix in the St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-338). The goal of the study was to determine if the island of St. Croix meets the criteria established in the National Park Service’s “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003) for designation. Funding for the study was initiated in fiscal year 2007.

A copy of the St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act can be found in appendix A.

THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ST. CROIX

St. Croix contains an assemblage of nationally significant natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that relate to the larger story of American heritage. The largest of

Right:
Sugar factory ruins
and baobab tree at
Butler Bay.
NPS photo.



Below:
Salt River Taino
ballcourt stone.
NPS photo.

the three U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix lies at a geographic crossroads, connecting the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean currents with the westerlies and easterly prevailing trade winds. This ideal location, along with the fertility of the island and the productivity of its surrounding waters, has attracted and sustained people from around the world. Similar to the United States' broader heritage, St. Croix became a collage of cultures due to the long-standing exchange of traditions, customs, and beliefs between Amerindians, Africans, West Indians, South Americans, and Europeans. Today, the people of St. Croix



embrace their unique cultural mix, coexisting in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

St. Croix embodies a wealth of natural, historical, and cultural features that represent the unique blending of American, African, and European heritage. The island has an extensive network of sites set aside to protect these resources — places that are accessible to the public to learn about and experience first-hand the stories of the island's distinctive cultural connections. For instance, Salt River Bay protects the first recorded conflict between Amerindians and Europeans. The area surrounding the bay also contains archeological evidence of the most extensive and intensive prehistoric occupation in the U.S. Virgin Islands, possibly dating back as far as 4,000 years.

Since Columbus's first contact with St. Croix and its native inhabitants, seven flags have flown over the island. Before becoming part of the United States, the Island was claimed by Spain, Holland, England, France, the Knights of Malta, and Denmark. With each of these shifts in colonial occupation, new traditions grew out of ongoing interactions between Europeans, Amerindians, and Africans. A number of protected estates, forts, museums, and historic districts across the island preserve St. Croix's turbulent colonial history. Today, Crucians celebrate Transfer Day, which marks the transfer of St. Croix from Denmark to the United States.



Africans, who were brought to St. Croix to provide slave labor for the European colonies, showed their resilience and resourcefulness in the face of great adversity. As Africans and their descendants adapted and survived the harsh conditions of enslavement and discrimination, they contributed to the economic, social, and cultural development of St. Croix. Slavery was abolished on St. Croix in 1848 after a series of slave revolts, 15 years before the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States. Today, African heritage is found throughout the rich traditions and



customs of the Crucian people. For example, Emancipation Day celebrates when 30,000 enslaved Africans marched in Frederiksted to successfully demand their freedom. This holiday is celebrated throughout the island with festive music, local dances, old-time tea meetings, reenactments, donkey races, and vibrant contemporary cuisine—reflecting an evolution of customs that can only be attributed to the distinctiveness of the Crucian people.

Left:
The seven flags of St. Croix.
NPS photo.

Below:
Preparation of traditional foods.
Photo credit:
Nate Olive

The story of St. Croix’s heritage is not limited to the places and events described above. St. Croix’s national significance is further supported throughout the pages of this feasibility study. The study team determined — through its extensive research of the island and interaction with the people who live there — that there is not one single thing that sets St. Croix apart, but rather an assemblage of authentic natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features that celebrate the heritage of the Crucian people. This heritage is not only a testament to the vitality and uniqueness of St. Croix, but to our nation’s rich and varied heritage overall.

STUDY FINDINGS

The feasibility study team concludes that St. Croix meets each of the 10 interim evaluation criteria for designation as a national heritage area, based on the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003). As described throughout this study, St. Croix contributes in substantial ways to our country’s national heritage. It also contains an assemblage of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that make up a nationally distinctive landscape. The rich and varied stories about St. Croix lend themselves to an intriguing set of themes that connect people to the various heritage resources of the island. Furthermore, the designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area has strong public support, and there is a local capacity and commitment to undertake the responsibilities of initiating a future national heritage area.

Christiansted public meeting.
NPS photo.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The study team underwent an extensive public involvement effort to promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed; inform the public about the study and maximize their participation in the process; assess public support for a national heritage area designation; and determine if there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a future national heritage area. Efforts included town meetings, workshops, radio interviews, television talk shows, newspaper articles, booths at local events, brochures, flyers, and newsletters. Comment cards and an interactive website were also developed that allowed people to conveniently submit their input on a wide range of topics — ranging from heritage resources of the island to partnership opportunities for a future coordinating entity. The public input that the study team received was overwhelmingly supportive of the designation and committed

to the success of a St. Croix National Heritage Area.

A summary of public involvement can be found in chapter 1. Documentation of public support can be found in appendix B.

PLANNING HISTORY

Public involvement opportunities during this planning effort were extensive, and meetings were well attended by St. Croix residents. There were 11 local public meetings hosted by the National Park Service at which the public asked questions and provided comments about national heritage areas. Meeting attendance ranged from about 15 to 60 people depending on the location.

Much of the information gathered during the first seven meetings was included in the *Draft St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* in July 2010. The draft feasibility study

presented a vision statement developed and supported by the public; an inventory of St. Croix's heritage resources that collectively represents a nationally distinctive landscape; a study area boundary supported by the public; five heritage themes to connect the various resources and tell the story of St. Croix; three management alternatives; and an evaluation of the designation criteria.

By the time of the release of the draft feasibility study, the community had become very familiar with the effort and supportive of national heritage area designation for St. Croix. There was a 30-day public comment period on the draft study, including four public meetings. The study team received 16 written comments and additional letters of support from St. Croix business owners and organizations. Comments were focused on the inclusion of additional heritage sites and organizations working to protect the heritage resources of St. Croix. Editorial comments and corrections were also received. Many of the comments provided further detail on the resources and history of St. Croix. Some of the comments exposed a contemporary debate among St. Croix historians regarding some of the details of the island's history. The study team made changes to the document based on the comments received. However, the comments did not change the findings of the study.

VISION STATEMENT

The public crafted and refined the vision statement below during public meetings and a visioning workshop. Participants in the workshop endeavored to make the vision statement specific to St. Croix by adding terms like "kallaloo" to describe their Crucian culture. (Kallaloo is a Caribbean stew containing many ingredients, much like the diverse mix of cultures that make up the Crucian people.) The vision clearly

communicates the strong sense of place and identity in the public's vision for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area. The resulting vision statement follows.



St. Croix's authentic natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features are a celebration of our people, young and old alike, and a testament of our splendor. This is our shared heritage where Crucians — past, present, and future — represent a colorful kallaloo of our nation, the Caribbean, and the world.



HERITAGE THEMES

During the scoping phase of the project, the study team collected input from the public on the nationally significant places, people, traditions, customs, and beliefs. The information was analyzed and five distinct categories emerged. During the following round of public meetings, the study team presented these categories and the preliminary thematic framework. At these meetings the public provided overwhelmingly supportive feedback on the thematic framework and additional information on the intangible values associated with each of the themes. The heritage area themes are listed below. A complete description can be found in chapter 3.

Early Cultures

This theme highlights early Amerindian presence on St. Croix. It emphasizes migration of Amerindian peoples within the region, settlement on St. Croix, and European contact.

Slavery and Emancipation

This theme highlights the experience of Africans as slaves and free people on St. Croix. It emphasizes the history of slavery on St. Croix and the influences on St. Croix culture.

The Seven Flags of St. Croix

This theme highlights the seven flags (Spain, Holland, England, France, the Knights of Malta, Denmark, and the United States) of colonial administration of St. Croix. It emphasizes the political, economic, and cultural contributions of the many different colonial powers.

Geography and the Natural Environment — Crossroads of the Caribbean

This theme highlights the unique geography and natural environment of St. Croix. It emphasizes the island's rich biological diversity, its idyllic location for attracting and sustaining people from diverse cultures, and the ongoing efforts of Crucians to balance sustainable land uses with the protection and enjoyment of the island's extraordinary natural environments.

Modern-Day St. Croix — Cultures in Contact

This theme highlights the multicultural society of St. Croix and emphasizes how these cultures and traditions combine to form a vital part of the living fabric of the St. Croix community.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

This feasibility study evaluates the following three alternatives — No Action (alternative 1), National Heritage Area Designation (alternative 2), and a Privately Managed Heritage Area (alternative 3).

In Alternative 2: National Heritage Area Designation, the two organizations — St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment, and Economic Development (SUCCEED) and the St. Croix Landmarks Society — that submitted applications to serve as the coordinating entity were evaluated. Based on the results of the evaluation, both organizations successfully demonstrated their capability to serve as the coordinating entity. However, SUCCEED received the highest overall score thereby demonstrating a higher likelihood of achieving the goals of the national heritage area. If a national heritage area is designated and if SUCCEED is named the coordinating entity, it is assumed that St. Croix Landmarks Society will participate in the St. Croix National Heritage Area coalition.

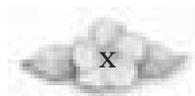
A description of the management alternatives can be found in chapter 4. An explanation of the evaluation process and methodology can be found in appendix G.



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GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This *Feasibility Study* is organized into five chapters plus appendixes. Each section is described briefly below.

CHAPTERS

Chapter 1: Introduction provides a brief description of St. Croix and an overview of the study's purpose, legislative history, and legal requirements. This chapter also describes the public involvement strategy and outcomes including the vision statement, themes, and heritage resource inventory.

Chapter 2: Study Area History and Description includes a brief history of the island, starting from the island's first inhabitants through today. The chapter also describes the natural and socioeconomic environments.

Chapter 3: Themes describes the five themes developed through the public involvement process and their alignment with the NPS thematic framework.

Chapter 4: Management Alternatives describes and evaluates three alternatives — no action, national heritage area, and privately organized heritage area. The chapter also evaluates coordinating entity options for the national heritage area alternative.

Chapter 5: Application of the NPS Heritage Area Criteria evaluates the feasibility and suitability of congressional designation of the island of St. Croix as a national heritage area according to the four steps and ten criteria established in the National Park Service's "Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines" (NPS 2003).

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act includes the legislation prompting this study.

Appendix B: Public Support includes a list of organizations that have participated in the study, letters of support from 27 organizations and government agencies, eight letters of support from members of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, and a resolution to support the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area that was passed in the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

Appendix C: National Register of Historic Places Listings for St. Croix includes the many sites on St. Croix that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Appendix D: Inventory of Resources Identified by the Public and Thematic Alignment includes an inventory of the resources identified in the public involvement process and their thematic alignment.

Appendix E: Inventory of Historic Sites with Tourism Potential on St. Croix from the "St. Croix Historic Attractions Feasibility Study" Commissioned by the St. Croix Landmarks Society in 1996 includes a detailed inventory of the historic sites on St. Croix with information on ownership, use, features, etc.

Appendix F: Public Input Received during the University of Georgia's ECOTourism Study on St. Croix includes data collected from public workshops on St. Croix as part of a separate but complementary ecotourism study.

Appendix G: Coordinating Entity Evaluation includes the request for information from applicants, selection factors, and a letter from the Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service to the coordinating entity selected for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area.

Chapter 1:

Introduction





BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ST. CROIX

St. Croix is in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 1,100 miles from Miami. The island is 21 miles long and 6 miles across at its widest point. The eastern and northwestern ends of the island are hilly and steep. Rolling coastal plains make up the southern coast. The tallest point is Mt. Eagle at approximately 1,165 feet. Point Udall, the eastern tip of the island, is also the easternmost point of the United States.

St. Croix was likely formed by a sedimentary uplift that is derived from older volcanic rocks. The fertile central valley of the island is considerably younger and is probably the remains of a coral reef that formed as the island was uplifted. The diverse marine and terrestrial communities of St. Croix include extensive coral reefs, productive seagrass beds, wetlands, closed canopy moist forests, dry forests, woodlands, desert-like shrublands, and herbaceous communities (active and abandoned pasturelands).

St. Croix is the most agricultural of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The island was first colonized because the combination of its fertile coastal plain and climate was ideal for the cultivation of sugarcane. West Africans were taken as slaves and brought to St. Croix to work

on the cotton and sugar plantations. The island's economy was dominated by the sugar industry until slavery was abolished in 1848. Today the economy lags behind the other U.S. Virgin Islands, and the median household income on St. Croix is about half that of the national average. Major revenue sources include the Cruzan Rum distillery, a large oil refinery, tourism, and government sector jobs (U.S. Census 2000).

Inferences from archeological investigations conducted throughout the Caribbean as well as South and Central America provide evidence dating the earliest cultures on St. Croix possibly as far back as 4,000 years. Christopher Columbus had the first recorded armed conflict between Europeans and Amerindians when he visited St. Croix on his second voyage. In the following years a total of seven colonial flags have flown over St. Croix (Spain, Holland, England, France, the Knights of Malta, Denmark, and the United States).

The United States purchased what is now the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas, Water Island, and several other smaller islands) from Denmark in 1917 for \$25 million. The U.S. Virgin Islands are



Butler Bay sugar factory.
NPS photo.



Right:
View of Buck Island
from Pt. Udall.
NPS photo.



Below:
Effigy vessel from
St. Georges.
NPS photo.



an unincorporated territory of the United States. St. Croix is the largest of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The island is divided into seven subdistricts, but areas of the island are often identified by the former colonial estates. The island has two primary towns: Frederiksted with a population of 3,765 and Christiansted with a population of 2,865. The 2000 U.S. Census estimated the total population of the island to be 53,234.





BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THIS FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of this feasibility study is to determine if the island of St. Croix meets the suitability and feasibility requirements for designation as a national heritage area. The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this study at the request of the Secretary of the Interior as directed by Congress in the St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (see appendix A).

A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

A national heritage area is a locally managed place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity that are shaped by geography. These patterns make national heritage areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved with them. Continued use of a national heritage area by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscape enhances the area's significance (NPS 2003). National heritage area designation will not impact private property or fishing rights.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen sponsored legislation that directs the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing a national heritage area on St. Croix. Local supporters view the potential designation as a way to strengthen the island's identity; promote a sense of

cultural pride in the island's youth; sustain the island ways of life on St. Croix; improve the economy and quality of life of St. Croix residents; share St. Croix's story with the world; and preserve, protect, and promote St. Croix's heritage resources.

THE STUDY AREA

The study area for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area includes the entire island of St. Croix and its offshore marine environments (see chapter 5, criterion 9). The study boundary is based on an assemblage of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that are spread across this area that together represents distinctive aspects of American heritage through the remarkable culture of the Crucian people. Many of these heritage resources were identified by the local citizens of St. Croix, including more than 100 unique sites that relate to the major heritage themes of the island. Many of these heritage resources are described throughout this study, and the sites identified by the public can be found in appendix D.

The rationale for extending the boundary beyond the island itself is because of the integral connection between the people of St. Croix and the marine resources that surround the island. These marine environments and productive fisheries have played an important role in shaping St. Croix's heritage and are essential to many of their traditions, customs, and folklife. Not only have St. Croix's extensive coral reefs, numerous bays, lagoons, offshore islands, and productive fisheries helped to sustain the Crucian people, but they are also a source of great pride to share with visitors.



The Caribbean Sea was also fundamental to the beginning of St. Croix’s heritage by providing the migration routes necessary to bring native Central and South Amerindians to the island more than 4,000 years ago. Today, the crystal-clear Caribbean waters that surround St. Croix continue to attract people from around the world, further enriching the cultural diversity of the island.

The study area extends 3 nautical miles out from the island to the U.S. Virgin Islands territorial boundary. This boundary includes most marine habitats that surround the island. The potential heritage area does not include the shallow and deep-water coral communities of Lang Bank that extend 10 miles east from the island because of the 3-mile territorial boundary limit (NOAA 2007). Although the potential heritage area boundary follows the territorial boundary, designation as a heritage area would have

no effect on private property rights, fishing rights, land-use zoning, property taxes, or governmental jurisdictions.

Map 1 shows the study area boundary for the potential national heritage area. A map showing the extent of St. Croix’s marine environments can be found in chapter 2.

A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

National heritage areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship. They typically support community-based initiatives that connect local citizens to the preservation and planning process. By embracing a community-based approach, national heritage areas can bring together diverse efforts, such as education, recreation, heritage tourism, and historic preservation. Committed to both protecting and promoting the natural,



cultural, historic, and scenic assets of a specific area, national heritage areas play a vital role in maintaining both the physical character and cultural legacy of the United States.

Through the efforts of a local coordinating entity, residents, businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations come together to improve the regional quality of life through the protection of shared cultural and natural resources. This cooperative approach allows national heritage areas to achieve both conservation and economic growth in ways that do not compromise local land use controls.

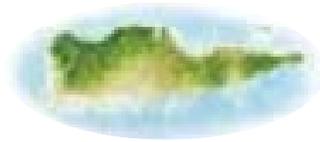
PRIVATE PROPERTY

Designation of a national heritage area does not provide the coordinating entity or any federal agency authority to regulate land or land uses. Participation in projects and

programs is always voluntary, with zoning and land-use decisions remaining under the jurisdiction of local governments. In addition, the coordinating entity is also prohibited from using the federal funds it receives through enabling legislation to acquire real property (NPS 2003).

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system, and no land is owned or managed by the National Park Service. National Park Service involvement is always advisory in nature, and the agency does not make management decisions. After a national heritage area is designated by Congress, the National Park Service partners with local community members to *help* plan and implement activities that emphasize heritage-based interpretation, conservation, and development projects. The National Park Service also provides administrative oversight of federal funding that the national heritage area receives.





THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

SUGGESTED STEPS IN A NHA FEASIBILITY STUDY

Step 1 is to define the study area to identify natural, cultural, and/or political limits that best encompass important resources related to the history of the region and potential themes that may be identified. (Addressed in chapter 1)

Step 2 requires a public involvement strategy to promote public understanding of the study; to maximize public participation and their contributions to the study process; and to assess public support for designation and local capacity and commitment to undertake heritage programs. (Addressed in chapter 1)

Step 3 is to determine if St. Croix contributes in substantial ways to our country's national heritage, and if so, determine if themes exist that would connect the various heritage resources to help the public understand, appreciate, and celebrate the island's importance. (Addressed in chapter 3)

Step 4 involves inventorying natural and cultural resources of the island to determine if St. Croix is a nationally distinctive landscape; if the resources are important to and retain integrity for the identified themes; and if there are outstanding opportunities for conservation, recreation, and education. (Addressed in chapter 5, criteria 1 and 3, and appendixes C, D, E, and F)

Step 5 is to evaluate alternative ways to manage the potential national heritage area and the effects of not designating the island as a national heritage area. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify the most feasible management approach and examine the effects of the status quo. (Addressed in chapter 4)

Step 6 is to delineate the boundary of the potential national heritage area. This step is based on an evaluation of the study area to determine if all or part of it should be included in the designation. (Addressed in chapter 1)

Step 7 is to determine the administration and financial feasibility of managing the potential national heritage area. This is an evaluation of the preferred management alternative described in Step 5, and includes development of a conceptual financial plan for the proposed coordinating entity of the national heritage area. (Addressed in chapter 5, criterion 6)

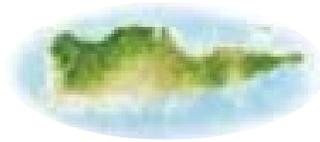
Step 8 involves an evaluation of public support for designation and local commitments to partnerships on heritage projects and programs. The level of support and commitment is important to determine the capacity of local citizens to undertake the responsibilities of a future national heritage area. (Addressed in chapter 5, criterion 7)

THE TEAM

An interdisciplinary team of National Park Service (NPS) staff from the Denver Service Center and the Southeast Archeological Center were assembled to conduct this study at the request of the NPS Southeast Regional Office. Since 2008, the study team has worked closely with a group of local representatives on St. Croix, as well as hundreds of island residents, through extensive public engagement (see the “Involving the Public” section below).

The local team included representatives from the Virgin Islands Departments of Education, Agriculture, Tourism, Planning and Natural Resources; the University of Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service; St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee; the National Park Service; and the office of the Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress. The team was invaluable to the study effort — assisting with public outreach efforts during the course of the study; facilitating public meetings to identify a coordinating entity for the potential national heritage area; providing important contacts with other local agencies, citizens, and organizations; and sharing insights about the island's heritage resources.

This study has been prepared according to the NPS “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003). These guidelines provide a step-by-step process to evaluate the suitability and feasibility for designating St. Croix as a national heritage area according to 10 interim evaluation criteria (see chapter 5). These criteria were used to evaluate the island's heritage resources, determine if opportunities exist to conserve and better understand those resources, and determine if there is public support and commitment to manage the potential heritage area. This evaluation can be found in chapter 5 of this document. The National Park Service's study process to evaluate the criteria includes eight major steps, which are summarized on the left.



The results of these steps are synthesized throughout the chapters of this document. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the feasibility study; chapter 2 describes St. Croix's history, natural environment, and socioeconomic environment; chapter 3 describes the island's heritage themes; chapter 4 evaluates the management alternatives; and chapter 5 evaluates the 10 interim evaluation criteria.

INVOLVING THE PUBLIC

Open public engagement was fundamental to every step of this feasibility study process. The reason for such an integrated public involvement approach is because ultimately a future national heritage area designation requires strong support and active participation from its local citizens. Without engaging the public throughout the study process, it would have been difficult

to foresee a successful national heritage area on St. Croix. To achieve this goal, a public involvement strategy with the following objectives was developed for this study:

- Promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed.
- Inform the public about the study and maximize their participation in the process.
- Assess public support for a national heritage area designation.
- Determine if there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a future national heritage area.

A variety of public involvement efforts were undertaken throughout the study process to achieve these objectives, including town meetings, workshops, television talk shows, radio interviews, newspaper articles, booths at local events, brochures, flyers, and newsletters. Comment cards and an



Public meeting at Sunny Isle Pavilion. NPS photo.



TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Summary of Public Meetings Held by NPS			
Date	Location on St. Croix	Venue	Number of Participants
July 24, 2008	Christiansted	American Legion Hall	61
July 25, 2008	Frederiksted	Pier 69 Courtyard	50
July 28, 2008	Mid-Island	University of the Virgin Islands	30
September 24, 2008	Christiansted	Senior Center	25
September 24, 2008	Frederiksted	Rotary Club	16
September 25, 2008	Christiansted	American Legion Hall	25
September 27, 2008	Mid-Island	Sunny Isle Pavilion	15
July 8, 2010	Christiansted	American Legion Hall	40
July 9, 2010	Frederiksted	Rotary Club	30
July 10, 2010 a.m.	Mid-Island	University of the Virgin Islands	15
July 10, 2010 p.m.	Mid-Island	University of the Virgin Islands	15
Total Number of Participants			322

interactive website were also developed that allowed people to conveniently submit their input on a wide range of topics, ranging from heritage resources of the island to partnership opportunities for a future coordinating entity. The U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress, Donna M. Christensen, conducted meetings and announcements in addition to the National Park Service’s outreach efforts.

The National Park Service hosted a series of town meetings across the island to gather public input on the various steps of the study. Public turnout was excellent during these meetings, and participants were highly

engaged and oftentimes deeply passionate when talking about the heritage of the island. Table 1 provides a summary of these meetings, including dates, locations, and number of participants.

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE PUBLIC MEETINGS — THEMES AND RESOURCES

Important outcomes of these meetings were the development of heritage themes and the identification of heritage resources across



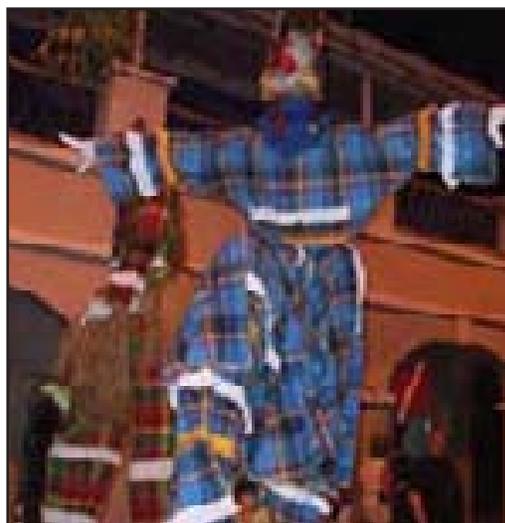
the island. The five theme categories that were developed included early cultures; slavery and emancipation; the seven flags of St. Croix; geography and the natural environment — crossroads of the Caribbean; and modern-day St. Croix — cultures in contact (see chapter 3). For each of these themes, local citizens were asked to identify on maps the location of places, objects, and events that are important to understanding that particular aspect of St. Croix's heritage. The following series of maps, as well as the resource inventories included in appendixes D and F, provide a summary of public input received. Although many of these sites identified by the public are important to the St. Croix story, some are not open to the public, lack interpretation, or lack the integrity to be included among the first tier of heritage resources included in chapter 5, criterion 1.

Meeting participants were also asked to describe their traditions, customs, and beliefs, which are a valuable part of St. Croix's heritage. Below is a list of the topics discussed during this outreach effort.

- Crucian dialect
- traditional clothing and festival costumes
- diverse ethnic cuisine (e.g., seasoned rice, kallaloo, pâté, ginger beer, guavaberry, coquito)
- agriculture (e.g., sustainable farming, family gardens, cattle ranching)
- music and dance (e.g., quelbe songs, cariso, calypso, quadrille, reggae, scratch)
- arts and crafts (e.g., musical instruments, furniture, baskets, rugs, masks, jewelry, calabash)
- festivals and parades (e.g., St. Croix Agricultural and Food Fair, Tea Meeting, Jump Up, Bull and Bread (Liberty Day), Mango Melee, Crucian Christmas)
- trees (e.g., baobab, mango, sausage, yellow cedar)

- friendship with Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands
- obeah (i.e., folk magic)
- medicinal plants
- open-air church meetings
- Lent and Easter week celebrations
- funeral traditions
- proverbs and sayings
- oral traditions
- fishing and camping
- masquerading
- cultural headdresses
- donkey races
- kite making and flying
- rum making
- burning candles
- indigenous people
- pirates
- Rastafarian culture
- conch shell blowing
- sports — cricket, horse racing, and baseball

The sidebars found throughout this document, written by local Crucians, provide an opportunity to better understand the meanings of many of these topics, as well as the meanings of many of the places found on the initial theme maps.



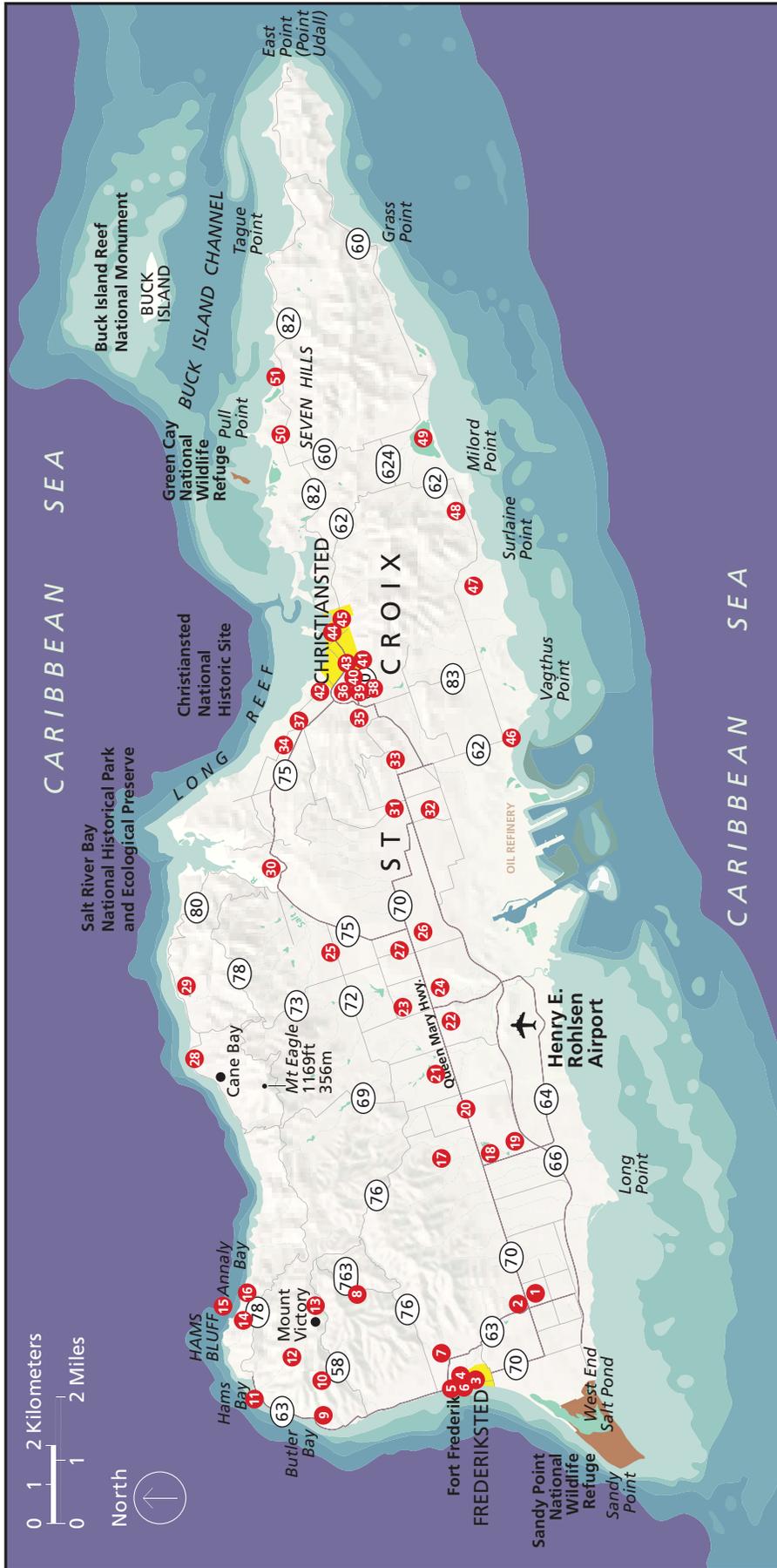
Mocko Jumbies.
NPS photo.



* Many sites associated with this theme are sensitive and therefore not on this map.

- Legend**
- 1. St. George Village
 - 2. Salt River
 - 3. Cape of Arrows
 - 4. Half Penny Bay
 - 5. Indian Pictograph
 - 6. Robin Bay

Map 2: Early Cultures
 U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



Legend

- 1. Whim Plantation
- 2. Estate Concordia
- 3. Frederiksted
- 4. Fort Frederik
- 5. Buddha Park
- 6. Custom House
- 7. Estate La Grange
- 8. Estate Oxford
- 9. Estate Butler Bay
- 10. Estate Mt. Washington
- 11. Northwest Caves
- 12. Estate Caledonia
- 13. Mt. Victory School
- 14. Annally Bay
- 15. Annally Bay Tide Pools
- 16. Maroon Ridge
- 17. Botanical Garden
- 18. Diamond School
- 19. Estate Diamond/Cruzan Rum Factory
- 20. Queen Mary Highway
- 21. Lower Love Chimney
- 22. Golden Grove Greathouse (UVI)
- 23. Bethlehem Central Factory
- 24. Old Kingshill School
- 25. Friedenstied Church
- 26. Estate Clifton Hill
- 27. Slob Historic District
- 28. Estate La Vallee
- 29. Estate Rust op Twist
- 30. Estate Morningstar
- 31. Estate Slon Hill
- 32. Estate Castle Coakley
- 33. Peter's Nest School
- 34. La Grande Princesse School
- 35. Bulowshinde
- 36. Estate Orange Grove
- 37. Estate Little Princesse
- 38. Estate Contentment
- 39. Anna Heegaard Gravesite
- 40. Friedensthal Church and Manse
- 41. Peter's Farm Hospital
- 42. Richmond Jail
- 43. Christiansted
- 44. Christiansted National Historic Site
- 45. Baobab Tree
- 46. Estate Cane Garden
- 47. Estate Longford
- 48. Estate Castle Nugent
- 49. Great Pond
- 50. East End School
- 51. Estate Coakley Bay

Map 3: Slavery and Emancipation
U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



Legend

- 1. Frederiksted
- 2. St. Paul's Church
- 3. Holy Trinity Church
- 4. St. Patrick's Church
- 5. Fort Frederik
- 6. Custom House
- 7. Estate Concordia
- 8. Whim Plantation
- 9. Estate La Grange
- 10. Lawaetz Museum
- 11. Estate Prosperity
- 12. Estate Butler Bay
- 13. Estate Mt. Washington
- 14. Estate Caledonia
- 15. Estate Oxford
- 16. Mt. Victory School
- 17. Hams Bluff Lighthouse
- 18. Estate Long Point
- 19. Estate Diamond/ Cruzan Rum Factory
- 20. Diamond School
- 21. Hogensborg
- 22. Botanical Garden
- 23. Estate Grove Place
- 24. Lower Love Estate
- 25. Estate Bethlehem
- 26. Cane Bay
- 27. Estate La Vallee
- 28. Estate Belvedere
- 29. Estate Rust op Twist
- 30. Old Kingshill School
- 31. Bethlehem Central Factory
- 32. Spanish Town
- 33. Kingshill Church
- 34. Sibb Historic District
- 35. Estate Clifton Hill
- 36. St. Ann's Church
- 37. Friedensfeld Church
- 38. Estate Morningstar
- 39. Estate Stion Hill
- 40. Estate Castle Coakley
- 41. Salt River
- 42. Estate Judith's Fancy
- 43. La Grande Princesse School
- 44. Peter's Rest School
- 45. Estate Grange
- 46. Estate Anna's Hope
- 47. Estate Cane Garden
- 48. Biloverinde
- 49. Friedenshal Church and Manse
- 50. Christiansred
- 51. Richmond Jail
- 52. Christiansted National Historic Site
- 53. Government House
- 54. Protestant Cay
- 55. Pirate Martel
- 56. Site of Von Rohr
- 57. Fort Louise Augusta
- 58. Estate Castle Nugent
- 59. East Hill School
- 60. Estate Coakley Bay

Map 4: The Seven Flags of St. Croix
U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



- Legend**
- 1. Sandy Point
 - 2. Frederiksted Harbor
 - 3. Mahogany Road
 - 4. West End Beach
 - 5. Northwest Coastal Road
 - 6. Butler Bay
 - 7. Underwater Sea Fans
 - 8. Monks Baths
 - 9. Northwest Caves
 - 10. Hams Bay
 - 11. Hams Bluff
 - 12. Waterrall
 - 13. Annaly Bay & Tidepools
 - 14. Maroon Ridge
 - 15. Estate Caladonia
 - 16. Moist Forest
 - 17. Sustainable Farm
 - 18. Estate Oxford
 - 19. Rain Forest
 - 20. Lawraetz Garden
 - 21. Grove Place
 - 22. Botanical Garden
 - 23. Agriculture Station
 - 24. Hermitage
 - 25. Scenic Road
 - 26. Mt. Eagle
 - 27. Cane Bay
 - 28. North Shore Road
 - 29. Salt River
 - 30. La Reine Market
 - 31. Estate Blessing
 - 32. Ruth Island
 - 33. French Pond
 - 34. Vagthus Point
 - 35. Estate Thomas Exp. Farm
 - 36. Estate Orange Grove
 - 37. Cormorant Beach
 - 38. Long Reef
 - 39. Christiansted Harbor
 - 40. Protestant Cay
 - 41. Gallows Bay
 - 42. Altoona Lagoon
 - 43. La Presvallee
 - 44. Senepol Cattle
 - 45. Great Pond
 - 46. Southgate Coastal Reserve
 - 47. Green Cay
 - 48. South Shore Road
 - 49. Robin Bay
 - 50. Buck Island
 - 51. East End Marine Park
 - 52. Jack Bay
 - 53. Isaac Bay
 - 54. Point Udall

Map 5: Geography and the Natural Environment — Crossroads of the Caribbean
 U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



- Legend**
- 1. Frederiksted
 - 2. CMC Arts
 - 3. Fort Frederik
 - 4. Whim Museum
 - 5. Armstrong's Ice Cream
 - 6. St. Croix LEAP
 - 7. Mt. Victory
 - 8. Sustainable Farm
 - 9. Cruzan Rum Factory
 - 10. Botanical Garden
 - 11. Estate Grove Place
 - 12. Agricultural Station
 - 13. University of VI
 - 14. La Reine Market
 - 15. Salt River
 - 16. Est. Thomas Exp. Farm
 - 17. Hovensa
 - 18. St. John Airfield
 - 19. Estate Orange Grove
 - 20. Christiansted
 - 21. Christiansted National Historic Site
 - 22. Gallows Bay
 - 23. Senepol Cattle
 - 24. Buccaneer Hotel
 - 25. Buck Island
 - 26. East End Marine Park
 - 27. Base Array Telescope

Map 6: Modern-Day St. Croix — Cultures in Contact
 U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service



THE INITIAL VISION STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

A vision statement was developed that clearly communicates the Crucian people’s vision for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area. This statement evolved from many public meetings and a visioning workshop held on the island. The goal of the visioning workshop was to bring interested citizens together to discuss and describe the future for the potential heritage area and their role in its achievement. Participants in the workshop endeavored to make the vision statement specific to St. Croix by adding terms like “kallaloo” to describe their Crucian culture. (Kallaloo is a Caribbean stew containing many ingredients, much like the diverse mix of cultures that make up the Crucian people.) The resulting vision statement follows.



St. Croix’s authentic natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features are a celebration of our people, young and old alike, and a testament of our splendor. This is our shared heritage where Crucians — past, present, and future — represent a colorful kallaloo of our nation, the Caribbean, and the world.



This vision statement is consistent with the concept behind all national heritage areas — to provide a community-based approach that connects local citizens to the preservation and enjoyment of their natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that contribute to our nation’s heritage.

If St. Croix is designated as a national heritage area, the proposed local coordinating entity may choose to put forth a new or revised vision statement that not only captures the essence of the Crucian culture, but also conveys the purpose and direction of their organization.

COORDINATION WITH CONCURRENT EFFORTS

The study team had the opportunity to work with a number of other local initiatives that focus on promoting, preserving, or increasing public understanding about St. Croix’s heritage. As described above, the study team worked closely with representatives from various local agencies, as well as other institutions and local organizations that provided valuable information and ideas during the study effort. Each of these entities has efforts underway that emphasize the heritage of the island — ranging from educating local youth about the origins of unique Crucian customs, to promoting heritage-based tourism, to preserving St. Croix’s heritage resources through a network of protected areas. The following is a list of the agencies, institutions, and organizations the study team coordinated with during the study. Many of their ongoing efforts are described in chapter 5.

- Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture



- Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
- Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- Office of the Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress
- University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service
- U.S. Forest Service, International Institute for Tropical Forestry
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- St. George Village Botanical Garden
- St. Croix Environmental Association
- St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee
- St. Croix Landmarks Society
- Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism
- Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute
- University of Georgia

The National Park Service has recently worked on other planning efforts on St. Croix that provided the study team with useful information about important natural and cultural aspects of the island's environment. These include an environmental assessment for a proposed marine research and education center at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve (NPS 2008b), and an archeological overview and assessment of Buck Island Reef National Monument (Hardy 2006). Congress recently directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct two separate special resource studies for sites on St. Croix — Castle Nugent Farms (Public Law 109-317) and Alexander Hamilton, Estate Grange, and Other Sites (Public Law 111-11). These efforts are currently underway.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

This study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which

mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a significant effect on the environment. The National Park Service's guidance for addressing this act is set forth in NPS guidance (Director's Order 12, 2005), which outlines several options for meeting the requirements of the act, depending on the severity of the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

A "categorical exclusion for which no formal documentation is necessary" was selected as the most appropriate NEPA pathway for this feasibility study. The study is excluded from requiring an environmental assessment because it matches one of the categories that under normal circumstances has no potential for impacts to the human environment. The categorical exclusion selected states the following:

Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature — for example, changes in authorizations for appropriations; minor boundary changes and land transactions; proposals that would have primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals. (DO-12 Handbook, NPS 2005.)

The study matches this categorical exclusion because it was directed by Congress to determine if St. Croix meets the suitability and feasibility requirement for designation as a national heritage area. In essence, the study is a report on a legislative proposal. If Congress decides to designate St. Croix as a national heritage area, then a comprehensive management plan would be developed for the area. Depending on the types of projects, programs, and other actions proposed in

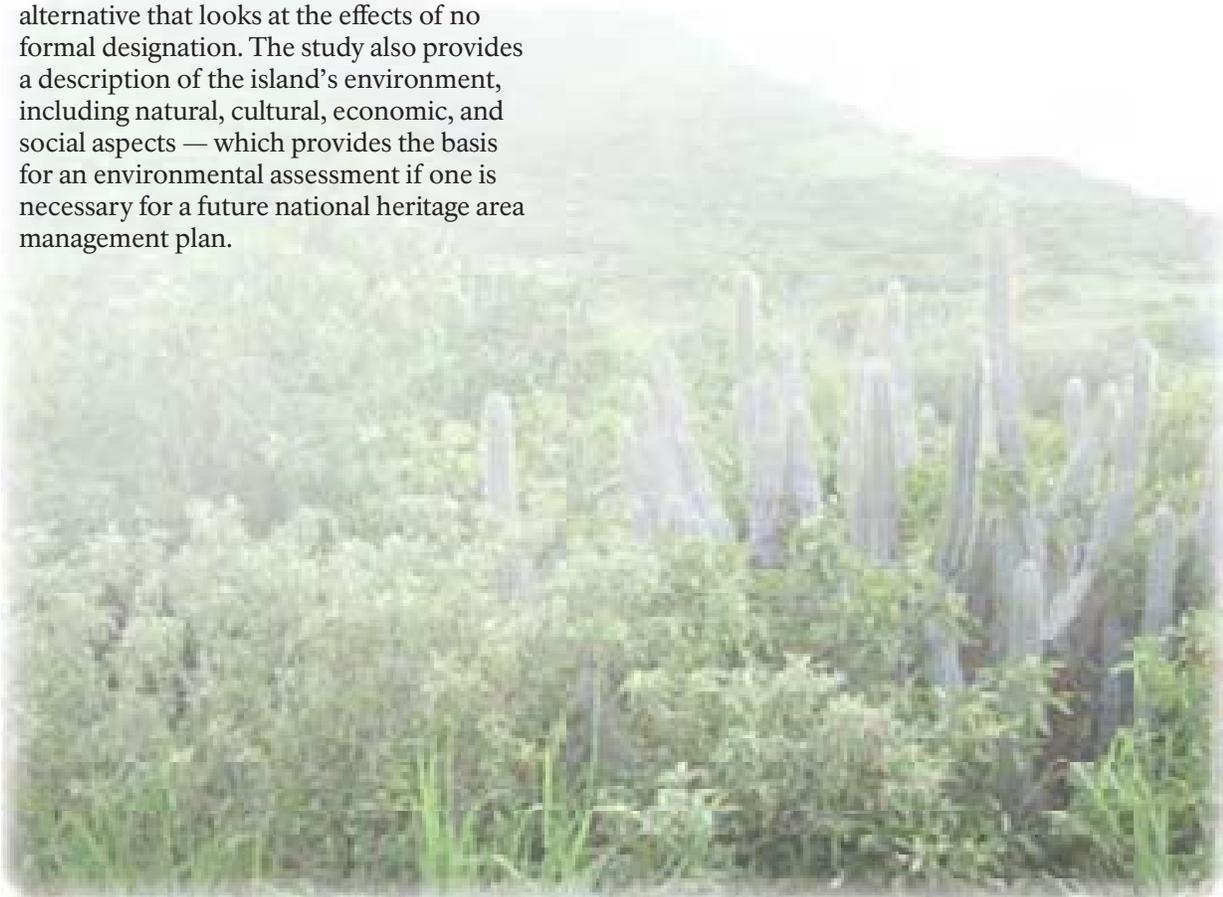


that plan, then an environmental assessment would likely be necessary at that time.

The categorical exclusion selected for this study requires no formal documentation; however, the study still contains several key NEPA components. Principally, the study relied heavily on public input to support its findings — the result of a comprehensive public involvement strategy. These outreach efforts also gauged local support for the potential designation and helped to identify options for a proposed local coordinating entity. The study also evaluates different management alternatives for the potential national heritage area, as well as a “no-action” alternative that looks at the effects of no formal designation. The study also provides a description of the island’s environment, including natural, cultural, economic, and social aspects — which provides the basis for an environmental assessment if one is necessary for a future national heritage area management plan.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Based on the study findings, the Department of Interior will make a recommendation to Congress. Congressional legislation would then be required to designate St. Croix as a national heritage area.



Chapter 2

Study Area History and Description





HISTORY OF ST. CROIX

T. CROIX BEFORE THE EUROPEANS

Much of what is known about St. Croix’s prehistory comes from inferences derived from archeological investigations conducted throughout the Caribbean as well as South and Central America (Hardy 2008). There are generally four major periods that are used to describe the sequence of cultural occupation in the region. They are Period I, which includes the Casimiroid (Lithic, 4000-2000 BC) and Ortoiroid (Archaic, ca. 2000-500 BC) Series; Period II, which includes the Saladoid Series (Early Ceramic), ca. 500 BC-AD 500; Period III, which includes the Ostionoid Series (Late Ceramic), ca. AD 500-1490; and Period IV, Taino (European Contact, AD 1492-1550).

The prehistoric chronology for St. Croix today demonstrates the cultural relations to Puerto Rico, the eastern Dominican Republic,

and the rest of the Greater Antilles, and this chronology is largely based on the work by Hatt (1924) and Irving Rouse (1992) and modified by Morse (1995, 2004). The periods, series, subseries, and styles and modes are as follows:

- Prosperity (ca. 200/100 BC–AD 400) and Coral Bay–Longford (ca. AD 400–600), phases of the Cedrosan Saladoid subseries and corresponding to Rouse’s Periods IIa and IIb, respectively;
- Magens Bay–Salt River I (ca. AD 600–900) and Magens Bay–Salt River II (ca. AD 900–1200), phases of the Elenan Ostionoid subseries and corresponding to Rouse’s Periods IIIa and IIIb, respectively;
- Magens Bay–Salt River III (ca. AD 1200–1500), reflecting the later infusion of Chican cultural influences into the Virgin Islands at the end of the Ostionoid period and corresponding to Rouse’s Period IV (see table 2).

TABLE 2: CHRONOLOGY AND CULTURAL SERIES FOR ST. CROIX EMPLOYED IN THIS TEXT (ADAPTED FROM MORSE 1995, 2004 AND ROUSE 1992)

Periods (Rouse)	Series	Subseries	Phase	Years
IV	Ostionoid	Chican–Taino	Magens Bay–Salt River III	AD 1200–1500
IIIb	Ostionoid	Elenan	Magens Bay–Salt River II	AD 900–1200
IIIa	Ostionoid	Elenan	Magens Bay–Salt River I	AD 600–900
IIb	Saladoid	Cedrosan	Coral Bay–Longford	AD 400–600
IIa	Saladoid	Cedrosan	Prosperity	200/100 BC–AD 400



Period I, Casimiroid
Series ca. 4000–2000 BC

The oldest known archaeological sites in the Antilles have been found in Cuba and on the island of Hispaniola and date to roughly 4000–3500 BC. Stone tools that have been recovered archeologically from these sites are similar to those found on sites on the Yucatan Peninsula, suggesting that these earliest Caribbean migrants traveled across the Yucatan Channel from Central America by boat (Wilson 1997:4).

Casimiroid sites are generally noted for lithic artifacts manufactured of fine-grained flint. These include core tools, blades, burins, awls, and scrapers, in addition to anvils and hammerstones. Little information is known about the subsistence base of the Casimiroid culture (NPS 2009).

Period I, Ortoiroid
Series ca. 2000–500 BC

A second wave of Caribbean migrations that would directly result in peoples colonizing the larger islands of the Greater Antilles occurred around 2000 BC, the beginning of the Ortoiroid or Archaic period (ca. 2000–500 BC) (Rouse 1992; Peterson 1997). Many archeologists (e.g., Rouse 1992, Wilson 1997) contend that this migration occurred when peoples from the Orinoco delta region of South America moved northward along the Lesser Antilles until they reached their northernmost extent of the Greater Antilles (Cuba), though their actual origins are little understood. The tools most closely identified with these Archaic cultures are ground stone artifacts (which were first introduced to the region at this time), blades, small sharp flakes, bone tools, stone celts, and shell gouges (Hayward and Cinquino 2002;

Hofman and Hoogland 2003; Kozlowski 1974; Lundberg 1989; Veloz Maggiolo and Ortega 1976). There is also limited evidence that some Ortoiroid peoples used pottery, but whether pottery manufacture and use was a local creation or was an adoption by later populations as a result of contact with Saladoid peoples is unknown (Chanlatte Baik and Narganes Storde 1990; Keegan 1994; Veloz Maggiolo et al. 1991).

According to Hardy (2008, 2006), the evidence for Ortoiroid occupation on St. Croix is currently limited. Although questionable, Betty's Hope is the only recorded site that may include an early Ortoiroid occupation.

Period II, Saladoid
Series ca. 500 BC–AD 500

Root crop horticulture and possibly pottery are cultural elements first introduced to the Caribbean islands sometime around 500 BC, when the bearers of Saladoid cultural series began to migrate from Venezuela to the peninsula of Paria and the island of Trinidad (Boomert 2000a). Villages throughout lowland Amazonia, in general, followed a consistent pattern settlement and organization typical for many tribal societies around the world — a cleared, central plaza surrounded by structures, further surrounded by ringed or partially ringed middens.

By ca. 400 BC, these peoples and/or cultural traits had made their way to Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and likely the Virgin Islands (including the area now containing Virgin Islands National Park and Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve). Radiocarbon dates for the region indicate that the earliest part of the Saladoid-era, locally known on St. Croix as the



Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve. NPS photo.

Prosperity Phase, lasted from about 200–100 BC until AD 400.

When they arrived in the islands, these early Saladoid peoples would have likely encountered the descendants of the “Archaic” Ortoiroid cultural groups mentioned above (Curet 1992; Keegan 2000; Rouse 1964, 1986, 1989, 1992; Siegel 1989, 1992). What kinds of interactions may have occurred are unknown.

Archeologists recognize two major decorative ceramic series within Saladoid culture — Huecan and Cedrosan — in addition to daily use or utilitarian wares. Rouse reported (1992:102) that Huecan ceramics are found more often on St. Croix, Vieques, and eastern Puerto Rico, while Cedrosan pottery is typically found on St. Thomas, northern Puerto Rico, and the Mona Passage. Sites

on St. Croix like Prosperity, Richmond, St. Georges, and Salt River have produced pottery of both subseries. Reasons for how and why these two distinct ceramic series came to be so disproportionately distributed are currently open to several interpretations. One explanation is that two separate migrations occurred nearly simultaneously, involving distinct peoples with separate ceramic traditions. A second explanation is that these ceramic subseries represent variations within a single culture, reflecting either different lineage groups or specialized uses.

A third, more controversial alternative is that the La Hueca style represents a separate cultural migration that preceded the recognized entry of Cedrosan Saladoid culture. This Huecan culture is believed to



have arrived on Vieques and other islands of the northern Lesser Antilles prior to the entry of the Cedrosan Saladoid culture (Chanlatte Baik 2003). This Huecoid culture would have had a distinctive material culture that included unpainted pottery (no red-on-white painted wares), fine zoned-incised cross-hatching decoration (ZIC wares) with red or white staining used only to fill areas of fine incisions or engravings, and a lapidary industry that manufactured finely crafted ornaments made from nonlocal, semiprecious stones. Ornaments were also made of shell, mother of pearl, polished black wood, and bone. It is believed that these ornaments sometimes depicted animals not found on the islands but only in the Amazonian and Orinoco basins, such as Andean condors. The fact that some of these semiprecious stones appear to have originated from this same region begs for the argument that a long-distance island-to-mainland exchange network outside the Orinoco River valley existed at this time. A reexamination of the La Hueca/Sorcé materials and data by José Oliver (1999) has called for a reassessment of this discussion, with future archeological inquiries focusing on questions of social relations and interactions.

Whichever explanation may be the case (or any combination thereof), Huecan subseries pottery typically consists of zone-incised and cross-hatched (ZIC) designs normally restricted to vessel rims and flanges, while Cedrosan pottery has fine white-on-red painting (Righter 1997:73).

In general, Saladoid pottery is thin-walled and hard-fired, and it includes inverted bell-shaped bowls (with open and flaring rims more common than restrictive or straight rims) and carinated vessel walls (Allaire 1997a:22; Righter 1992). Other vessel traits include double bowls, globular

vessels, pierced lugs or tabular handles, and D-shaped handles (Hayward and Cinquino 2003). Saladoid pottery also occasionally incorporates polychrome paints, like purple, black, yellow, and orange, as well as figures (called *adornos*) depicting both humans and animals (Petersen 1997:23).

Stone, shell, and bone tool kits included awls, knives, flake tools, bone points and harpoons, hooks, and net sinkers. Ground stone objects, such as metates, grinding stones, adzes, and celts, were also made and used (Hayward and Cinquino 2002). Some petaloid celts show evidence of having been highly polished and were possibly solely used for ceremonial purposes, while others were used for grinding or pecking objects. Other artifacts associated with Saladoid culture and daily life activities include carved shell masks, pendants made of shell, turtle bone, ceramic spindle whorls, and coral hammerstones (Righter 1992:27).

Extensive circum-Caribbean and interisland trade networks among the early Saladoid cultures are evidenced by nonlocal shells and semiprecious stones used in the lapidary industry mentioned above (Allaire 1997a; Boomert 1987; Cody 1991; Crock and Bartone 1998; Oliver 1999; Watters 1997; Watters and Scaglione 1994). Beads and amulets were carved from amethyst, aventurine, malachite, turquoise, carnelian, jadeite, and quartz (Righter 1997:74; Rodríguez 1997:86). Such items have occasionally been recovered in burials. By about 1,400 years ago, however, these artifacts all but disappeared from archeological contexts.

Saladoid peoples maintained gardens and horticultural fields (deFrance et al. 1996; Lathrap 1970; Newsom 1993; Newsom and Wing 2004; Steward 1948). Possible evidence for manioc cultivation is provided by the presence of ceramic griddles on many



archeological sites, although these griddles could have been used with a number of plant foods; griddles recovered in the lowland Amazon and Orinocan basin of South America have been dated between 2,000 and 500 BC. They also hunted, fished, and gathered shellfish.

Early Saladoid villages are often located in ecotones (areas where two or more ecological zones converge). Villages tend to be located near mangroves, estuaries, continual or intermittently running fresh water, lagoons, coral reefs, and soils suitable for growing their crops. Villages are also located along watersheds and near river mouths and are associated with alluvial soils (Morse 1989).

Communities consisted of houses clustered around central cleared plazas, often interpreted as multifunctional areas that would have often been used for ceremonial functions (Rodríguez 1997:84). Beyond the houses, villages were ringed by circular or U-shaped middens. The houses were large and round, ranging from more than 32 feet to approximately 105 feet in diameter, and they were built of poles and thatch. It is believed that these structures housed extended families (Keegan 2000:141). In the later part of the Saladoid period, there appears to have been an expansion into the mountainous interiors of the islands.

Three-pointed figures made of stone, wood, clay, or shells were present throughout the Saladoid culture region; they were initially called *zemis* by early archeologists. It is now known that *zemis* used by the Taino at the time of European contact were representations of specific deities; the function of the three-pointers remains unknown (Rouse 1992). Early versions were small and simple, while later versions (during the Ostionoid) became quite large and were elaborately carved.

Saladoid burial customs included interment in middens surrounding the sacred plaza space and in the central plaza itself as a kind of cemetery (Curet and Oliver 1998; Righter 2002; Sandford et al. 2002:220). Interred individuals are often recovered in flexed, tightly flexed, or seated positions (Hardy 2008; Sandford et al. 2002; Winter et al. 1991), though Siegel (1992) reports several extended burials at the Maisabel site on Puerto Rico. Prestige goods have reportedly been recovered from middens surrounding the central plaza and not with individuals, possibly indicative of egalitarian reverence in death. The practice of burying the dead in unmarked graves in central spaces may be indicative of kin-based corporate groups with social organization possibly largely on lineal descent (Curet and Oliver 1998).

The social organization of Saladoid communities has generally been interpreted as egalitarian, based largely on an apparent absence of hierarchical patterns of settlement, burial, and artifact distributions.



In Your Own Words: Early Cultures

“We sometimes overlook the fact that our islands were inhabited by indigenous Indian folk for some three millennia before the advent of settlement by European and African people. Archaic, Arawakan-[speaking] and Cariban-speaking groups each in succession settled these islands and established their respective cultures. On St. Croix alone more than 20 settlements and the accompanying horticultural lands flourished for many centuries in relative peace and stability before they were decimated by the European invasion in 1515 AD. Salt River was the most prominent of these sites, with villages on both shores of the estuary and an impressive batey, or ceremonial ball-court, where traditional ceremonies were regularly enacted. My own view is that there exists no location of comparable size anywhere in the region that offers better resources and conditions for the study and appreciation of Antillean Indian culture than our Virgin Islands, particularly St. Croix.”

*Arnold R. Highfield
Professor Emeritus of Social Sciences
& Linguistics
University of the Virgin Islands*





View of Great Pond.
NPS photo.



However, this terminology does not account for the variability of forms of social order, such as ranking and temporary hierarchies, as found in middle range societies. It is believed that Saladoid peoples had some kind of tribal form of social organization, possibly something similar to Big Man societies, with achieved social status that over time could become a hereditary position of leadership (Boomert 2000, 2001; Curet 1996, 2003; Siegel 1989, 1996).

Several Saladoid-era sites have been found on St. Croix. These include Prosperity I, St. Georges, Enfield, Longford, Cane Bay, Great Pond, Milord Point, Richmond, Robin's Bay, Salt River, and Judith's Fancy (Hardy 2006).

Period III, Ostionoid
Series ca. A.D. 500-1490

By ca. AD 400, Late Saladoid cultures were being influenced by yet another wave of

cultural changes that were beginning to spread throughout the Caribbean. A number of archeologists recognize several possible sources for these influences — innovation by Saladoid groups or trade and interaction with other groups, such as peoples of the Barrancoid culture that originated from the llanos region of central Venezuela and northeast Colombia (also known as the Intermediate or Isthmo-Colombia region) (Boomert 2003:147). Late Saladoid and early Ostionoid ceramic styles of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands showed significant influences from the Barrancoid styles of ceramics. It has been suggested that these influences were due to long distance trade between the two areas.

Ostionoid culture developed further into two regionally based variants — Elenan, distributed from Guadeloupe to eastern Puerto Rico (including the Virgin Islands), and Ostionan, located in western Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (Rouse 1992:107). Some



researchers, however, hold that these variants actually represent distinct cultural phases that developed out of Saladoid phases; the Elenoid phase was in the eastern half of Puerto Rico, Vieques, and the Virgin Islands, and the Ostionoid phase comprised the western half of Puerto Rico and the Mona Passage. However, these “boundaries” are not fast.

Later in Period III, Chican (Taino) culture of Puerto Rico began to influence the Elenan culture of the Virgin Islands.

The prevailing theory among Caribbeanists is that the Saladoid culture evolved into the Ostionoid. So the Ostionoid period represents a continuation of the Saladoid period in terms of ceramic-making, agriculture, and sedentism. However, there seems to be a breakdown in cultural continuity between the Caribbean Islands and mainland South America, evidenced by a lack of trade goods, such as the Saladoid exotic stone pendants and the rise of regional ceramic styles in both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Many people of the Elenan (Magens Bay–Salt River I) culture continued to live at the same sites as their Saladoid ancestors. By approximately AD 1200 (Magens Bay–Salt River II on St. Croix), these trading interactions had been revived (Rouse 1992:126).

Another change is the increase in size and complexity of communities in the Ostionoid period — for example the appearance of ball courts and ritualistic items and a ranked hierarchy of chiefdoms that appear to have controlled specific regions. Some villages remained small and may have served as agricultural hamlets or activity camps; others grew to be regional centers of power (Curet 1992b, 1996a; Rouse 1992; Siegel 1992, 1996). Some of these hierarchical centers had only one plaza, while others contained multiple plazas. It appears that the central plaza of the Saladoid villages evolved into cleared areas

enclosed by either low, earthen embankments or stones, referred to commonly as ball courts or batey (Taino). These ball courts appear to have served a multifunctional public space use.

What is clear about this time period in both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands is rapid population growth in terms of site numbers and size of sites. Just prior to European contact there appears to be a clustering of large sites around major ceremonial centers, such as Caguana in western Puerto Rico, Cuevas-2 in eastern Puerto Rico, and possibly Salt River Bay on St. Croix. These sites may have been centers of religious and political power that extended over large territorial units.

Elenan and Chican ceramics are typically poorly proportioned, with flat bases, thin rims, and raised loop or strap handles; they are often polished and painted completely in red or red smudged with applied or modeled zoomorphic images (Righter 1992:27, Rouse 1992:124). Chican ceramics are typically incised with curvilinear designs and have incurving shoulders. Chican pottery is typified by carinated bowls and decorated with incised and punctated designs and elaborate lugs, and flat bases decrease in popularity. Ceramics from Salt River and other sites across St. Croix demonstrate some stylistic affinity with eastern Puerto Rico and eastern Hispaniola (Dominican Republic), such as the Boca Chica and Ostiones styles. Studies by Morse (1989, 1995, 2005) and Lundberg and Righter (1999) have found that many of the style attributes demonstrate continued close contact with the developing Ostionoid chiefdom societies, more familiarly known today as Taino.

Other artifacts and features include petaloid stone celts; zemi objects of stone, shell, and clay; and the introduction of petroglyphs.



As populations increased and villages either grew or budded off, a need for further self definition of in-group status membership developed. The use of fine ceramics and limited exotic stone beads and amulets were no longer enough to differentiate between elite and commoner status groups. New symbols were developed and adopted as means of indicating status and, by ca. AD 900 (prior to a resurgence of trade and interaction networks), included ornately carved three-pointer stones and *zemis*, *duhos* inlaid with shell and gold, and ornately carved semiprecious stones.

Ostionoid religious and burial practices apparently developed largely out of earlier Saladoid traditions, with subsequent influences from Chican cultures. Human burials reflected a general shift in emphasis toward the family unit, and were directly related to individual structures or houses — although in some places the dead continued to be interred in the central plazas (Curet 1992a, 1992b, 1996:120; Sandford et al. 2002). There have been reports from other islands that burials also occurred in caves. Grave goods interred with some individuals are believed to be indicative of social status (Rouse 1992:116).

Sites on St. Croix from this period can be found at Salt River, Cotton Valley, Coakley Bay, Richmond, Halfpenny Bay, Robin Bay, and Aklis (Hardy 2006).

Period IV, Taino and Island Carib (European Contact) Series ca. A.D. 1492–1550

By 1492 the cultures of the Greater Antilles and the Leeward Islands had developed into the Taino chiefdom societies encountered by Columbus and other Europeans. Many scholars believe that Columbus's men

encountered Taino people who had been recently conquered by Island Carib invaders. Others have speculated that these Island Caribs were actually Arawaks who had been influenced by mainland Caribs (Hardy 2006; Hatt 1924; Honychurch 1997:294).

Much of what we know about the Taino comes from observations made by the first Europeans who arrived in the Caribbean in the 15th and 16th centuries. The Taino were agriculturalists who lived in well-organized villages. In addition to a variety of agricultural products, they made use of marine resources by using nets, hooks, and large arrows. The Taino were skilled boatmen and navigators. They built and maintained large canoes for interisland travel by hollowing out large trees. Many items were traded between the islands, such as cotton; ground and polished stone beads; raw stones; ornaments and tools made of shell, bone, stone, and wood; tobacco; foods; and feathers (among other items) (Deagan and Cruxent 2002:38; Rouse 1992:17). Observers in the 15th and 16th century recorded aspects of their culture and religion.

At first contact, the Spanish viewed Puerto Rico as being controlled by a series of Taino chiefs, or caciques. These were the religious and political leaders of discrete geographical areas, and they were loosely affiliated with paramount chiefs in a ranked hierarchy organization.

The Island Carib peoples planted manioc and sweet potato in rain forest garden plots near their villages. Women and men lived in separate structures — women in several round huts and men in a large rectangular house. Fishing was not widely practiced. These people were not organized in chiefdom societies like the Taino, but were more egalitarian in social structure (Allaire



1997b:182). They made and used a variety of weapons, including the longbow (with arrows tipped with wood or stingray spines and poisoned with manchineel juice), war clubs (*boutou*), and blowguns. They also used special warfare tactics, like using smoke from hot chili peppers to blind their enemies (Allaire 1997b:183). They did not produce or have three-pointers or zemis.

The Spanish noted that the Taino of Puerto Rico were engaged in resisting Carib attacks from the Virgin Islands. On St. Croix, no Carib style artifacts have been recovered, and there has been no obvious archeological evidence for a Carib presence in the Virgin Islands in general. There is not any evidence for Carib-style artifacts (namely, the Cayo ceramic complex from St. Vincent) north of Guadeloupe. In nearby Puerto Rico, the Taino began to align themselves with neighboring groups, and they were called Carib when they fought against the Spanish. The problem was the assignment by the Spanish of “Carib” to anyone who was deemed a troublemaker—someone who took arms against the Spanish authorities.

Ultimately, by the second decade of the 16th century, both Taino and Carib cultures in these areas were nearly extinct.

ST. CROIX AFTER EUROPEAN CONTACT

Before the Europeans came to the Americas, St. Croix was inhabited by Amerindian societies who arrived on the island 2,000–4,000 years ago. These early explorers and settlers were the ancestors of today’s South American Arawakan-speaking societies, and they were a part of a larger migration of many groups of people out of the Middle and Lower Orinoco River Valley.



Columbus Landing Site. NPS photo.

Once on the island, these peoples underwent numerous societal changes, interacted with their neighbors, and maintained contacts with their South American homelands. Over time, some of these societies developed into the Taino chiefdoms that were encountered by Christopher Columbus on the islands of the Greater Antilles, and possibly St. Croix (Dookhan 1974; Hardy 2006).

Columbus visited St. Croix on November 14, 1493, during his second voyage, and gave the island its name (Santa Cruz, or “Holy Cross”); it was called Ayay by the Taino and Cibuquiera by the Island Caribs. The explorers anchored off Salt River, and a team of 25 men went ashore to obtain fresh water. They observed a small village with only a few huts. The team encountered a small group of women and small boys; a debate remains among scholars concerning who these people actually were. The Spanish took these people captive, and as they were returning to the 17-vessel fleet they encountered a canoe containing four men, two women, and a boy. After a brief skirmish, the Spanish quickly overtook the small group of Amerindians, killing one and taking the



Map 7: Map of St. Croix, 1752. Photo credit: St. Croix Landmarks Society and NPS.



rest captive. Thus, the first recorded armed conflict between Amerindian peoples and Europeans occurred on St. Croix (Dookhan 1974; Hardy 2006).

It is estimated that at the time of Columbus's encounter at Salt River there were about 20 small villages on the island. The residents of St. Croix fought with the Taino of Puerto Rico against the Spanish from roughly 1510 to 1520. In 1550 King Charles V reportedly drove the indigenous peoples away from St. Croix, "the king having ordered them treated as enemies and exterminated" (Knox 1852).

The Efforts of the 17th Century

By the beginning of the 17th century, the island was deserted (Hardy 2006).

European explorers and settlers paid little attention to St. Croix until the first half of the 17th century. No European groups attempted to colonize the island until the 1630s, when

several attempts were made by English, Dutch, and French, all of which were quickly stopped by the governor of Puerto Rico.

In 1636 Jan Snouck obtained a charter from the Dutch West India Company to settle St. Croix, although the Dutch settlers did not actually arrive on the island until 1642 (Figueredo 1978:62). The Dutch, joined by about 120 French colonists, settled near present-day Christiansted, while the English settled around present-day Frederiksted (Boyer 1983:3; Rogoziski 2000:82).

The small Dutch community, consisting of roughly 10 houses and a church, was called St. Jean, while the harbor was called Bassin (Island Resources Foundation 1988:4-5). The actual date of the establishment of St. Jean is not known, but because it was purportedly a Dutch settlement it would have to have been between 1642 and 1650. The St. Jean settlement was not based on plantation agriculture, but rather on maritime trade.



According to the limited research available, this community was an active trading center (Island Resources Foundation 1988:3).

The Dutch also built a small settlement at Salt River, founded by Louis Capoen in 1642, consisting of a three-sided earthen fort known as Fort Flamand (today known as Fort Sale), complete with 11 mounted canons (Figueredo et al. 1989:22). A 1752 Spanish map shows five habitations of the “English settlement” situated along the eastern shore of the bay and a Jacobin monastery.

The island continued to change hands between these European powers until 1650, when the French took control. About 300 planters were sent to St. Croix from St. Christopher, and they quickly began to clear much of the forest to create fields for agriculture (Taylor 1970). They planted coffee, ginger, indigo, and tobacco. In 1653 King Louis XIV deeded the island to the Knights of Malta, but by 1665 control had been given to the French West India Company. This effort failed because the company was plagued with financial problems. In 1674 the company’s control was dissolved, and St. Croix was ruled directly by the French Crown (Dookhan 1974; Hardy 2006).

Under French rule the island had a brief period of economic and agricultural prosperity, as well as a surge in its small population. By the end of the 1680s, however, illegal trade, war, privateering, and piracy had made the small colony no longer economically feasible. In 1696 the French removed the settlers to its other Caribbean island colonies, burning their houses and leaving behind their horses, cattle, and sheep (Dookhan 1974; Hardy 2006; NPS 2008c).

Except for a small contingent of English colonists numbering between 150 and 600,

and about 450 slaves who arrived and settled near the middle of the island around 1729, St. Croix would remain relatively uninhabited until the Danish took possession in 1734. In so doing, they would create an indelible European influence on the cultural landscape of the island.

The first Moravian missionaries in the Virgin Islands arrived in 1732, in St. Thomas. The Moravians were the followers of John Huss and had been persecuted extensively since the 1400s. In the Virgin Islands and throughout the Western Hemisphere, the Moravian Church’s mission was to teach piety and equality. Moravian missions were planned communities with standardized building layouts.

Danish Settlement, Agriculture, and Economy

On June 13, 1733, King Christian VI of Denmark purchased St. Croix and gave control to the Danish West India and Guinea Company. Under the leadership of Frederik Moth, the town of Christiansted was established on the ruins of the small French settlement at Bassin.

Frederiksted was planned, and forests began to be cleared from lands from Estate La Grange in 1751 (Svensson 1980). The following year, the directors of the Danish West India and Guinea Company approved the plans developed by surveyor Jens M. Beck. Despite efforts to encourage economic development, the town did not develop into a bustling commercial center. Fort Frederik was built between 1752 and 1760, and in 1776 it was the first foreign fortification to salute the newly established United States.



To prepare St. Croix for settlement, development, and cultivation, the island's forests (previously cleared by French colonists) were once again destroyed (Haagensen [1758]:29; Hall 1994:59). These lands were then subdivided into rectangular parcels to provide equally sized and valued properties to investors (Hopkins 1988:7); each parcel measured roughly 2,000 feet by 3,000 feet for a total of 150 Danish acres (40,000 square feet to the acre) (Boyer 1983:11; Taylor 1970:123–124). Despite the fact that the island was ruled by the Danish West India and Guinea Company, it was difficult to get Danes to settle. The growth of the settlement was due primarily to the large number of English who came to the island as both planters and merchants, mostly from other islands — St. Eustatius, Virgin Gorda, and Tortola (Hardy 2006; NPS 2008c). For example, from 1742 to 1804, nearly 40% of all owners of large estates were English, compared to 23% Danish, 8% Dutch, 5% French, and 24% from various other countries (Hall 1994:16). As a result, the primary language spoken was English; the first newspaper, *The Royal Danish American Gazette*, was published in English (Hall 1994:15). An English-based creole, or *lingua franca*, developed and was used for trade.

To entice settlers to come to St. Croix and establish plantations, they were granted seven years of tax exemptions. Even with incentives like this, establishing a sugar plantation was expensive, with enormous investments that could either pay off handsomely or end up disastrously. The earliest plantation houses were simple and modest, made of wood, and it was not until after the 1750s when many of the grand estate houses were built.

By 1750 the 370 tracts had been divided into 231 plantations, 105 of which grew cotton, 95 grew sugar, and 31 were primarily provisioning and stock estates. By 1770 most of these estates were established and running. Between 1750 and 1767, 33 cotton plantations converted to sugar production, and by 1815 cotton estates had virtually disappeared from St. Croix. By the early 19th century, cotton had lost much of its economic and social significance within the Crucian plantation system.

Cotton was a vital and integral part of the establishment of plantation agriculture in the Virgin Islands and throughout the Caribbean. According to Historian George F. Tyson in his article “On the Periphery of the Peripheries: The Cotton Plantations of St. Croix, Danish West Indies, 1735-1815,” between 1750 and 1800 West Indian cotton plantations dominated the Atlantic market place. They produced two-thirds of the raw material consumed by the expanding English textile industry and supplied the bulk of the European imports. Most cotton growing estates on St. Croix were in the driest areas of the island, on the rolling coastal plains and small knolls of the leeward side of the island where they were buffered from northerly blustering winds by the northside mountain range.

Cotton quickly exhausted soil fertility, and the industry as a whole was short-lived in the agricultural history of the West Indies. On St. Croix, cotton plantations existed from 1735 until the first decade of the 19th century when drought, insect infestation, and soil exhaustion took their toll.



Sugar agriculture became the lifeblood of the Danish colony, gaining dominance on St. Croix in the second half of the 18th century. Until 1754, the colony was controlled by the Danish West India and Guinea Company, which maintained a monopoly that required planters to sell their sugar to them and no one else. The island's "Golden Age" (1754-1815) began when the Danish Crown purchased the shares of the company, took over its debts, and implemented a free trade policy. Many settlers arrived, especially from neighboring English islands. In 1767 there were 64 sugar works on the island. In 1796, there were 114 windmills and 44 animal mills on the island, and in 1803 there were 181 sugar estates. In 1755, 1.5 million pounds of sugar were being produced on Crucian estates; by 1770, nearly 17 million pounds were being produced. At its peak, in 1812, Crucian estates were producing 46 million pounds of sugar annually (Westergaard 1917:255).

Typical sugar estates from the Golden Age would have been comprised of a main house, servants quarters (to support the main house), cisterns, a cook house, kitchen garden, overseer's house, hospital, slave village and associated buildings and areas (provision grounds, cemetery), a windmill or animal mill (or both), and the buildings of the factory area (a boiling house, curing house, storage houses, and a distillery). A well tower was also often present on estates; well towers, or water pumping mills, used water funneled through a channel to drive either a cane mill or as a pump. In some instances there may have been a family cemetery on the property.

Animal mills were the first mills on St. Croix. They consisted of a round shed surrounded



Animal mill at Whim Plantation. NPS photo.

by an earthen or low stone wall that housed grinding machinery. By the middle of the 18th century, however, windmills were being erected across the island. These mills were of the Dutch style, in which the dome and sails could be turned directly into the wind. Speed was regulated by using wood shutters or louvers in portions of the sail, in lieu of canvas. The final kind of mill, those driven by steam, was expensive, and even though they were available early in the 19th century, they did not gain popularity on St. Croix until after emancipation.

The windmills, animal mills, steam mills, and central factories that dot the island's landscape evoke the colonial experience, and although picturesque they are representative of the period when sugar and rum were two of St. Croix's most important commodities. Most of the windmills seen today were built early in the period of 1750 to 1800. A few estates had two windmills, along with auxiliary ox or mule mills. Mills were essential to sugarcane processing (Landmarks Society 2009).



Right:
Windmill
ruins at Estate
Mt. Victory.
Photo credit:
Nate Olive.



Below:
Whim
Plantation
Greathouse.
NPS photo.



In 1747 the Danish West India and Guinea Company allowed the planters to have self-rule and administration. By 1753 these planters had appealed to the Danish Crown to purchase the company's Caribbean holdings, which occurred in 1754. With the crown directly involved, a long period of

growth followed. Between 1760 and 1800, as a result of free-trade policies, St. Croix's population increased dramatically, and great profits were realized from the production of sugar, molasses, rum, and cotton. The capital of St. Thomas and St. John was moved from Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas to Christiansted, where it remained until 1871 when it was returned to Charlotte Amalie (Dookhan 1974).

For some time St. Croix was one of the wealthiest islands in the West Indies. The prosperity was due greatly to sugar cultivation, rum production, and slave labor. St. Croix's economy existed through trade. The island exported five commodities — sugar, rum, cotton, molasses and hardwoods — and imported almost everything it needed (NPS 1993). By the end of the 18th century, St. Croix was regarded as one of the premier sugar islands of the Caribbean (St. George Village Botanical Garden 2009).



The remains of greathouses and the plantations of St. Croix provide opportunities to explore colonial occupation from an archeological perspective. In some cases sites have been preserved as museums illustrating the colonial era on St. Croix. Whim Plantation and the Lawaetz Family Museum Estate Little La Grange are two examples of museums on the island that give visitors a glimpse into the colonial period. The Whim Estate dates back to 1743, and the Lawaetz Estate of Little La Grange goes back to the 1750s (Landmarks Society 2009).

The price of sugar in the world market was stable for the first decades of the 19th century, and St. Croix's plantation owners were doing well. In 1803 the population of the island was 30,000, with 26,500 enslaved Africans engaged in planting and processing sugarcane. The economic decline of the sugarcane industry that began ca. 1915-1920 on St. Croix can be attributed to a declining work force of enslaved Africans and competing beet sugar prices that caused a sharp decline in the profitability of cultivating sugarcane.

Military and Defense

To protect her investment, Denmark began to develop and improve the coastal defenses and strengthen the military. The Danish authorities viewed Bassin Harbor as one that could be easily defended and would provide safe anchorage for vessels. Construction of a redoubt was reportedly begun on the ruins of Fort Louise Augusta (Olsen 1960:11). By March 1735 the new earthwork, measuring 100 feet by 116 feet, was completed on three sides, with a few simple houses for quarters on the fourth side. Work commenced on the construction of bastions on the northwest and southwest angles. By October 1735 a small residence for the colonial governor had also been built along the fourth side of the earthwork. Following a severe hurricane in August 1738, work began on a more permanent, masonry fortification (Cissel 1987:1).

Construction began on Fort Frederik, on the western side of the island in the newly planned community of Frederiksted, in 1752. Fort Frederik was to be the locus of two of the biggest events in St. Croix's history — the slave revolt of 1848 and the Fireburn of 1878 (described in the later "Change, Revolution, and Revolt" discussion).



In Your Own Words: Military and Defense

"Despite its relatively small size, St. Croix offers a continuum of history unique under the U.S. flag. One such theme documents the drama of human conflict and the military. The curtain lifts to the first documented hostile encounter between Europeans and Native Americans, with the tragic skirmish at Salt River on Columbus' second voyage of exploration in 1493. The earthwork fortification at Salt River—the oldest surviving example in the Americas—bears stark testimony to the struggles between the English, French, Dutch, and Spanish for empire and dominance in the New World in the 1600s. Because of Danish neutrality, its military presence shifted from external defense to an emphasis on protecting shipping from attacks by pirates and privateers, and the prevention or suppression of insurrections in 1746, 1759, 1848, 1878, and 1915-1916. The forts in Christiansted and Frederiksted are diminutive examples of classic European military architecture from the 17th century, and display a wealth of Scandinavian cannon to whet the interest of artillery buffs. Fort Frederik has the distinction of being the site of the first foreign salute to the patriot flag during the War for American Independence. Finally, shed the stereotype of the military as an anonymous impersonal establishment and learn what life was really like for the soldiers who served in their country's tropical colonies."

William F. Cissel



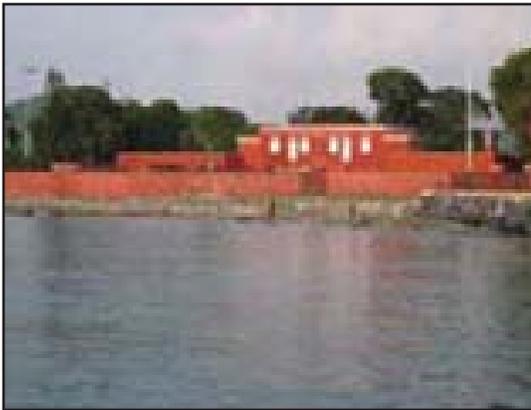


Right:
Fort
Christiansvaern.
NPS Photo.



Center:
Fort Frederik.
NPS photo.

Below:
Cannon carriage
at Fort Frederik.
NPS photo.



When the Danish Crown took control of the Danish West India Company's possessions in 1754, military efforts began to protect commercial shipping, as well as to keep domestic peace (i.e., quell any possible slave revolts and civil unrest). Throughout the 1780s, following a review of St. Croix's defense systems, many improvements were made on coastal fortifications and batteries, and several new structures were built. In addition to Forts Christiansvaern and Frederik, batteries and guard houses were placed at key locales near shipping channels. These batteries include



Fort Sophia Frederika (Protestant Cay), Fort Louisa Augusta (Christiansted Harbor), Gasion's Battery (next to Greig's Fort or Fort Sale, at Salt River), Catharina's Fort (north of Frederiksted), Carden's Battery (also referred to as Wisemenog Battery on a 1799 Oxholm map, along the north shore east of Christiansted), Gordon's Battery (on the west shore, near Sprat Hall), and Hendericksen's Battery (Cissel 1987:2).

There were also several guard houses, referred to on maps dating to the 1780s as "Old Guard



House” — two on the south shore (one at Long Point and one at Cane Garden Bay) and one at Salt River.

By the 1760s there were two militia composed of Free Blacks, one in Christiansted and one on St. Thomas (Cissel 1987). They patrolled the streets on Sundays and in emergencies, and on Christmas and New Years they were joined by all men able to bear arms. As part of an 1829–30 reorganization of the militia corps (described below), an infantry company was established composed of Free Black men (called the Frikorps). This militia corps was disbanded in 1852, following a brief uprising in Christiansted where they opened fire on a crowd. In 1907 they were reformed, though only in a ceremonial role.

In 1829 the militia corps were reorganized, and included 15 units and two cavalry squadrons, which were composed of planters, estate managers, or overseers (Cissel 1987:5). One infantry company was to be stationed at Christiansted and one at Frederiksted (and a third on St. Thomas). The Fire Brigade, which before 1848 was comprised almost exclusively of Free Blacks and Free Coloreds, was not part of the militia.

In 1851 the military were organized again, and the Royal West Indian Troops were replaced with the West Indian Military Force. The new forces required an increase in manpower in all three companies.

Alexander Hamilton

St. Croix is known for being the home of Alexander Hamilton during his adolescent years. Historians believe that he was born on Nevis in 1755 or 1757. He arrived on St. Croix in May 1765 with his mother, Rachel Faucett Lavien, his father James Hamilton, and his brother, James. By July 1765

Hamilton’s father and Rachel had separated, and in January 1766 James returned to Nevis without his family. Rachel raised her boys in a small apartment above a store that she ran in Christiansted, where she sold plantation supplies. Alexander soon gained employment from one of her suppliers, Nicolas Cruger and David Beekman, at 7-8 King Street. As a youth, he clerked at their trading house, which imported nearly everything needed for a plantation to operate — cattle, mules, foodstuffs, flour, bread, wood, hoops, shingles, bricks, and enslaved Africans. They exported sugar, molasses, rum, hardwoods, dye woods, and cotton.

He continued to clerk at Beekman and Cruger following the death of his mother in 1768, and eventually he was taken in by Thomas Stevens.

On August 31, 1772, a severe hurricane struck St. Croix that was to have great consequences for young Hamilton. This storm was extremely destructive, and Alexander wrote his observations in an eloquent letter to his father, where he provided details of the storm’s wrath. He showed the letter to his friend and mentor Reverend Knox, who encouraged him to have it published anonymously in the *Royal Danish American Gazette*. This letter caused quite a stir, and many people inquired about the identity of the author. Reverend Knox began an effort to raise funds necessary to bring Hamilton to New York to get the education he so desperately desired. It is believed that Hamilton left St. Croix some time after June 3, 1773, never to return. When he left he took with him his experiences, both tragic and inspiring, experiences that would mold his beliefs and frame his future. Hamilton’s early years on St. Croix shaped his thinking about business, economics, slavery, and how he would regard the American colonies (University of Virginia 2009).



In Your Own Words: Significant People

“My Book ‘Saint Croix 1770-1776’ illuminated the support St. Croix had provided to the birth of our Nation just during that short period of history. My research for two future books has revealed so much more that needs to be recognized. For example:

(1) Honorable William Alexander Leidesdorff - Born 23 October 1810 on East Street in Christiansted who became the first African American millionaire, the first African American Diplomat being appointed as Consul to Mexico, and the creator of the first public school in California.

(2) Major General Adrian Benjamin Bentzon - The Governor General of the Danish West Indies who was forced to step down during the British occupation and became master negotiator for John Jacob Astor in creating his financial empire. Returning to St. Croix after the occupation, he became Governor General and married the Cruzan Creole woman Francisca Henrietta Cobby. Their granddaughter, Marie Therese Blanc is recognized by L'Academie Francaise as being the greatest French female Novelist who wrote under the pen name of her Grandfather as “Th. Bentzon.”

(3) Peter Bentzon - The Cruzan Silversmith (1783-1850) who lived and worked in his Christiansted Building at 53A Company Street and later in Philadelphia. His silver is in several prominent museums around the world and he is recognized as the first African American Silversmith to have his own registered Hallmark.”

Robert A. Johnson





Slavery

Most of St. Croix's slave population originated in the Gold Coast and Guinea Coast in West Africa. Other slaves were shipped to St. Croix from other Caribbean slave colonies. When the Danish Crown took control of the colony in 1754, codes intended to protect enslaved Africans from harsh treatment were created, such as requiring planters to provide minimum amounts of food and clothing and being free from work on Sundays and holy days, among other rules (Boyer 1983:27, Hall 1994:59). These codes were never enforced.

The earliest slave houses were built of wattle-and-daub, with a thatch roof made of grass or sugarcane leaves. Stone masonry and rubble construction of slave housing did not begin in earnest on St. Croix until the end of the 18th century (Chapman 1996:129). Early houses would have been individual units consisting of two rooms each. During the 19th century, multiunit row houses were constructed that were comprised of two units (four rooms), four units (eight rooms), or even more. The slave village was often located near the sugar industrial complex. The slave village complex would have typically included a provisioning ground(s) and a cemetery.

It is not known when they first arrived on St. Croix, but baobab trees began to be established on the island about the same time as the arrival of enslaved Africans. According to stories told by the descendants of enslaved Africans, the slaves arrived on the island wearing necklaces made of jumbie seeds, or seeds of the baobab tree (Parkenham 2004). Many baobab trees still stand on St. Croix today. The baobab tree is considered a spiritual tree by Africans and their descendants. The trees were planted at the entrance or center of the slave villages and/or estates, and they served as places for gathering and sharing information and storytelling. Tamarind trees were also imported to the island, and along with native kapoks these large trees came to be known by enslaved Africans, Free Blacks, and their descendants as "jumbie" or spirit trees (Schrader 1996). These trees were believed to harbor bad spirits, and the mocko jumbies, or stilt walkers, would walk around their bases and scare the spirits away by whipping and chanting (Arnold Highfield, pers. comm. with Meredith Hardy of the National Park Service, Tallahassee, FL 2/2010).

Many estate owners expected their slaves to feed, clothe, and house themselves (Hall 1994:80; Rogoziski 2000:138). Enslaved Africans accomplished this by selling surplus produce from the provisioning grounds in the Sunday market. Market items included cabbages, tomatoes, poultry, pigeons, eggs, yams, cassava, pumpkins, oranges, wild plums, rope tobacco, cassava bread, fish, and firewood. It was the women's role



In Your Own Words: Free Africans

"St. Croix was settled by different racial and ethnic groups. Most know of the Ciboneys, Caribs, Tainos, etc., who migrated originally from South America. However, not enough is known about the documented evidence of free Africans who lived here in independent communities from at least 1650 until the end of the 17th century. This fact changes American history because not only can 'Native Americans' be considered as indigenous to the Americas, but Africans as well. Some escaped from plantations on the island, but others escaped from ships sailing in this area and established settlements. This makes St. Croix one of a few places belonging to the United States that can make this claim. One day we may even find out that the African presence on St. Croix predates the Maroons who escaped from slavery, and came as a result of voyages in this part of the world in Pre-Columbian times. This would definitely be a milestone in American history."

Gerard M. Emanuel





In Your Own Words: The Baobab Tree

“This wonderful tree – and St. Croix has more of them than any other place in the new world – represents so many facets of the Island. Rugged strength and unusual appearance, dignity and grace . . . beauty in the eye of the beholder and an underlying function in all realms. From the beautiful blooms I will watch open tonight and the bats that will pollinate them, to the ability to survive for months and months without nourishment. This tree, like the islands inhabitants over the decades, refuses to die, refuses to give in, but instead gives all willing to appreciate her, a gift of awe inspiring hope. She and her many sisters at Butlers Bay represent St. Croix to me.”

Michael Hartlage



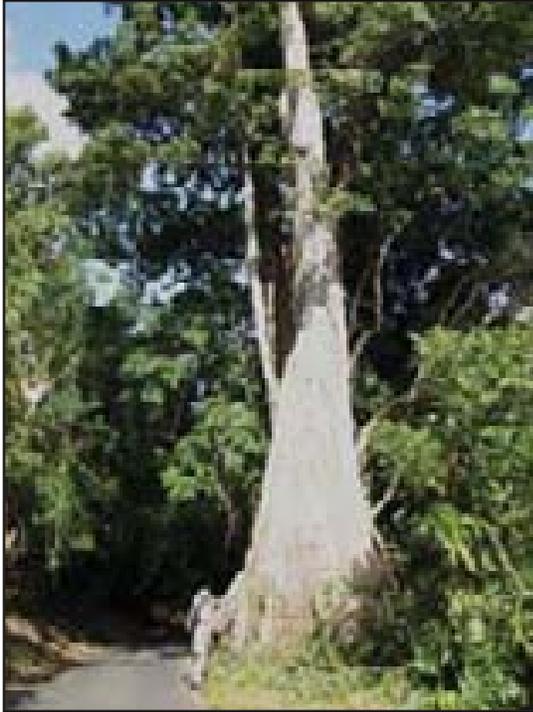
to sell these items at market (Hall 1994:114–115). The Sunday market system allowed enslaved Africans to actively participate in both local and global economies. The money earned from selling produce and crafts in these markets was used to purchase goods like tobacco pipes, jewelry, and clothing (Mintz and Hall 1991; Rogoziski 2000:139; Tomich 1991).

Enslaved Africans living in the more urban areas of Christiansted and Frederiksted were often trained and employed in such varied positions as domestic help, wheelwrights, cigar makers, hairdressers, seamstresses, tailors, and artisans (such as carpenters, smiths, and musicians). They also maintained an internal market system that complemented the Sunday market system maintained largely by plantation slave women. Selling such goods as bread, butter, coffee beans, candles, and notions on the street (Hall 1994:91), urban slaves would provide rural slaves with goods, while the latter would provide urban slaves with produce, fodder, and firewood.

Enslaved Africans in the Danish colonies experienced some of the most austere conditions known. Runaway slaves (Maroons) on St. Croix retreated to the mountainous parts of the island where they established remote hiding places to escape the harshness of their enslavement (Hardy 2006; Norton and Espenshade 2007). The Danish colonies, including St. Croix, were the first to cease participation in the slave trade in 1792, not for humanitarian reasons, but economic.

From the establishment of slavery in the Danish West Indies, enslaved Africans were observed organizing and participating in numerous social and entertaining activities. In urban areas, enslaved Africans held dances and fetes (religious feasts or festivals), as did freed persons, though both enslaved Africans and whites were prohibited from attending those held by freed persons (Hall 1994:98). In the 1770s, slave dances on St. Croix could last no later than the 8 p.m. curfew, while those of freed persons could last until 10 p.m. (Hall 1991a:338). Tea and coffee parties were also held. For the New Year, enslaved Africans would elect kings, queens, princesses, and courts, and hold dances and parades similar to the John Canoe celebrations of the Bahamas and Jamaica. Other forms of diversion included gambling with cards and dice, cockfighting, throwing stones with or without slings, horse racing, and bangelar (a form of stick fighting reminiscent of martial arts).

Social hierarchies, perpetuated by the owners, based preferential treatment on the lightness of skin color. Lighter-skinned slaves tended to be employed in domestic settings, or were allowed to become craft slaves, while darker-skinned individuals worked the fields (Hall 1994:75). An internal social hierarchy also existed, created and supported by the enslaved Africans themselves. Enslaved Africans with important religious



Left:
Kapok tree near
Creque Gut.
NPS photo.

Governor Peter von Scholten, who served from 1827–48, believed that the colonial slave was roughly comparable socially and in status to the cottager and the *ufrie* (unfree) peasant of Denmark, and that the colonial plantation was roughly equivalent to the 18th-century Danish manorial system (Hall 1994:196). He set in motion the means to end slavery in the Danish Virgin Islands.

In 1834 the Danish Monarch issued a royal decree that allowed enslaved Africans to purchase their freedom and to change owners if they were mistreated. Their working hours were shortened, and were given the option of working on Sundays. Owners were required to provide essential provisions.

In 1839 Governor von Scholten established the formal education of all children under the age of nine, slave and nonslave, for at least three hours a day, and of all children above the age of nine on Saturday mornings (County School Ordinance). He established eight schools across St. Croix that would prepare the children for their freedom; the schools still standing include Diamond School, La Grande Princesse School, Peter's Rest School, Kingshill School, and Mt. Victory School (ruin).

or social roles — for example, obeah and other healers and diviners from West African religious spheres — garnered greater internal respect (Hall 1994:81).

Change, Rebellion, and Revolt

The second half of the 19th century was a period filled with changes, rebellions, and progress. In 1746 a rebellion planned by Mingo Tamarin and the Freed Negro Corps was suppressed before the rebellion was carried out. Another slave revolt occurred in 1759 and never made it past the planning stage. Several enslaved Africans on Søren Bagge's plantation conspired to revolt on Christmas Day. The conspirators were caught, and 13 of the leaders were executed (one committed suicide).

A royal decree by Christian VIII in 1847 immediately emancipated all children born to slaves and ordered the complete abolition of slavery by the year 1859. For many enslaved Africans, this was not soon enough. On the morning of July 3, 1848, the enslaved Africans of St. Croix assembled in Frederiksted and demanded their freedom, and this insurrection quickly spread across the island. Most of the people of European descent took refuge in boats in the harbors. The enslaved Africans destroyed the houses of the police assistant, the town bailiff, and one



*In Your Own
Words:
Maroon Ridge*

"Maroon Ridge is unique in its majestic and sublime beauty as well as its rich cultural and historical significance. This sacred place was the site where various waves of Maroons (or runaway slaves) (over a period of 200 years) escaped from slavery seeking refuge prior to 'jumping ship' to freedom in Puerto Rico. People will come/flock to this location to feel the magic of this place of freedom. You can feel the energy. People from the states will be intrigued by the fact people successfully escaped slavery and sought refuge here. Similarly it will seem as a place of cultural pride and heritage for our local virgin islanders now and for generations to come."

Monica Marin



wealthy merchant. Compared to the slave revolts of Haiti, Jamaica, and Barbados, however, there was little bloodshed.

When Governor von Scholten arrived from Christiansted later in the day, the enslaved Africans demanded their freedom within one hour. The governor granted the slaves immediate emancipation, which was ratified on September 22, 1848. The emancipation decree read as follows.

1. All unfree in the Danish West India Islands are from to-day free.
2. The estate negroes retain for three months from date the use of the houses and provision grounds of which they have hitherto been possessed.
3. Labour is in future to be paid for by agreement, but allowance of food to cease.
4. The maintenance of the old and infirm, who are not able to work, is, until further determined, to be furnished by the late owners.

— The General Government of the Danish West India Islands, St. Croix, the 3rd July, 1848.

This declaration of emancipation did not immediately stop the insurrection. Many estates were plundered and destroyed, and the former owners were threatened. In Christiansted, 2,000 enslaved Africans began to march on the town. The military attempted to guard the town, and grapeshot was fired into the crowd, killing several protesters. On July 4, efforts were made to inform all the enslaved Africans that they were free, but some violent acts and destruction of property continued for several more days.

Despite these efforts, the former enslaved Africans would not experience complete freedom until 1878. Following emancipation, many freed could not be compelled to work, and the sugar and cotton estates suffered. On January 26, 1849, Governor-General Hansen issued the Labor Act entitled "Provisional Act to Regulate the Relations between the Proprietors of Landed Estates and Rural Population of Free Labourers" (Boyer 1983:59; Marsh 1981:336). In reality, this was an attempt to put the newly freed people of color back into slavery. The act forced free people of color to work on contract for periods of one year (October to October), to be renewed every August. These contracts, however, could be renewed for no longer than three years (Marsh 1981:336). Saturdays and Sundays were to be free from work. Each worker was to be given a dwelling that consisted of a house, or row house, subdivided into several rooms with one family per room. Each family was also to be given a small provision ground that measured roughly 40 square feet. Three classes of workers were created based on extremely low wages. Parents had to take their children with them to work or pay fines, and a system of travel passports was created. Children over the age of 6 were of working age, and when they turned 16 they could negotiate their own contracts (Marsh 1981:337). If a laborer was late to work, a half-day wages would be docked (Williams 1984:330).



Complaints registered by laborers were largely denied, or cases were found in favor of landowners. The numerous though small-scale strikes and insurrections were to no avail. Then on October 1, 1878, Contract Day, an annual holiday normally filled with dancing, singing, and drinking, the laborers revolted. Rumors circulating around Frederiksted of police brutality and the discontinuation of travel passports for work added fuel to the growing economic instability of the post-slavery era.

This revolt, which came to be known as the Fireburn, was devastating. Large portions of Frederiksted were burned; 53 estates were ransacked and burned along with 879 acres of land (Boyer 1983:70). Men marched around town and attacked the garrison at Fort Frederik, while women and children torched barrels of rum in the warehouses (Brown 1981). Three whites and 74 blacks were killed. The unrest lasted for five days, but the governor's declaration of a state of siege remained in effect from October 8 through 31. Three warships, French, British, and American, were brought in to help end the uprising. The damage in Christiansted totaled roughly \$670,500, while the damage in Frederiksted was just over \$1 million.

Immigration

The island's first inhabitants are believed to have come from South America. The later Colonial Era brought Europeans and enslaved West Africans. After the emancipation of enslaved Africans on St. Croix in 1848, immigrants from the Eastern Caribbean came to St. Croix in search of jobs and freedom. From 1917 to the 1950s Puerto Ricans relocated to St. Croix in search of sugarcane industry jobs and a new home. Many Puerto Ricans came to St. Croix because they were forced to leave their homes on the island

of Vieques when the U.S. military took over much of the island. Tourism and oil industry jobs fueled the 1960s and 1970s wave of inter-Caribbean migration. During this same period, Palestinian entrepreneurs came to open small businesses. In 2000 less than half of the population was born on the island of St. Croix. (U.S. 2000 Census). Recent waves of immigration include people from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, the Philippines, and South American countries.

David Hamilton Jackson, Labor Organization, and the Free Press

David Hamilton Jackson was born on Estate East Hill, Christiansted, St. Croix, in 1884 and was baptized a Moravian, as recorded at Friedensthal Moravian Congregation. His parents were both teachers, and he decided to follow in their footsteps; around 1910 he began to study law at Howard University. Upon graduation he returned to St. Croix and established a practice. In 1915 he became president of the St. Croix Labor Union, which he organized with Ralph Bough. That year he was selected by the membership to travel to Denmark and petition King Christian X on behalf of the island's residents to advocate health benefits and increased wages for Virgin Islands' workers. He successfully convinced the king to abolish the strict government control and censorship of the press, which had been the precedent since 1779. Upon his return to St. Croix, Jackson began publishing a free press newspaper, *The Herald*. In 1916 the St. Croix Labor Union called for a general strike.

Jackson was also a member of the St. Croix Labor Union Bank, and he went on to serve as a judge (1931) and legislator; he was a member of the Colonial Council from 1923–26, and the Municipal Council from 1941–46. Today, the first Monday of November is



In Your Own Words: Agriculture

“The St. Croix Heritage Area is unique and special because it will offer Americans and other visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in a rich blend of historic, environmental and cultural expressions reflective of the island’s long history as a large-scale producer and exporter of tropical agricultural products such as indigo, cotton, and most importantly sugar cane. That agricultural heritage, based on slavery and other forms of coerced labor, is remarkably well documented, and readily manifests itself not only by dozens of well-preserved, easily accessible, 18th century sugar plantations like Mount Washington, Little Princess and Whim, but also in the form of two, still thriving, world-class, colonial seaports and an enduring African-European-American Creole culture.”

George Tyson



celebrated as David Hamilton Jackson Memorial Day (formerly Liberty Day) in commemoration of freedom of the press.

Agricultural Pursuits of the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

With the failed attempt at acquisition of the Virgin Islands by the United States in 1902, Denmark began to invest in her Caribbean colonies and initiated several economic and agricultural measures. Attempts were made to revitalize and improve agriculture across the Virgin Islands, and to introduce new products.

A private enterprise, the Danish Plantation Company, was established in 1903, which focused on cattle, cotton, and sugar cultivation. However, they had no factories of their own, and most sugar that was grown was processed at the West India Sugar Factory (Estate Bethlehem), which was owned by the West Indian Sugar Company. This factory processed sugar and cotton from 23 estates across St. Croix (20 grew sugar, three grew cotton) (Dookhan 1974). Other centralized sugar factories of the period were the Central Sugar Factory (Estate Richmond, Christiansted), Bartram Brothers Factory (Estate Lower Love), and Hagemann’s Factory (Estate La Grange). Sugar was brought to these factories by a railway (built ca. 1909) that spanned 12 miles across the island (Rollinson 2001). Three locomotives operated on sections of the railway, with a main line running north-south that connected two lines running east-west. Smaller locomotives brought cane from smaller lines to a meeting place where it was reloaded onto the bigger locomotive and taken to the factories. A rail line connecting Christiansted and Frederiksted was planned, and a concession was granted, but it was never built.

In 1895 the Danish government established a Botanical Experiment Station at Estate Grange, the purpose of which was to encourage improvements to agricultural practices and generally encourage a “diversified economy” (Dookhan 1974:234). They also grew trees that were available for reforestation efforts on the island; in one advertisement from 1901, the station had available for distribution “4500 Thibet trees, 2000 Divi-divi, 709 lignum vitae, and several mahogany” (Canegata 1968:48). The station was in operation for only 10 years. In 1910 a new Agricultural Experiment Station was established at neighboring Anna’s Hope.

By 1916 attempts toward revitalizing the cotton industry were abandoned.

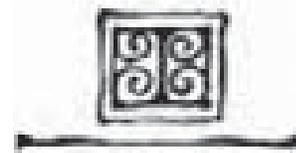
Several farmers converted their estates to cattle or stock estates. In 1880 George Elliot of Estate Longford imported 60 N’Dama heifers and two



to four bulls. The subsequent breeding and development by the Nelthropp family of Granard Estate, and further breeding efforts centered at Estate Longford and Castle Nugent in the early 20th century, led to the development of Senepol cattle (also known as Nelthropp Cattle, Cruzan Breed, and St. Croix Cattle).

The Senepol breed is a direct descendant of *Bos taurus*, with characteristics that have been cross-bred from both longhorn (N'Dama) and shorthorn (Red Poll) humpless cattle. Senepol are a medium-sized beef breed, and they were developed to specifically handle the tropical Caribbean climate, primarily because most cattle brought to the region originated in temperate climates. Reproduction was challenged by the environmental and heat stresses of the Caribbean. The crossing of N'Dama cattle, with their tolerance of heat and resistance to insects, and the gentleness, quality meat, and high milk production of the Red Poll led to a highly successful breed that has been exported throughout the Caribbean, Brazil, Panama, elsewhere in South America, the "sun belt states" (from Florida to Texas), Australia, and Zimbabwe. Both cattle and embryos continue to be sold and shipped around the world, and the breed has traditionally demanded premium prices on the world market.

Castle Nugent, on the island's south shore, is the largest continuously run (from the 1880s until today) cattle raising and breeding operation on St. Croix, and it is especially noteworthy for its association with the Senepol breed.



In Your Own Words: Political and Economic Integration

"As a former professor of Caribbean and Latin American History I would like to voice my support for the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area. The unique history of an island where Europeans first landed on what is now a part of America is known to many: the elimination of slavery without violence, the transfer from Denmark to the United States by mutual agreement, the role played by geography in ensuring protection of the Panama Canal during World War I and the contribution to the safety of the seas in World War II. Of equal importance is the fact that Saint Croix has achieved locally a level of political and economic integration only dreamed of by civil rights leaders as a future possibility for mainland America. As the French scholar and historian Alexis de Tocqueville pointed out after traveling in the newly established United States in 1820, America alone had made the democratic ideal Europeans had written about a political reality. In like manner, inhabitants of the small island of Saint Croix have already proven beyond any doubt that reciprocal concern and respect enables immigrants from Europe, Africa, South America and Asia to create and sustain a harmonious and stable society in accordance with the traditions and laws of the United States."

Patricia Gill Murphy, PhD



Castle Nugent
Senepol cattle.
NPS photo.



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES — NAVAL TO CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

On several occasions the United States attempted to purchase the Virgin Islands, once in 1865 and again in 1902 (Hardy 2006). In 1916 the United States, fearing that Germany might seize the harbor at St. Thomas and use it as a submarine base, finally purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million. The U.S. Navy assumed administrative duties for the new territory, but the colonial system of government was maintained. The governor could be appointed from either Army or Navy personnel, but essentially all upper government officials were naval officers. The Navy's efforts were centered on improving social services for the islands, including education, health, police, and fire protection. They facilitated mosquito control efforts, built dams and wells following a severe drought in 1924, and implemented vaccinations for small pox. They also encouraged the importation of Puerto Ricans for labor. Although these efforts resulted in a decline in death rates, they did not improve the economic situation of the islands. In 1927 Virgin Islanders were granted U.S. citizenship.

In 1931 the Department of the Interior assumed administration responsibilities for St. Croix and the Virgin Islands. In 1935 women were given the right to vote. In 1936 the Organic Act (49 Stat. 1808; 48 USC 1405-1405c) was passed, which allowed the establishment of a local government under the control of the Secretary of the Interior. All residents of the Virgin Islands were given the same rights enjoyed by all U.S. citizens, according to the U.S. Constitution, and gave all adult U.S. citizens who could read English the right to vote in federal elections (Rogoziski 2000:294). In the 1954 revised Organic Act, these governmental structures were further explained.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the cultivation of surplus foodstuffs did not occur except for local consumption. Sugarcane agriculture and cattle husbandry continued, albeit to an ever lessening degree due to several factors that included decreasing labor supply, deteriorating soil quality, unreliable rainfall, topography, and high evaporation rates (DOI 1932:13). In 1929 St. Croix's largest sugar company collapsed following a prolonged drought, but in 1934 the Virgin Islands Company was established to reinvigorate the sugar industry (Boyer 1983; DOI 1948:11). In 1932, 41,000 of 51,000 acres of land were devoted to cattle grazing (DOI 1932:16). By the late 1940s, St. Croix was supplying the other Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with most of their beef (DOI 1948:11).

Agriculture continued to decline in profitability due to the increased production of sugarcane and sugar beets throughout the rest of the world, which kept sugar prices low (DOI 1948:11). Economic insecurity continued until the 1950s when tourism emerged as one of the island's leading industries (Dookhan 1974; Hardy 2006). From the 1950s to the 1970s, industrial development dramatically altered and improved St. Croix's economy. In 1966 one of the world's largest oil refineries, Hess Oil Virgin Islands Corporation, was established (today HOVENSA), which destroyed Krause Lagoon on the island's south shore. Also in 1966, the Harvey Alumina Virgin Islands plant was established. New housing developments were constructed to handle the increasing numbers of workers at these plants. Today, manufacturing industries include petroleum refining, watch assembly, rum distilling, construction, and electronics. The primary industry, however, is tourism, with an increasing interest in *heritage* tourism.



OTHER ASPECTS OF CRUCIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Town Planning, Architecture, and Design

The development of both Christiansted and Frederiksted as urban centers reflects trends in 18th century urban planning and architectural design that grew out of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque traditions of the late 15th through 17th centuries.

Danish architecture and town planning was especially influenced by the Dutch, whose country had been controlled by Spain until 1648 and who were, therefore, well versed in Spanish design principles. These principles were codified in the Laws of the Indies in 1573 (Duffy 1985:13).

Christiansted has retained the Baroque and neoclassical flavor of the earliest days of Danish rule through the island's Golden Age. The lower floors originally housed merchant shops, warehouses, and businesses, while the upper floors served as residences. Many estate owners maintained townhomes.

On the other hand, the reconstruction of Frederiksted following the Fireburn allowed local craftsmen to construct the gingerbread-style of the Victorian-era (1837–1901) cottages that stand today.



In Your Own Words: Historic Places

“To me, one of the most unique elements of St. Croix’s heritage is its architecture. It tells the story of the people who have lived here, how they have lived, what they’ve made, what they built, what they have left behind.

I’d love to see a more international restoration/exhibit of African heritage/West Indian heritage. Frederiksted gingerbread houses, restored slave quarters, an historic market, etc - a museum that highlights and showcases these elements of our heritage.”

Robin Sterns



Christiansted.
NPS photo.



PROTECTED SITES

St. Croix has an extensive network of sites set aside to protect historical, cultural, and/or scenic resources. Many of these sites are mentioned in the previous section and some are described in chapter 5, criteria 1, as components of the assemblage of resources

that represent distinctive aspects of American heritage. Additional resources that were identified during the public involvement process and are important to the St. Croix story are listed in appendix D; National Register of Historic Places listings are included in appendix C.





THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

St. Croix is the largest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands. It is 21 miles long and 6 miles across at its widest point. The island's total land area is 84 square miles. Mountain ranges stretch from east to west, primarily along the northern portion of the island, sloping to a broad and rolling expanse of coastal plains to the south. These mountains are characterized by numerous steep-sided valleys that have been eroded by intermittent streams, locally referred to as guts. The tallest point is Mt. Eagle at approximately 1,165 feet. Point Udall, the eastern tip of the island, is also the easternmost point of the United States.

St. Croix was formed by a sedimentary uplift that is derived from older volcanic rocks. The sedimentary rocks underlying the mountain ranges on the island were formed from the debris of eroding volcanic rocks and volcanic ash during the late Cretaceous period and are approximately 80 million years old. Limestone exposed on the surface of the fertile central valley of the island is considerably younger (during the Miocene epoch, 20 million years ago) and is likely the remains of a coral reef that formed as the island was being uplifted. (Whetten 1974; Nagle and Hubbard 1989).

The island is relatively low in elevation and has little rainfall in comparison to larger Caribbean islands. Average rainfall is about 55 inches, but can vary greatly across the island depending on elevation, slope aspect, and rainfall patterns. Average temperature of the island is 79 degrees Fahrenheit.

St. Croix is the southernmost of the U.S. Virgin Islands, separated from St. Thomas and St. John by a 13,500-foot-deep ocean trench. Before dropping off into deep water, a narrow shelf surrounds the island, providing ideal habitat for long, fringing coral reefs, patch reefs, and other coral communities.



In Your Own Words: Sandy Point

"The Sandy Point exemplifies the Cruzan philosophy of caring for the good of all. The beautiful real estate of Sandy Point (the loveliest beach in the Caribbean) was donated to the cause of saving turtles. Our conservation effort has been a huge success and St. Croix's program is world-renowned. Our culture of preservation and conservation makes us extraordinary environmentalists."

Ginger Brown Vanderveer



Point Udall.
NPS photo.



In Your Own Words: Land Stewardship Sustainable Farming

“St. Croix was once known as the Breadbasket, a prime agricultural area in the Caribbean. Current sustainable farming practices, such as those employed and taught at Creque Dam Farm, can offer a way to recapture that legacy, and empower crucians to act on their independent spirit and in the spirit of self-sufficiency. As an island, the fact is that our resources can come from our own fields or come through a channel that creates dependency on outside sources. By moving in the direction of island-wide practices of sustainable farming and upholding these values, we can help to provide a firm foundation of resources that allow us to meet our needs and thrive as a culturally rich destination.”

*Terisa ‘Wren’ Shoumate
Mt. Victory remainder estate*



The distribution of plant and animal communities across the island is influenced by a combination of natural factors, including its subtropical climate, prevailing winds, seasonal rainfall patterns, topography, soils, and coastal exposure. The island’s ecology is also influenced by severe droughts and floods, hurricanes, fires, landslides, and occasional earthquakes.

Human influences have also shaped the island’s environment. Early inhabitants, European settlers, and enslaved Africans brought plants and animals with them from their homelands — many species of which continue to play important roles in Crucian culture. The baobab, an African spirit tree, is one such example, brought to the island by enslaved Africans during the Colonial Era.

Adverse human influences include the deforestation of a large percentage of the island during the Colonial Era for timber, cultivation, and plantation development. Today, habitat loss and disturbance continue to result from commercial and residential development, road construction, infilling of coastal areas, intensive farming and grazing, and pollution (Thomas and Devine 2005).

St. Croix is the most agricultural of the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was first colonized because of its ideal climate for growing sugarcane — once boasting more than 200 active sugar plantations (NPS 2001). Sugar production was the center of the island’s economy during the 18th and 19th centuries until slavery was abolished in 1848. Today, cattle ranching, particularly Senepol cattle, is an important activity. There are also numerous efforts by organizations, such as Farmers in Action and the St. Croix Farmer’s Cooperative, to revive farming on St. Croix. To honor the agricultural heritage of the island, each year the people of St. Croix celebrate by hosting the popular Agricultural and Food Fair — a four-day festival of locally produced agricultural products, livestock, arts, crafts, and native cuisine.

THE ISLAND’S ECOLOGY

Understanding the diverse terrestrial and marine communities of St. Croix is central to appreciating the island’s rich natural heritage. These ecosystems not only add to the island’s scenic beauty, but they also provide essential elements for sustaining the Crucian people and are the source for many of their traditions, customs, crafts, and cuisines. The following brief descriptions of St. Croix’s primary terrestrial and marine communities is based on Thomas and Devine (2005).



In Your Own Words: Great Pond "The Food Basket of St. Croix"

"Not too many people know the significance that Great Pond played in the lives of Crucians. For generations Great Pond had a predictable cycle. Each year around Easter the pond's mouth would close due to an accumulation of sand. As evaporation by sun and wind took place, the water level would be reduced and the salinity increased and this would cause the fish to stay at the surface gasping for air.

This would happen around late May early June and there would be a movement of people from different parts of the island to Great Pond. With wash pan on their head or in donkey carts people would mass along the shores of the pond to get their share of fish. Some would wade in the water others would use pitch forks to get their fish. They would be cleaned and salted with the previous year's salt and taken back home.

After the fish were all caught the crowds would disappear. In August some will be back to sweep and collect the fine salt at the southwest corner of the pond. They would make brooms out of Mahran branches and sweep the salt into small mounts to be picked up with shovels and placed into small white sacks made from flour sacks.

Some would return in September to harvest the larger "rock" salt crystals from the deeper parts of the pond. The rock salt was used in their brine barrels to cure fish, pork, venison and beef. Salted meats were a staple and the best way to store them for long periods.

Great Pond played another significant role. It provided fishermen with moss to bait their fish traps. St. Croix had greater rainfall due to the dense forest and the guts (stream) would run for weeks. The spots where these streams ran into the pond helped grow the moss. The fishermen would gather the moss to bait their fish traps. The moss no longer grows in the pond.

In October the rains would return and fill the pond until the mouth would open and let the excess water out to the sea. This began the yearly cycle again. The last time that Great Pond went dry was the summer of 1959. What attributed to the change will only lead to speculation.

Another feature that has changed Great Pond is the fast growth of mangrove. There was no mangrove in or around Great Pond. The first mangroves started showing themselves when the hills in Mount Washington were stripped of all vegetation and soil just poured into the pond. Within one year mangrove were sprouting along the eastern fringes of the pond. They continued to sprout until today the pond is almost all mangrove."

Robert Schuster



Figure 1: Moist Forests



Figure 6: Wetlands

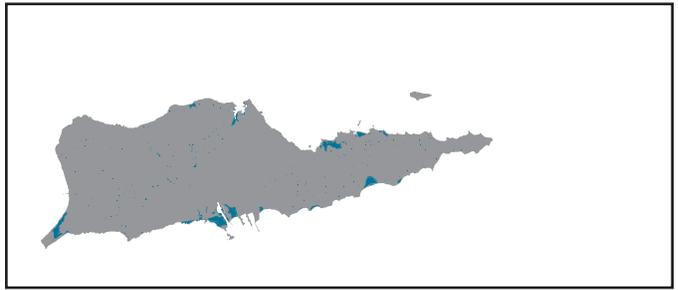


Figure 2: Dry Forests



Figure 7: Other Land Types

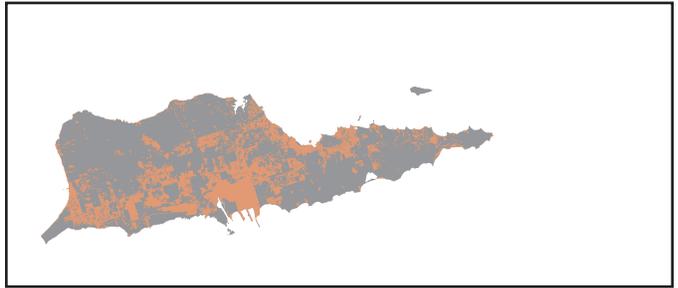


Figure 3: Woodlands

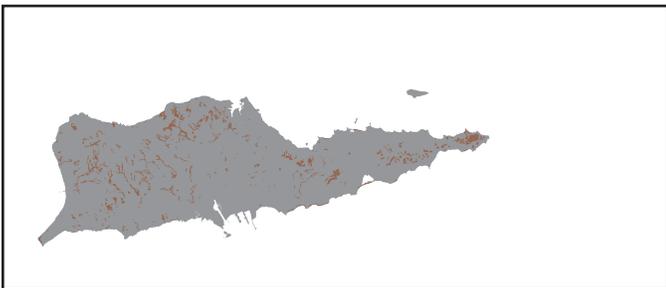


Figure 8: Coral Reefs

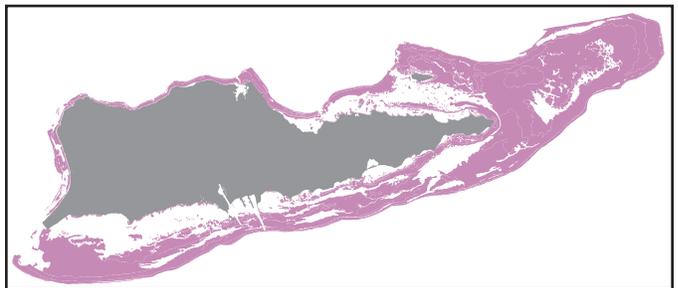


Figure 4: Shrublands

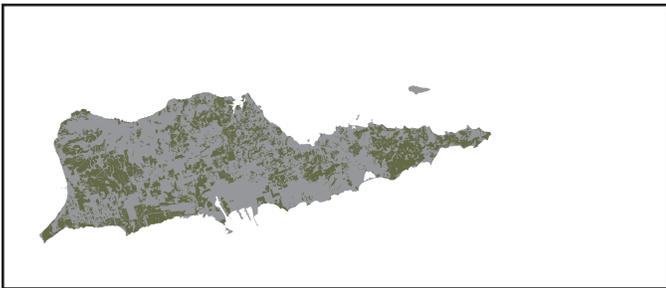


Figure 9: Seagrass Beds

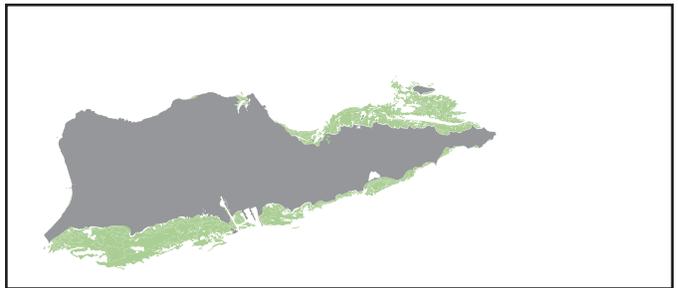


Figure 5: Herbaceous Communities

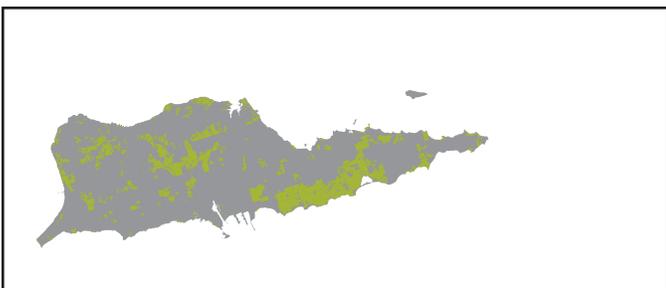
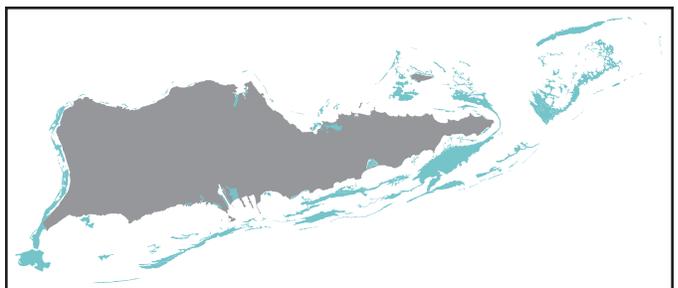


Figure 10: Other Marine Communities



Terrestrial Communities

Moist Forests. Less than 2% of St. Croix is classified as moist forest, characterized by broadleaf evergreen trees with crowns that interlock to form multilayered, closed canopies. Plant species are adapted to these wetter conditions, and they compete with one another for sunlight. The island has two different types of moist forest — gallery and basin. Gallery moist forests occur in steep valleys along riparian areas of intermittent streams that carry runoff from upper elevations. On St. Croix, this forest occurs in the more mountainous northwest portion of the island; Caledonia Gut is an example of this habitat type. Basin moist forests occur in coastal low-lying areas where rainwater collects from runoff. An example of this forest type can be found at Annaly Bay.

Dry Forests. Dry forests occur across 9% of St. Croix, primarily in lower elevations along the northwestern coast of the island. In this forest type, dryness is more pronounced, and as a result semi-deciduous and semi-evergreen trees are typically limited to only two canopy layers. Trees are also shorter than in moist forests. Steep slopes, thin soils, salt spray, and windier conditions are other factors that influence the presence of dry forests. The lower, north-facing slope of Mt. Eagle is an example of a semi-evergreen dry forest on St. Croix.

Woodlands. Woodlands are more sparsely vegetated than forests with open tree canopies. Few native woodlands exist on St. Croix, in part because of human-caused disturbances; however, almost 6% of the island is classified as this plant community. Abandoned farm and pasturelands on cleared forest land throughout the island are two such examples. Cultivated and naturalized palm woodlands are also scattered across the island. An example of native evergreen woodlands, characterized by the presence of Teyer palms, can be found at Creque Dam on St. Croix.

Shrublands. Shrublands are the dominant plant community on St. Croix, covering about 35% of the island. Shrubland types include coastal hedge, thickets, sclerophyllous evergreen shrublands, mixed dry shrublands, and gallery shrublands. Their distribution depends on a number of factors, including plant species composition; elevation; dry, shallow, rocky soils; strong winds; salt spray; and intense sunlight exposure. Sea grape, thorny casha, Turk's cap cactus, *Agave missionum*, the endangered tropical lilythorn (*Catesbaea melanocarpa*), and the endangered Vahl's boxwood (*Buxus vahlIIi*) are species unique to this habitat type. The desert-like eastern end of the island, which is interspersed with prominent pipe organ cactus, is an example of a unique shrubland thicket found on St. Croix.

Herbaceous Communities. Herbaceous (nonwoody) vegetation communities consist primarily of annual and perennial grasses. The coastal grassland found on the hills above Salt River Bay is the only native example of this plant community found on St. Croix. Maintained and abandoned pasturelands found throughout the island are examples of nonnative herbaceous communities caused by human activities. An example of pasturelands can be found near Great Pond on the south side of the island. Combined, native and nonnative herbaceous communities account for about 18% of the island's land cover.



In Your Own Words: Natural Areas - Annaly Bay

"My first visit to Annaly Bay was magical - the soft susurrations of the surf on ancient stone, the sounding crash of sea on cliff. The sheer beauty - MAJESTY! - of Annaly speaks to the sacred spirit and soul of the islands. Protect it! Share it! Enjoy It!"

Russell Cutts





Wetlands. Wetlands cover just over 2% of St. Croix, consisting of vegetation communities that are seasonally, tidally, semi-permanently, or permanently inundated with either fresh or salt water. Wetland types vary widely across the island and include mangrove swamps, mixed swamps, salt flats, salt ponds, and freshwater ponds. These wetland types play an important role in supporting a number of the island's diverse plant species, including black, red, and white mangroves; swamp ferns; and swamp apple trees.

Mangroves are also vital to protecting the coastlands and marine communities of St. Croix. Not only do they buffer the island from wave action during storms, these sheltered habitats also provide breeding, rearing, and feeding grounds for fish and wildlife. Furthermore, mangroves collect and filter storm water runoff, capture sediment from eroding soils, and help remove excess nutrients from sewage and fertilizers. These are vital functions that help to sustain the productivity of fisheries, seagrass beds, and coral reefs that surround the island. An example of mangroves on St. Croix can be found at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, which supports the last major natural mangrove stand set in an estuary in the Virgin Islands. Restoration is underway at this park and preserve to help them recover from damage sustained during Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Other Land Types. The remaining 28% of the island is classified using three different land types: developed areas, croplands, and sparsely vegetated areas — such as beaches and rocky cliffs. Developed areas are the most prevalent of these types, consisting of residences, commercial buildings, industrial

centers, roads, and other infrastructure. Croplands are found mostly in the central, interior portion of the island and are characterized by cultivated farm plots for growing fruits, vegetables, herbs, ornamentals, and other produce. The shoreline of the island includes beaches of sand, cobble, and gravel, which provide important nesting habitat for rare sea turtles and foraging habitat for various shorebirds, including rare roseate and least terns.

Marine Communities

Coral Reefs. St. Croix has an extensive coral reef system that rings much of the island. These reefs support extraordinary biodiversity while maintaining complex inter-relationships with other marine ecosystems, such as adjacent seagrass beds. More than 40 species of corals have been recorded on the reefs of St. Croix.

St. Croix's coral reefs can be further divided into the following communities: fringing, bank, barrier, linear, and patch reefs; colonized hard pavement; gorgonian (soft-coral) dominated pavement; and colonized bedrock and beach rock. Fringing reefs are the most common type found, located near the island's shoreline. Elkhorn coral is the primary reef-building coral of the entire Caribbean — two-thirds of Buck Island is surrounded by this type, which reaches heights of more than 30 feet. St. Croix's coral reefs support a variety of marine animals, including more than 400 species of reef fish.

The extreme clarity of seawater surrounding the island provides exceptional snorkeling opportunities to see these complex marine



ecosystems — making coral reefs a source of pride for the people of St. Croix to share with visitors. Unfortunately, like most coral reefs around the world, they are being threatened by a number of factors, including sedimentation from runoff, more intense hurricanes, higher water temperatures, overfishing, pollution, and diseases (NPS 2008a).

Seagrass Beds. Extensive seagrass beds, composed primarily of manatee and turtle grass, border much of the northeastern and southern coastline of St. Croix. These highly productive habitats are vital to the health of the island's marine ecosystems, providing a rich source of nutrients for many organisms. Seagrass beds also provide ideal habitat for a variety of animals, including grazing areas for endangered leatherback, hawksbill, and green sea turtles. They are also important nurseries for juvenile reef fish, playing an important role in maintaining the health and diversity of the island's coral reef ecosystems. Seagrass beds also protect the island's coastline because of their extensive root systems that help to anchor coastal sediments. Seagrass beds are impacted by many of the same issues described above for coral reefs. Siltation, infilling, and dredging associated with human development are three primary threats.

Other Marine Communities. Algal plains, algal ridges, and various substrate communities are the other marine community types of St. Croix. Green algae, calcareous red algae, and coralline algae can be found within the algal plains and algal ridges — a significant source of calcium carbonate and the basic building block of St. Croix's extensive coral reef system. Substrate communities that surround the island are composed of small

marine organisms that inhabit fine sediments, rubble, sand, scattered coral rock, and dredge materials.

Rare Plants and Animals

Endemic plant species include the St. Croix century plant (*Agave eggersiana*) and the St. Croix touch me not (*Malpighia infestissima*). Two rare plant species that are currently protected under the federal Endangered Species Act include tropical lilythorn (*Catesbaea melanocarpa*) and Vahl's boxwood (*Buxus vahlia*). Although this feasibility study is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of rare species that occur on St. Croix, this section highlights a number of unique plants and animals that are indigenous to the island.

Other rare plant species include *Agave eggersiana* (no common name), *Machaonia woodburyana* (no common name), and Marrón bacora. Rare birds include the Lesser Antillean bullfinch, prothonotary warbler, hooded warbler, Caribbean martin, white-crowned pigeon, bridled quail-dove, snowy plover, willet, Caribbean coot, ruddy duck, roseate tern, white-tailed tropicbird, frigatebird, and brown pelican. Rare fish and coral species include the ivory bush coral, dusky shark, mangrove rivulus, night shark, sand tiger shark, speckled hind, striped croaker, Warsaw grouper, and white marlin. Rare reptiles include the St. Croix ground lizard, slipperyback skink, leatherback sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, green sea turtle, and loggerhead sea turtle. Rare mammals include the red fig-eating bat. (Thomas and Devine 2005, USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources 2005.)



PROTECTED SITES

St. Croix has an extensive network of areas set aside to protect both marine and terrestrial environments. Many of these areas are described in chapter 5, criteria 1, as components of the assemblage of resources that represent distinctive aspects of American heritage. Additional resources that were identified during the public involvement process and are important to the St. Croix story are listed in appendix D; national natural landmarks listed in the National Register of Historic Places are included in appendix C.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change refers to any significant changes in average climatic conditions (average temperatures and precipitation) or seasonal variability (storm frequencies) lasting for an extended period of time. Recent reports by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, the National Academy of Sciences, and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) provide clear evidence that climate change is occurring and will accelerate in the coming decades. Although climate change is a global phenomenon, it manifests differently depending on regional and local factors.

Climate change could result in many changes to St. Croix, some of which may already be occurring — such as more intense hurricanes and higher water temperatures. A few of the possible implications of climate change on the island's heritage resources are described below.

The island's marine environments are perhaps the most susceptible to even minor changes in climatic conditions. More frequent and severe

storms can directly impact coral communities as a result of intensive wave action, which can snap off elkhorn coral branches and turn elkhorn coral thickets into rubble because the coral cannot reattach to the substrate and continue to grow (NPS 2008a).

More intense storms could also increase erosion on the island, which degrades water quality. This may increase the spread of coral diseases, such as white-band disease, which kills coral tissue and can quickly eliminate entire colonies. Increases in water temperatures, as a result of climate change, may also contribute to an increase in mass coral bleaching (NPS 2008a). Even slight temperature changes can lead to the loss of coral communities and displace many marine organisms that inhabit them.

Climate change may also be having a profound effect on ocean carbon chemistry and its acid/alkali balance. As oceans absorb carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels, the resulting chemical reactions increase the water's acidity. This process is known as ocean acidification, which adversely impacts marine organisms. Examples include a decrease in the rate at which reef-building corals produce their skeletons; a reduction in the ability of marine algae and zooplankton to maintain protective shells; and a reduction in the survival of larval marine species, such as fish and shellfish (NOAA 2008). These impacts could have a dramatic effect on the ecological health of the coral reefs surrounding St. Croix. Because of the important contribution of these marine environments to St. Croix's natural heritage, their future degradation or loss of could severely diminish the island's heritage resources.

As stated earlier, climate change could lead to more frequent and severe storms, especially during hurricane season.



This could exacerbate existing erosion problems associated with commercial and residential developments, road construction, and intensive farming and grazing. The combination of these factors could degrade the island's natural environment and scenic beauty. Longer and more intense hurricane seasons could also turn away visitors seeking tourism opportunities on St. Croix.

Climate change could also lead to more severe seasonal droughts — impacting the health and distribution of terrestrial plant communities. For example, prolonged drought conditions could reduce the extent of moist forests in the northwest portion of the island, which could eventually be replaced by dry forests and woodlands. Droughts could also impact the island's farming and ranching industries, which are vital to St. Croix's economy and agricultural heritage.

Last, climate change could lead to an eventual rise in sea level. Relatively small islands,

such as St. Croix, are especially vulnerable to this phenomenon. Potential impacts from sea-level rise include coastal erosion, storm-surge flooding, coastal inundation, saltwater infiltration, loss of coastal properties and habitats, declines in soil and freshwater quality, loss of transportation routes, and the potential loss of life.

The full extent of how climate change will influence the natural and cultural heritage of St. Croix is unknown. However, addressing this far-reaching and long-term issue will require both global and local initiatives.

This study does not provide definitive solutions or direction on how to resolve these issues. Rather, this section is intended to recognize that the heritage of St. Croix is vulnerable to the influences of climate change, and vigilance is needed to ensure the long-term protection of the island's resources from this serious ecological threat.





SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

POPULATION

The U.S. Census estimated the total population of St. Croix in 2000 to be 53,234, the largest population of the three U.S. Virgin Islands. According to the same source, the population increased by 6% between 1990 and 2000. Much of this increase can be attributed to in-migration from the continental United States, Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Haiti, Jamaica, the Philippines, and South American countries. Conversely, there is an out-migration trend among those in their most productive work years who are seeking higher quality jobs. (U.S. Census 2000; U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research 2008c.)

RACIAL PROFILE

The population of St. Croix is very diverse and reflects a long tradition of migration to the island. The table below provides data for the breakdown of the St. Croix population by race.

TABLE 3: ST. CROIX'S POPULATION BY RACE

Race	Percentage
Black or African American	73.3%
Other races (Hispanic or Latino, Asian, and other race populations)	10.7%
White	11.6%
Two or more races	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census 2000

LANGUAGE

The official language of St. Croix is English, although Spanish and French are often heard on the island. Because of St. Croix's large Puerto Rican population, much of the population is bilingual, and Spanish is spoken as the primary language in many of the households. In addition to English, the island has both Spanish language radio and television.

Crucian, an English-based Creole, is spoken on St. Croix. Crucian was developed as a common dialect by enslaved Africans that came to St. Croix from different regions of West Africa. Crucian continues to change as it is influenced by popular culture and new cultural influences. Today's Crucian includes many words of Spanish origin in addition to terms, idioms, and proverbs from reggae, dancehall, and rap music. There are some older sayings that are also part of the dialect.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2008 St. Croix had a 6.8% unemployment rate. The unemployment rate increased in 2009 to 8.9%. However, the 2009 unemployment rate was still lower than the national average of 9.7%. (U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010.)

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 1999 the median household income was \$21,401, compared with the national median household income of \$44,900 (U.S. 2000 Census). The low median household income is compounded by the relatively higher cost of living on St. Croix (U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research 2008c).



POVERTY

In 1999, 34.8% of St. Croix residents were living below the poverty line, compared with the national average of 12.4%. St. Croix is the poorest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands. The greatest concentrations of those living below the poverty line are located in the interior of the island and in the coastal areas near Frederiksted and Christiansted. (U.S. Census 2000.)

INDUSTRY

Table 4 compares the distribution of employment by major industry sectors. Manufacturing (oil refinery, rum exports, and watch assembly) remains an important driver of the St. Croix economy.

TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY SECTORS

Industry	Employment Share
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.9%
Construction	12.7%
Manufacturing	11%
Wholesale trade	1.8%
Retail trade	11.5%
Transportation and warehousing and utilities	5.5%
Information	1.8%
Finance, insurance, and real estate	4.9%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	6.4%
Educational, health, and social services	16.9%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	11.4%
Other services (except public administration)	5.2%
Public administration	10%

Source: U.S. Census 2000



Tourism, which is primarily reflected in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services category in table 4, is an important component of the St. Croix economy. St. Croix has fewer visitors than the other U.S. Virgin Islands. However, according to the U.S. Virgin Islands

Department of Tourism, the average stay for overnight visitors is slightly longer than the U.S. Virgin Island average of 4.2 days. (U.S. Virgin Islands, Commissioner of Tourism, Beverly Nicholson pers. comm. with Kate Randall, National Park Service, Denver, CO 2/2010).

TABLE 5: TOURISM ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1990	2007
U.S.V.I. visitors	1,811,500	2,611,300
St. Croix visitors	194,500	149,200
U.S.V.I. cruise ships	1,142	752
St. Croix cruise ships	14	6
U.S.V.I. visitor expenditures (millions of dollars)	697	1,433
U.S.V.I. tourism-related employment (number of jobs)	8,640	8,773

Source: U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research 2008b



Chapter 3

Themes





INTRODUCTION

The stories of related natural and cultural resources are told or interpreted within the organizing framework of *themes*. Themes provide the connections that people can use to understand the importance of an area and its resources. In other words, themes “represent” the broad stories that integrate the collection of individual resources so that they can be seen within the context of the whole. Themes are the tools used to (1) develop a cohesive, central, relevant idea(s); (2) link a tangible resource to its intangible meaning(s) and/or a universal concept; and (3) connect cultural and natural resources to the larger ideas, meaning, and values of which they are a part. Themes are the building blocks — the core content — of an interpretive program, which is central to the national heritage area concept.

A good theme structure helps residents and visitors understand the region’s overall contributions to our national heritage. These elements may include natural and cultural resources; important events or decisions; and the roles of specific places, people, social movements, beliefs, folkways, and traditions. The themes for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area were derived from an understanding of the island’s contributions to our country’s national heritage through the public involvement process.

The unique stories of people and places that the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area has to tell the rest of the nation are encompassed by the following five themes. These heritage themes are the key ideas through which significant resource values are conveyed to the public. Each theme may connect to a number of specific stories or subthemes. Other themes may be developed and/or these themes may be modified in the future if the need arises.

The five themes for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area align with seven of the eight themes in the “National Park Service Revised Thematic Framework.” This framework was used in developing the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area themes to better understand the contributions of this remote island territory to our country’s national heritage. The themes for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area fit within the National Park Service thematic framework as described below.

The themes for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area were developed through public input on the nationally significant people, places, traditions, customs, and beliefs. The information was analyzed by the study team, and five distinct categories emerged. The study team presented these categories as the preliminary framework for the development of themes at a series of workshops. The public validated the theme categories and provided additional input on the intangible values associated with the people, places, traditions, customs, and beliefs. The following five themes for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area are the product of this process.

THEME 1: EARLY CULTURES

This theme highlights early Amerindian presence on St. Croix. It emphasizes migration of Amerindian peoples within the region, settlement on St. Croix, and European contact.

The people living on the island before the arrival of the Europeans left a rich record of their lives as seen in archeological evidence. People have lived on St. Croix from possibly as long as 4,000 years ago. The many periods of cultural occupation of the region tell the stories of migration, settlement, trade, and



cultural exchange and contact. The early inhabitants of St. Croix migrated to the islands from South and Central America. They adapted and developed a society with a complex social structure and economy that made use of the island's natural resources.

Columbus visited St. Croix on his second voyage. His visit marks the first recorded conflict between Europeans and Amerindians. At the time of contact, the island of St. Croix was inhabited by people who adapted to new technology and ideas. Ultimately, their communities were destroyed and replaced by Europeans and Africans, but their ongoing influence is seen in the distinctive character of the island today.

THEME 2: SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION

This theme highlights the experience of Africans as slaves and free on St. Croix. It emphasizes the history of slavery on St. Croix and the influences on St. Croix culture.

Africans, who were brought to St. Croix to provide slave labor, showed the resilience and resourcefulness of people facing great adversity. As Africans and their descendants endured the conditions of enslavement and discrimination, they also contributed to the economic, social, and cultural development of St. Croix. African heritage is found in the traditions and landscapes of the island.

As a European colony, St. Croix played an important role in the triangular trade route that connected Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean in the sale of human cargo, sugar, and rum. Slavery ended on St. Croix in 1848 after a series of slave revolts motivated Governor General Peter von Scholten to

abolish slavery in the Danish colonies — much earlier than in the United States. St. Croix preserves an archeological and written record of the experience of Africans during and after slavery.

THEME 3: THE SEVEN FLAGS OF ST. CROIX

This theme highlights the seven flags (Spain, Holland, England, France, the Knights of Malta, Denmark, and the United States) of colonial administration of St. Croix. It emphasizes the political, economic, and cultural contributions of the many different colonial powers.

The people of St. Croix have developed a distinct Crucian culture that includes evidence of the European powers that sought to benefit from the abundant resources of the island. St. Croix was subject to shifting colonial power struggles as European nations sought economic gain and strategic positions in the Caribbean. In the colonial period, new traditions grew out of ongoing interaction between Europeans, Amerindians, and Africans, creating new institutions, values, and technologies.

The first European contact with St. Croix occurred when Columbus landed there in 1493 and claimed the island for Spain. However, the first to establish a substantial colonial presence on St. Croix were the Dutch and English in the early 1600s. At various times in the turbulent years that followed, the Dutch, English, Spanish, and French all sought to control St. Croix. The French were ultimately successful and established a colony there by the mid 1600s. The island was briefly owned by the Knights of Malta in the 1660s. The French reasserted their presence with the formation of the French West India Company



in 1665. In 1733 the Danish West Indies Company bought the island from France. In 1917 St. Croix, along with the islands of St. John and St. Thomas (and several smaller islands), was purchased by the United States of America from the Danish government.

THEME 4: GEOGRAPHY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT — CROSSROADS OF THE CARIBBEAN

This theme highlights the unique geography and natural environment of St. Croix. It emphasizes the island's rich biological diversity, its idyllic location for attracting and sustaining people from diverse cultures, and the ongoing efforts of Crucians to balance sustainable land uses with the protection and enjoyment of the island's extraordinary natural environments.

St. Croix lies at a geographic crossroads — connecting the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean currents, the westerlies and easterly prevailing trade winds, and tropical island landscapes and seascapes. These unique attributes foster an exceptional diversity of terrestrial and marine environments that have attracted and sustained people for thousands of years.

This is evidenced by the earliest visitors who most likely migrated to the island from South and Central America, possibly 4,000 years ago. Because of the bounty of the island's natural resources, these early settlers could sustain themselves by cultivating small plots of land, hunting, fishing, and gathering wild fruits and other foods. European explorers brought Africans and enslaved them, and European agricultural practices during the plantation era were destructive to the island's natural environment.

Today, the people of St. Croix celebrate their freedom from past oppression, and much of the island's natural environment has recovered from exploitation during the colonial period. Now, St. Croix embodies a wealth of natural and cultural heritage, which continues to attract people from around the world — serving as a crossroads to the Caribbean and beyond.

THEME 5: MODERN-DAY ST. CROIX — CULTURES IN CONTACT

This theme highlights the multicultural society of St. Croix and emphasizes how these cultures and traditions interact to form a vital part of the living fabric of the St. Croix community.

The population of St. Croix reflects a long tradition of migration that has brought together West African, European, Caribbean, and American traditions. Influences can also be traced to South America and Asia. Modern-day migration continues to bring new stories and traditions, which contribute to the dynamic and vibrant island culture. This long-standing exchange of stories, ideas, and traditions on St. Croix makes the island what it is today — a colorful collage of the world.

Although the face of St. Croix is forever changing, the people maintain a strong sense of Virgin Islands and Caribbean history in defining who they are today. The majority of the population descends from enslaved West Africans, who today proudly celebrate their African heritage and collective struggle against oppression. Others have come to the island at different times and for different reasons from all over the world. The many cultures and rich history of St. Croix have instilled a deep sense of place and identity in its people.

TABLE 6: ST. CROIX THEMES AND THE NPS THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

St. Croix National Heritage Area Themes	National Park Service Thematic Framework
<p>Early Cultures</p>	<p>I. Peopling Places*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. migration from outside and within 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization <p>VII. Transforming the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. manipulating the environment and its resources 3. protecting and preserving the environment
<p>Slavery and Emancipation</p>	<p>I. Peopling Places*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. migration from outside and within 4. community and neighborhood 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization <p>III. Expressing Cultural Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. visual and performing arts 5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design 6. popular and traditional culture <p>IV. Shaping the Political Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. parties, protests, and movements <p>V. Developing the American Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. extraction and production 4. workers and work culture 5. labor organizations and protests 6. exchange and trade 7. governmental policies and practices

<p>The Seven Flags of St. Croix</p>	<p>I. Peopling Places*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. migration from outside and within 4. community and neighborhood 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization <p>III. Expressing Cultural Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. visual and performing arts 3. literature 5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design 6. popular and traditional culture <p>IV. Shaping the Political Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. military institutions and activities <p>V. Developing the American Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. extraction and production 4. workers and work culture 6. exchange and trade 7. governmental policies and practices <p>VIII. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. international relations 2. commerce 3. expansionism and imperialism
<p>Geography and the Natural Environment – Crossroads of the Caribbean</p>	<p>I. Peopling Places*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. migration from outside and within 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization <p>V. Developing the American Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. extraction and production <p>VII. Transforming the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. manipulating the environment and its resources 3. protecting and preserving the environment

<p style="text-align: center;">Modern-Day St. Croix – Cultures in Contact</p>	<p>I. Peopling Places*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. migration from outside and within 4. community and neighborhood 6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization <p>III. Expressing Cultural Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. educational and intellectual currents 2. visual and performing arts 3. literature 6. popular and traditional culture
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*The “Peopling Places” theme examines population movement and change over time.



Chapter 4

Assessment of Management Alternatives





INTRODUCTION

This section evaluates a range of management alternatives including no action, designation as a national heritage area, and a privately organized heritage area. The national heritage area designation alternative also provides an evaluation of coordinating entity options. These alternatives were evaluated on their potential to protect the heritage resources of St. Croix, to secure funding, and to build partnerships and bring groups together to tell the St. Croix story.

ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

The no-action alternative is a continuation of the current management and trends. Under this alternative, no federal designation would be pursued. The efforts to preserve and enhance heritage resources described in “Chapter 5: Application of NPS National Heritage Area Criteria” criteria 1 and 3, would continue for the foreseeable future.

Efforts to preserve and enhance the heritage resources of St. Croix are substantial. Despite the relatively small population and struggling economy, the people of St. Croix have demonstrated a sustained commitment to their heritage. The many individuals, organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government entities working towards heritage-related goals would continue on St. Croix. These efforts would continue within their areas of expertise and influence, largely independent of one another. Partnerships and collaboration would occasionally occur at the project level, but efforts to coordinate heritage-related goals at the island scale would be unlikely.

There would be no technical assistance offered through the National Park Service’s National Heritage Area program or associated federal funding. NPS management of the Christiansted National Historic Site, Buck Island Reef National Monument, and Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve would continue. NPS special resource studies for *Alexander Hamilton, Estate Grange, and Other Sites* and *Castle Nugent Farms* may expand NPS management of heritage resources based on the findings of the studies and subsequent congressional action. Other federal programs to expand the protection of St. Croix’s heritage resources, such as the National Register Travel Itinerary program; the National Register Teaching with Historic Places program; the Rivers, Trail, and Conservation Assistance program; and the National Historic Landmarks program would continue to be available on a competitive basis.

Nonprofit organizations on St. Croix would continue to receive funding from a variety of sources, including foundations, government grants, membership, events, and individual donations. St. Croix’s remote location and status as a U.S. territory has made it difficult for island-based organizations to connect with the U.S. foundations and donors. Without the federal recognition associated with a national heritage area designation, it would continue to be difficult for these organizations to make connections with U.S. foundations and donors. On-island support for efforts to protect St. Croix’s heritage resources has provided organizations with critical financial support over the years, despite a per capita income level that is approximately half the U.S. average (U.S. Census 2000). The U.S.



Virgin Islands Territorial Government has also provided grants to organizations and activities, but funds are generally scarce. Funding for efforts to protect heritage resources on St. Croix would continue to be challenging.

ALTERNATIVE 2: NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The national heritage area alternative would necessitate congressional designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area. Designation of a national heritage area would not entail federal acquisition of land. The efforts to preserve and enhance heritage resources described in chapter 5, criteria 1 and 3, would likely benefit from establishment of a St. Croix National Heritage Area. New programs and activities to support heritage resource protection would likely be developed.

The designation could also broaden the American stories of pre-contact civilizations, colonialism, and slavery to include the contributions of the remote U.S. territory. Technical assistance and guidance would be made available to the coordinating entity and partner groups through the NPS National Heritage Area program and the NPS National Heritage Area website. As a national heritage area, St. Croix could use the NPS arrowhead and would be featured on the NPS website. The guidance, technical assistance, and federal recognition of these heritage resources could bolster tourism, preservation, and education efforts.

The island-scale planning efforts would assist in the development of a unified heritage marketing message and logo to be used in the promotion of the national heritage area. The coordinating entity of the potential St. Croix

National Heritage Area would collaborate with the many island nonprofit organizations, schools, units of government, and businesses to strengthen St. Croix's identity and work towards shared heritage goals. These efforts could reinforce connections between the St. Croix people and their culture and encourage a sense of pride, especially in the island's youth. Businesses would also benefit by the unified marketing message and promotion of the island as a heritage destination.

The coordinating entity would be responsible for raising funds or in-kind donations (volunteer hours, office space, printing, etc.) to match the federal financial assistance. The coordinating entity would seek funding from a variety of sources that are available on a competitive basis, including corporate donations, federal grants (National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.), the Virgin Islands government, foundations, and donors. National designation would elevate the significance of St. Croix's heritage resources and the contributions to American heritage, possibly bolstering fund-raising success. A small fee for membership could also be collected from member groups. Funding for efforts to protect heritage resources on St. Croix would likely improve.

Coordinating Entity

During the scoping phase of the *St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study*, two organizations showed interest in serving as the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area coordinating entity. The organizations — St. Croix Landmarks Society (Landmarks Society) and St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment, and Economic Development (SUCCEED) —



were both strong candidates. The planning team developed factors for evaluation (see appendix G) based on the relevant guidance from the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003), lessons learned from other national heritage areas, and input from the public. The factors were used to develop the application questions (see appendix G) and the requested supporting materials.

The factors were organized into four sections: (1) Community Representation and Public Support, (2) Partnerships and Fundraising, (3) Organizational Capacity, Infrastructure, and Commitment to National Heritage Area, and (4) Public Vision. Questions to the applicants were developed for three of the four sections. The questions for the Public Vision section were developed by the planning team from public scoping input and included (1) preference for a new organization that represents existing local organizations, (2) preference for an organization that brings together existing organizations without competition (funding and program), (3) the organization’s commitment to and focus on national heritage area goals, and (4) preference for a broad-based, grassroots organization that represents community interests. Each of the four sections was given equal weight in the calculation of the overall score. A summary of the coordinating entity options and evaluation is included below.

Coordinating Entity Option 1 — St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment and Economic Development (SUCCEED). SUCCEED is a local umbrella organization that represents agriculture; business; culture; nature and the environment; archeology and history; education and training; music, dance, and other performing arts; tourism; architecture; cuisine and culinary arts; urban planning and

community development; and youth interests. The member organizations (nonprofits, businesses, and government) include the Caribbean Center for the Arts; Caribbean Design Group; Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism; Department of Education; Farmers in Action; Fort Frederik; Hinds Unlimited; History, Culture, and Tradition Foundation; Missionaries of the Soil; The Nature Conservancy; Per Ankh Institute; U.S. Virgin Islands Sustainable Economic Development, Inc.; Solar Delivered, LLC; St. Croix Chamber of Commerce; St. Croix Environmental Association; Sustainable Systems and Design International; Virgin Islands Conservation Society; the University of the Virgin Islands; Virgin Islands Social Historians Associates; and Walsh Metal Works.

SUCCEED was formed in 2006 to promote a Maroon Sanctuary Park and associated “Heritage Enterprise Zone” in the northwest quadrant of St. Croix. The organization also hosted a forum, “The Viability of the Past in the Economic Future of St. Croix,” to identify options for heritage-based community economic development.

SUCCEED will seek nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. Until such status is obtained, the organization will work with a fiduciary agent to receive federal and private funds.

Coordinating Entity Option 2 — St. Croix Landmarks Society (Landmarks Society). Landmarks Society is a nonprofit organization founded more than 60 years ago. The organization’s mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of the unique historical and cultural legacy of St. Croix through preservation, research, and education. The society was instrumental in developing the St. Croix Heritage Trail, in partnership with the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism. The heritage trail



is a driving tour that traverses the length of St. Croix, linking the historic towns of Frederiksted and Christiansted with the fertile central plain, the mountainous north, and the arid east end of the island. The route offers a cross section of the island's history, culture, landscapes, and outdoor activities. The organization also manages several historic estates and a nature preserve. In addition, the organization has an extensive library and archives and educational outreach program.

Coordinating Entity Evaluation

Landmarks Society and SUCCEED both successfully demonstrated their capability to serve as the coordinating entity. SUCCEED received the highest overall score, thereby demonstrating a higher likelihood of achieving the goals of the national heritage area. Thus, it was determined by the study team that SUCCEED would be the preferred coordinating entity for this alternative.

ALTERNATIVE 3: PRIVATELY ORGANIZED HERITAGE AREA

St. Croix has taken great strides to protect their resources. The heritage programs and activities outlined under "Chapter 5: Application of NPS National Heritage Area Criteria," criteria 1 and 3, would likely continue under a privately organized heritage area. Opportunities for enhanced or expanded resource protection under a privately organized heritage area would be limited by the lack of funding and staff resources.

Similar to alternative 1, there would be no technical assistance offered through the NPS National Heritage Area Program or associated federal funding. Management of existing NPS sites would continue. A privately organized heritage area would have access on a competitive basis to the other federal programs to expand the protection of St. Croix's heritage resources (the National Register Travel Itinerary; the National Register Teaching with Historic Places; Rivers, Trail, and Conservation Assistance; and the National Historic Landmarks program).

Without matching funds from the federal government, opportunities for cost-sharing partnership projects would be limited. Without the federal recognition associated with a national heritage area designation, it would continue to be difficult for these organizations to make connections with U.S. foundations and donors. A privately organized heritage area of local residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies would need to secure 501(c)3 status before they could raise funds, or a member organization could act as a fiduciary agent. The heritage area could raise money from foundations, government grants, membership, events, and individual donations on a competitive basis. However, the voluntary entity would likely lack the staff and infrastructure to focus on fundraising efforts. The privately organized heritage area would draw on the resources of existing organizations, most of which are understaffed and operate on small budgets. Therefore, the resource demands of the privately organized heritage area might outweigh the benefits to the organizations. Funding for efforts to protect heritage resources on St. Croix would continue to be challenging.



Efforts to coordinate businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government entities to develop heritage tourism on St. Croix under a privately organized heritage area would likely have limited success. Because self-designation would not bring any resources to the effort, membership would provide little incentive to the organizations. Over the years there have been several efforts to promote heritage tourism on St. Croix at the island scale. These efforts to organize the many organizations working towards similar heritage-related goals have had limited success because of the lack of resources and national exposure.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

Through the evaluation of the three alternatives, it is determined that a national heritage area designation has the greatest potential for heritage resource protection, raising funds from diverse sources, and building reciprocal partnerships and bringing groups together.

A privately organized heritage area is a plausible alternative to national heritage area designation, although there would be significantly less opportunity for resource protection, funding, and marketing. Without the federal matching funds, the privately organized heritage area would rely on existing resources to accomplish common heritage goals. This would place a heavy burden on the member organizations, which would have to contribute significant staff time and/or financial resources. The return for the member organizations would be less appealing, and they would be less likely to participate. The privately organized heritage area alternative would also lack the prestige associated with federal recognition. This prestige is critical to attracting heritage tourists to the remote island and to raising money from off-island sources.



COORDINATING ENTITY OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED

Under alternative 2, the idea of a federal commission to serve as the coordinating entity was also considered and dismissed. A federal commission would be comprised of members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. A federal commission is generally an interim coordinating entity for the formative years of the national heritage area and the development of the management plan. During public scoping, the public articulated their desire to have a local, community-based organization as the coordinating entity. The public also voiced a distrust of the local government because of recent scandals and financial mishandlings of government funds. Attitudes toward the National Park

Service are mixed and have been recently influenced by efforts to acquire land for the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve. The public expressed concerns regarding the loss of local control and landownership. A federal commission was dismissed because of the lengthy and cumbersome process of formation, followed by the later processes of identifying or forming a permanent coordinating entity, which would delay the implementation of a potential St. Croix National Heritage Area. Also, there was a perception of federal or local government associated with this option that was unfavorable with the public.



Chapter 5

Application of NPS National Heritage Area Criteria





CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

The

The National Park Service has developed 10 interim evaluation criteria that should be analyzed and documented in the feasibility study to demonstrate that the area qualifies as a national heritage area. The study team conducted an intensive review and provided documentation to address each of the listed criteria. As the sections below demonstrate, the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area meets each of the 10 interim evaluation criteria for designation, based on the National Park Service's "Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines" (NPS 2003).

CRITERION 1:

An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use. These resources are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

St. Croix exhibits distinctive natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that relate to the larger stories of American heritage. There is a rich collection of historic buildings and other cultural resources that illustrate a unique blending of European, American, and African heritage. St. Croix retains some of the best examples of historic structures indicative of colonial life in the Caribbean, as well as archeological sites that represent an indigenous heritage that extends back as much as 4,000 years. St. Croix also has various natural areas that support a variety of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

St. Croix has an extensive network of sites set aside to protect a variety of natural, historical, and cultural resources. This diverse heritage is currently managed by territorial and federal

government entities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and individuals that work together to preserve and interpret these resources to benefit the larger community and the American nation as a whole. These partnerships provide a framework for the continued management and preservation of the distinct resources of St. Croix that relate to American heritage in the Caribbean.

The following provides a brief description of these protected sites, many of which are open to the public to learn about and experience the island's heritage. These protected sites and areas are important to the people of St. Croix, allowing them to pass on their natural, historical, and cultural heritage from one generation to the next. The study team has also assembled an inventory of sites (found in appendixes D and E) that were identified by the public as part of the St. Croix story; many of these sites are not open to the public or currently lack interpretation.

Natural, Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Resources

Apothecary Hall. The Apothecary Hall was restored by the St. Croix Landmarks Society and opened in 1996. This Danish colonial pharmacy is the only Danish pharmacy museum in the Western Hemisphere that exists in its original building. The pharmacy was located in this building from 1828 to 1970.

Buck Island Reef National Monument. The National Park Service manages Buck Island Reef National Monument. Buck Island Reef was established in 1961 to preserve "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea." The 176-acre island and surrounding coral reef ecosystem support a diversity of native flora and fauna, including several endangered and threatened species such as



In Your Own Words: Apothecary Hall

“As a child, whenever I passed the Apothecary Hall or Merrill’s Apothecary, I would close my eyes and hold my breath and even prayed. This happened not only because the word, the name ‘apothecary’ was totally foreign and unlike any other word I knew, but also because I was a Catholic child in a Catholic school and knew what ‘purgatory’ was. And that was not a good place to walk carelessly. I imagined an arm would reach out, grab me and pull me inside to a place that precedes hell. To this day, the record of my mother purchasing medicines to give me when I contracted polio in 1945 are still there. This is cultural heritage that speaks to our attitudes, beliefs and values. This museum tells us who we were 75 years ago and what we used to cure our ills.”

Olaf G. Hendricks, MD



hawksbill turtles and brown pelicans. The elkhorn coral barrier reef that surrounds two-thirds of the island has extraordinary coral formations, deep grottoes, abundant reef fishes, sea fans, and gorgonians. The island also has exquisite white coral sand beaches. (NPS 2001.)

Christiansted National Historic Site. The National Park Service manages the Christiansted National Historic Site. The historic site consists of 7 acres centered on the Christiansted waterfront/wharf area. On the grounds are five historic structures — Fort Christiansvaern (1738), the Danish West India & Guinea Company Warehouse (1749), the Steeple Building (1753), the Danish Custom House (1844), and the Scale House (1856). The National Park Service uses these resources to interpret the drama and diversity of the human experience at Christiansted during Danish sovereignty — colonial administration, the military and naval establishment, international trade (including the slave trade), religious diversity, architecture, trades, and crime and punishment (NPS 2010). The Christiansted National Historic Site is part of the Christiansted National Historic District.

Christiansted National Historic District. Founded on the site of an earlier French settlement, Christiansted was laid out in a grid pattern with two market places. The Christiansted Historic District, which includes the Christiansted National Historic Site, illustrates a continuation of building activity since the Danish colonial era. (National Register 2010.)

Estate Diamond/Cruzan Rum Factory. The Cruzan Rum Factory is a popular destination for tourists. The factory provides tours and rum tastings. The property also contains a few ruins from the former sugar plantation, including a windmill, steam chimney, and altered greathouse.

Estate Little Princess. The Nature Conservancy manages Estate Little Princess, established in 1749 as a sugar plantation. The property is now a 25-acre preserve and home to the Conservancy’s headquarters for the





Virgin Islands and Eastern Caribbean. This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the property contains an excellent set of sugar plantation ruins including a renovated greathouse and hospital, windmill, factory with a steam chimney, well tower, village houses, and stock pen. In addition, the estate serves as a demonstration site, showcasing innovative green technologies such as gray water reuse, solar power, solar water heating, and constructed wetlands that are used for sewage treatment. The conservancy also manages other preserves on the island, including Herman Hill, Jack and Isaacs bays, Long Point, and Estate Montpellier.

Estate Mt. Washington. This former sugar estate has since been restored and is open to the public. The plantation greathouse is considered one of the most beautiful restorations on the island. The property around the building is a designated bird sanctuary. (Tyson, Buckingham, and Cissel n.d.)

Estate Thomas Experimental Forest. The International Institute for Tropical Forestry, a division of the U.S. Forest Service, manages the Estate Thomas Experimental Forest on St. Croix. This 148-acre forest is in an urban green space in the most densely populated part of the island. The institute manages the area with an integrated approach that includes school education programs, field demonstrations, interpretation, and outdoor recreation, while also maintaining an emphasis on tropical forestry research. Both residents and visitors to St. Croix benefit from these innovative efforts to integrate research, recreation, and environmental education.

*In Your Own Words:
Estate Mt. Washington*

“My favorite place to take visitors and folks new to St. Croix is Estate Mt. Washington near Frederiksted. I am very grateful to the owners, the Ayers Family, for allowing visitors to come on their private property and enjoy the way they have restored it and preserved as much of it as possible. They even provide an information sheet about the history of the estate. The most interesting thing to me on the site is the (reconstructed, I think) cockpit mill where you can easily see one of the early ways that the cane was crushed. This is a gem in the crown of our beloved St. Croix.”

Jayne Edwards



Page 82:
Fort
Christiansvaern.
NPS Photo.

Far Left:
Estate Whim.
NPS photo.

Left:
Fort Frederik.
NPS photo.



In Your Own Words: Frederiksted Town “Freedom City”

“I love Frederiksted. This charming and historic town is so full of promise, and I have to be a part of it. It’s the ringing church bells in the morning. It’s the locals flocking to beaches on Sunday afternoon. It’s the children fishing off Frederiksted Pier. It’s a quiet drive through the rainforest. It’s saying ‘hello’ and ‘good morning’ to passersby. It’s the quiet and the stillness of time. It’s the stunning sunsets and front row seat to the Caribbean Sea. This is Frederiksted. My home.”

Aesha Duval

“[T]he home of Abraham Markoe, Queen Mary, General Buddhoe, Alexander Farrelly, Horace Clarke and many more men, and women who changed the island and the world. The place where slaves demanded their freedom and where sugar and rum built warehouses and townhomes of extraordinary character that still stand. Frederiksted has beautiful buildings that can serve as guesthouses/where we celebrate our music/our dance - St Gerard’s Hall Friday night Quadrille/Sunset Jazz and Crucian Christmas Festival. Frederiksted is the birthplace of my father, his parents and grandparents. Crucian culture and tradition has been preserved and developed in Frederiksted!”

Franelle Gerard, ED



Estate Whim Plantation Museum. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Estate Whim was one of the most prosperous sugar plantations of the 18th and 19th centuries. Estate Whim is owned by the Virgin Islands government and is operated as a museum by the St. Croix Landmarks Society. The Whim Greathouse and adjacent structures stand as a superb example of Danish neo-classicism as adapted for use in the West Indies. The site of an old slave quarters lies just north of the T-shaped complex, and a working windmill stands as a monument to a vanished era of Caribbean history. (National Register 2010.)

Fort Frederik. A National Historic Landmark since 1997, Fort Frederik was built in the 1750s. In 1776 the first salute from foreign soil to the new nation of the United States of America was fired from the fort. It is from this fort that Governor Peter von Scholten emancipated the slaves on July 3rd, 1848. The fort now includes a museum and art gallery and is surrounded by a park that includes a bust of slave rebellion leader Buddhoe and a statue of a freedom fighter blowing a conch shell signalling emancipation. (Tyson, Buckingham, and Cissel n.d.)

Frederiksted National Historic District. The Frederiksted National Historic District, which includes Fort Frederik and the Customs House, is comprised of a collection of architectural styles (Danish Military, Neo-Classical, late Victorian, English Gothic Revival, and Georgian). These many styles help tell the important stories of this town. The town was laid out by Jens M. Beck in 1751, and it is an important example of Danish town planning and settlement. Construction was controlled by a 1747 building code, which resulted in the low hipped roofs, masonry structures, and many arcaded walkways. (National Register 2010.)

Friedensthal and Other Churches. The Moravians arrived in St. Croix in 1734, and by 1815 they had established three flourishing missions, including Friedensthal (Valley of Peace) Moravian Church and Manse (parish house) and Friedensfeld “Field of Peace” Midlands Moravian Church. By the 18th century, with a strong move to abolish slavery afoot in the Danish West Indies, the Moravian missions prepared the enslaved Africans for self-sufficiency by teaching them manual skills and religion. The parish house dates from 1830, and the present church building dates from 1852. (National Register 2010.)

There are several historic churches found throughout the island, including St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Lord God of Sabaoth Lutheran Church, Holy Cross Catholic Church, St. John’s Anglican Church, Kingshill Lutheran Church, St. Ann’s Catholic Church, Holy Cross





Anglican Church, and St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Church. These churches are still used today and reflect the social diversity and religious tolerance that characterized the island since Danish times. (Tyson, Buckingham, and Cissel n.d.)

Government House. Located in Christiansted, this building is an outstanding example of Danish colonial architecture during the sugar plantation era. Government House is in the Christiansted National Historic District. This building is one of the largest governor's residences in the Lesser Antilles. Inside are reproductions of the original furniture. These furnishings were a gift from the Danish government, who took the originals with them when they left in 1917. In 1871 the capital of the Danish West Indies was moved back to its original location in Charlotte Amalie; however, Government House continued to serve as a government building and today it is the focal point of many government social and cultural events. The building currently serves as the Office of the Governor.

Green Cay National Wildlife Refuge. Green Cay was established in 1977 to protect a 14-acre island directly off the north coast of St. Croix. The refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is designated to protect one of only two remaining natural populations of the endangered St. Croix ground lizard, which became extinct on the main island because of the introduction of the Indian mongoose. The island consists of dry, forested areas with cactus scrub and small rocky beaches. More than 30,000 conch shells buried under volcanic rock tell of almost 1,000 years of human occupancy, dating back as early as AD 1020.

Lawaetz Family Museum Estate at Little La Grange. Owned by the Lawaetz family since 1896, this West Indian greathouse museum contains old furnishings and heirlooms, providing a view of colonial life in the Danish West Indies in the early 1900s. The estate dates back to 1776. The property also features fruit and flower gardens.

Maroon Ridge. Located on the island's rugged and remote northwest end, Maroon Ridge is a significant part of the history of St. Croix and considered sacred by many Crucians. It was once a sanctuary for runaway slaves,

In Your Own Words: Religious Toleration

"Religious toleration is one of the least recognized of Denmark's legacies on St. Croix. In 1734, when Denmark began its colonization of the island after its purchase from France, the Danish State Church (Lutheran) and the Dutch Reformed Church were the only two legally permitted denominations. Already, in 1732, Moravian (United Brethren) missionaries had first journeyed to St. Thomas to convert the African slaves, and were persecuted for undermining the established order. The settlement of St. Croix, however, would usher in many changes. In a futile attempt to deprive traditional enemies of another opportunity to extend their influence and power, the French stipulated that only Danes could settle on St. Croix. Efforts to encourage Danes to become farmers on their new possession were unsuccessful, so Danish colonial authorities had to cast a blind eye to the steady influx of planters and merchants—many wealthy and socially prominent—from neighboring Dutch and English islands. The Danes soon found themselves the minority in an ethnically diverse white population. In order to placate cultural sensitivities based on national origin, the Danish Crown proclaimed a remarkable degree of religious toleration in 'the Danish Islands in America' in the mid-1750s. Within varying degrees of freedom, Moravian (United Brethren), Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian congregations soon joined the Lutherans and Dutch Reformed, and remain active to this day. Although officially ignored, there was a Sephardic Jewish congregation in Christiansted in the 1760s. Today, St. Croix offers a wide variety of religious communities, including a Reformed synagogue, and a mosque for the island's Muslims. The architecture of historic churches often reflect the national origins of their respective denominations, and their furnishings bear loving witness to a commitment of faith by many generations. Whatever your preference, come worship with us and feel the spirit!"

William F. Cissel





In Your Own Words: Government House

“The most famous, impressive, meaningful and highly utilized building on St. Croix. This majestic building, in a sense, recapitulates Marie Antoinette’s ‘let them eat cake’ when compared to its fellow structures in downtown Christiansted. It has witnessed our emancipation; our Fireburn; and our political, social and economic transformations. It housed Danish, U.S. and Virgin Islands governors. It has accommodated the Municipal Council, various government offices and municipal and federal courts. It, along with the three forts, provide some of the most unique architectural styles under the U.S. flag. I am especially proud of the fact [that] my ancestors, the Sobotkers, owned what is now the West Wing on Queen Cross Street. It’s also a pleasure when visitors from all over the globe, including St. Thomas, marvel at the beauty, formality and scale of the structure.”

Olaf G. Hendricks, MD



or Maroons, during the colonial era, and it is the site where some Africans killed themselves by jumping off the 300-foot cliff to the ocean below to avoid being re-enslaved. The Trust for Virgin Islands Land acquired a conservation easement in 2009 to preserve 30 acres of land near Maroon Ridge in Estates Prosperity and Sweet Bottom. The purposes of the easement are to (1) to protect the natural scenic, forested, open space; native plants and animals; and biological diversity of the area, and (2) enhance the public benefit derived from the preservation effort.

Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve / Columbus Landing Site. Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve was established in 1992 to protect prehistoric and Colonial Era archeological sites and ruins within a dynamic, tropical ecosystem. The area also contains the Columbus Landing Site National Historic Landmark and the remaining earthwork fortification of Fort Sale, built during the French period of occupation. The National Park Service and government of the U.S. Virgin Islands jointly manage this 1,015-acre park. The area protects some of the largest remaining mangrove forests in the Virgin Islands, as well as coral reefs and a deep undersea canyon (NOAA 2005).

This Salt River Bay site is the only known place where members of Columbus’s expedition set foot on what is now U.S. territory, and it was the site of the first armed clash between Europeans and Amerindians. The area around the Salt River contains the remains of some 1,500 years of Saladoid, Ostinoid, Taino, and probably Carib occupation. During the Taino occupation, the area served as the seat of a chiefdom, which contained an important religious structure and a ball and dance court. More than 100 years of archeological investigations have demonstrated that the Salt River area was the focus of the most extensive and intensive prehistoric occupation in the U.S. Virgin Islands. (National Register 2010.)

Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sandy Point was established in 1984 to protect 2 miles of continuous sandy beach on the southwest end of St. Croix. The refuge’s combination of sandy beach, near-shore deep water access, and lack of fringing reefs provide ideal conditions and nesting habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Inland, coastal woodlands and mangrove-fringed salt ponds provide habitat for a variety of migratory and tropical birds. Conch middens found in this 360-acre refuge, remind visitors of Sandy Point’s important archeological history. The Aklis site, dating back to AD 400, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Southgate Coastal Reserve. The St. Croix Environmental Association is responsible for managing the Southgate Coastal Reserve, located 3 miles east of Christiansted. The reserve totals 100 acres and encompasses a coastal salt



pond, mangrove forest, beach, forest, and upland grassland. The pond and surrounding wetlands provide habitat for many resident and migrant birds, including several species classified as threatened or endangered. Three rare species of sea turtles also nest on the beach. The reserve has carefully assessed the site's habitats and community support for development of the site for bird-watching, education, and recreational activities. The association also manages a property in Estate Barron Spot and a conservation easement in Estate Prosperity.

St. Croix Archeology Museum. Located in Christiansted, this small museum is operated by the St. Croix Archeological Society and the building's owner. The museum displays and interprets pre-Columbian artifacts found on St. Croix.

St. Croix East End Marine Park. The U.S. Virgin Islands, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, manages the St. Croix East End Marine Park, which encompasses about 60 square miles on the eastern end of St. Croix. The park is designated to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources of this area, extending from the high-tide line to 3 miles offshore (TNC 2002). The Department of Planning and Natural Resources also manages other protected areas on the island, including properties at Caledonia Gut, Creque Dam, Estate Great Pond, Long Point, Cotton Garden, Salt River Bay, and Spring Garden. (U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources 2005.)

St. George Village Botanical Garden / Estate St. George National Historic District. St. George Village Botanical Garden is on a 16-acre site just off the Queen Mary Highway. The botanical collections include more than 1,500 native and exotic species and varieties. The property overlaps two listings on the National Register of Historic Places. The St. Georges Archeological Site is a 23-acre Amerindian settlement that overlaps the present-day garden. The Estate St. George Historic District represents a successful, late 18th century sugar plantation. Owned by the Heyliger family during the era known as the "Golden Age of Sugar" (1770–1782), the estate continued to process sugar until 1916. After the closing of the largest sugar concern, Bethlehem Sugar Central in 1930, the estate became a cattle ranch. Currently used as a botanical park, the district includes factory ruins, a blacksmith shop, a two-story overseer's house, an early 19th century slave/worker village, a lime kiln, cemetery, and a water system with wells and an aqueduct. (National Register 2010.) The mission of the St. George Village Botanic Garden is one of conservation, education, and preservation of the ethnobotanical heritage of St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This is accomplished through the maintenance of living plant displays, historic displays, a research library, and one of the most complete herbarium collections in the eastern Caribbean, as well as ongoing outreach programs and events.



In Your Own Words: Sandy Point

"Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge is significant culturally, historically, and naturally. Culturally and historically Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Conch middens, bleached and hardened over thousands of years, remind us of an important part of Sandy Point's archeological history. The Aklis Site, dating back to 400 AD and occupied for 200 years, is on the National Register of Historical Places. Sandy Point is also significant because of the natural and marine resources. The Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge is one of only 13 known significant leatherback turtle nesting sites worldwide. I have lots of personal recollection and experiences at Sandy Point."

Olasee Davis





In Your Own Words: The Von Scholten Schools

“The Von Scholten Schools in the former Danish West Indies are important landmarks in public education and the special history of the people of the Virgin Islands. They mark the establishment of the first, compulsory, free educational system for enslaved and free children in the New World.

Colonization ran up against the precepts of the Enlightenment sweeping Europe in the 18th and 19th century, which cast the role of government as one of responsible, even sacred, regard for the welfare and salvation of the people in their charge at home and abroad. Even though the Danish Government sold investors on the idea of slave-based profits, the obligations of duty led them to plan for the eventual and certain emancipation of the workers. The ill-planned emancipation in 1833 in the English Territories prompted Denmark to prepare for an orderly transition to freedom, which involved universal education.

In the 1830s King Frederik VI and his family personally planned and approved all the details of the program: the curriculum and teachers (the German Moravian missionaries), the language of instruction (English) and the design and architect for the schools [that] were to be on all the islands in the territory.

Their design was of the highest order in the Neo-classical style promoted by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. The ‘Hellenic’ style referenced the democratic aspirations of the Enlightenment modeled after Greece and Rome and came to embody through its beauty and harmony the Enlightenment itself.

Some of these von Scholten Schools continued through the transfer of the territory from Denmark to the United States (1917), continuing as schools up until the 1960s with one on St. Croix still in use as a school today. In building the schools, the enslaved craftsmen were able to secure their freedom before emancipation, which occurred in 1848 some eight years after the start of the Von Scholten Schools.

The ‘Danish School’ in Frederiksted was, and is now again, a sumptuously beautiful structure. This Palladian gem, specifically chosen by the King to be converted into a school, was intended to inspire its users by harmonious elements [and] to instill pride, dignity and seriousness of purpose.

The King and Royal Household monitored the work of the school.

I was able to interview some of its students, there in the 1960s, who felt special in being able to attend school there.

The recent restoration of the Von Scholten ‘Danish School’ in Frederiksted, St. Croix was awarded the National Preservation Honor Award, the highest such award of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

History is very immediate here on St. Croix with 18th and 19th century buildings such a large part of daily life. Historic buildings remind people who they are, where they’re from and are anchors for the future.”

William Taylor, AIA





Slob Historic District. The Slob Historic District began as a large sugar plantation in the mid-18th century. Owned by the Bodkin family until 1784, the estate boasted a factory building, a water mill tower, a greathouse constructed ca.1750, and a slave village. Following the slave emancipation in 1848, the fortunes of the estate declined, and much of the rich land became grazing land for sheep and cattle. In 1878 workers agitated by the low wages permitted under a new labor law rioted and burned the plantation. Today, visitors can see the greathouse that has survived, although with some alterations. The district also includes five late-18th-century and two early-19th-century slave cottages in the slave village — the birthplace of Cyril King, the island’s first native-born governor. Also surviving are the stables and an 18th century sugar factory building.

Von Scholten Schools. Between 1827 and 1848, Governor General of the Danish West Indies, Peter von Scholten, established eight schools on St. Croix. The schools were to prepare enslaved children for their eventual freedom. Diamond School, La Grande Princesse School, Peter’s Rest School, and Kingshill School are still used as educational or community centers. The ruins of Mt. Victory School can be seen from the Creque Creek Dam road. La Grande Princesse School and the Diamond School are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Other Private Preserves. There are numerous nonprofit organizations and individuals dedicated to preserving the island’s rich natural heritage by acquiring properties and carefully managing them for the long-term preservation of their resources. For example, the St. Croix Landmarks Society has obtained a number of properties, including Estate Clairmont, Davis Bay, Estate Butler Bay, and Estate Little La Grange. The society is managing a portion of Butler Bay as a nature preserve, which includes almost a mile of waterfront, a 60-foot waterfall, and a

rainforest. (U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources 2005.)

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 2:

Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.

The distinctive mix of traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife of St. Croix reflect a long history of migration to the island. The island’s first inhabitants are believed to have come from South and Central America. The later Colonial Era brought Europeans and slaves taken from West Africa. Much later, Puerto Ricans from the island of Vieques came to St. Croix in search of agricultural jobs and a new home after U.S. military forced them to leave their homeland. This unique diversity of cultural traditions can be experienced through the island’s traditional music, dance, food, and cultural events.

Since Columbus’s first contact with St. Croix and its Amerindian inhabitants, seven flags have flown over the island. Before becoming part of the United States, Spain, Holland, England, France, the Knights of Malta, and Denmark have all claimed control of St. Croix. With each of these shifts in colonial occupation, new traditions grew out of ongoing interactions between Europeans, Amerindians, and Africans. These cultural traditions contribute to the stories of encounters, conflicts, and colonial beginnings.

Africans, who were brought to St. Croix to provide slave labor for the European colonies, showed their resilience and resourcefulness in the face of great adversity. As Africans and their descendants adapted and survived the harsh conditions of enslavement and discrimination, they contributed to the



Local fruits.
Photo credit:
Nate Olive.



economic, social, and cultural development of St. Croix. Denmark's involvement in the slave trade ended in 1802. Slavery was abolished on St. Croix in 1848 in response to an uprising by the enslaved Africans, 15 years before the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States. Today, African heritage is found throughout the rich traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife of the Crucian people.

The vibrant traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife of St. Croix contribute to and expand the national stories of migration, colonial beginnings, and slavery and emancipation. Many of these cultural traditions are described below.

Local Foods. The cuisine of St. Croix brings together Amerindian, African, East Indian, and European cooking styles infused with tropical ingredients. The union of flavors, ingredients, and methods has forged a rich and vibrant contemporary cuisine that tells the stories of the island's history and natural environment.

The island's first inhabitants brought manioc seeds (also known as cassava, yucca, or tapioca) from South America to St. Croix, where they successfully cultivated this dietary staple. They also cultivated pumpkin, sweet potato, pineapple, and papaya. They used native seafood and spices, including red snapper, kingfish, snails, lobster, conch, crab, and squid. Contemporary foods such as sweet cassava bread trace their origins back to the island's first inhabitants (Bareuther 1994). One can see a griddle stone used to make cassava bread at the St. Croix Archeology Museum.

Much of St. Croix's cuisine can be traced to West Africa and the culinary resourcefulness of Africans living in slavery. The cuisine was limited by the meager rations, what they were able to grow in small gardens, and the native fruits and wild herbs they were able to collect. Their dietary staples included salted meats and fish, cassava, yam, potato, orange, wild plum, corn, cornmeal, and bacon. Despite the limitations, Africans living in slavery developed rich hearty soups, including maufe



Traditional music and dance.
Photo credit:
Nate Olive.

and kallaloo, and contemporary favorites such as fungi and salt fish. The Heritage Gardens at St. George Village Botanic Garden feature collections of plants that have been historically used in the Caribbean to supply basic human needs. (St. George Village Botanic Garden 2009.)

Other influences can be traced to the seven nations that once colonized St. Croix, in addition to the influence of other Caribbean islands. The Puerto Rican population living on the island has introduced dishes that may have distant links to Spain, such as sofrito. Popular East Indian foods like curry are also part of the local cuisine.

The island is home to Castle Nugent Farm, which is believed to be one of the largest and oldest ongoing cattle ranch in the West Indies. St. Croix is known for its red Senepol cattle, a cross of the African N'Dama (first brought to the island on slave ships) and English Red Poll cattle. Much of the beef is sold on the island and has influenced the local cuisine. Other

agricultural products produced on the island are featured at roadside stands, the farmers market, and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

The events and festivals of St. Croix are a good opportunity to sample local foods. The popular four-day Agricultural and Food Fair features foods such as kallaloo, roast goat, roast pork, maubi, benye, paté, crab and rice, and pumpkin fritters, in addition to candies and preserves like dundesla and gooseberry. Mango Melée, which celebrates the local fruits of the island, including mangos, is an event held at St. George Village Botanical Garden.

Music and Dance. Scratch music and quelbe songs date back to the days of slavery when the instruments were made from found objects and the lyrics communicated local news. St. Croix is known for its contemporary scratch bands that use new instrumentation such as the ukulele banjo, a conga drum played with a stick, squash, tailpipe, and the



In Your Own Words: Furniture Making

“Among the many unique aspects to St. Croix in the U.S.V.I. is the very old tradition of the craft of furniture making. The West Indian style in antique furniture is well known, but St. Croix has its own distinct and robust presence within that style.

*Not only did St. Croix provide much of the timber, through export, that went into the finest furniture the world has ever known from the 18th Century Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore craftsmen, but St. Croix also found itself at the same time the focal point of African, English and Danish influences and skills. Combined with an abundant supply of native woods like mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) or satinwood (*Zanthoxylum flavum* -- now nearly extinct on St. Croix) and the wealth that surrounded the early sugar trade, this confluence of tastes, talents, materials and money blossomed into a woodworking tradition that draws craftsmen, collectors and historians from all over the world to this very day.*

As a craftsman and scholar of West Indian furniture I have had wonderful opportunities to work with the Lawaetz Museum and Whim Museum. I have restored many pieces for both. Through the Lawaetz Museum I met Ib and Greta Strange who visited St. Croix from Denmark. Ib was a classically trained woodworker who first came to see the island out of historical interest. He saw the Lawaetz Museum and its furniture, and within a year he booked a return trip with his family and set about donating his expertise and talents working to restore the museum collection and teaching me much in the bargain. In fact, Ib passed away on the Frederiksted beach while watching the sunset with his wife after a day of fine woodworking. He is just one example of the many people who cherish St. Croix for its heritage, its traditions and its diversity and who commit with single-minded determination to preserve them.”

Richard K. Starr

steel triangle. The traditional music has also been expanded to include other styles, such as calypso, pop music, and meringues. The music of scratch bands can be heard at festivals, local dances and fairs, church services, and on the radio.

St. Croix takes great pride in cariso songs, which employ African melodic styles and were used traditionally to communicate local news and opinions and to tell local history. The call-and-response music is often performed by groups of women. The performances can be seen at educational and holiday events. Other folk traditions that can also be experienced on St. Croix include the songs and dance of the African-style bamboula and the dramatic tea meetings and masquerade jigs that likely came to the island from other Caribbean islands.

The St. Croix Heritage Dancers led by Bradley Christian perform traditional Virgin Island folk dances such as the quadrille. St. Croix has maintained quadrille folk dance. Quadrille dance performances can be seen at St. Gerard's Hall, at festivals, on holidays, and at schools.

Contemporary music and dance on St. Croix are alive with calypso, meringue, jazz, salsa, pop music, and reggae.

Architecture, Urban Design, and Place Names. The history of St. Croix is evident in patterns of development, the architecture of the structures, and the stories of the people who lived in them. Many of these structures are still in use, although the type of use has changed over time.

The influence of Denmark lives on in the architecture, urban design, and place names. St. Croix continues to use the estates (old plantation names) to identify neighborhoods and areas of the islands. The Danes designed the Frederiksted and Christiansted street grids, street widths, and setbacks that are still visible today. The design of these urban centers reflects trends in 18th century Danish urban planning and architectural design that grew out of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque traditions of the late 15th through 17th centuries. Fort Christiansvaern and Fort Frederik are outstanding examples of Danish fortifications. Other examples include the Von Scholten Schools scattered throughout the island and the Christiansted Government House. The two- and three-story townhouses and the two-story shop-residences lining the streets of Christiansted were used as warehouses and businesses with residences above.



Today, these buildings house restaurants or shops with offices above.

The wood frame folk cottages on the back streets and outskirts of Christiansted and Frederiksted formerly housed free people of color and emancipated slaves. These one- to two-story clustered structures opening to communal courtyards had their origins in both Africa and Europe. (Jackson 2008.)

A complete list of sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places can be found in appendix C.

Folk Medicine and Beliefs. The practice of herbal medicine by West Indian Weed Women developed among Africans living in slavery during the plantation era. This tradition continues on in modern-day St. Croix, although Weed Women are sometimes identified as herbalists or bush doctors. A St. Croix Weed Woman collects, prepares, sells, and prescribes the use of medicinal plant remedies. Medicinal plants are collected from gardens, fields, and woods upon a client's request. Medicinal plants are commonly administered in teas and used for healing baths. Weed Women commonly provide the patient with the plant species and the part of plant used, in addition to detailed directions on preparation and dosages. Much of the knowledge that has been handed down from generation to generation is being lost. The Medicinal Herb Garden at St. George Village Botanic Garden features more than 50 medicinal plants used by St. Croix Weed Women. (Morris and Oakes 1958; St. George Village Botanic Garden 2009.)

Art and Handicrafts. Since the days of slavery the people of St. Croix have made instruments, masks, headdresses, fine clothing, baskets, mahogany furniture, rugs, chair caning, and needlework in the island's craft traditions. The popularity of these craft traditions is fading, and it is difficult to locate handmade, locally produced traditional



Folk medicine.
Photo credit:
Nate Olive.



*In Your Own Words:
Folk Medicine*

“From the smell of balsam or lemongrass tea in the morning, to a cup of soursap tea to put you to sleep, the children of St. Croix have fond memories of ‘bush tea’ and the grandmas that used to serve them to make life just a little bit better. As adults, we still look for painkiller bush to ease that back pain or drink some kind of aloe based drink to help clear the cold off the chest. We are closer to our environment than our modern trappings would indicate and along with doctor’s prescriptions and sometimes in lieu of them, we seek the comfort of nature’s medicine chest.”

Monique Clendinen-Watson





handicrafts for sale on the island. However, the handmade traditional instruments and masks can often be seen at the island's many cultural events. Contemporary handicrafts produced on the island include jewelry, hats, clothing, and bowls.

Cultural Events. St. Croix observes U.S. and territorial holidays in addition to countless other cultural events during the year. Celebrations are known to start a day or two before and extend a day beyond a given holiday. The multitude of cultural events reflects the island's many cultural influences and festive spirit. The following is a list of some of the many holidays, parades, festivals, and cultural events and activities that take place on St. Croix.

The territorial holidays observed on St. Croix include Virgin Islands/Puerto Rico Friendship Day, Virgin Islands Transfer Day, and Emancipation Day. The Virgin Islands/Puerto Rico Friendship Day celebrates the connections to Puerto Rico resulting from large waves of migration during the 1930s to 1950s. The holiday is celebrated throughout the island with Hispanic and Virgin Island culture, music, dance, crafts, and foods. The Eastern Caribbean Friendship Week is also celebrated on the island. Transfer Day marks the transfer of St. Croix from the Danish to the United States. Transfer Day ceremonies are performed at the Lawaetz Family Museum at Little La Grange. Emancipation Day commemorates the day that many thousands of enslaved Africans marched into Frederiksted to successfully demand their freedom. The holiday is celebrated throughout the island with a tea party, music, dance, old-time tea meetings, reenactments, donkey races, and food.

The parades held during Crucian Christmas Festival, Three King's Day, St. Patrick's Day,

and Mardi Croix continue the tradition of masquerading, where men and women dress up in assorted costumes and move about town with musical accompaniment.

The Crucian Christmas Festival is celebrated from late December to early January. The festival brings together the people of St. Croix with contests, music, food, dance, parades, mocko jumbie performers, and donkey rides. The five-day Virgin Island's Agricultural and Food Fair festival on St. Croix showcases agricultural products, livestock, foods, dance, and music of the islands.

Other festivals include Mango Melée (a festival celebrating local fruits, including mangos), Jump-up (a nighttime festival held in Christiansted), and Sunset Jazz (a monthly event held on the Frederiksted waterfront).

Other events and cultural activities identified by the people of St. Croix as being significant to their heritage include open air church meetings, funeral traditions, and conch shell blowing.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 3:

Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.

St. Croix provides outstanding opportunities to conserve, natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features that are fundamental to the island's heritage. Many of these features are in an extensive network of publicly and privately managed areas. These areas are described in detail in criterion 1 and include



terrestrial and marine reserves, colonial sugar plantations and mills, sustainable farms, and historic buildings and forts. There are also efforts to conserve the less tangible features of St. Croix's heritage, such as preserving and promoting local festivals and events.

Although current efforts to conserve these features of St. Croix's heritage are substantial, oftentimes resources, funding, and coordination are limited to adequately conserve these resources for the future. A heritage area designation could enhance these and other types of public outreach efforts to improve the conservation of the island's heritage resources. This could be accomplished by improving planning, communication, and coordination between groups with similar efforts, and by providing a more effective framework for developing partnerships between various levels of government and the private sector. In turn, these partnerships would be able to more effectively develop new programs designed to conserve heritage resources of the island.

The following describes a few organizations on the island that are working to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic resources on St. Croix. There is also a wide range of local business on the island that are tied to nature-based tourism, such as charter boat operators who offer snorkeling, diving, and fishing trips. These types of businesses provide visitors with a variety of first-hand opportunities to experience the island's diverse heritage resources. Furthermore, many of the agencies and organizations described in criterion 1 that manage protected sites and areas on St. Croix also provide various conservation activities in those areas.

Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts (CMCArts, Inc.). Located in a historic building on the Frederiksted waterfront, CMCArts, Inc. was founded in 1994 to collect,

preserve, and exhibit the visual arts of the Caribbean community; provide an interactive environment that encourages children, youth, and adults to explore and learn positive forms of expression; and offer creative learning experiences that foster an understanding of the rich cultural and artistic traditions of the Caribbean.

Crucian Alliance for the Safeguarding of our Heritage and Ancestry (CASHA).

This alliance was founded to identify, safeguard, protect, retain, and promote all political, cultural, legal, and demographic documents that rightfully belong to the people of St. Croix.

Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism (CHANT).

CHANT is a nonpolitical, community based coalition committed to the advancement of Crucian heritage and nature tourism as a vehicle for sustainable community development on St. Croix. This group works with tourism providers and other public interest groups on the island to promote heritage and nature tourism and to support the expansion of resources and infrastructure that will benefit all members of the tourism industry.

Farmers in Action. Farmers in Action is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the redevelopment of a viable agricultural industry on St. Croix. Farmers in Action is also working to refurbish the site of the Bethlehem sugar factory.

Our Town Frederiksted. Our Town Frederiksted is dedicated to the revitalization of the Frederiksted Historic District's economic, social, and physical structure. The historic district of the town of Frederiksted is one that is very important to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is committed to maintaining the unique culture and heritage of Frederiksted.



Per Ankh. Per Ankh is a nonprofit organization that provides folkloric performances and a holistic wellness resource center.

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians. The Society of Virgin Islands Historians is an incorporated body of historians active in regional and international scholarly community since 1986. The society is committed to promoting an awareness of history and related matters of the Caribbean and the Virgin Islands.

St. Croix Environmental Association. This association is a nonprofit, grassroots organization with a mission to promote the conservation of natural resources, provide education, and advocate for environmentally responsible actions that benefit St. Croix. The organization provides environmental education for children and adults to promote a healthy and sustainable environment on the island. The association is an affiliate of the Virgin Island Conservation Society, which in turn is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

St. Croix Friends of Denmark. The St. Croix Friends of Denmark is a nonprofit organization that promotes the ties between Denmark and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is concerned with the history, culture, and natural resources of the islands.

St. Croix Hiking Association. The St. Croix Hiking Association is dedicated to educating the St. Croix community and visitors about the areas of natural, cultural, and historical significance.

St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee. The St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee oversees the Christiansted and Frederiksted historic and architectural control districts.

St. Croix Life Environmental Arts Project (LEAP). Located in the forested area north of Frederiksted, LEAP harvests wood from

fallen trees (island mahogany, tibet, and saman) to create furniture and other artisan-crafted products.

St. Croix Landmarks Society. The St. Croix Landmarks Society is a nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the understanding and appreciation of the unique historical and cultural legacy of St. Croix through preservation, research, and education. The society was instrumental in developing the St. Croix Heritage Trail, in partnership with the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism. The heritage trail is a driving tour that traverses the island, linking the historic towns of Frederiksted and Christiansted with the fertile central plain, the mountainous north, and the arid east end of the island. The route offers a cross section of the island's history, culture, landscapes, and outdoor activities. The organization also manages several historic estates and a nature preserve. In addition, the organization has an extensive library and archives and educational outreach program.

St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment, and Economic Development (SUCCEED). SUCCEED is a local umbrella organization that assists with strategic planning and partnership building. The organization represents a coalition of the following heritage-based organizations on St. Croix:

- CHANT
- History, Culture, and Tradition Foundation
- Missionaries of the Soil
- The Nature Conservancy
- Per Ankh Institute
- St. Croix Environmental Association
- U.S. Virgin Islands Coalition for Sustainable Economic Development

Virgin Islands Council on the Arts. The Council's mission is to enrich the cultural life of the Virgin Islanders through leadership that preserves, supports, and strengthens excellence in the arts.



Virgin Islands Farmer's Cooperative. The mission of the Virgin Island's Farmer's Cooperative is to assist member farmers in the production and marketing of locally grown fresh produce. The produce of the members (meats, fruits, vegetables and herbs, etc.) helps satisfy the demand for locally grown fresh produce in the territory.

Virgin Islands Humanities Council. The Virgin Islands Humanities Council provides opportunities for the diverse population of the Virgin Islands to participate in humanities programs that promote a love of learning, encourage dialogue, enhance understanding, and broaden people's judgment.

Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute. The mission of this institute is to provide a working educational farm enterprise that integrates sustainability in education, environment, and community through quality instruction in agroecology and related fields. Located on more than 100 acres in the highlands of St. Croix, the institute provides experiential learning, outdoor lectures, field laboratories, personal and group research projects, leadership development, and local environmental awareness.

These are just a few of the many organizations working to conserve St. Croix's heritage resources.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 4:

Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

St. Croix provides a wide range of outstanding recreational and educational opportunities for island residents and visitors to experience and appreciate the remarkable heritage of the Crucian people. These opportunities, which can include snorkeling at coral reefs, touring colonial sugar plantations, and attending a

Crucian festival, are described in detail in criteria 1 and 2. Each opportunity allows visitors to engage in a distinct aspect of the island's heritage and become more closely connected to the island's culture.

St. Croix's extensive network of protected natural areas provides opportunities for the public to learn about and experience first-hand the island's ecological diversity. These areas include various inland, coastal, and marine protected areas that preserve tropical rainforests, coastal woodlands, sandy beaches, coral reefs, off-shore islands, mangrove swamps, and various other unique Caribbean island environments. Outdoor recreational opportunities include both adventurous and leisurely pursuits, such as diving, snorkeling, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking, and driving and walking tours. Many local agencies, organizations, and private businesses integrate educational components into their tours and programs, providing opportunities for the public to gain a deeper appreciation for St. Croix's natural environment and how it influenced the history of the island and its people.

St. Croix's heritage is equally rooted in its long-lasting agricultural traditions, and today small family farms, orchards, and cattle ranches are prevalent throughout the island. A variety of opportunities exist for visitors to learn about local farming practices and customs, such as the annual Agricultural and Food Fair — a four-day festival that features locally produced agricultural products, livestock, arts, crafts, and native cuisine. The Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute is also on the island, which underscores the value of agriculture to the Crucian people. The institute is a working educational farm enterprise that promotes the development of agroecology, an innovative field that combines agricultural productivity with resource conservation by using ecological and local management techniques.

The island once boasted more than 200 active sugar plantations during colonial times.



Many of these plantation ruins are on private estates that offer recreational and educational opportunities for the public. The most visited of these is the Whim Estate, a restored plantation with a Danish greathouse and windmill for grinding sugarcane. This estate is managed by the St. Croix Landmarks Society. This local organization also manages Estate Butler Bay as a nature preserve, Estate Mount Washington as a bird sanctuary, and the Lawaetz Family Museum at Little La Grange. Estate Little Princess is another example. Estate Little Princess is now managed by The Nature Conservancy as a preserve and demonstration site for sustainable green technologies. The estate also serves as the conservancy's Virgin Islands and Eastern Caribbean headquarters. St. George Village Botanical Gardens, which offers a unique blend of botanical, historical, and cultural heritage programs to visitors, is also on a former Danish sugar plantation.

St. Croix offers several festivals, museums, and cultural attractions that provide recreational and educational opportunities for visitors and residents to experience Crucian culture. The celebrations for U.S. Virgin Islands / Puerto Rico Friendship Day, Emancipation Day, Crucian Christmas Festival, and many other holidays/festivals/ events proudly showcase the food, music, dance, crafts, and traditions (mocko jumbies, masquerading, tea parties, donkey races, etc.) of St. Croix. Several island museums provide opportunities to learn about the Island's history, including the St. Croix Archeological Society Museum, Lawaetz Family Museum at Little La Grange, and the Apothecary Hall. Other important attractions include the Christiansted National Historic Site, St. George Village Botanical Garden, and the Island's many historic churches.

These recreational and educational opportunities contribute significantly to the quality of life on the island and are major attractions for visitors from around the world. Although the number and types of opportunities abound on St. Croix, there is great potential for enhancing heritage tourism on the island and instilling a greater appreciation for the island's heritage with local youth. In fact, many of the youth eventually leave the island to seek better opportunities on the mainland of the United States — further diminishing the connection between younger generations and their rich Crucian heritage.

A national heritage area designation would likely create many new opportunities to improve and maintain heritage-based educational programs for students, adults, and visitors. It would also enhance collaborative efforts between local organizations and businesses to provide heritage and nature-based recreational and educational opportunities. Through partnerships and grants, these groups would be able to develop new interpretive materials, exhibits, and programs, as well as maintain, improve, and expand existing recreational areas and educational facilities on the island.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 5:

The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

The resources important to the identified themes of the area are extensive, and many



retain a high degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation. These themes capture the essence of St. Croix and reflect the events and movements that are important to the history of the United States. There are widespread, well preserved, and accessible heritage resources on St. Croix that represent the five themes. In this section, each theme is briefly described and a few of the resources that retain a high degree of integrity and currently support interpretation are identified.

Additional heritage resources identified by the public listed in appendixes D and E are also important to the themes of the area. These resources present opportunities to further develop interpretation. The potential and number of these sites is now being realized. Through the creation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area, and the associated funding and support, the opportunities to tell the stories of St. Croix would grow.

Theme 1 — Early Cultures. The people living on the island before the arrival of the Europeans left a rich record of their lives as seen in archeological evidence. People have lived on St. Croix from possibly as long as 4,000 years ago. The many periods of cultural occupation of the region tell the stories of migration, settlement, trade, and cultural exchange and contact. The early inhabitants of St. Croix migrated to the islands from South and Central America. They adapted and developed a society with a complex social structure and economy that made use of the island's natural resources.

Although there are several sites scattered across the island, many of them are on private land or are too sensitive to allow for public access. Interpretation of this theme would primarily occur at Salt River Bay National

Historical Park and Ecological Preserve and the St. Croix Archeological Museum.

Theme 2 — Slavery and Emancipation.

Africans, who were brought to St. Croix to provide slave labor for the European colonies, showed the resilience and resourcefulness of people facing great adversity. As Africans and their descendants survived the conditions of enslavement and discrimination, they also contributed to the economic, social, and cultural development of St. Croix. African heritage is found in the traditions and landscapes of the island.

The resources on St. Croix tell a complete story of the experience of Africans as slaves and free people on St. Croix. The marketplace where slaves were auctioned is interpreted by the National Park Service at the Christiansted National Historic Site. The conditions, experience, and community of enslaved Africans working on sugar plantations is interpreted on the grounds of the Whim Plantation Museum, St. George Village Botanical Garden/Estate St. George National Historic District, and the Slob Historic District. A section of Christiansted, known today as Free Gut, was set aside for freed slaves to build their homes. Traces of the early architecture are still evident in this area today. Guided tours of the mountainous northwest quadrant of the island, where runaway slaves (Maroons) sought refuge in the cliffs and caves from the harsh conditions of slavery, are available. The remaining six Von Scholten schools, where enslaved African and nonslave children were given an education, are destinations on the St. Croix Heritage Trail. The stories of slave uprisings and emancipation are interpreted at Fort Frederik and the Frederiksted National Historic District.



Theme 3 — The Seven Flags of St. Croix.

The people of St. Croix have developed a distinct Crucian culture that includes evidence of the European powers that sought to benefit from the abundant resources of the island. St. Croix was subject to shifting colonial power struggles as European nations sought economic gain and strategic positions in the Caribbean. In the colonial period, new traditions grew out of ongoing interaction between Europeans, Amerindians, and Africans, creating new institutions, values, and technologies.

The resources on St. Croix illustrate the colonial influence and experience on St. Croix, especially the influence of Denmark. The Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve interprets the site of the first recorded armed conflict between native Amerindian peoples and Europeans, as well as the 17th century European rivalry and settlement. The Christiansted National Historic Site/ Christiansted National Historic District provides guided and self-guided tours of the historic structures and grounds that interpret the Danish economy and way of life there from 1733 to 1917. Interpretation of Danish colonial plantations is available at the Whim Plantation Museum, Estate Little Princess, Estate Mt. Washington, Lawaetz Family Museum Estate at Little La Grange, and St. George Village Botanical Garden/ Estate St. George National Historic District. The Apothecary Hall displays pharmaceutical bottles and paraphernalia in the original setting used to serve the Danish military garrison and local residents.

Theme 4 — Geography and the Natural Environment — Crossroads of the Caribbean. St. Croix lies at a geographic crossroads — connecting the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean currents, the prevailing westerly and easterly trade winds, and tropical island landscapes and seascapes. These unique attributes foster an exceptional diversity of terrestrial and

marine environments that have attracted and sustained people for thousands of years.

The marine and terrestrial resources that support this theme are extensive. Buck Island Reef National Monument is a 176-acre island and surrounding coral reef ecosystem that supports a large variety of native flora and fauna, including the hawksbill turtle and brown pelican. Opportunities at Buck Island Reef National Monument include hiking, snorkeling, boating (by permit), and swimming. Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve protects and interprets a submarine canyon, extensive mangroves, and coral reefs. Opportunities at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve include kayaking, snorkeling, scuba diving, and hiking. Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge hosts the largest nesting population of leatherback sea turtles under United States jurisdiction. Opportunities at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge include hiking, nature photography, and wildlife photography.

Theme 5 — Modern-Day St. Croix — Cultures in Contact. The population of St. Croix reflects a long tradition of migration that has brought together West African, European, Caribbean, and American traditions. Influences can also be traced to South America and Asia. Modern-day migration continues to bring new stories and traditions, which contribute to the dynamic and vibrant island culture. This long-standing exchange of stories, ideas, and traditions on St. Croix makes the island what it is today — a colorful collage of the world.

Much of the support for this theme can be found in the less tangible aspects of St. Croix's culture, which are discussed in criterion 2. However, the opportunities for interpretation of this theme still abound. These opportunities include the exhibits, classes, and performances at the Caribbean Museum of the Arts; the locally harvested



and/or produced foods available at the Agricultural Station and La Reine Market; the events, programs, and exhibits at the St. George Village Botanic Garden; and the collection of building styles that document the many cultural influences and periods of St. Croix in Frederiksted.

Based on the existing integrity of many resources, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 6:

Includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and state governments who are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area.

There is significant support among the residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government for the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area. This area would provide a mix of strategies to strengthen the local economy through the protection and promotion of the island's heritage resources. The designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area could also invigorate connections between the people of St. Croix and their heritage and bring together community-based organizations working for similar heritage goals. The approach to heritage tourism development on St. Croix includes (1) developing small, locally owned businesses, and (2) engaging both visitors and hosts in learning about St. Croix. These improvements could have a positive impact on overall visitation and tourist experiences on St. Croix, while also positively impacting the communities of St. Croix.

The public demonstrated overwhelming support for the designation of a St. Croix

National Heritage Area in the many public scoping meetings and comments sent to the planning team. Participants at the public scoping meetings included representatives from government, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses, in addition to architects, philanthropists, academics, artists, writers, musicians, teachers, students, and residents. Heritage goals expressed by participants in the planning process include strengthening the island's identity; promoting a sense of cultural pride in the island's youth; sustaining the island ways of life on St. Croix; improving the economy and quality of life of St. Croix residents; sharing St. Croix's story with the world; and preserving, protecting, and promoting heritage resources (including natural resources, historical architecture, arts and crafts, written and oral traditions, agritourism, local foods, music, and dance).

The planning team received letters of support for the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area from eight members of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and 24 government agencies and nonprofit organizations (included in appendix B).

The proposed coordinating entity developed the following three-year conceptual financial plan based on current economic conditions. The plan seeks to match anticipated NPS funds for the development of a management plan with money raised from a combination of government, private, corporate, foundation, membership, and earned income sources in addition to volunteer and in-kind contributions. The overhead expenses are estimated to be about 18% of the anticipated budget, which is competitive with other nonprofit organizations.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that the proposed coordinating entity meets this criterion.

TABLE 7: CONCEPTUAL FINANCIAL PLAN FROM PROPOSED COORDINATING ENTITY

FUNDING SOURCE	ANTICIPATED AMOUNT		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
NPS Grant	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
U.S.V.I. Government: Executive and Legislative branches	90,000	95,000	100,000
Private Support: Nonresident Virgin Islanders	2,500	4,000	6,000
Business and Corporate Support	15,000	25,000	30,000
Grants: Federal and Private Foundations	35,000	35,000	45,000
Membership	1,000	1,500	2,000
Earned income (education programs, trademark merchandise)	1,000	2,000	3,000
Program support (conference/symposia sponsorship, "buy a brick" type campaign, and social events)	10,000	15,000	20,000
Value of in-kind and volunteer (non-cash)	25,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL	\$329,500	\$357,500	\$386,000

TABLE 8: CONCEPTUAL EXPENSES FROM PROPOSED COORDINATING ENTITY

EXPENSE	ANTICIPATED AMOUNT		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Management plan (contracted services)	\$130,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
Salaries and wages			
Executive Director @ 10%	8,000	8,560	9,159
Development Director @ 30%	18,000	19,260	20,608
Administrative Assistant/Clerical @ 40% yr 1; 60%yr 2 and 3	12,000	25,680	27,478
NHA Program Coordinator 100%	50,000	53,500	57,245
Contracted Services (bookkeeping)	10,000	15,000	15,000
Travel	2,000	4,000	2,500
Insurance	2,000	4,000	4,000
Office rental @ 60%	4,800	8,640	10,080
Office operations (equipment, supplies, furniture)	10,000	2,500	2,500
Advertising (print and electronic media)	3,000	4,000	4,000
Collaterals (pens, mouse pads, banners, etc.)	2,500	3,500	4,000
DVD documentation, updates, duplication	13,000	15,000	15,000
Program expenses (events, materials, etc.)	28,000	38,000	40,000
Employee costs (18% of salaries and wages)	15,840	19,260	20,608
Utilities @ 60% (telephone, internet, electricity, water, etc.)	7,000	9,500	10,500
TOTAL	\$316,140	\$340,400	\$352,678



CRITERION 7:

The proposed coordinating entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

Significant support for the proposed coordinating entity and the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area has been demonstrated by units of government who have attended public meetings, written letters of support, or served on the local planning team.

In summer 2008, a local planning team was assembled to work in partnership to develop the *St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study*. Active members of the team included representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism, Office of Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, the National Park Service, and the University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service. Local team members served in a technical advisory capacity and spearheaded outreach efforts — including public service announcements, local radio and TV talk programs, public meetings and workshops, and the provision of informational materials at the Agricultural and Food Fair. The units of government represented on the local planning team are committed to working in partnership with the proposed coordinating entity.

Representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism attended public meetings and expressed support for the designation. National heritage area designation is consistent with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism's strategic plan for St. Croix.

Several members of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands sent letters of support for the proposed coordinating entity and the designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area. Letters (included in appendix B) were sent by Craig W. Barshinger, Senator (Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development, Energy and Technology); Adlah Donastorg, Senator; Wayne A. G. James, Senator (Chairman of the Committee on Education, Youth, and Culture); Shawn-Michael Malone, Senator (Chairman of the Committee on Planning and Environmental Protection); Terrence Nelson, Senator; Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly, Senator; Patrick Simeon Sprauve, Senator (Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services); and Alvin L. Williams, Jr., Senator (Chairman of the Committee on Education, Youth, and Culture). A resolution in support of the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area was passed on December 21, 2009. The resolution was signed on January 8, 2010. A copy of the resolution can be found in appendix B.

Letters of support from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Labor, University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service, Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, and many 501(c)3 organizations (such as the U.S. Virgin Islands Coalition for Sustainable Economic Development, Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism, Trust for Virgin Islands Lands, St. Croix Environmental Association, St. Croix Landmarks Society, Per Ankh, Inc., and the Virgin Islands Social History Associates) have committed to working in partnership with the proposed coordinating entity.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.



CRITERION 8:

The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.

St. Croix has the highest rate of unemployment among the U.S. Virgin Islands. The median per capita income (1999) for St. Croix was \$21,401, less than half the U.S. average (U.S. Census 2000). This is compounded by the relatively higher cost of living on the Virgin Islands (U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research 2008c). The tourism industry on St. Croix is not as developed as the other U.S. Virgin Islands, partly because of local resistance to mainstream or commercial tourism. Recent efforts to promote heritage tourism on St. Croix have resonated with the people of St. Croix who believe in the mutually beneficial economic, preservation, and educational opportunities in heritage tourism.

A national heritage area designation based on the natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources of St. Croix could attract heritage tourists to the island. Numerous studies have shown that heritage tourists stay longer and spend more than other tourists. One of the purposes of national heritage areas is to support and diversify tourism-related economies. The national heritage area coordinating entity would work with local businesses and organizations to build their capacity and develop a common marketing approach. Overall, economic activity in the tourism sector would likely experience a positive impact.

In addition to tourism, the major industries of St. Croix include petroleum refining and

manufacturing (watches and rum). These industries, which are an important source of jobs on the island, would unlikely be affected by the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.

CRITERION 9:

A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.

The study area boundary (the whole island) to be used as the conceptual boundary for the potential St. Croix National Heritage Area is supported by the public. During a series of public meetings that were held on the island in 2008, local citizens identified more than 100 unique sites that relate to the major heritage themes of the island. These places are scattered across the island and tell the stories of Columbus landing, colonialism, and slavery and emancipation, and they showcase the island's diverse natural environment and modern-day culture. Maps that show the locations of these heritage sites can be found in chapter 1. The identification of so many heritage resources on St. Croix, including its offshore marine environments, provides a strong basis for using the entire island for the proposed national heritage area.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.



CRITERION 10:

The coordinating entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

SUCCEED is a local umbrella organization that represents agriculture; business; culture; nature and the environment; archeology and history; education and training; music, dance, and other performing arts; tourism; architecture; cuisine and culinary arts; urban planning and community development; and youth interests. A seat on the board of directors is currently allotted for each of these interests. As an umbrella organization, SUCCEED currently has several member organizations. As the coordinating entity, SUCCEED would reach out to additional nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and groups, and units of government to build the membership base of support for the national heritage area. Members could serve on committees, including community planning, education and research, history and research, and public policy.

As the coordinating entity, the staff would include an executive director, development director, national heritage area program coordinator, and administrative assistant.

The staff would report to the executive director, and the executive director would report to the board of directors. SUCCEED anticipates dedicating approximately 60% of the organization's time and resources to the national heritage area. Adjustments to the time and resource allocation would be made periodically to reflect the funding and program needs. The organization has enacted a policy under which they will not compete with member organizations for on-island sources of funding.

SUCCEED would work to garner support from and to give support to the nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and units of government working towards heritage-related goals. As the coordinating entity, SUCCEED will work to build the capacity of member groups, pool diverse community resources and facilitate partnership relationships, coordinate and promote existing heritage programs and activities, develop demonstration projects, and support scholarship on St. Croix heritage-related topics.

Based on the supporting information described above, the study team concluded that St. Croix meets this criterion.





OVERALL CONCLUSION

The feasibility study team concludes that St. Croix meets each of the 10 interim evaluation criteria for designation as a national heritage area based on the National Park Service's "Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines" (NPS 2003). As described throughout this study, St. Croix contributes in substantial ways to our country's national heritage. It also contains many natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that make up a nationally distinctive landscape.

The rich and varied stories about St. Croix lend themselves to an intriguing set of themes that connect people to the various heritage resources of the island. Furthermore, the designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area has strong public support and there is a local capacity and commitment to undertake the responsibilities of a future national heritage area.

APPENDIXES, SELECTED REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS

APPENDIX A: ST. CROIX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

120 STAT. 1848 PUBLIC LAW 109-338—OCT. 12, 2006

Subtitle B—St. Croix National Heritage Area Study

SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act”.

SEC. 312. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State historic preservation officers, States historical societies, and other appropriate organizations, shall conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the island of St. Croix as the St. Croix National Heritage Area. The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determination regarding whether the island of St. Croix—

- (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
- (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;
- (3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;
- (4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;
- (5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the island of St. Croix that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
- (6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government), and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;
- (7) has a potential local coordinating entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and
- (8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available for this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

(c) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the potential impact that designation of the area as a national heritage area is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC SUPPORT

The following organizations, government entities, and businesses have participated in the study process or sent letters of support for one of the proposed coordinating entities and the designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area.

- Ancestry Discovery Group*
- Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts*
- Crucian Christmas Festival Organization
- Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism, Inc.*
- Crucian Alliance for the Safeguarding of our Heritage and Ancestry
- Cruzan Bikeways
- Cruzan Pathways/Iceman Productions
- Family History Group
- Farmers in Action
- Florence Williams Public Library
- Interfaith Coalition of St. Croix*
- Merwin Foundation*
- Our Town Frederiksted*
- Per Ankh, Inc.*
- Rotary - Mid-Island
- St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment, and Economic Development*
- Society of Virgin Islands Historians*
- St. Croix Archeological Society*
- St. Croix Chamber of Commerce*
- St. Croix Environmental Association*
- St. Croix Foundation*
- St. Croix Friends of Denmark, Inc.*
- St. Croix Hiking Association*
- St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee*
- St. Croix Landmarks Society*
- St. Croix State Historic Preservation Office
- St. George Village Botanical Garden
- Trust for Virgin Islands Lands, Inc.*
- U.S. Virgin Islands Coalition for Sustainable Economic Development*
- U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education
- U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Labor*
- U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
- U.S. Virgin Islands Mocko Jumbie
- University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
- University of the Virgin Islands – Cooperative Extension Service*
- Virgin Islands Conservation Society*
- Virgin Islands Council on the Arts*
- Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Institute
- Virgin Islands Farmers Cooperative
- Virgin Islands Humanities Council*
- Virgin Islands Kayak and Canoe Outfitters*
- Virgin Islands Social History Associates*
- Virgin Islands State Nurses Association*

- Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute, Inc.*
- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

*Letter of support was submitted and is included in this appendix

The following members of the 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands sent letters of support for the proposed coordinating entity and the designation of St. Croix as a national heritage area.

- Craig W. Barshinger, Senator
Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development, Energy and Technology
- Adlah Donastorg, Senator
- Louis Patrick Hill, Senator
President of 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
- Wayne A. G. James, Senator
Chairman of the Committee on Education, Youth, and Culture
- Shawn-Michael Malone, Senator
Chairman of the Committee on Planning and Environmental Protection
- Terrence Nelson, Senator
- Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly, Senator
- Patrick Simeon Sprauve, Senator
Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services
- Alvin L. Williams, Jr., Senator

A resolution in support of the designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area was passed on December 21, 2009. The resolution was signed on January 8, 2010.

F. O. Box 223034
Christiansted, VI 00822

September 21, 2009

Donna M. Christensen
Delegate, Virgin Islands
Congress of the United States
Sunshine Mall Space # 204-205
1 Estate Cane
Frederiksted, VI 00840

Dear Delegate Christensen:

I am writing in support of the island of St. Croix being designated as a National Heritage Area by the United States Congress. The island has an extensive history based on its land use and the people who settled here. The geography and the natural environment determined the use of the agricultural land. The mangroves, and endangered turtles and other species are in need of public education and conservation efforts. The history of the island includes "Indians" from South America, Columbus' landing, settlement by various European nations and groups, enslaved Africans working in cane fields and on cotton plantations, emancipation, economic decline and labor strikes, the impact of Puerto Rican and Eastern Caribbean workers, and the social and economic advancements as an American territory.

The cultural traditions and old-time stories are worthy of being preserved because the Bru Nansi stories had a moral theme and also told of the animals and landscape of St. Croix. These local stories need to be documented for present and future generations. More educational information on outstanding men and women such as Alexander Hamilton, Anna Heggard, David Hamilton Jackson, Victor Cornelius, Ashley Totten, Bennie Benjamin, Governor Melvin H. Evans, Governor Cyril E. King, Ruby M. Rouss, and Dr. David C. Canegata should be researched and made available to the public who are proud of their history but need documents and resources to read and share with their children.

The designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area would complement local efforts to promote cultural tourism in the Virgin Islands. This designation would be a win-win situation for the local government as well as the federal government and the people of St. Croix.

Sincerely,


Karen C. Thurland
V.I. Historian and Author


Gerald J. Doward, Sr.
Researcher, Ancestry Discovery Group



CARIBBEAN MUSEUM CENTER FOR THE ARTS

10 Strand Street & 62 King Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands

July, 16, 2010
Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Taylor,

The Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts Inc. (CMCA) presents this letter of support for the creation of the proposed St Croix National Heritage Area. We also express our support and confidence in the selection of SUCCEED Inc. as National Heritage Area Manager and Coordinating Entity. We are committed to building relationships with all of our community partners to preserve, promote, and share our distinctive and rich Crucian culture. The goals of the St. Croix National Heritage Area and those CMCA are perfectly matched and we pledge our effort and resources to the long term success of this endeavor. St. Croix clearly meets all ten criteria for the designation and anyone who has ever visited this unique island can attest to this.

CMCA, a 501(C)(3) non-profit community organization, was founded in 1994 and in 2003 undertook the restoration of an historic waterfront property in Frederiksted. CMCA has been serving the community from this wonderful facility through a variety of educational programs, classes, and events since completing the work. CMCA has hosted artist from around the world through exhibitions and our Artist in Residence program. The museum is open all year and offers galleries, classrooms, a pottery studio, research library, and a breathtaking courtyard. We are situated just a short walk from the pier where our cruise ship visitors arrive and we make every effort to welcome all and share the art and stories of St. Croix and the Caribbean. We envision St. Croix as an international art and cultural tourism destination.

CMCA would like to thank the National Park Service, Congresswoman Donna Christensen, all of our exceptional government agencies, and the remarkable array community partners for their dedication and hard work to bring this important designation to St. Croix.

Best regards,

William F. Longfellow
Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1371, Frederiksted, VI 00841
Phone: 340-772-2622 / Fax: 340-772-2612 • www.cmcarts.org • email: info@cmcarts.org

Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism, Inc.

315 Strand Street

110 Strand Street, Suite 4

Frederick, MD 21701-1818 Virginia Island 00840



Telephone: (340) 294-155 Fax: (340) 694-1818 e-mail: chnt@crucian.net

May 26, 2006

Kate Todd Rental
National Park Service
17719 W Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80226

Re: SUCCEED, Inc. National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity Application

Dear Ms. Todd:

Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism, Inc. (CHANT) is pleased to write a letter confirming our partnership with SUCCEED, Inc. and support of the application by SUCCEED, Inc. for consideration as the Coordinating Entity for the planning and implementation of the National Heritage Area for the island of St. Croix.

CHANT was established with two major objectives: the first is to act as a catalyst for the united support of Heritage and Nature Tourism among the Department of Tourism and all other tourism interests and the second is to focus on development from within, bringing together providers and other industry people to forge a dynamic and united Crucian heritage and nature tourism product.

CHANT is committed to the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area. We are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of St. Croix's culture, heritage and natural resources and to ensure that the designation will create an environment that will promote sustainable development. CHANT has been actively involved with SUCCEED, Inc. since its inception. Both organizations are committed to economic development from within and to the promotion of our culture and heritage not only to attract visitors but for the preservation of traditions and transfer of skills and knowledge from generation to generation.

SUCCEED, Inc. represents a broad cross section of the community and has brought together community-based organizations and concerned individuals with the knowledge and resources which can be directed to this important project. We support the selection of SUCCEED, Inc. as the Coordinating Entity.

CHANT will support and assist in the efforts to move forward the National Heritage Area designation.

We trust that our support and that of the community will lead to the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area within the next year.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Heston, Chair
Board of Directors



Interfaith Coalition of St. Croix

P.O. Box 2766, King's Hill, U.S. Virgin Islands 00851-2766 • (340) 719-4972 • (340) 778-2984

May 27, 2009

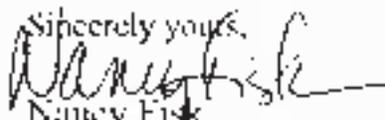
Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO. 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

This letter is in support of the application by SUCCEED to serve as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area (St. Croix NHA) Feasibility Study. The Interfaith Coalition of St. Croix is committed to community improvement through collaborative efforts of faith-based groups. Our activities enjoy the support and participation of persons who represent the Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i, Yoruba, and Jewish faiths.

The Interfaith Coalition of St. Croix heartily supports the efforts of SUCCEED in our island community. They have demonstrated the ability to bring together organizations, businesses and the general public who share concerns in the areas of cultural and historic conservation. We acknowledge the leadership role SUCCEED has taken in educating the community to the benefits of sustainable economic development for the island and people of St. Croix.

We commend SUCCEED's willingness to serve as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area (St. Croix NHA) Feasibility Study. Because of SUCCEED's collaborative approach to conservation issues, we are confident that SUCCEED is the organization to facilitate this effort. Thank you for your consideration of their application and for the opportunity to express our support for SUCCEED.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Fisk
President



An Agency of the United Way of St. Croix

THE MERWIN FOUNDATION

F.O. Box 427, FRANKLIN, VT 05004

May 25, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

**RE: Letter of Support for St. Croix Landmarks Society, Inc. as the Coordinating Entity
for the Management of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area**

Dear Ms. Randall:

The Merwin Foundation of St. Croix was established in 1967 as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation to benefit religious, charitable, and educational organizations. Robert Merwin has served as Trustee since the Foundation's inception. The Foundation has supported the St. Croix Landmarks Society for many years, in recognition of the importance of preserving and protecting historical legacies. The Landmark Society has done an outstanding job of restoring and operating The Whim Museum and collecting and safeguarding important archival records and materials, as well as sponsoring many community enrichment programs over its 60 years in operation.

We whole-heartedly support the St. Croix Landmarks Society in its efforts to be selected as the Coordinating Entity / National Heritage Area Manager for the island of St. Croix. We will help support St. Croix Landmarks Society in its capacity as the Coordinating Entity. We believe St. Croix's rich culture, heritage, history and natural environment are truly worthy of this prestigious designation.

Best regards,


Robert L. Merwin
Trustee

cc: St. Croix Landmarks Society



Our Town Frederiksted, Inc.

a non profit organization • tax exempt

October 1, 2009

Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen
Office of the Delegate to Congress
P.O. Box 5980
Christiansted, VI 00821

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

For us at Our Town Frederiksted, Inc., we are delighted with the possibility of St. Croix being considered to be designated as a National Heritage Area. The rich culture of the island is without comparison and we need to be telling this to the entire United States and the world. We have so many wonderful historic sites and so many cultural identifications that we can share with the rest of the world. Needless to say, we would be most proud with the designation of a National Heritage Area. In addition to making our children more aware of the history and the important legacy of our ancestors, we will have by this designation, the ability to show to our visitors what we have experienced for years.

As always we are most proud of the work you have been doing for the Virgin Islands, for our people and for contributing what we have to offer to the rest of the United States in building this great nation. We are most grateful for your efforts, and we look forward to the National Heritage Area designation.

Sincerely,

Alphonso Franklin
President of the Board of Trustees

received
10/1/09

702 Hospital Street • Frederiksted, VI 00840 • (340) 773-9570 Office • (340) 773-1117 Fax



Physical: 72A Estate La Grange Frederiksted, St. Croix VI 00840
 Mailing: POB 607 Kingshill, St. Croix VI 00851-0607
 340-772-2220 Voice 1-888-614-5554 Fax/Voice
 Email: perankh@gmail.com Website: www.perankh.com

PER ANKH, INC.

May 25, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
 National Park Service
 12795 W. Alameda Parkway
 Denver, CO 80228

Reference: Letter of Support for NHA Management Designation for SUCCCEED, Inc.

Dear Mrs. Randall:

On behalf of our organization, Per Ankh, Inc. this correspondence serves as our formal letter of support for the invitation shared by the National Park Service (NPS) in April 2009 for St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment & Economic Development, Inc. (SUCCCEED), to be awarded the NPS designation as the National Heritage Area Manager for St. Croix.

Per Ankh, Inc. is committed to supporting, lobbying for and promoting the projects, programs, activities and initiatives of SUCCCEED's National Heritage Area management coordination to insure that St. Croix's natural, historic, scenic, recreational, educational and cultural resources are conserved, preserved and protected for generations upon generations. From 1989 to 1995 as a grassroots community initiative and from 1995 to present as a 501(c)(3) charitable educational, cultural heritage, folklore performance and holistic wellness resource center, Per Ankh, Inc. has remained engaged in a mission of providing *Culture, Healing, Arts, Technology & Spirituality for Life, Inspiration, Freedom and Education (CHAATSA/TPEC)* to our unique gem isle of St. Croix and abroad.

Per Ankh is confident that with the eclectic range of skills, talents, expertise, fundraising and inspirational supports provided by SUCCCEED's core members and multiple sectors of our St. Croix community, that SUCCCEED is optimally suited to serve as the National Park Service's National Heritage Area Manager for St. Croix. Per Ankh has worked with SUCCCEED for several years on the creation of a Marine Sanctuary Park, educational symposia on conservation, preservation, sustainability, cultural heritage, community outreach and education awareness programs that support "SMART" economic development & the rich cultural-spiritual heritage of our St. Croix community. Select members of Per Ankh's Board of Directors serve as members and/or officers of the St. Croix Board of Realtors & VITAE, the St. Croix Landmarks Society, Missionaries of the Soil and other community based agricultural, cultural, social empowerment and educational initiatives in St. Croix. Per Ankh will continue to assist SUCCCEED with initiatives that facilitate the enforcement of existing or amendments to VI legislation to maximize resources for funding the development, maintenance, preservation and community awareness of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

We look forward to the opportunity to proactively work with and provide our organization's full support to SUCCCEED upon the successful designation by the National Park Service of SUCCCEED as the National Heritage Area Manager for St. Croix. Feel free to communicate with me if you need any additional information.

Yours for Culture & Education

Carl Nebkaka Christopher
 Executive Director of Per Ankh, Inc.

Per Ankh House of Life, Inc. - A 501(c)(3) non-profit & non-governmental organization is devoted to providing educational, spiritual, cultural, environmental, healing living arts & sciences, agricultural, holistic, social & other naturalistic resources that positively contribute to the overall improvement of our local, national and global communities.

SUCCEED, INC.

*St. Croix: United for Community, Culture, Environment, and
Economic Development*

4000 La Grande Princesse
St. Croix, USVI 00820
(340) 778-4711 773-4990 (fax)
succeedstx@gmail.com

June 1, 2009

Kate Randall Taylor
Nation Park Service
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Deerov, Co., 80228

Dear Ms. Taylor,

St. Croix is a small island that is blessed with an abundance of beautiful natural resources, an impressive pool of human resources and community organizations, and exciting potential to enter the Geotourism market. SUCCEED is an organization founded by individuals and organizations committed to smart and sustainable growth, and we are convinced that the designation of St. Croix as a Natural Heritage Area would be a boon to the quality of life and the economy. We know that it would be impossible for the St. Croix Coordinating Entity to implement effective management of the NHA without tapping that unpressive, but small pool of individuals and organizations that can, collectively, make this a sustainable and successful NHA.

St. Croix Landmarks is a community institution that has completed important work in the physical restoration of the Whim Greathouse and Plantation Museum, hosts "Starving Artists" and both classical and World music events, and supported countless research projects on events during and after the Danish West Indies period. For many years their summer program for youth presented an opportunity for education on history, environment and arts. They have long engaged seasonal residents in events such as House Tours and lecture series.

By this correspondence, we register our support for designation of St. Croix as an NHA, and for St. Croix Landmarks Society as the Coordinating Entity, and commit to participate in partnership and/or in the opportunities for collaboration that they have offered to create if selected as the Coordinating Entity.

Sincerely,

Claudette Young Hinds

Claudette Young Hinds, President
SUCCEED, Inc.



THE SOCIETY OF VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORIANS

**P.O. Box 24282
Gallows Bay, Christiansted
VI 00824**

September 14, 2009

**Donna M. Christensen
Delegate, Virgin Islands
Congress of the United States
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Delegate Christensen,

Pursuant to your letter of June 8, 2009, the Society of Virgin Islands Historians met after the summer-break for our Monthly Meeting on September 9th, and moved to send this Letter of Support towards the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

On behalf of the Society's members we wish to Thank You for inviting us into the process, as we have been an incorporated body of Historians active in the regional and international scholarly community since 1986, promoting an awareness of History and related matters of the Caribbean, and the Virgin Islands, in particular.

We are in full support of St. Croix becoming a National Heritage Area site, and of your efforts to achieve this designation – with all of its responsibilities, duties and patrimonial obligations inherent in such an undertaking.

To this last concern, we are making the focus of our Annual Meeting on January 16th 2010, and the theme of our Presenters (invited scholars). "Cultural Resources Preservation." We have determined that our forthcoming selection of scholars will affirm this joint commitment. We hope to also invite a member of the St. Croix National Heritage Area advisory group, and the organization, SUCCEED, to participate.

Respectfully,


Edgar O. Lake, President

Museum:
#6 Company Street
Christiansted
St. Croix VI 00820

St. Croix
Archaeological
Society

Mailing:
P.O. Box 25291
Christiansted
St. Croix VI
00824-5291

May 29, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12705 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

RE: Letter of Support for St. Croix Landmarks Society as the Coordinating Entity for the Management of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

Dear Ms. Randall:

The St. Croix Archaeological Society, Inc. was established in July 2001 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Section 2(a) of our articles states the core of our mission as:

To further the understanding and appreciation by the public of the history and cultures of pre-Columbian St. Croix, and to generate active participation by members of all segments of the population of St. Croix in preserving the pre-historic assets of St. Croix for further generations.

To this end we run a museum dedicated to pre-Columbian St. Croix.

We whole-heartedly support the St. Croix Landmarks Society in its efforts to be selected as the Coordination Entity / National Heritage Area Manager for the island of St. Croix. We would help support St. Croix Landmarks Society in their capacity as the Coordination Entity. We believe St. Croix's rich culture, heritage, history and natural environment are truly worthy of this prestigious designation.

Sincerely



David Hayes K. F. A.
President



ST. CROIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

200 Orange Grove
Suite 12
St. Croix, Minnesota
Phone: (907) 414-2121
Fax: (907) 414-2122
E-mail: info@stcroixchamber.org
Web: www.stcroixchamber.org

May 26, 2009

Ms. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

Representing approximately 300 local businesses and individuals, the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically supports National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Island of St. Croix, USVI. This designation will help stimulate and support expansion of small business development, jobs creation and entrepreneurial undertakings by local artists and small persons. It also will have a positive economic impact on tourism -- our number one industry -- by providing travelers from throughout the world with an additional incentive to visit and explore St. Croix, particularly because of its historic, cultural and environmental attractions.

The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce also enthusiastically supports designation of SUCCEED, Inc., a USVI non-profit organization, as National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity or NHA Manager. Through its activities, SUCCEED, Inc. has demonstrated its commitment to Croixan heritage as the cornerstone of wealth building and development and "smart" economic development. These activities have included hosting a series of town hall meetings on sustainable development and a two-day conference "The Viability of the Past in the Economic Future of St. Croix" followed by subsequent community planning meetings. The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce is proud to have helped sponsor these progressive and productive activities and will gladly provide future assistance to SUCCEED, Inc. as the designated National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity for St. Croix.

As an umbrella organization, SUCCEED, Inc. has a policy of non-competition regarding local grants and has been supportive of related efforts and activities, including the 2007 conference "The Future of the Past: The Business of Cultural Heritage Tourism."

Through its members, SUCCEED, Inc. can provide a wide range of professional skills and personal experience that ensures it will serve as a high-quality local management component for the National Heritage Area that will coordinate effectively with the National Park Service.

The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce therefore respectfully endorses designation of SUCCEED, Inc. as the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity for St. Croix.

For the Board of Directors,


Michael Dembeck
Executive Director



St. Croix Environmental Association

A Chapter of The Virgin Islands Conservation Society

5052 Anchor Way, Suite 3, Christiansted, VI 00820

(340) 773-1989 Fax: (340) 773-7545 E-mail: sea@viaccess.net

www.stcroixenvironmental.org

May 26, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall,

The St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) strongly supports the application of SUCCEED to serve as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area (St. Croix NHA) Feasibility Study. In addition, SEA is committed to work collaboratively with other St. Croix organizations and individuals under a SUCCEED umbrella to plan and effectively manage heritage conservation efforts grounded in St. Croix's history and cultural traditions and rich natural environment.

The strength of SUCCEED as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix NHA lies in a) the diversity of public agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations and committed individuals represented as affiliates organizations; and b) the proven track record of community organization and management, illustrated by town hall meetings and symposia organized around topics of cultural/historic/natural heritage conservation and sustainable economic development for the island and people of St. Croix.

St. Croix Environmental Association's mission is to *promote the conservation of environmental resources, provide education, and advocate for environmentally responsible actions that benefit St. Croix*. We look forward to contributing our expertise and resources in natural resources management and environmental conservation to complement contributions from others in the family of SUCCEED affiliates who may have greater expertise in cultural and historic heritage conservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for the application of SUCCEED to serve as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,


Paul Chakraborty
Managing Director



5072 Flag Drive, Christiansted
St. Croix VI 00830

340 773-9898
340 773-8727 fax
www.scfoundation.org

Roger W. Dewey
President

Deanna J. James
Chief Operations Officer

May 29, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

RE: Letter of Support for St. Croix Landmarks Society as the Coordinating Entity for the Management of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

Dear Ms. Randall:

The St. Croix Foundation was established in 1990 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and strives to fulfill its mission of fostering economic and social development on the island of St. Croix and throughout the Territory. We are best known for our focus on the problems of community and economic development as evidenced by our major town revitalization initiatives like the rehabilitation of the Sunday Market Square. The Foundation has also successfully executed a number of noteworthy initiatives in public safety, educational enrichment, fiduciary management, and strengthening our nonprofit community.

We whole-heartedly support the St. Croix Landmarks Society in its efforts to be selected as the Coordination Entity / National Heritage Area Manager for the island of St. Croix. We have collaborated with many organizations on St. Croix and would help support St. Croix Landmarks Society in their capacity as the Coordination Entity. St. Croix's rich culture, heritage, history and natural environment are truly worthy of this prestigious designation.

Best regards,



Roger Dewey
President

cc: St. Croix Landmarks Society



The Saint Croix Friends of Denmark Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 682, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI 00821-0682
A Non-Profit Virgin Islands Corporation

May 30, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

The St. Croix Friends of Denmark Society is a non-profit organization which promotes the ties between Denmark and the US Virgin Islands. We are concerned with the history, culture, and natural resources of the islands and support both government and private concerns which protect these resources. We support the application of SUCCEED to serve as the coordinating entity for the St. Croix Heritage Area (St. Croix NHA) feasibility study.

We trust that SUCCEED will work collaboratively with all the other organizations with the same historical, cultural, and natural resource objectives. We know that SUCCEED planned and implemented a major heritage tourism conference two years ago and that they had been supportive of the Heritage tourism conference hosted by the Virgin Islands Humanities Council. We know that SUCCEED has been the driving force for the Maroon Heritage site.

SUCCEED has the leadership and the resources to bring all of the organizations together for a united purpose. Once the feasibility study is completed, we are confident that SUCCEED will provide educational programs which are geared to a diverse community. We need SUCCEED's leadership to bring the community together on these issues.

We highly support SUCCEED's application as coordinating entity for the St. Croix National Heritage area.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Rezende
President
340-772-3408 998-1147

A 501(c)3, not for profit Virgin Islands Corporation
dedicated to strengthening the cultural and educational ties between the Virgin Islands and Denmark.



St. Croix Hiking Association

P.O. Box 5060 Kingshill
St. Croix, VI 00851-5060

10.01.09

The Honorable Dorna M. Christensen
Delegate of the US Virgin Islands
1510 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-5501

Dear Delegate Christensen,

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the St. Croix Hiking Association who support the St. Croix National Heritage Area feasibility study. The designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area will definitely benefit the island's economy. Also, this designation will encourage preservation of historic sites as well as cultural, natural, and archaeological areas. St. Croix's history is rich and diverse with a cross section of people having come here, starting in the colonial times, from all over the world. With this rich history, St. Croix should have all the prerequisites for becoming a National Heritage Area.

We of the Hiking Association have always believed that the island of St. Croix was special. It was on July 7, 1966 that a group of St. Croix residents wanted to learn more about the Virgin Islands' – and St. Croix's in particular – natural and cultural history and marine resources. Mario Moorehead, as you know was a popular radio host on St. Croix, suggested to naturalist Olasee Davis that he lead a hike in the northwest part of the island for the general public to become more aware of the natural and cultural significance of the area. As a result of this expedition, the St. Croix Hiking Association was born and has grown over the years to a membership of almost one hundred strong.

There is a widespread recognition that St. Croix's rich natural, cultural, and historical heritage is a major resource for the Virgin Islands Tourism industry. With this in mind, the Hiking Association is helping to educate our members and the general public so that they may truly appreciate and preserve St. Croix's valuable resources. So we strongly support you in your efforts to petition Congress to designate St. Croix a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Catherine Prince

Catherine Prince
President of the St. Croix Hiking Association
www.StCroixHiking.org



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States
Department of Planning & Natural Resources
St. Thomas/St. John Historic Preservation Office
"Preserving The Past For The Future"

July 22, 2010

Chris Abett
Assistant Regional Director, Partnerships
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St. SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Abett,

On behalf of the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (a division of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources), we are pleased to offer comments on the *Draft St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study*.

First of all, allow me to offer my compliments on the draft report as a whole. The draft report is well written and admirably captures the rich history, culture and environmental resources of St. Croix, Virgin Islands. My staff and I feel very strongly that this document more than sufficiently illustrates why the island of St. Croix should be designated as a National Heritage Area.

This office wholeheartedly supports the designation of the island of St. Croix as a national heritage site. This prestigious designation reflects the unique cultural, historic, and environmental contribution of the island to the history of this territory, the region and the United States as a whole. The residents of St. Croix and indeed the entire Virgin Islands, avidly support this designation and we remain committed to undertake the responsibilities inherent with the designation of a national heritage site.

My staff and I studied this draft report in detail. We agree completely with the broad themes, observations and findings reported. We also made note of several specific corrections, clarifications or inclusions which we feel will only add to an already comprehensive documents. Our more germane comments are as follows:

1. Page 8, second paragraph - the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee should be included.
2. Page 13, Map 3- this list of the the von Scholten schools excludes the Two Williams and LaVallee schools.
3. On page 13, Map 3 - Slavery and Emancipation should also include the historic Contentment Village site. The need for this is made clear with the comments on the bottom of page 92 regarding wood framed folk cottages on the outskirts of Christiansted and Frederiksted.

4. Page 14, Item No. 40 – Richmond, I believe that this reference is to the Richmond Penitentiary and should be so noted as such.

5. Page 18, first column – include the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee. ✓

6. Page 35, caption should identify the site.

7. Page 36, caption should identify the site.

8. Page 49, caption should identify the site.

9. Page 84, third paragraph – Fort Frederik Museum, a National Historic Landmark since September 25, 1997. ✓

10. Page 85 - the description of Government House should include the fact that the building currently serves as the Office of the Governor. Also the reference to the capital moving to Charlotte Amalie in 1871 is misleading and should correctly state that in 1871 the capital of the Danish West Indies was moved back to its original location in Charlotte Amalie. ✓

11. Page 96 - should include the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee and the description should read:

The Historic Preservation Commission was established by Act No. 2258 (approved June 28, 1968), codified at Chapter 3, Title 29, Section 280 of the Virgin Islands Code, and in section 301 of Act No. 5265 (added June 24, 1987), codified at Chapter 22 Title 3, Section 403.

The St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee oversees the Christiansted and Frederiksted Historic and Architectural Control Districts to include the National Park Service's Christiansted National Historic Site and areas adjacent thereto and historic properties outside the Historic and Architectural Control Districts. ✓

The historic heritage in ancient landmarks and the fine architecture of several centuries which reflect the skills, crafts and culture of Virgin Islands life, as well as the taste and judgment of the settlers of these islands and the ancestors of today's citizens, have been declared by the Legislature to be invaluable assets. As the custodian of this heritage, the Commission's objectives are enhancing the prestige and attractiveness of the Virgin Islands, preserving cultural properties for generations to come, increasing resident responsibility and tourist interest, and maintaining the charm and high quality of appearance which makes the Virgin Islands unique in the Caribbean.

12. Page 110 - the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee should be added.

13. Appendix D, page 6 - LaGrande Princesse School and Dunbavin School on page 163 is one of the same.

14. Appendix D should also list the following or add to page 163:

Friedensberg Moravian Church

Friedensfeld Moravian Church

Old Convent

Historic Wells (22 known sites)

Baobab Tree Christiansted Parking Lot

Archaeological Sites (4 known sites)

Father Friederich Martin Grave site (The Moravian Apostle) at LaGrande Princesse

In closing, we are pleased with this draft report and even more pleased at the possibility of St. Croix being designated as a National Heritage Area. Our office and the entire Department of Planning and Natural Resources stand ready as a continued resource and partner in this important effort. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or requests for assistance.

Sincerely,


Lorna A.C. Thomas
Director

Cc: Governor, John P. deJongh, Jr.
Delegate to Congress, Donna M. Christensen
Senator Shawn-Michael Malone, Chair for the Committee On Planning and Environmental Protection
Robert S. Mathes, Commissioner of Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Rupert Pelle, Chair of the St. Croix Historic Preservation Committee



ST. CROIX LANDMARKS SOCIETY

52 Estate Willem, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands 00834
340-772-0598 F • 340-772-9446 F • info@stcroixlandmarks.org • www.stcroixlandmarks.org

May 30, 2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Vivian Plakoutz-Dunham
- Stacy Zinken

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

RE: Letter of Support for SUCCEED, Inc. as the Coordinating Entity for the Management of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Randall,

For over 60 years, The St. Croix Landmarks Society has diligently worked to promote and preserve the unique history, culture and heritage of the island of St. Croix. In this light, it is no wonder that our organization has heralded the efforts of our Congresswoman, Donna Christian Christensen to help secure the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area (NHA) by the National Park Service. The St. Croix Landmarks Society, through its mission and programs, continues to promote the distinct history, culture and natural environment of St. Croix.

The St. Croix Landmarks Society pledges its support to SUCCEED, Inc. in its efforts to be selected as the Coordinating Entity/National Heritage Area Manager for the island of St. Croix. Our vision of partnerships with other non-profit organizations with historical, cultural and natural environment preservation and promotion such as SUCCEED, Inc., shows our commitment to work collectively to produce a rich product for the inhabitants and visitors of this special island in the Caribbean.

Once again, on behalf of The St. Croix Landmarks Society, I would like to thank the National Park Service for its consideration of our island as a National Heritage Area. We hope that, through partnerships, we can help to bring this designation to St. Croix and assist, for years to come, in the successful management of the island as a National Heritage Area.

Best Regards,

Sonia Jacobs Dow
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Claudette Young Hinds, President
SUCCEED, Inc

Ms. Gloria V. Peel, Chairperson
Board of Trustees

Preserving the history and culture of St. Croix

May 27, 2009

Trust for Virgin Islands Lands, Inc
PO Box 1750, Kingshill, VI 00851
Ph. 340 690 8054

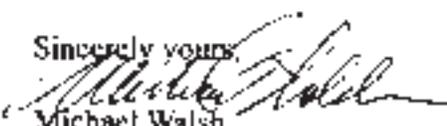
Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, Colorado, 80228

Dear Ms. Randall

The Trust for Virgin Islands Lands (TVIL) is a registered non profit organization that was organized with the purpose of conserving critical habitat and landscape in the U S Virgin Islands. It was started in the fall of 2006, is currently in the process completing the requirements for accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance and receiving 501c3 status from the IRS. TVIL has a memorandum of understanding with The Nature Conservancy that includes development towards a capacity for assuming management of some of their holdings in the Virgin Islands and general conservation partnership. TVIL has with met and discussed mutual interests with the Trust for Public Lands. Presently, we are completing a contract with the VI Department of Agriculture surveying and appraising land in the north west area St. Croix including parts of Maroon Ridge for consideration for inclusion in the Federal Forest Legacy Program. We have received a conservation easement in this same area that will become part of this same program. Our intention is to create a land trust for the virgin islands that will endure in perpetuity.

While it is not an advocacy organization TVIL supports the efforts of the NHA designation for St. Croix and all conservation efforts through out the territory such as Succeed's and will assist in those areas that are within our purview of holding easements and title to land for conservation and ensuring that it is always protected within its intended mandate.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Walsh

President, TVIL

**USVI COALITION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. (VISED, INC.)**
"A Partnership for Prosperity"

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1570
Kinghill, St. Croix
U. S. Virgin Islands 00851-1570

May 22, 2009

Ms. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Re: SUCCEED, INC.

Subject: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Randall:

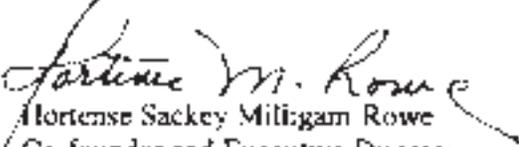
The undersigned individual and our organization are founding members of SUCCEED, INC. Accordingly, over the years we have worked untiringly to achieve our collective desired results of national interests in the areas of education, history, culture, conservation and overall smart development.

The U.S.V.I. Coalition for Sustainable Economic Development, Inc. (VISED, INC.), is not a stand alone organization. We have been chartered to form coalitions with other organizations and groups, an organization whose chartered goals and objectives make a perfect fit to support the goals and objectives of SUCCEED, INC.

Since its inception in the late 2002s, the organization has worked with other organizations and government departments and agencies. A testimony of this fact is outlined in the various resource material submitted as part of VISED, INC.'s Bio.

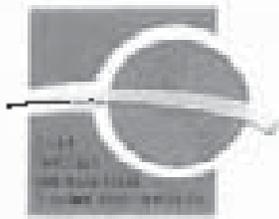
VISED, INC. is committed to the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, and strongly support and recommend SUCCEED's selection as the Coordinating Entity, as well as we pledge our corporate and personal support and commitment to assist with NHA projects and to help raise funds as needed.

Respectfully,


Hortense Sackey Milligan Rowe
Co-founder and Executive Director

**USVI COALITION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. (VISED, INC.)**
"A Partnership for Prosperity"

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1570
Kingshill, St. Croix
U. S. Virgin Islands 00851-1570



May 25, 2009

Mrs. Claudette Young Hinds
President/Acting Executive Director
SUCCEED, INC.
4000 La Grande Princesse
St. Croix, USVI 00820

RE: A PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

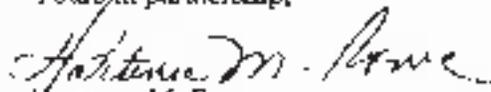
SUBJECT: LETTER OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT

Dear Mrs. Young Hinds:

This letter is to inform your organization of VISED, INC.'s intention to continue to work in the partnership relationship which both organizations entered into although informally since 2006. As soon as time permits I have been authorized by our Board of Directors to enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with your organization. Such would undoubtedly allow for meaningful innovative community self determination efforts as well as to enhance the National Heritage Area (NHA) Study process.

VISED, INC. is committed to the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, and strongly support and recommend SUCCEED's selection as the Coordinating Entity. We pledge our corporate and individual support and commitment of resources (including in-kind) to assist with NHA projects and to help raise funds as needed.

Yours in partnership,


Hortense M. Rowe
Co-Founder & Executive Director



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



120 Church Street - Christened
St. John, VI 00801-4012
Tel: (340) 344-1000
Fax: (340) 344-1001

P.O. Box 30205 - Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00985-0205
Tel: (340) 344-3000
Fax: (340) 344-3005

Albert Bryan Jr. - Commissioner

May 29, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear M. Randall:

It gives us great pleasure to transmit this letter in support of SUCCEED Inc.'s application for the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area (NHA) and SUCCEED Inc. as the Coordinating Entry in St. Croix.

The SUCCEED Inc. organization has proven its commitment to preserving St. Croix's natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources by the many activities they have either sponsored or shared in to promote Crucian heritage as the cornerstone of wealth building and development. They recognize the opportunity to have a positive economic impact on artists and craftspersons, small business development, jobs creation, and historic and environmental preservation as a NHA Coordinating Entity.

The Virgin Islands Department of Labor is dedicated to promoting economic growth, and training and employment opportunities for the residents of this Territory by partnering with other government agencies, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders. As such, we are committed to partnering with SUCCEED Inc. to promote new training opportunities for our residents in the heritage tourism industry.

Once again we applaud SUCCEED Inc.'s efforts to secure this very important designation as a NHA and NHA Coordinating Entity, and look forward to working with them.

Sincerely,


Albert Bryan Jr.
Commissioner



Cooperative Extension Service
Office of the State Director

August 13, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
Landscape Architect Planner
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80228

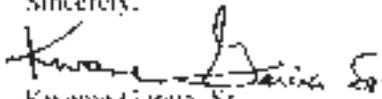
Dear Ms. Randall:

This letter serves to express my support and commitment of the University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service to the National Heritage Area (NHA) designation of the island of St. Croix, USVI. This designation will indeed help to stimulate the economy, support our work in the Extension's Environmental Education Program and fundamentally have a positive impact on our community and its residents.

The University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service is deeply committed to the preservation of our natural, environmental, historical and cultural heritage and pledge to support this effort with our wide range of professional skills and expertise.

We strongly support the National Park Service and any efforts that can make the designation of St. Croix a National Heritage Area (NHA).

Sincerely,


Kwame Garcia, Sr.
State Director

cc. Kofi Boateng, Associate Director
Stanford Crossman, Assistant Director-ANR
Oluseu Davis, Natural Resources Specialist



**THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.**
5032 Anchor Way Suite 3
Christiansted, VI 00820

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

May 26, 2009

Dear Ms. Randall,

The Virgin Islands Conservation Society (VICS) is pleased to support the application of SUCCEED as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area (St. Croix NHA) Feasibility Study. SUCCEED is the most broadly based affiliate organization on St. Croix and best positioned to provide the cross-cultural and multi-disciplined approach needed for effective planning and conservation management of the St. Croix NHA.

SUCCEED has been highly visible and effective in mobilizing community action on behalf of conservation of St. Croix's cultural/natural legacy, for example in initiating a campaign to conserve the *Maroon Sanctuary Territorial Park* in the Northwest Quarter of the island, and in organizing a symposium on *The Viability of the Past in the Economic Future of St. Croix*, in conjunction with the VI Department of Tourism.

The Virgin Islands Conservation Society is the oldest conservation organization in the Virgin Islands, having celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. The following are among the purposes for which VICS was founded:

- to encourage the conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Virgin Islands;
- to explore possible sources of technical and financial assistance to organizations involved in conservation within the area, and to facilitate the flow of such assistance; and
- to educate the public and to encourage greater awareness of the value of our natural and cultural resources.

We look forward to providing support in these areas to further the capacity of SUCCEED in planning and managing the conservation of St. Croix's rich cultural and natural heritage through the NHA program.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the application of SUCCEED to serve as Coordinating Entity for the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Michael Baron
Vice President, VICS



May 28, 2009

*Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver Colorado 80228*

Dear Ms. Randall:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment and Economic Development (SUCCEED).

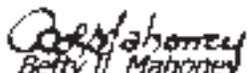
SUCCEED, a volunteer, non-profit organization is committed to making the island of St. Croix a National Heritage Area which will have a very positive impact in the areas of historic preservation, jobs creation, the arts, culture and heritage and environmental protection and preservation. They are committed to "smart" economic development and to the creation of a Maroon Sanctuary Park.

To accomplish their goals, SUCCEED invested in educating and engaging the community through town hall meetings and participating in various conferences which focused on the economic future of St. Croix, cultural heritage tourism and sustainable development. They have collaborated with and received support from the Chamber of Commerce, St. Croix Realtors Association and The Nature Conservancy, to name a few.

I write in support of SUCCEED because I truly believe that their efforts will encourage the protection and continued use of our Territory's cultural heritage resources which is very important to the quality of life and economic well-being of Virgin Islanders and visitors to our shores. I am committed to providing whatever assistance is needed to ensure that St. Croix designated as a National Heritage Area.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


*Betty L. Mahoney
Executive Director*



VIRGIN ISLANDS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

41820 Kensington Cade ♦ St. Thomas, VI 00002-4746 ♦ TEL: (340) 774-4044 ♦ FAX: (340) 774-3972 ♦ URL:
v-islandshumanities.org ♦ E-mail: info@vishumanities.org

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Executive Director

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Program Officer

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Development Officer

Daphne O'Meara
Financial Officer

Fija Dudley
Administrative Assistant

May 20, 2009

Kate Taylor Randal
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

The Virgin Islands Humanities Council (VIHC) supports the selection of SUCCEED as the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity. This St. Croix entry is well poised to assume this role, because of its many years of community service and commitment to Crucian Heritage as the cornerstone of wealth and smart economic development.

The Virgin Islands Humanities Council (VIHC), chartered in 1984, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization funded primarily by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The mission of the Virgin Islands Humanities Council is to promote life-long learning and cultural awareness through the humanities. The Council provides opportunities for our diverse population to participate in humanities programs that encourage dialogue, enhance understanding and broaden people's perspective of the human experience.

In 2006 the VIHC participated in a two-day conference hosted by SUCCEED, "The Viability of the Past in the Economic Future of St. Croix." This event served as the impetus for the Council launching a territory-wide initiative that attracted more than 250 people, 2007 We the People "The Future of the Past: The Business of Cultural Heritage Tourism," conference which created an opportunity for SUCCEED to further promote and educate a broader audience about its efforts. From travel and tourism stakeholders to government and elected officials, international experts, school age youth, entrepreneurs, cultural bearers, teachers, scholars and artists engaged in interactive workshops that addressed the humanities and emphasized the promotion and preservation of our rich culture and heritage through economic empowerment.

SUCCEED, like the Virgin Islands Humanities Council plays an influential role in the territory's culture and identity, and believes in creating a viable positive environment for all Virgin Islanders.

Sincerely,

Mabel J. Maduro
Executive Director

Promoting Cultural
Awareness through the
Humanities



PO Box 4696
Kingshill, St.Croix,
U.S. Virgin Islands
00851
(340) 718-0071

July 10, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center- Planning
Kate Randall, Project Manager
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Ms. Randall,

Virgin Kayak has been operating within Salt River Bay National Park and in other areas of St.Croix for over 10 years. We provide a wonderful kayak tour experience for locals and visitors alike. We enjoy the beauty, heritage, history and culture of St. Croix and share our passion with everyone we take paddling on the water. As a resident of St.Croix of nearly 21 years, I am so amazed with the amount of history here, and have been studying the pre-Columbian people, their way of life and art for a very long time. I have told the Columbus story to countless numbers of people, and our kayak tours have been voted "best of the VI" for 2009 and 2010.

We at Virgin Kayak strongly support the St. Croix National Heritage Area feasibility study. St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, will show case our historic sites, natural and archaeological sites, and there is so very much of that here. I believe that this island has so much to offer, and if any place deserves to become a National Heritage Area, St.Croix does.

In my own way, I have been promoting all of this for some time. Check out my pages on facebook:

Salt River Bay National Park
TAINO (AYAY ART)
Virgin Kayak Tours.
Also our new web site : virginkayaktours.com

Sincerely,
Bryan A. Updyke

VIRGIN ISLANDS SOCIAL HISTORY ASSOCIATES

P. O. BOX 338, FRDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX, U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00840

Telephone/Fax 340-772-0664

Email gftyson@viaccess.net

May 20, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

The Virgin Islands Social History Associates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization established for the purpose of researching and documenting the social and cultural history of the U.S. Virgin Islands, with particular attention to the island of St. Croix. As an organization, we are committed to the best practice preservation of the cultural resources of St. Croix, and to partnering with government agencies and NGOs in utilizing these resources to enrich education and tourism.

VISHA wholeheartedly supports the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, and fully supports SUCCEED's selection as the Coordinating Entity.

VISHA hereby commits to collaborating with SUCCEED in the development of the Management Plan, and, as a partner organization, to assist with the recruitment of community partners, fundraising and the development and implementation of appropriate NHA projects.

Sincerely,



George F. Tyson
President

Virgin Islands Social History Associates

District I - St. Croix



District II - St. Thomas/St. John

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D.
Member of Congress
Territory of the United States Virgin Islands

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

The Virgin Islands State Nurses Association is pleased to support your efforts to have the island of St. Croix designated as a National Heritage Area. We buy into the local benefits to be derived from this designation – preservation of our culture, fostering community pride, enhancing opportunities for education and inspiration and providing economic stimulus.

Nurses are very much aware that the definition of health is a state of total well-being and not the absence of disease. We see these benefits as directly impacting the well-being of the people of St. Croix thereby improving their health.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this project and be a part of your community support.

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and members of the association I am

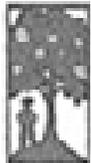
Sincerely,

Joyce T. Heyliger, MPE, MSN, RN
Executive Director



An Affiliate of the American Nurses' Association (ANA) 2002
Associate Member United American Nurses (UAN)

Founded 1949



VIRGIN
ISLANDS
SUSTAINABLE
FARM
INSTITUTE

Nate Olive, M.A.
Program Director
VI Sustainable Farm Institute
PO Box 1007
Frederiksted, USVI 00841

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

September 8, 2009

Dear Honorable Donna M. Christensen,

On behalf of the Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute (VISFI) and based on preliminary results our research project with the University of Georgia on the heritage of St. Croix, I strongly and confidently recommend the approval of St. Croix by the Congress of the United States as a National Heritage Area. This includes the entire terrestrial area of the island and near-shore marine benthic and coral habitats as defined in our community participatory mapping project.

For the past 3 years, I have served as a research assistant in a University of Georgia study funded by VISFI concerning the potential for sustainable natural and cultural heritage tourism development in St. Croix. This study is meant to compliment the separate Feasibility Study carried out by the National Park Service. To date, it has included scores of interviews and community meetings and workshops that have seen hundreds of local stakeholder participants. Response has been overwhelming and consistent. Not only does the history of the area tell a significant portion of the national story of the United States through stories like Columbus' original clash with the native people, Alexander Hamilton's great enlightening, and the gateway of the African Diaspora that is interwoven into the fabric of our country, but the living heritage here today shows us the vitality of this national story in a vivid and compelling way.

I am convinced that the values and capabilities of management here are more than adequate for the establishment and stewardship of a National Heritage Area. Moreover, I sense that these heritage-laden archaeological sites and buildings, natural environments, and cultural traditions urgently need national recognition and community led strategies of preservation and promotion. I am from Atlanta originally. Yet I am here to learn this story because my native city needs to hear it. Our entire country needs to listen and learn with the pride, respect, and humility that will invite the best of these Crucian qualities back into the fabric of our future.

Sincerely,

Nate D. Olive, M.A.

P.O. Box 1007

Frederiksted, U.S.V.I., 00841
www.visfi.org info@visfi.org

340-473-3133



Craig W. Barshinger
28th Legislature

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Office of Senator-at-Large Craig W. Barshinger



Liaison to U.S.
Department of Insular
Affairs

Chair: Economic
Development, Energy and
Technology Committee

Vice Chair: Labor and
Agriculture Committee

Member:
Health Committee

Member: Appropriations
and Budget Committee

Member: Education,
Youth and Culture
Committee

May 26, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80220

Dear Ms. Taylor Randall,

As the Senator-At-Large for the 28th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I have both a professional and a personal commitment to the preservation and enhancement of St. Croix's unique natural, historic, scenic and cultural resources.

Of our three islands, St. Croix is the most Caribbean in flavor. The 250 year-old structurally intact architecture of Christiansted and Frederiksted is amongst some of the finest in the Lesser Antilles. Hundreds of preserved and idle ruins including plantation houses, sugar mills, lime kilns, boundary walls and slave quarters stand sentinel across the island, connecting our historically rich past with a culturally rich present.

The island's visually appealing and spiritually enriching landscape encompasses one of the best examples of dry tropical rainforest in the Caribbean, with old growth baobab, kapok, satinwood and mahogany trees populating mountains and valleys with a backdrop of brilliant turquoise water.

St. Croix is indeed deserving of being a National Heritage Area within the Caribbean and SUCCEED, Inc., an organization committed to preserving Crucian history, heritage and culture, will make an excellent choice for a National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity.

I fully support SUCCEED's efforts in obtaining their designation and stand ready to assist them in any way possible to achieve this goal.

Respectfully,

Craig W. Barshinger
Senator-At-Large
28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Reply to: Capital Building
P.O. Box 1090
St. Thomas, VI 00801
Office: 340-693-3040
Fax: 340-693

Reply to: 4th Lagoon Street Complex
Frederiksted
St. John, VI 00845
Office: 712-2307
Fax: 712-2290

Reply to: P.O. Box 1503
St. John, VI 00851
Office: 340-693-8051
Fax: 340-776-8835



Craig W. Barshinger
28th Legislature

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Office of Senator-At-Large Craig W. Barshinger
P.O. Box 1090
St. Thomas, USVI 00804-0113
(340) 693-3546 / FAX: (340) 693-3639



August 6, 2009

Liaison to U.S.
Department of Insular
Affairs

Chair, Economic
Development, Energy and
Technology Committee

Vice Chair, Labor and
Agriculture Committee

Member, Health
Committee

Member, Appropriations
and Budget Committee

Member, Education,
Youth and Culture
Committee

Mr. Edouard de Lagarde
District Manager
Delegate to Congress Office
8000 Noddy Center
2nd Floor
Suite 207
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Mr. de Lagarde,

St. Croix was first inhabited by Native Americans and later visited by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. Of the three Virgin Islands, St. Croix is the largest and possesses a rich political and cultural history. It was the home of political powerhouse, founding father and first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Historically it was such a prized possession that seven countries laid claim to it. Today its two main towns, Christiansted, once the capital of the Danish West Indies and now a historic site built in 1734, and Frederiksted, built in 1752, are both havens of intact 18th and 19th century historic architecture. Off the northeast coast of St. Croix lies Buck Island, part of the only United States Underwater National Monument.

St. Croix indeed possesses natural, historic and cultural resources worthy of recognition. The continued cultural traditions on the islands that govern folk life and the customs practiced by its citizens unequivocally indicate the willingness of a people to preserve their social and cultural features.

Organizations such as SUCCESS, St. Croix's Carnival Committee, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce and St. Croix's Environmental Association, along with government entities like the Department of Planning and Natural Resource's Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage Institutes, the Department of Education's Cultural Education Division and the Department of Tourism all work cohesively to preserve and enrich the history, culture, national and local monuments of St. Croix by developing conceptual plans outlining the roles of all players involved.

I believe, based on the criteria set forth by the National Park Service, that St. Croix is the best candidate for inclusion in the National Heritage area network and I stand in full support of it being so designated.

Sincerely,

Craig W. Barshinger
Senator-At-Large
28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands



Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

**ADLAH "FONCIE"
DONASTORG**
Senator, 26th Legislature

May 29, 2001

Member, Committees on

Federal Affairs,
Education and Social Services
Affairs

Planning, Youth
and Services Affairs

Planning and
Environmental Protection

Ms. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
17795 W. Alameda Parkway

Dear Ms. Randall,

I am writing today in wholehearted support of designating a large part of the beautiful and historic island of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

The Virgin Islands has played a unique role in American and world history, and with rapid development in recent years, many of our most important cultural sites have been lost. However, St. Croix still remains rife with special and unique natural and historic sites.

It is imperative that we take steps to preserve and enhance these sites for educational, ecological and economic purposes. There are pre-Columbian settlements on St. Croix that have yet to be fully explored, as well as numerous colonial and plantation era sites that must be protected. We cannot overlook the role the Virgin Islands played in the hemispheric struggle to end the African slave trade, nor can we forget the fact that Alexander Hamilton spent his formative years on St. Croix.

I also write in support of STCCHED, formerly CAMP, as the local coordinating entity. I have had the privilege of meeting with members of this organization and I can tell you that they represent some of our Territory's most informed and committed citizenry. This all-volunteer organization remains dedicated to supporting sustainable economic development and protecting our natural and cultural resources.

There simply are not words enough to express the importance of protecting and enhancing St. Croix via the NHA designation and I have proposed local legislation to petition Congress to support St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, which I will forward to you once drafting is complete. I truly hope that the National Park System will join us in requesting that the U.S. Congress make this official designation at the earliest opportunity. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you have any questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg



LOUIS PATRICK HILL
President
28th Legislature



United States Congress

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Capitol Building
P.O. Box 1690
St. Thomas, VI 00804

Office of the Senate President



Yee-Chairman
Committee on Housing, Sports,
And Veterans Affairs

Member
Committee on Appropriations
and Budget
Committee on Education
Committee on Health
Committee on Economic
Development, Energy
and Technology

August 19, 2009

Honorable Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-5501

Dear Delegate Christensen:

As President of the 28th Legislature, I fully endorse the movement underway to designate St. Croix as a National Heritage Area, confident that it has the enthusiastic support of the Senate and of the entire community.

Many of us hold that St. Croix should have been so designated decades ago. It is often we hear visitors to our shores exclaim that while they enjoyed St. Thomas as a vibrant, commercial entity, it is St. Croix that exudes old-world charm, invoking visions of a past era, all enhanced by Danish architecture and ancient sugar mills, recalling our history of a thriving molasses-rum trade between St. Croix and the early colonies.

The 28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands plays a very significant role in determining the ideals, causes, and initiatives of the Virgin Islands community. Our successes are strongly dependent upon our commitment to and our knowledge of our people and heritage. Due to your untiring efforts, specific aspects of St. Croix's heritage have been identified to be highlighted and designated for preservation as well as to be consciously developed.

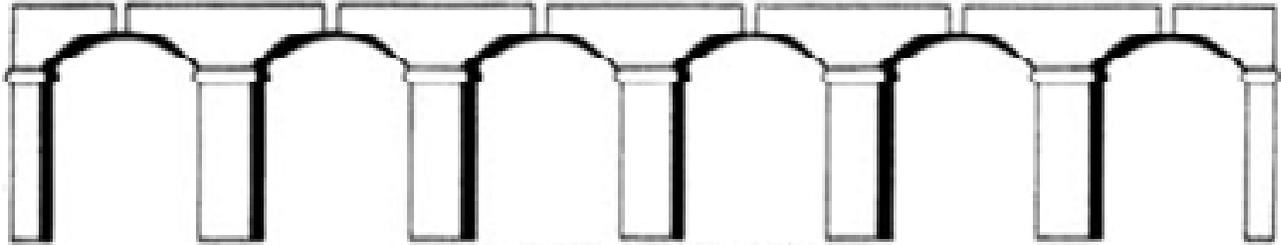
I commend you and the St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Team, as well as the National Park Service, for being at the forefront of the efforts to recognize the important natural, cultural, and historic resources of St. St. Croix and for undertaking this very worth-while mission. I wholeheartedly endorse your endeavor to garner Congressional approval and see our beautiful Virgin Island included into the National Heritage Area network.

Sincerely Yours,

Louis Patrick Hill
President

28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

cc: Members of the 28th Legislature



"Know your culture. Build your future"

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

WAYNE A. G. JAMES

Senator, 28th Legislature
Senate Liaison to the White House

COMMITTEES

Chairman
Education, Youth & Culture

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Appropriations & Budget

MEMBER
• Housing, Sports & Veterans Affairs
• Financial Services, Infrastructure & Consumer Affairs
• Public Safety, Homeland Security & Justice

May 29, 2009

Mrs. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12792 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Mrs. Randall:

It is my honor to recommend St. Croix United for Community, Cultural, Environmental, and Economic Development, Inc. (SUCCEED) in its application to be designated National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity.

Over the past decade, I have had the pleasure of working on an organization-by-organization basis with the leadership of the various entities which have joined forces to form SUCCEED in areas of cultural and historic preservation, ecotourism initiatives, and small business development, all aimed at empowering the people of the United States Virgin Islands towards a self-determined heritage. And in all instances, our collaborations have been not only successful, but stimulating. I can only imagine, then, how much more compelling the collective efforts of these groundbreaking entities will be when they join hands for heritage and cultural expression and preservation.

I look forward to your favorable consideration of SUCCEED as the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of further assistance in your decision-making process.

Wayne A. G. James
Senator of the 28th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Chairman of the Committee on Education, Youth, and Culture
Senate Liaison to the White House



Shawn-Michael Malone
Senator



Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands
P.O. Box 1010
CAPITOL BUILDING, CHARLOTTE AMALIE
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804
Tel. (340) 693-3529 Fax: (340) 693-3642
E-mail: smalone@lgo.gov

Chairman:
Planning and Environmental
Protection Committee
Member:
Labor and Agriculture Committee
Public Safety, Homeland Security
& Justice Committee
Economic Development, Energy &
Technology Committee
Health Committee

May 18, 2009

Mrs. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
13765 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Mrs. Randall:

It gives me great pleasure to offer this letter of recommendation on behalf of St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment and Economic Development, Inc. (SUCCEED) as they apply for designation as the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity.

As one of the U.S. Virgin Islands' elected officials, I have founded my campaign and legislative agenda on preserving and promoting various aspects of Virgin Islands culture. With this in mind, I would be remiss if I did not support SUCCEED, Inc.'s efforts to become a National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity. They are a nonprofit organization, committed to the preservation and development of Crucian Heritage as a cornerstone of social and economic development. At present, SUCCEED, Inc. is dedicated to the creation of the Maroon Sanctuary Territorial Park on St. Croix. The Maroon Sanctuary Territorial Park will serve residents and visitors alike with a historical and cultural timeline surrounding the emergence of maroons following slave revolts during Danish colonialism in St. Croix. I am certain it will prove to be beneficial for tourists and residents alike in an effort to boost our tourism driven economy. It is through efforts and services such as those that cultivate pride and honor within St. Croix and the Virgin Islands territory, in general.

SUCCEED, Inc. continues to take proactive approaches towards historical and cultural development on the island of St. Croix that has brought forth positive and effective change in the community. Evidenced by their advocacy for economic development, they have orchestrated forums such as one on "Sustainable Development" that have provided residents with an array of information for their overall benefit. They continue to support related efforts including the 2006 History Tradition and Culture Foundation Emancipation Activities and the Virgin Islands Humanities Council 2007 Conference "The Future of the Past: The Business of Cultural Heritage Tourism."

Akin to many countries and regions, so much of our identity as a territory is rooted in our culture through historical landmarks that not only tell a story of old but paves the way for future stories to be told. SUCCEED, Inc. boasts a membership of diverse business professionals that makes them a strong candidate for this meaningful opportunity. They have improved the consciousness of the residents of the Virgin Islands to be more receptive to significance of historical and cultural preservation that will forever be the cornerstone of our Virgin Islands identity and livelihood.

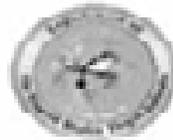
I encourage you to give their application the utmost consideration so that they may attain greater credibility in an effort to continue developing our cultural and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations of Virgin Islands people and visitors from near and afar to enjoy our home.

Sincerely,

Shawn-Michael Malone
Chairman, Committee on Planning and Environmental Protection
28th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands



Senator Terrence "Positive" Nelson



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

#100 Lagoon Homes Ste.2
FREDERICK, U.S.V.I. 00840-3912

Office of Senator Terrence "Positive" Nelson

Member

- Committee on Appropriations and Budget
- Committee on Financial Services, Information and Consumer Affairs
- Committee on Education, Youth and Culture
- Committee on Labor and Agriculture
- Committee on Public Safety, Homeland Security and Justice

May 26, 2009

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall

I am extremely please to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of the St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment & Economic Development SUCCEED, Inc.

SUCCEED, Inc is a volunteer, nonprofit organization in the Virgin Islands committed to preserving the heritage of the Virgin Islands particularly the Crucian heritage and culture.

As an elected representative of the Virgin Islands I am personally committed to the positive movement and growth of St. Croix. St. Croix is well known for its diverse and dramatic culture and history. It's also rich in natural beauty, being noted for its clear blue, sandy beaches, to its attractive botanical garden and the various heritage trails and other wonders that surround the big island. If St. Croix becomes a part of the National Heritage Area(NHA) it will add great value to the already exquisite establishment.

I humbly request that you accept St. Croix into the family of the National Heritage Area (NHA). St. Croix is deserving of this recognition. If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me at 340.713.2210.

Sincerely,

Terrence "Positive" Nelson
Senator-28th Legislature of the VI

Office: (340)713-2210 STX
(340)693-3655 STI

Fax: (340) 713-2204 STX
(340)693-3654 STI



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

#100 Cottage Homes Site 2
Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840-3912
Tel: (340) 712-2222 • Fax: (340) 712-2378

NEREDA NELLIE RIVERA-O'REILLY
Speaker

COMMITTEE
Economic Affairs, Education,
and Consumer Affairs
Finance, Health and Culture
Labor and Agriculture
Education, Development,
Energy and Technology

May 21, 2019

Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

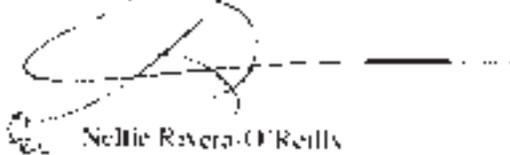
Dear Ms. Randall:

It is with pride and honor that I provide this letter in support of SUCCEED's application to be the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity for St. Croix, V.I. I remain hopeful that St. Croix receives the designation as a National Heritage Area.

My staff and I are committed to helping preserve historical, cultural, ecological, and environmental areas identified in St. Croix, and look forward to learning about opportunities to tangibly assist with NHA projects, identify resources and amend existing laws to ensure funding for the preservation, maintenance and development of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have questions.

Respectfully,



Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly



28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802

PATRICK SIMEON SPRAUVE

Senator

Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services
Chairman

P.O. Box 1000 • Tel: (340) 693-3513 • FAX: (340) 693-3621

e-mail: psprauve@tvgov.org

May 22, 2009

Ms. Kate Taylor
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The US Virgin Islands has been a "Cultural Gem" within the Caribbean Basin for centuries, and it is a unique part of the American society. Every day, Virgin Islanders enjoy the blessings of living in an immensely beautiful tropical climate with a rich socio-cultural heritage. I have supported an expansion of the Territorial park concept, more recreational space on private property, and cultural development within our public schools.

I am particularly impressed with the proposal by Succeed Inc. to seek an expansion of the National Heritage designation on St. Croix—the cultural heartland of the Virgin Islands society. The successful preservation of St. Croix's ecology and archaeological sites will encourage sustainable eco tourism. Additionally, in my meetings with members of the private sector, the issue of branding our tourist product has been brought up repeatedly.

Your proposal aligns perfectly with the need for an environmentally friendly tourist product that complements the rich heritage of Crucians. I fully support this project and will do anything necessary to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Senator Patrick Simeon Sprauve
28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Vice Chairman

Committee on Health & Justice

Member

Committee on Appropriations & Budget

Committee on Housing, Sports & Veterans Affairs

Committee on Planning & Environmental Protection

Committee on Public Safety, Homeland Security & Justice



HONORABLE ALVIN L. WILLIAMS, JR.
SENATOR

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Capitol Building
P.O. Box 1691
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
U.S. Virgin Islands 00804



May 19, 2009

Chairman
Committee on Planning and
Environmental Protection

Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety,
Homeland Security and
Justice

Member
Committee on
Rules and Judiciary

Committee on Housing,
Sports and Veterans Affairs

Committee on Health

Ms. Kate Taylor Randall
National Park Service
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Randall:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to write this letter in support of USVI not for profit organization SUCCEED, Inc. to be designated as the National Heritage Area Coordinating Entity (NHAE Manager).

As a member of the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee of the 28th Legislature and Chairman of that Committee in the 27th Legislature, I take a personal interest in the planned building and development of the Virgin Islands. I am impressed with this organization SUCCEED, Inc. because the members are committed to preserving the heritage of St. Croix as the cornerstone of wealth building and development. They are also pursuing the creation of a Maroon Sanctuary Park which is important in the promotion of tourism by balancing environmental preservation with business development as we continue to pursue economic growth.

Our Delegate to Congress Donna Christiansen has worked tirelessly in the unwavering pursuit of a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for parts of St. Croix. She has been encouraged by Federal Officials to pursue such designation for the entire island which speaks to the fact that a national heritage area would pose a significant and positive economic impact with the establishment of local arts and crafts businesses, and other small business development with historic and environmental influences.

The founding members of SUCCEED Inc. consist of Virgin Islands residents who are proficient in their field. They include artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, educators, actors, farmers, doctors, etc. This dedicated group of professionals has my commitment to assist them in their efforts whenever possible to improve and preserve the history, culture and environment of St. Croix.

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Williams, Jr.
Senator
28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

RESOLUTION NO. 1742

BILL NO. 28-0152

TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2009

A Resolution petitioning Congress to designate St. Croix as a National Heritage Area

—0—

WHEREAS, A National Heritage Area is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are different from national parks and other types of federal designations because federal zoning and regulations on land use are not imposed, nor is land acquired and title to real property implicated. Because a National Heritage Area is locally initiated and managed, it is a community-based conservation strategy that recognizes that the people who live in that area are uniquely qualified to preserve its resources; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community-centered initiatives that connect local citizens to the preservation and planning process, and local entities representing multiple stakeholders manage National Heritage Areas, with expertise from the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, on March 30th, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 into law, a landmark piece of conservation legislation, which among other provisions, designated nine National Heritage Areas, bringing the total to 49 National Heritage Areas in 32 states; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that a National Heritage Area designation by the United States Congress for the island of St. Croix would help immensely to preserve, celebrate and share the uniqueness of the island and its unique, defining landscape in the American story, and offers the potential to ensure important educational, preservation, eco and heritage tourism, and cultural advancement opportunities in perpetuity, without compromising traditional local control over the natural, historic and cultural resources of the island; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that many of our historic and natural sites throughout the territory have been lost and that St. Croix's quality of life and economy are in large part dependent on protecting and preserving her historic and natural sites; and because of the complexity and magnitude of preservation needs on the island of St. Croix and the vital need for a culturally sensitive approach, a partnership approach is desirable for addressing the many preservation and educational needs; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix, the largest of the Virgin Islands, approximately 84 square miles in size, is rich in history, culture, natural areas and scintillating beauty that must be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix's colorful and fascinating past has played a significant role in the history of the United States and the Western World. Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, the Knights of Malta, Denmark and the United States all played a substantial role in the development of St. Croix's social and cultural history. Moreover, the pre-Columbian influences of indigenous peoples also persist to this day, including at least forty Indian village sites, among them an ancient ball court at Salt River and many yet to be explored sites; and

WHEREAS, there are significant national, early-American historical linkages between St. Croix and the United States, to including St. Croix's being the boyhood home of Founding Father and first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, and Danish soldiers' at Fort Frederik on St. Croix being among the very first to salute the newly created American flag during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix was host to important maroon encampments and significant uprisings of enslaved Africans and played a role in the "Freedom Road" or "Underground Railroad" that helped the enslaved Africans in the Eastern Caribbean escape their captors; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix is a cultural diversity crossroad in which her population of predominately African descent intersects with immigrants from neighboring eastern Caribbean islands, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the mainland United States whose influences are visible on the landscape today in terms of customs, language, dialects, place names, architecture, culinary arts, music, dance, mores, folklore and folkways; and

WHEREAS, the history and culture of St. Croix is manifested by the numerous historic landmarks, monuments, museums, natural areas and ecosystems, cultural events and in the day-to-day activities of the people; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix is the site of the Christiansted National Historic Site, established to preserve the historic structure and grounds within its boundaries, and to interpret the Danish economy and way of life here between 1733 and 1917 and consists of seven acres centered on the Christiansted waterfront/wharf area housing five historic structures: Fort Christiansvaern (1738), the Danish West India & Guinea Company Warehouse (1749), the Steeple Building (1753), Danish Custom House (1844), and the Scale House (1856) which exude the drama and diversity of the human experience at Christiansted during Danish sovereignty – colonial administration, the military and naval establishment, international trade including the slave trade, religious diversity, architecture, trades, and crime and punishment; and

WHEREAS, Fort Frederik, is located in Frederiksted, was constructed in the mid-18th century by the Danish government to protect its interests in the Caribbean and to defend the western end of Saint Croix against incursion from other European powers, and was the focal point of two important events that led to the dissolution of the slave-based economy of the Virgin Islands, the Emancipation Revolt of 1848 ending slavery in the Danish West Indies and 1878 Labor Riot and Fireburn, which ended the iniquitous, post-slavery serfdom contract labor system; and

WHEREAS, Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Government of the Virgin Islands contains some of the largest remaining mangrove forests in the Virgin Islands, as well as coral reefs and a submarine canyon and is reported to be the only known site where members of the Columbus expedition set foot on what is now the United States Territory and where Columbus encountered various indigenous peoples and;

WHEREAS, Buck Island Reef National Monument , known as "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea" is one of only a few fully marine protected areas in the National Park System. The 176-acre island and surrounding coral reef ecosystem support a large variety of native flora and fauna, including several endangered and threatened species such as hawksbill turtles and brown pelicans, and although mainly known for its coral reef and nesting sites for turtles and birds, Buck Island also has a rich cultural history as well; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix is the largest Leatherback Turtle nesting area in the United States, has numerous environmentally significant sites, including its moist tropical forest containing many rare plant species; and

WHEREAS, the centuries-old process of rum production is still alive at the historic Cruzan Rum factory founded in 1760, and picturesque old windmills and animal mills abound the Croican landscape, representing a significant era in the history of the Virgin Islands, Europe and the United States when the sugar industry was king; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix is the site of the St. Croix Heritage Trail, a 72-mile driving tour, which connects St. Croix's historic sites and attractions, traverses the entire 28 mile length of St. Croix, linking the historic towns of Frederiksted and Christiansted with the fertile central plain, the mountainous Northside, and the arid East End, and following modernized 18th Century roads, offers a cross section of the island's history, culture, landscapes, tracing the evolution of the island from days of sugar cane and cotton cultivation to cattle farms, homesteads, suburban communities, industrial complexes and tourist resorts, and provides numerous opportunities for the advancement of education, preservation and heritage tourism.

WHEREAS, as the foregoing findings attest, St. Croix, Virgin Islands: is a fascinating area of our nation where long-term relationships between people and nature have produced a landscape with high ecological, cultural, and aesthetic values, and where rich biological diversity coincides with cultural diversity in a way that helps define the character of our nation; and

WHEREAS, in summary, it must be concluded that St. Croix:

- (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic and cultural resources that represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of preservation, promotion, recognition, interpretation, continuing use which are best managed and preserved through public/private partnerships;
 - (2) contains resources important to the identified themes of the island which retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
 - (3) reflects traditions, customs, values, collective beliefs, aspects of culture and folklife that are a valuable of the American saga;
 - (4) provides outstanding and abundant opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources; and
 - (5) provides outstanding educational, recreational and heritage tourism opportunities;
- and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study on the viability of St. Croix as a National Heritage Site is ongoing and will establish the viability of designating St. Croix a National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, a broad spectrum of Virgin Islands stakeholders, governmental agencies, environmental organizations, historic societies and other nonprofit grass roots groups seek or support the designation of St. Croix as a National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, people of St. Croix have dedicated and committed themselves to working together to preserve and promote St. Croix's heritage resources and legacy by undertaking the planning and management of their heritage resources on St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, once designated, the National Park Service will be partner and advisor and will allocate a some of the resources necessary to protect St. Croix's natural and cultural resources and will assist in managing the St. Croix National Heritage Area; Now, Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Inasmuch as Congress has the sole power to determine whether or not St. Croix receives a designation as a National Heritage, the Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, petitions and encourages Congress to assist the Virgin Islands in preserving its historic and cultural heritages and its significant natural features by designating St. Croix a National Heritage Area and granting the Virgin Islands such other assistance and resources as the members consider appropriate.

SECTION 2. The members of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature stand committed to do all within their legislative authority to assist with and facilitate the establishment and management of the proposed St. Croix Heritage Area.

SECTION 3. The Executive Director of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature shall send a copy of this Resolution to each member of Congress, including the Delegate to Congress, the National Park Service and historic and environmental organizations of St. Croix.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 21, 2009.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 8
Day of January, A.D., 2010.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis Patrick Hill".

Louis Patrick Hill
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Sares".

Samuel Sares
Legislative Secretary

APPENDIX C: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES LISTINGS FOR ST. CROIX

St. Croix National Register Listings		
	Resource Name	Year Listed
1	Aklis Archeological Site	1976
2	Bethlehem Middle Works Historic District	1988
3	Christiansted Historic District	1976
4	Christiansted Historic District	1976
5	Christiansted Historic District	1966
6	Christiansted Historic District	1966
7	Coakley Bay Estate	1976
8	Columbus Landing Site	1966
9	Columbus Landing Site	1966
10	Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse	1974
11	Diamond School	1976
12	Estate Butler's Bay	1978
13	Estate Grove Place	1978
14	Estate Hogansborg	1978
15	Estate Judith's Fancy	1978
16	Estate La Reine	1980
17	Estate Little Princess	1980
18	Estate Mount Victory	1978
19	Estate Prosperity	1978
20	Estate Saint George Historic District	1986
21	Estate St. John	1978
22	Fairplain Archeological District	1976
23	Fairplain Archeological District	1988
24	Fort Frederik	1996
25	Frederiksted Historic District	1976
26	Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse	1976
27	Friedensthal Mission	1978
28	Ft. Frederik of U.S. Virgin Islands	1997
29	Great Pond Archeological Site	1976
30	Green Kay	1976
31	La Grande Princesse School	1976
32	Little La Grange	1976
33	Lower Granard Archeological District	1976
34	Prosperity Archeological Site	1976
35	Richmond Prison Detention and Workhouse	1978
36	River Archeological Site	1976
37	Salt River Bay National Historic Site and Ecol. Preserve	1992

38	Sion Hill	1976
39	Slob Historic District	1987
40	St. Georges Archeological Site	1976
41	Strawberry Hill Historic District	1987
42	Upper Salt River Archeological District	1976
St. Croix National Historic Landmarks (total 2)		
1	Columbus Landing Site	1960
2	Fort Frederik	1997
National Natural Landmarks (total 4)		
1	Green Cay National Wildlife Refuge	1980
2	Sandy Point	1980
3	Salt River Bay	1980
4	Vagthus Point	1980

APPENDIX D: INVENTORY OF SITES IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC MEETINGS & THEMATIC ALIGNMENT

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment		
Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Agricultural Station	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Altoona Lagoon	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Anna Heegaard Gravesite	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Annaly Bay	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N
Annaly Tide Pools	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N
Apothecary Hall	Seven flags	H
Archeological Sites (St. Georges, River, Great Pond, and Aklis)	Early Cultures	H
Armstrong's Ice Cream	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Baobab Tree (Christiansted Parking Lot and others)	Slavery and Emancipation	H, C
Base Array Telescope	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Belvedere	Seven Flags	H, C
Bethlehem Sugar Factory	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Buccaneer Hotel	Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C
Buck Island	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	N, S, H, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Buddhoe Park	Slavery and Emancipation	H, C
Bull and Bread (Liberty Day)	Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C
Bülowsminde	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S, N
Cane Bay	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	N, H
Cape of the Arrows	Early Cultures	C
Caribbean Museum for the Arts	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Christiansted	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Christiansted Harbor	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, N
Christiansted National Historic Site	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Concordia	Seven Flags	H, C
Cormorant Beach	Geography and the Natural Environment	S
Diamond School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
East End Marine Park	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
East End School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Emancipation Day	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Estate Anna's Hope	Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Bethlehem	Seven Flags	H, C, S, N
Estate Blessing	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Estate Butler Bay	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S, N
Estate Caledonia	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, N
Estate Cane Garden	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, N
Estate Castle Coakley	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Castle Nugent	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, S
Estate Clifton Hill	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, S
Estate Coakley Bay	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Concordia	Seven Flags	H, S
Estate Contentment	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Estate Diamond/ Cruzan Rum Factory	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Estate Grange	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, N
Estate Grove Place	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, N
Estate Judith's Fancy	Seven Flags	H, C, S, N
Estate La Grange	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H
Estate La Vallee	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Little Princess	Seven Flags	H, S, N
Estate Long Point	Seven Flags	H
Estate Longford	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Estate Lower Love	Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Morningstar	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S
Estate Mt. Washington	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, N, S
Estate Orange Grove	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Estate Oxford	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C
Estate Prosperity	Seven Flags	H, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment		
Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Estate Rust op Twist	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Estate Sion Hill	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S
Estate Thomas Experimental Forest	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	N
Estate Upper Love	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Estate Whim Plantation Museum	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Father Friederich Martin Gravesite (Estate La Grande Princesse)	Seven Flags	H
Fort Frederik	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Fort Louise Augusta	Seven Flags	H, C
Frederiksted	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, S, N
Frederiksted Custom House	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S
Frederiksted Harbor	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
French Ponds	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Friedensfeld Moravian Church and Manse	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, S
Friedensthal Moravian Church	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C, S

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Gallows Bay	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C, N
Golden Grove Greathouse/ University of the Virgin Islands	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Government House	Seven Flags	H, S
Great Pond	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N
Green Cay	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Guts/Waterways	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, N, C
Half Penny Bay	Early Cultures	C
Hams Bay, Bluff, and Lighthouse	Geography and the Natural Environment	N, S, H, C
Hams Bluff Lighthouse	Seven Flags	N, S, H, C
Hermitage	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Historic Wells (22)	Seven Flags	H
Holy Cross Anglican Church	Seven Flags	H, S
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Seven Flags	H, S
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Seven Flags	H, S

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment		
Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Hovensa	Modern-Day St. Croix	S
Indian Pictograph	Early Cultures	H, C
Isaac Bay	Geography and the Natural Environment	N, S
Jack Bay	Geography and the Natural Environment	N, S
Kingshill Lutheran Church	Seven Flags	H, S
Kingshill School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
La Grande Princesse School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
La Presvallee	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
La Reine Market	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	H, C
Lawaetz Family Museum and Garden at Little La Grange	Seven Flags	H, C, S, N
Long Reef	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Lord God of Sabaoth Lutheran Church	Seven Flags	H, S
Lower Love Chimney	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Mahogany Road	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N, H, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Markets (Frederiksted, Frederiksted Fish Market, Christiansted, and Christiansted Sunday Market)	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Maroon Ridge	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N
Moist Forest	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	S
Monks Baths	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Mt. Eagle	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N
Mt. Victory	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
Mt. Victory School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
North Shore Road	Geography and the Natural Environment	S
Northwest Caves	Slavery and Emancipation, Geography and the Natural Environment	N, H
Northwest Coastal Road	Geography and the Natural Environment	S
Peter's Farm Hospital	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Peter's Rest School (Von Scholten School)	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H, C
Point Udall	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N, H, C
Protestant Cay	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment	N, H, S, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
Queen Mary Highway/Centerline Road	Slavery and Emancipation	H, C, N
Rain Forest	Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N
Richmond Jail	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H
Robin Bay	Geography and the Natural Environment, Early Cultures	H, C, S
Ruth Island	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Salt River	Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix, Early Cultures	H, C, S, N
Sandy Point	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N
Scenic Road Drive	Geography and the Natural Environment	S
Senepol Cattle	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	N, C
Slob Historic District	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags	H
South Shore Road	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N
Southgate Pond & Coastal Reserve	Geography and the Natural Environment	S, N, H, C
Spanish Town	Seven Flags	H
St. Ann's Catholic Church	Seven Flags	H, C

Inventory of Sites Identified in Public Meetings & Thematic Alignment

Resource/Site	Theme Alignment (Early Cultures, Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix)	Historic (H), Cultural (C), Scenic (S), Geography and the Natural Environment (N)
St. Croix LEAP	Modern-Day St. Croix	C
St. George Village Botanical Garden	Slavery and Emancipation, Seven Flags, Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix, Early Cultures	H, C, S, N
St. John's Anglican Church	Seven Flags	H, S
St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Church	Seven Flags	H, S
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church	Seven Flags	H, S
St. Paul's Anglican Church	Seven Flags	H, S
State Little Princesse	Slavery and Emancipation	H
Under Water Sea Fans	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute	Geography and the Natural Environment, Modern-Day St. Croix	N
Von Rohr Botanical Garden Site	Seven Flags	H
Waterfall	Geography and the Natural Environment	N
West End Beaches	Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, N
West End Salt Pond	Geography and the Natural Environment	H, C, S, N

**APPENDIX E: INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES WITH TOURISM POTENTIAL ON ST. CROIX
FROM THE "ST. CROIX HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS FEASIBILITY STUDY" COMMISSIONED BY THE
ST. CROIX LANDMARKS SOCIETY IN 1996**

APPENDIX 3: INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES ON ST. CROIX WITH TOURISM POTENTIAL

Fieldwork for the following Inventory was undertaken between December 1, 1995 and June 1, 1996. The Landmarks Society survey team consisted of George F. Tynan and Marie Eugénie Bacot, with assistance from Barbara Hagan-Smith.

The sites in this Inventory all contain some standing ruins. Sites with little or no standing ruins have been excluded. The sites have been evaluated and ranked from 1 to 4 in accordance with their tourism potential. To establish a site's potential for heritage tourism, we considered the following variables: the nature, uniqueness and integrity of the site; its state of preservation; the scenic quality of its setting; its accessibility. Although rankings we have assigned reflect touristic rather than intrinsic patrimonial value, our ranking also took patrimonial value into account. The four rank categories are:

- Category 1:** Site or complex of exceptional historical, scenic and architectural merit. These sites are essential to the heritage tourism product currently and in the long term. They should be considered national treasures, and they must be protected and developed with great sensitivity to preserving their intrinsic character and socio-cultural values.
- Category 2:** Site containing one or more element of considerable historical and/or architectural merit, with high potential for enhancing the heritage tourism product in the long term usually after substantial upgrading. These are very important sites, which also must be protected, and require sensitive development.
- Category 3:** Site having low potential for attracting visitors, but contributing to the overall scenic context. These sites should be protected and maintained as part of the cultural landscape, but require substantial capital expenditures to bring them up to international tourism standards.
- Category 4:** A badly deteriorated site, with limited visual qualities, and having little or no long term potential to attract tourists.

Site location is specified by Quarter number, with Quarters being abbreviated as follows:

C = Company Quarter	K = King's Quarter	P = Prince's Quarter
EEA = East End A Quarter	NSA = Northside A Quarter	Q = Queen's Quarter
EEB = East End B	NSB = Northside B Quarter	WE = West End Quarter

Ownership abbreviations are:

G-US = Federal Government; **G-VI** = Government of the Virgin Islands; **P** = Private; **M** = Mixed; **T** = Not Known

Setting Ranking

Good = excellent visual qualities and viewscapes, unique setting offering good opportunities for photography and/or flora viewing

Fair = some viewscape and picturesque setting; may need some landscaping improvements

Poor = no scenic qualities; may be unattractive

Preservation

Excellent = Historic appearance intact

Good = Most of historic fabric intact

Fair = Limited amount of historic fabric intact

Poor = Almost no surviving historic fabric

APPENDIX 1: Inventory Of Historic Sites On St. Croix With Tourism Potential On St. Croix

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Adventure Plantation	F23	G-VI	Social Welfare Homeless Center	Incomplete set of sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, greenhouse with kitchen and servants quarters, animal pens and an occupied, highly altered hospital. Factory and village destroyed by residential development. Easy access from Route 70	Greenhouse	Good	Fair	2
Asquith Plantation	K23	F	Abandoned Barn	Extensive, but incomplete, set of sugar plantation ruins, including greenhouse foundation, large village with several row houses, truncated windmill, large factory chimney, factory destroyed. Controlled access thru Aluminum plant off Rt. 66.	Village houses chimney	Fair	Fair	2
Anna's Hope Plantation	C08	G-VI	Abandoned Barn	Extensive remains of former sugar plantation and Agricultural Experiment Station, including greenhouse with kitchen, windmill, altered factory, manager's house, village houses, battery, laboratory, stable and cistern. Easy access from Route 70.	Greenhouse, Battery	Good	Good	1
Assault Plantation	NRA18	F	Agricultural Cattle Farm	Good set of sugar plantation ruins, including lovely, occupied greenhouse with outbuildings, occupied windmill, factory ruins with steam engine, stable. Telescope sitting, with easy access off Route 75.	Greenhouse, Factory with steam machinery	Excellent	Good	1
Barnes Spot Plantation	K31	F	Residential	An occupied windmill and factory ruin in poor condition are all that survive of this former sugar plantation. Access off Rt. 66 thru farming development.		Fair	Poor	3
Barnes Spot/Moira Plantation	Q29	F	Abandoned Barn and Church	Incomplete set of sugar plantation ruins, partially occupied by St. Ann's Catholic Church. Included are well preserved factory, baggage stand, windmill, chapel and stable. Village destroyed. Easy access from Rt. 70.	Chapel	Fair	Fair	2
Beck's Owen Plantation	WE24	F	Abandoned Barn	Attractively situated sugar plantation ruins, consisting of factory, well preserved hospital, cistern, animal pens and village house foundations, most in fair condition. Difficult access via ungraded road off Rt. 70.	Hospital	Excellent	Good	2
Benton Hill Plantation	C04	F	Residential	Highly disturbed remains of former sugar plantation, includes an attractive but greatly altered, occupied greenhouse, windmill incorporated into a concrete complex, animal pens and some village foundations. Easy access off Rt. 70.	Greenhouse	Fair	Fair	3
Belfry Plantation	C33	F	Abandoned Barn and Residential	Fragmented set of sugar estate ruins: windmill on mountain part of a residential complex, factory ruins at lower level in fair condition, along with 2 wells and rubble remains of village houses. Easy access to lower ruins from Rt. 74.	Factory	Fair	Good	3
Bertram Plantation	NS011	F	Residential	A highly disturbed site. Most of these sugar plantation ruins, including the windmill and greenhouse, have been severely altered for residential use. Easy access from Rt. 73.		Poor	Poor	3
Bethlehem Mills Park Plantation	K25	M	Abandoned Barn and Residential	A fractional sugar estate site that is highly disturbed with little integrity or scenic value. There are ruins of an animal pen, a stable, reconstructed village row houses and renovated, occupied greenhouse. Easy access from Route 64.	Village	Poor	Poor	3
Bethlehem Old Works & Central Factory	K16	G-VI	Abandoned Barn	A highly disturbed site with little integrity or scenic value. Most sugar estate structures and central factory structures have been demolished. There are several mangled 20th century warehouses and row houses. Fair access from Route 70?	Chimney	Poor	Poor	3
Betty's Hope Plantation	F38	G-VI	Abandoned Barn	A modernized greenhouse, truncated windmill and retained watch house are all that remain of this former sugar plantation. Access via ungraded road off Route 66.	Greenhouse	Fair	Poor	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Berk's Windmill	NSA10	F	Abandoned Ruins	Highest windmill tower on St. Croix with outstanding 360 degree view. Access by short trail from Route 78. Ruins of the factory and other buildings are located in dense vegetation below.	View	Excellent	Good	1
Be-Jy-Hah Plantation	K19	GVI	Abandoned Ruins	Extensive ruins of attractively sited sugar plantation. This National Register site includes the ruins of a modernized greenhouse, windmill, factory, village houses, stable, well tower - most in fair condition. Easy access from Route 71.	Village, Well tower	Good	Fair	2
Bentley Plantation	ETA04	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed. A windmill and modernized, occupied greenhouse are all that remains of this sugar plantation.		Good	Fair	3
Big of Allen Plantation	H10	F	Abandoned Ruins and Agricultural	A highly disturbed site, consisting mostly of foundation ruins. The only standing historic building is occupied and poorly maintained. Difficult access via upgraded road off Rt. 70		Fair	Poor	4
Brown Esplanade Plantation	Q11	M	Abandoned Ruins and Residential	Incomplete set of sugar estate ruins, featuring an attractive, renovated greenhouse, 1 occupied village house, a windmill, a well tower, limestone house, storehouse, cistern and partial factory remains. Good access from Route 70P.	Greenhouse	Good	Fair	1
Brook Hill Plantation	W12P	F	Abandoned Ruins	The ruins of a small sugar plantation, originally situated in a grove at the entrance to St. Croix Leap. There are ruins of a rock pit animal mill, factory and several other structures. Easy access off Rt. 76.	Animal mill	Good	Fair	2
Bugby Hole	E25	F	Abandoned Ruins	The fragmentary ruins of a small factory is all that remains of this sugar and stock estate. Access via paved road off Rt. 621.		Fair	Poor	3
Delmonico Villa	C06-7	F	Residential	Occupied, altered, early nineteenth century villa built by Peter von Schobert, with outstanding view. A private residence with difficult access.	Architecture, Von Schobert association	Excellent	Good	1
Duffer City Plantation	NSA23	F	Abandoned Ruins and Residential	Extensive sugar plantation complex, featuring lovely, occupied greenhouse with kitchen and servants quarters, hospital, overseer's house, windmill, factory, village houses, lime kiln, pen. National Register site, easily accessed from Route 81.	Greenhouse, Factory, Manager's house	Excellent	Good	1
Gate's oak Plantation	NSA31	F	Abandoned Ruins	Heavily deteriorated ruins of animal mill, factory and a few other structures in scenic setting along watercourse. Extremely difficult access via trail.		Good	Poor	4
Campo Rico Plantation	W10P	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed by housing development. A windmill in fair condition is all that remains of this sugar estate. Fair access thru subdivision.		Poor	Poor	4
Canaan Plantation	NSH13	F	Residential	A highly disturbed site. Most of this sugar plantation ruins, including the windmill, have been severely altered for residential use. Easy access from Rt. 71.		Fair	Fair	3
Cane Bay Plantation	NSH21	F	Abandoned Ruins and Commercial	Dispersed set of sugar plantation ruins consisting of a windmill, well preserved factory ruins, ruin of a modernized great house and several other buildings some in use by tourist related businesses. Attractive setting near beach. Easy access off Rt. 80	Factory	Good	Good	2
Cane Garden Plantation	Q16	F	Abandoned Ruins and Residential	Sugar plantation complex, consisting of magnificently restored greenhouse, modernized, an occupied overseer's house, and ruins of a windmill, animal mill, factory, village houses, watch house and other structures. Easy access from Route 62.	Greenhouse	Good	Good	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Cane Plantation	WE01	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed by private housing. A windmill foundation is all that survives of this sugar estate. Access via paved road off Rt. 70.		Poor	Poor	4
Cane Valley Plantation	WE27	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. The foundation walls of factory and 2-3 other adjacent structures are all that survive of this sugar plantation. Fair access via unpaved road off Rt. 70.		Fair	Poor	4
Cedars Plantation	WE02	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed by recent development. Remains of a walled, truncated windmill, stock pen, a 1 or 2 other small structures are all that survive of this sugar estate. Easy access off Rt. 70.		Poor	Poor	3
Chapel Garden Plantation	Q49	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed by H&W Railway. An enclosed graveyard, with 3 tombs and base of the animal mill are all that survive of this sugar plantation.		Fair	Poor	4
Cane Swamp Plantation	P22	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed sugar estate complex. The standing remains consist of 9 covered, 10th century row houses, 4 wider house ruins and a modern cattle pen. Difficult access via dirt road off Route Lower Lays Road.		Fair	Poor	4
Cane Crockery Plantation	Q34	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	A good set of sugar plantation remains, featuring 2 windmills, well house, occupied greenhouse, village houses and manager's house, owner's factory, overseer's house, pens, stables and baggage shed. National Register site with easy access from Rt. 11.	Greenhouse; 2 windmill towers; Baggage house	Fair	Good	1
Cane Nugget Plantation	ELA41	F	Tourism, Residential and Agricultural (Cuba's Farm)	Attractively situated site of former cotton estate, now a working cattle ranch. Complex includes 8 restored and occupied structures; a greenhouse (used as a guest house), 2 village houses, and a cotton house. Access via ungraded road off Rt. 22.	Greenhouse; Manager's Home	Excellent	Good	2
Callahan's Best Stock Estate	C12	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed. Most surviving walls/foundations of this former stock estate have been incorporated into residences. Easy access off Rt. 522.		Poor	Poor	4
Charleston Historic District	C	M	Mixed	A large complex of eighteenth and nineteenth century historic buildings consisting of houses, shops, churches, and several public buildings. Includes the Charleston National Historic Site and Government House. National Register site.	Fort Christiansburg Architecture	Good	Mixed	1
Clearmont Plantation	NE004	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Fairly preserved ruins of sugar factory, animal pen and lime kiln; adjacent windmill enclosed by private residence. Historic location with difficult access via private road off Rt. 78.		Good	Poor	3
Clearmont Plantation	N09	F	Abandoned Ruin	This attractively situated site features a windmill and small well preserved factory. Outstanding views. Difficult access by trail off Rt. 74.	View	Excellent	Good	3
Clifton Hill Plantation	K22	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Extensive ruins of former sugar plantation, consisting of greenhouse ruins, occupied village houses, overseer's house and servant quarters, windmill, well preserved factory with steam engine, lime kiln, well tower. Easy access from Rts. 70 and 553.	Factory with steam machinery; kiln; occupied village	Fair	Good	1
Cookley Hay Plantation	BE001	F	Abandoned Ruin	Extensive sugar plantation ruins, including greenhouse, manager's house, overseer's house 2 kitchens, village houses, windmill, factory, well house, stables, animal pen. Easy access from Route 82. National Register site.	Greenhouse	Excellent	Good	1
Columbus Landing - Gray's Fort Site at Salt River	NE002	G-VI	Tourism and Open Space	A former site at the mouth of Salt River, containing remains of an Appalachian settlement and the foundation of small seventeenth century fort. National Register site, with excellent view of Salt River estuary. Easy access via paved road off Rt. 80.	Appalachian settlement; Columbus association	Excellent	Poor	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Seeds Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Canaanville Plantation	Q08	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Extensive, partially occupied, sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, stone chimney, well tower, factory ruins, manager's house, stable, occupied, modernized village houses. Easy access from Rt. 78.	Chimney; Manager's house; Stable; Windmill	Good	Good	2
Canaanville Plantation	W020	F	Abandoned Ruin	A near complete set of well preserved, sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, well preserved factory, well preserved village houses, animal pens, large cistern, manager's house. Easy access from Route 63.	Village; Factory	Good	Excellent	1
Constitution 180 Plantation	Q23	M	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Virtually destroyed. A truncated soiled windmill and large retaining wall are the only standing remains. Easy access from Route 70A.		Fair	Fair	3
Constitution Neck Estate	E10	F	Abandoned Ruin	Well preserved ruins of colonial stock estate, consisting of small greenhouse, village houses, carriage house, cistern. Best surviving example of this plantation type. Easy access from Route 78.	Ruin Ruin	Good	Good	1
Copper's Negro Bay Cemetery	P31	G-VI	Cemetery	Large cemetery with graves dating to the eighteenth century. Badly overgrown. Difficult access via improved road off Route 64		Fair	Poor	4
Cotton Grove Plantation	EEB01A	F	Residential	Sugar plantation ruins incorporated into residence. Included are a windmill (enclosed by house), factory, and partial ruins of 3-4 other structures. Highly disturbed. Easy access via improved private road off Rt. 60.		Fair	Fair	3
Cotton Valley Plantation	EEB011	F	Abandoned Ruin	Sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, poorly preserved factory, cisterns (2), up-shot pillars and walls, animal mill beam. The greenhouse and village have been destroyed. Accessed via dirt road off Rt. 62.	Apocynth pillars	Good	Fair	3
Croquet Dam	NBA	G-VI	Waterwork	Dam, early 20th century dam, in lovely setting. Easy access from Route 78.	Setting	Excellent	Excellent	2
Cross Run Factory (State Museum)	P21	F	Commercial (Ruin Factory)	This site, already being operated as a tourist attraction, contains only a few ruins of the original sugar plantation: a soiled windmill, stone chimney and several greenhouses. Easy access from Route 64.		Fair	Fair	2
Diamond (Rusty) Plantation	Q28	F	Rural; Welfare; Youth Training Center	A very complete set of well preserved sugar plantation remains, consisting of an occupied manager's house, truncated windmill, stone chimney, factory ruins, well house, 1 cistern, overseer's house, village houses. Easily accessed from Route 70.	Factory chimney	Fair	Good	1
Diamond Retreat Plantation	E01	F	Abandoned Ruin	A sound complex of ruins, consisting of outstanding windmill, factory, village houses, overseer's house, walled cemetery and other structures, all in poor to fair condition, fair access, outstanding views. Access by trail from Route 62	Windmill	Excellent	Fair	1
Diamond School	P20	G-VI	Boy Scout Center	A elegant nineteenth century school house in excellent condition, associated cistern and cemetery. A National Register site, easily accessed at corner of Routes 70 and 44.	Architecture	Good	Excellent	1
Duché's Estate	EEA Bank Island	G-US	Abandoned Ruin	Foundation remains of a small eighteenth century plantation farm on Bank Island. Access via boat.		Good	Poor	4
East End School	EEA12	F	Residential	A few foundation walls and cistern of 18th century cotton estate and 19th century school converted into private residence. Easy access via private road off Rt. 62.		Fair	Fair	4

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Infant Green Plantation	F42	F	Abandoned Ruin	Extensive remains of a sugar plantation, including manager's house, windmill, factory, village, well tower, stable, wall and animal pen. Noisy area, with difficult access via dirt road off Rt. 64.	Village	Fair	Good	2
Palmyra Plantation	K33	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A windmill base, and the footprint of the factory and two or three other structures are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access off Route 64.		Fair	Poor	4
Parsons Plantation	HEA39	F	Abandoned Ruin	Partial sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, factory, well, and a twentieth century building. Easy access from Rt. 62.		Good	Poor	3
Port Louis Augusta	EEA	G-VI	Radio Station	Highly disturbed remains of a small eighteenth century fort guarding the entrance to Christened Harbor. Access via paved road off Route 82.	Vista	Excellent	Fair	3
Parsons Plantation	NBA11	F	Tourism: Ruin & Residential	Well maintained ruins of a sugar plantation, consisting of windmill, factory, village house foundations and animal pen and other structural ruins clustered around swimming pool, tennis court and parking area. Access by paved road off Rt. 69.		Good	Good	2
Pea/Negro Day Plantation	F46	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	The ruins of a windmill, factory and a few other structures, in poor to fair condition. Difficult access.		Good	Fair	3
Fredericksburg Plantation	K13	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation ruins in two locations. Unoccupied manager's house and occupied village row houses on a small, windmill, altered factory ruins and stock pen on plain below. Both areas accessed from Route 707.	Village	Fair	Fair	3
Frederick Martin Grave	C06	F	Cemetery	Maintained commemorative grave of prominent eighteenth century Moravian missionary. Accessed via unpaved road off Rt. 75.	Historical Association	Fair	Excellent	2
Frederick and Historic District	WE	M	Mixed	A National Register site consisting of eighteenth and nineteenth century houses, shops and churches. The most notable structure is Fort Frederick dating from the 1740s.	Fort Frederick Architecture	Good	Mixed	1
Friedersfeld Moravian Church	Q18	F	Church	Attractive, well maintained, nineteenth century Moravian church, with foundation ruins of manse. A National Register site, easily accessed from Route 72.	Architecture	Good	Excellent	1
Friedersfeld Moravian Church	OH	F	Church	Attractive, well maintained, nineteenth century Moravian church and manse, with large cemetery. Located on outskirts of Christened, easy access from Route 75. National Register site.	Architecture	Good	Excellent	1
Gaston Hill	EEB11	F	Abandoned Ruin	The walls of two residential structures are all that remain of this 18th century provision estate. Excellent view.		Good	Poor	4
Glynn Plantation	Q01	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Virtually destroyed. A windmill and a water tower are the only standing remains of this sugar plantation. Access via private road off Rt. 72.		Poor	Poor	4
Golden Grove Greenhouse	F83	G-VI	School/University Building	Elegant early twentieth century greenhouse on UVI. The exterior is good condition, but the interior has been drastically altered. Abandoned since Hurricane Hugo. Easy access via UVI entry road off Route 90.	Greenhouse	Fair	Good	2

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Golden Grove Plantation	F33	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A windmill base, damaged water and broken walls of the factory and other buildings are the only standing remains of this sugar plantation. Fair access via paved road off Route 64.		Fair	Poor	4
Golden Rock Windmill	C04	F	Tourism: Corals	Virtually destroyed. A damaged windmill and some broken foundation walls incorporated into corals complex, are all that remains of this sugar plantation. Easy access.		Poor	Poor	4
Grassed Plantation	G17	F	Agricultural: Dairy Farm	A poorly preserved set of sugar estate ruins, consisting of a hospital altered into modern houses, water tower, modernized cow building, modernized cow house, animal pen and broken factory walls. Easy access off Rt. 83.		Good	Poor	3
Grange Plantation	C09	F	Residential	Attractive, occupied, guesthouse, with out buildings, bell tower and historic mementos on well landscaped grounds, occupied village houses, animal pen. Easy access via Rt. 70.	Guesthouse, Mementos	Good	Fair	3
Great Pond Plantation	BEA37	M	Scenic: Wetland Center and Residential	Small assemblage of sugar plantation ruins, including an abandoned but well preserved guesthouse (slated for restoration), 3 village residences and a store house. Easy access via unpaved road off Route 63.	Guesthouse	Fair	Fair	3
Green Key Plantation	BEA13	F	Abandoned Ruin	Good assemblage of sugar plantation ruins, including well preserved windmill, factory and village houses, plus well tower, lime kiln and walls of other structures, at scenic location. National Register site, with easy access from Rt. 81.		Good	Fair	2
Grave Place Plantation	F21	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	A stone chimney and ruins of a factory and a wagon depot are the only remains of this National Register site. Grave Place has cultural significance as former home of the St. Croix Labor Union and location of annual "Dull and Drear" festival.	Chimney	Poor	Fair	3
Hart's Bay Plantation	NEA32	F	Tourism: Hotel	Highly disturbed sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, lime kiln, village house foundations and structurally shored guesthouse. The factory and other structures partially incorporated into hotel. Scenic location, with easy access from Rt. 63.		Fair	Poor	3
Harris Bluff Lighthouse	NEA36	G-US	Lighthouse	Early twentieth century lighthouse at dramatic cliffside location with excellent view. Difficult access by trail from Route 63.	Lighthouse	Excellent	Excellent	1
Hart's Bluff Plantation	NEA36	F	Abandoned Ruin	Foundation ruins of brick factory and small guesthouse are all that remains of this sugar estate. Easy access from Route 63.		Good	Poor	3
Hannah's East Plantation	WE04	F	Abandoned Ruin	Partially destroyed. An animal or water mill, cow house and poorly preserved factory ruins are all that survive of this sugar plantation. Access via unpaved road off Rt. 70.		Fair	Poor	3
Head Lake Plantation	F01	F	Abandoned Ruin	Small complex of sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, poorly preserved factory, overseer's house, visible foundation of village houses. Lately sitting in densely vegetated valley, difficult access by trail and dirt road off Rt. 74.		Excellent	Poor	3
Heron Hill Plantation	G11	F	Tourism: Guest House	Highly disturbed site, consisting of windmill, cattle pens, poorly preserved factory, renovated guesthouse, kitchen and stables used as residences and hotel accommodations. Easy access via paved road from Rt. 70.		Good	Fair	3
Heritage Plantation	K03	F	Abandoned Ruin	A small complex of sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, 2 well towers, poorly preserved factory, and a few other structural remains. Beautiful setting in densely vegetated, hidden valley. Difficult access via trail.	Water mill tower	Excellent	Fair	2

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Hegensberg Plantation	WE17	F	Abandoned Ruin	Well preserved complex of sugar plantation ruins, including manager's house, factory with steam chimney, row houses, well house, overseer's house, gate, reservoir. National Register site, with easy access via dirt road off Route 70.	Row House, Factory	Good	Good	1
Holy Cross Anglican Church	P31	F	Church	Attractive, early twentieth century church and manse. Easy access from Rt. 72.	Architecture	Good	Excellent	2
Hope Plantation	P23	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. Window foundation and a few rubble foundation walls are all that remain of this sugar plantation.		Fair	Poor	4
Hope Plantation	WE12	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Small sugar plantation site, consisting of partially occupied and modernized windmill with roller, animal mill, modernized stable ruin and cistern. Factory and village destroyed. Access via paved road off Rt. 65.		Fair	Poor	3
Hunting Plantation	Q44	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. The foundation of a windmill is all that remains of this sugar plantation. Complicated access via hunting subdivision off Rt. 62.		Poor	Poor	4
Jadway Plantation	P17	F	Abandoned Ruin	Partly preserved, incomplete set of sugar plantation remains, consisting of truncated, damaged windmill, 3 modern worker houses, rubble ruins of factory, well tower and 3 other undistinguished structures. Easy access from Rt. 72.		Fair	Poor	3
Jolly Hill Plantation	WE33	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, consisting of occupied, partly modernized, greenhouse with cut buildings, occupied animal mill, bridge, waterworks, water mill and poorly preserved ruins of factory and village. Easy access at junction of Rts. 76 and 76A.	Greenhouse, Animal mill, Bridge, Water mill	Good	Fair	2
Jolly Hill Reservoir and Aqueduct	WE	G-VI	Waterwork	Reservoir and broken remains of early twentieth century aqueduct extending from Jolly Hill to La Grange. Dams parallel to Route 76.	Aqueduct	Good	Fair	3
Jordis Ferry Plantation	NH801	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Picturesque sugar plantation ruins include housing development. Site contains well preserved ruins of windmill, steam chimney, factory, manager's house and several other structures. National Register site, with easy access via paved road off Rt. 73A.	Chimney, Water mill	Good	Good	2
Kinghill	K18	G-VI	Social Welfare Center	Remains of a nineteenth century military and police station, consisting of a barracks, now serving as site and craft center, cistern, commissary's residence, stable, (stables arranged around a courtyard). Easy access via improved road from Route 70.	Craft Shop	Good	Fair	2
Kinghill Lutheran Church	K18	F	Church	Attractive early twentieth century church. Easy access at junction of Rts. 70 and 71.	Architecture	Fair	Excellent	2
La Grande Feliciana Plantation	C	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Highly damaged sugar plantation remains, including occupied windmill, poorly preserved, altered factory, occupied village houses, bell tower, cistern and greenhouse foundation. Easy access from Rt. 75.	Village	Fair	Fair	3
La Grande Feliciana School	C	G-VI	Educational	Well maintained, occupied nineteenth century school. Outstanding Architecture. National Register site, with easy access from Rt. 75.	Architecture	Fair	Excellent	1
La Grange Plantation	WE	M	Residential and Commercial (Distillery)	Site of former sugar plantation, central factory and rum distillery. Well preserved central factory with machinery and chimney, office, damaged windmill, occupied greenhouse, manager's house and village houses. National Register site, with easy access.	Central Factory Building	Fair	Fair	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
La Baine Plantation	K20	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Extensive sugar plantation remains, including barns, occupied, granthouses, servant's quarters, windmill and ruins of factory with steam chimney, stables and village houses. National Register site with easy access from Route 70.	Granthouse	Good	Good	1
La Valle Homestead House	NBR24	F	Residential	Two adjacent, well preserved, stone horizontal houses built in the 1930s. Easy access off Rt. 80.		Fair	Good	2
La Valle Plantation	NBR21	G-VI	Residential	Small sugar plantation complex, with windmill, steam chimney, well tower, occupied manager's house (former factory) and 11 partially occupied village houses. Easy access via improved road off Route 80.	Village	Fair	Good	2
Lang's Observatory	EEA23	F	Residential	Foundation walls of the observatory are part of a private residence. Difficult access via improved estate road off Rt. 82.	Observatory	Fair	Poor	4
Lebanon Hill Plantation	K01	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. An excellent steam chimney and poorly preserved factory ruins are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Access by trail off Rt. 71.	Chimney	Good	Poor	3
Little Fountain Plantation	K03	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. The base of a windmill and a few other rubble foundations are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Access via improved road off Rt. 71.		Fair	Poor	4
Little La Orange Plantation	WE10	F	Tourism and Educational	Levely, well preserved, granthouses with garden and various sugar plantation ruins including windmill, animal mill, aqueduct, manager's house, village houses. National Register site, with easy access from Route 70.	Granthouse, Animal mill	Excellent	Fair	1
Little Princess Plantation	C01	F	Tourism and Educational	Outstanding example of well preserved sugar plantation ruins, consisting of renovated granthouse and hospital, windmill, factory with steam chimney, well tower, village houses and stock pen. National Register site with easy access from Route 73.	Granthouse, Hospital and factory	Excellent	Good	1
Little Profit	EEB02	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A walled cemetery with 4 crypts is the only standing remains of this cotton and stock estate. Access via trail from Rt. 60.		Good	Poor	4
Longford Plantation	C24	F	Agricultural (Cattle Farm) and Residential	Highly disturbed sugar plantation site, with several modified and industrial granthouses, owner's house and cow houses, two very interesting chimneys, damaged windmill and chimney, factory ruins and several other ruins.	Granthouse, Chimney	Excellent	Fair	2
Lower Love Factory	F10	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A large chimney stack, the broken, rubble walls of the central factory and 3 chimneys are all that remain of this former sugar plantation and central factory. Difficult access via dirt road off Route 70.	Chimney	Good	Poor	3
Lowry Hill Plantation	EEA22	F	Residential	Sugar plantation remains in poor condition, including portions of the animal mill, factory, village, an inhabited, highly altered, granthouses and several modified service buildings. Easy access from Rt. 61.		Fair	Poor	4
Madame Cady's Plantation	EEB14	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A chimney and some rubble masonry foundations are all that remain of this cotton and stock estate. Easy access by short trail off Rt. 60.	Chimney	Good	Poor	4
Manning's Bay Plantation	P50	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	The ruins of a sugar factory and several other plantation buildings in thick underbrush north of the airport runway. Difficult access.		Fair	Fair	3

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Marion Plantation	EEA21B	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A truncated windmill with basement and a lower foundation are all that remain of this sugar and cotton estate. Access via paved road off Rt. 53.		Fair	Poor	4
Marion Ridge	NEA	M	Open Space	Densely vegetated mountain landscape, which once served as the hide out of runaway slaves (maroons). Access by trail from Route 75.		Excellent	Not Applicable	3
Mary's Fancy Plantation	Q17	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A tumbled, truncated windmill and factory chimney stacks are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access off Rt. 700.		Fair	Poor	3
Men Hije Plantation	R08	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed. A deteriorated windmill, modified, occupied, hospital and a few foundation ruins are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access via unpaved road off Rt. 71.	Hospital	Fair	Fair	3
Montpelier Plantation	P07	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Virtually destroyed. A chimney stack, a partly preserved factory ruin, broken lime kilns and a few foundation walls, are all that survive of this sugar plantation. Easy access via paved road off Rt. 76.		Fair	Poor	3
Montpelier Plantation	Q03	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Partially destroyed. The ruins consist of a windmill, well preserved factory and some foundation walls. Easy access via paved road off Rt. 75.		Fair	Poor	3
Morning Star Plantation	Q09	F	Abandoned Ruin	Well preserved, deteriorating sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, factory with steam chimney, master's manager's house, stock pens, cisterns and well tower (at Salt River). Easy access via unpaved road off Rt. 71.		Good	Fair	3
Mountain Plantation	P24	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed. Water well tower and some rubble foundation walls are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Access via paved road off Rt. 70.		Poor	Poor	4
Mt. Fancy Plantation	EEA43	F	Abandoned Ruin	Sugar plantation ruins, consisting of a small factory in fair condition, animal mill round and standing walls of at least 4 other structures. Difficult access through brush off Rt. 63.	Factory	Good	Fair	2
Mt. Pleasant Plantation	NEH11	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A few rubble foundation ruins are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Difficult access via cut off Men Hije Road.		Fair	Poor	4
Mt. Pleasant Plantation	P37	F	Abandoned Ruin	Overgrown sugar plantation ruins, including foundation walls of a greenhouse, factory, stable, overseer's house, village houses and animal pens. Easy access off Rt. 70.		Fair	Fair	3
Mt. Pleasant Greenhouse	EEA09	F	Residential	An occupied greenhouse, cistern and the ruins of several out buildings of a 18th century cotton estate.	Greenhouse	Good	Good	2
Mt. Summit Plantation	NEA28	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. Collapsed, with ruins of sugar plantation, horse houses. Difficult access via trail off Rt. 76.		Good	Poor	4
Mt. Victory Plantation	NEA15	F	Abandoned Ruin	A good set of plantation ruins, including windmill, animal mill with engine shed, well preserved factory with steam chimney, foundations of village houses and other buildings and a cemetery. National Register site, with easy access from Route 58.	Animal mill factory	Good	Fair	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Mr. Victory School	NSA11	T	Abandoned Ruin	Ruin of former greenhouse, converted into school, walls of some outbuildings, historic bridge, on site of Mr. Manly sugar plantation. Easy access from Rt. 28.		Good	Good	3
Mr. Washington Plantation	EA33	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Remains of small sugar estate, including animal mill base, poorly preserved factory, animal pen and one structure converted into a modern residence. Easy access from Rt. 63.		Fair	Poor	3
Mr. Washington Plantation	NSA11	F	Tourism, Commercial and Residential	Well preserved and maintained ruins of a small sugar plantation, featuring a cockpit animal mill and factory ruins, in a lovely setting. Easy access via improved road off Rt. 63. Associated with antiques/furniture shop housed in historic stable building.	Animal mill	Good	Good	1
Mr. Welcomes Plantation	EA61	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Virtually destroyed. A windmill and the rubble ruins of an animal mill and factory are all that remains of this sugar plantation. Easy access from Gallows Bay.		Fair	Poor	4
Nicholas Plantation	NSA23	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Good set of sugar plantation ruins, including windmill, well preserved factory, kitchen, dungson, cistern, stock pen, hayshed and coach house, greenhouse converted into modern residence. Excellent views. Access via dirt road off Rt. 38.	Factory	Good	Good	3
North Star Plantation	NSD19	F	Residential	A highly disturbed site. Most of three sugar plantation ruins, including the windmill, have been severely altered for residential use. Easy access from Rt. 40.		Good	Poor	3
Northside Plantation	NSA17	F	Residential	A good set of sugar plantation ruins, including incubated greenhouse, kitchen, cistern, occupied servants quarters, outhouse, windmill, renovated factory with chimney stack, carriage's house ruin and occupied village houses. Easy access from Rt. 43.	Greenhouse	Good	Good	3
Orange Grove Lime Kiln	CO3	T	Abandoned Ruin	Well preserved lime kiln, dated 1882, with ruin of small house, adjacent to quarry. Easy access from Rt. 751.	Lime Kiln	Fair	Excellent	2
Orange Grove Plantation	CO3	F	Abandoned Ruin	Sugar plantation remains, comprised of well preserved greenhouse, former night club, damaged by Hurricane Hugo, windmill, stock pen, ruins of factory and several other structures. Easy access from Rt. 75.	Greenhouse	Fair	Fair	3
Orange Grove Plantation	WE31	F	Abandoned Ruin	Good set of sugar plantation remains, comprised of a windmill, ruined greenhouse with cistern and servants quarters, factory with steam chimney, stock pen and village house foundations. Attractive setting in grove just off Rt. 76.		Excellent	Good	3
Oxford Plantation	NSA03	F	Abandoned Ruin	Sugar plantation remains, comprised of windmill base, factory, village houses, stock pen, altered greenhouse, incinerating cisterns. Access via dirt road off RT. 79.	Cistern	Good	Fair	3
Paradise Plantation	P45	G-VI	Residential	Virtually destroyed by public housing. A windmill is all that remains of this sugar plantation. Access by paved road off Route 68.		Poor	Poor	4
Pearl Plantation	NSD16	F	Abandoned Ruin	Sugar plantation remains, comprised of windmill, ruins of factory, village houses, stock pen, and several other structures. Access via short trail off Rt. 69.		Excellent	Poor	3
Pearl Plantation	Q19	F	Residential	Sugar plantation remains consisting of renovated, occupied greenhouse with one out building, a windmill foundation, poorly preserved factory ruins and some village houses renovated into modern residence. Easy access from Rts. 61 and 68.	Greenhouse	Good	Fair	3

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Peter's Farm Hospital	C23	G-VI	Abandoned Ruins	Well preserved ruins of altered early nineteenth century public hospital on outskirts of Christiansburg. Easy access via paved road off Rt. 73.	Architecture	Good	Good	1
Peter's Farm Plantation	Q95	P	Abandoned Ruins and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, consisting of windmill, poorly preserved factory, belly, cookhouse, cistern. Difficult access from Rt. 70.	Belly	Poor	Poor	3
Peter's Farm School	Q36	G-VI	Abandoned Ruins	Nineteenth century school, featuring outstanding Architecture. Unroofed by Hurricane Hugo and abandoned since then, it is in poor and deteriorating condition. Easy access from Route 70.	Architecture	Poor	Poor	1
Peter's Farm Station	Q34	P	Commercial	Remains of late nineteenth century station for grinding cane to be pumped to Richmond Central Factory. Ruins consist of manager's house in one as a bar, a chimney stack and poorly preserved loading platform. Easy access from Rt. 70.	Chimney	Poor	Poor	3
Pineville Plantation	EEA30	P	Agricultural Dairy Farm	Sugar plantation remains, comprised of windmill, occupied manager's house, animal mill races, renovated overseer's house, 2 stock pens. Village and factory destroyed. Easy access from Rt. 62.	Manager's House	Fair	Fair	3
Plainsville Vale Plantation	NSA17	P	Abandoned Ruins	Virtually destroyed. A cemetery, unroofed house and a few broken walls are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access from Rt. 58.		Fair	Poor	4
Plains Plantation	P29	P	Abandoned Ruins	A badly disturbed site. A truncated, sealed windmill, some village houses and factory foundations are the only standing remains of this former sugar plantation. Access from Rts. 70 and 105.		Fair	Poor	3
Profit Plantation	K27	G-VI	Abandoned Ruins and School	Virtually destroyed. A damaged windmill, cistern and poorly preserved factory are the only standing remains of this sugar plantation. Access via housing subdivision off Route 663.		Poor	Poor	4
Prospect Hill Plantation	NSA24	P	Abandoned Ruins	Fairly preserved ruins of animal mill, factory and a few other structures. Extremely difficult access through bush.		Fair	Poor	4
Prosperity Plantation	NBB18	P	Abandoned Ruins	Sugar plantation ruins, consisting of factory, manager's house, stock pen, damaged windmill, and village house foundations. Remote location with easy access off Rt. 80.		Good	Fair	1
Prosperity Plantation	WC36	P	Agricultural (Sheep Farm) and Residential	Extensive sugar plantation remains, including inhabited guesthouse and village, and the well preserved ruins of a hospital, factory, servant's quarters, stable, stock pen, water tower and belly. National Register site; easy access from Rts. 53 and	Guesthouse, Hospital, Village	Excellent	Good	1
Protestant Key	C Harbor	G-VI	Tourism: Hotel	Nearly all historic structures of this old maritime complex have been destroyed or modified beyond recognition by insensitive tourism development. There are some remains of a small fort - Sophia Augusta - on the northern point. Access by boat.		Good	Poor	4
Punch Plantation	HSA04	P	Abandoned Ruins	Good example of sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, factory, manager's house, kitchen, small hospital, animal pen village houses. Remote location overlooking Frederiksted plain. Difficult access via road and trail off Rt. 76.	View	Excellent	Good	2
Rattan Plantation	Q13	P	Tourism: Guest House	Sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, poorly preserved factory with stone chimney, 3 cisterns, a well and eleven village houses. Remote location; easily accessed from Rt. 74.	Village, Chimney	Good	Fair	3

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Recovery Hill Plantation	C24	F	Abandoned Ruin	Well preserved ruins of sugar factory, cistern, well, greenhouse, kitchen and other outbuildings. Outstanding view in isolated, picturesque location. Difficult access via trail from Christmansted.		Good	Fair	2
Reform Plantation	C16	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A windmill base and cistern are the only standing remains. Easy access from Rt. 61.		Fair	Poor	4
Reformed Central Factory	C02	G-VI	Power Plant	Virtually destroyed. The few surviving structural remains of this 19th century central factory have been incorporated into power plant facility. Easy access.		Poor	Poor	4
Reformed Greenhouse	C02	F	Abandoned Ruin	greenhouse ruins in poor condition. Well preserved ruins of associated cookhouse, animal pen and cisternary. Easy access from Rt. 75.	Kitchen	Poor	Fair	3
Reformed Jail	C02	G-VI	Abandoned Ruin	Nineteenth century jail in poor and deteriorating condition. Just outside of Christmansted, with easy access. National Register site.	Architecture	Poor	Poor	1
Reformed Loper Asylum	C02	G-VI	Residential	Virtually destroyed. This mid-nineteenth century loper asylum has been destroyed by a modern public housing development. Only a badly damaged church building remains. Easy access off Route 75.		Poor	Poor	4
River Plantation	F14	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, consisting of windmill, ice mill, occupied village, ruins of greenhouse, factory and other plantation structures. Easy access from Rt. 69.	Village, Water tower	Good	Good	2
Rose Hill Plantation	NSA17	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. A windmill foundation and a few broken walls of the factory are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Access via short trail off Rt. 58.		Fair	Poor	4
Rust on Twin Plantation	NSB03	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	A fine assemblage of well preserved sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, renovated factory with steam engine, greenhouse, overseer's home, village houses, stock pen, well house and lime kiln. Unique location with easy access from Route 85.	Steam machinery, Windmill	Good	Good	1
Sally's Ferry	IRA21	F	Abandoned Ruin	Foundation of brick estate greenhouse, wide in east cistern and a few other foundation walls. Accessed by dirt road off Rt. 624.		Fair	Poor	4
Salt River Plantation	NSB10	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation ruins incorporated into residence. Included are a windmill (used as pasture), poorly preserved factory, cistern, pen, animal mill base and 2 other foundations. Easy access from Rt. 85.	Windmill	Good	Fair	3
Shay's Plantation	IRA44	F	Tourism Ruin	Partially destroyed. Windmill, a few renovated village houses and a ice mill are all that survive of this sugar plantation. Good access via paved road off Rt. 51.		Fair	Poor	3
Sight Plantation	IRA20	F	Agricultural Dairy Farm	Virtually destroyed. A windmill in fair condition and factory foundations are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access from Rt.60.		Fair	Poor	4
Six Farn Greenhouse	GG7	G-VI	Residential	Attractive, restored greenhouse used as Overseer's residence. Easy access from Rt. 70.	Greenhouse	Poor	Excellent	1

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Ben Farm Plantation	Q07	G-VI	School	Virtually destroyed. An water mill tower is all that remains of the industrial and village components of this sugar plantation. Some ruins have been incorporated into school and public housing project. Easy access from Route 811	Water mill	Poor	Poor	4
Ben Hill Plantation	Q08	G-VI	Social Welfare/ Substance Abuse Rehab Center	Outstanding complement of sugar plantation buildings, including the best preserved factory on its. Cotta, windmill, renovated greenhouse, manager's house and overseer's house, servants' quarter - all occupied. Easy access from Rt. 81.	Factory, Windmill, greenhouse	Excellent	Excellent	1
Southfield Plantation	WE23	F	Night Club	Virtually destroyed. A windmill incorporated into building used as restaurant and nightclub is all that remains of this sugar plantation.		Fair	Poor	4
Trinidad Plantation	REB10	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, poorly preserved factory, cistern, village foundation remains, most of which are incorporated into a private residence. Fair access off Rt. 82.		Fair	Poor	3
Swingate Farm Plantation	BEA10	F	Residential	Well preserved and well maintained sugar plantation industrial complex, consisting of windmill, factory ruins, well tower and other structures, sensitively incorporated into a Condo. Easy access from Rt. 82.	Windmill	Good	Good	2
Spanish Town Plantation	K28	F	Abandoned Ruin	greenhouse ruins, foundations of windmill, factory and lot other structures. Controlled access by Abacoan Company, off Rt. 68.		Fair	Poor	3
Spart Hill Plantation	NSA13	F	Tourism Hotel	This site features a well preserved greenhouse, used as a hotel and restaurant, surrounded by various other sugar plantation ruins, including a windmill. Easy access off Route 83.	Greenhouse	Good	Fair	1
Spring Garden Plantation	NEA17	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, comprised of a windmill and windmill base, factory, greenhouse and some village houses, restricted access off Rt. 78.		Good	Fair	3
Springfield Plantation	P11	F	Abandoned Ruin	Incomplete set of sugar plantation ruins, consisting of windmill, poorly preserved factory, and foundations of 1-3 other structures. Difficult access through bush off Rt. 76.		Fair	Poor	3
St. George's Hill Plantation	W036	F	Residential	Virtually destroyed. A cistern, and the ruins of 2 or 3 other structures are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Part of the greenhouse incorporated into modern residence.		Fair	Poor	4
St. George's Village and Botanical Garden	F27	F	Tourism and Educational	A lovely botanical garden, set across sugar plantation ruins, including restored village houses and manager's house, a working blacksmith shop and the ruins of a water mill and sugar factory. National Register site, easy access from Route 70.	Water mill, Blacksmiths shop	Excellent	Good	1
St. John Plantation	Q09	F	Abandoned Ruin and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, including occupied greenhouse and village houses, renovated kitchen and stable, bellry, windmill, well tower, much altered factory ruins, greenhouse on the National Register. Easy access off Route 75.	Greenhouse	Fair	Good	1
St. Luke's Church	F01	F	Church	Early twentieth century church. Easy access from Rt. 203.		Fair	Excellent	2
Stoney Cross Plantation	WE07	F	Abandoned Ruin	Virtually destroyed. Portions of the factory ruins are the only standing remains.		Poor	Poor	4

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Brewery Hill Plantation	Q27	F	Essential	A National Register site that has been highly disturbed and fragmented by residential development. The complex includes an altered, occupied greenhouse, windmill, poorly preserved factory, lobby, wellhouse, village house. Difficult access off R. 50	Well-timed Dismantled	Fair	Fair	3
Two Brothers Plantation	N137	F	Essential	Virtually destroyed. A windmill in fair condition is all that survives of this sugar plantation.		Fair	Fair	4
Two Fields Plantation	FM	F	Abandoned Farm	Virtually destroyed. A chimney and a few broken foundations with are all that remains of this sugar plantation.		Good	Fair	3
Two Villains School	VE	F	Essential	Artificially constructed primary school structure school destroyed in 1899 hurricane. Easy access from R. 75.		Fair	Fair	4
Upper Hillside (The King Plantation)	K11	Q-VI	Residential	Virtually destroyed. The rubble foundation base of a windmill, a well preserved lime kiln, and 5 abandoned worker houses, are all that survive of this sugar plantation. Easy access via unpaved road off Route 30.		Fair	Fair	4
Upper Lava Pump House	PIR	F	Abandoned Farm	Chimney and foundation remains of early 20th century station for grinding and pumping sugar for central factory. Easy access from R. 65	Chimney	Fair	Fair	3
Wagner Point	C	F	Open Space	Outstanding scenic overlook with panoramic and historic landscape views in vicinity. Foundation of 18th century settlement.	View	Excellent	Not Applicable	2
Wind of Fortune Plantation	VE39	F	Abandoned Farm and Residential	Sugar estate remains, including renovated, occupied greenhouse, well preserved factory, manager's house, well and well around preserved village houses. Easy access off R. 43	Greenhouse, Village	Fair	Good	1
Wind Hurricane House	VE104	F	Abandoned Farm	Well preserved, stone horizontal house built in the 1730s. Easy access off R. 75.		Fair	Excellent	2
Wind Plantation	VE104	M	Truncated and Interrupted	Sugar plantation remains, including an original 18th century greenhouse with outbuildings, a windmill with machinery, stone driveway, reconstructed original well, spruce grove, off-site village housing, National Register site with easy access from R. 30	Greenhouse, Windmill	Good	Good	1
Wind's Plantation	VE108	F	Abandoned Farm	Bottom line of a few dry masonry greenhouses, no other outbuildings remain; attractive setting		Good	Fair	3
Wills Bay Plantation	NSA20	F	Abandoned Farm	Windmill and well remains of small sugar plantation on shoals, island setting. Difficult access via trail off R. 75.	Setting	Excellent	Fair	2
Willis Plantation	NSA01	F	Abandoned Farm and Residential	Sugar plantation remains, including a renovated, occupied greenhouse, truncated windmill, poorly preserved, occupied factory, animal pen and a line of well preserved village row houses. A National Register site, with easy access off Route 63.	Greenhouse, village row houses	Good	Good	1
Williams Delight Plantation	FM	F	Other	Virtually destroyed. A truncated windmill incorporated into school and 1 other foundation wall are all that remain of this sugar estate. Easy access off Williams Delight Road.		Fair	Fair	4

Name	Location	Owner	Current Use	Description	Special Feature	Scenic Quality	Preservation Status	Rank
Windsor Plantation	Q06	P	Agricultural: Dairy Farm	An undistinguished set of sugar estate ruins adjacent to a dairy. Ruins include an altered windmill, poorly preserved factory, dungeon, livestock pen and the remains of 2 village houses. Easy access via unpaved road off Mon Bijou Road.		Good	Poor	3
Work and Rest Plantation	Q37	P	Residential and Open Space	Virtually destroyed by housing development. A poorly defined windmill base and some rubble foundations are all that remain of this sugar plantation. Easy access from Rt. 622.		Poor	Poor	4

APPENDIX F: PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED DURING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S ECOTOURISM STUDY ON ST. CROIX

During the National Park Service's study, the University of Georgia also conducted public workshops on St. Croix as part of a separate ecotourism study. As part of the university's public outreach effort, Crucians were asked to identify features and events on the island that are important to their heritage. The following is a list of their responses. (Duplicate responses received during public meetings hosted by the National Park Service are not included.)

- Ball parks at Frederiksted
- Baobab tree at Grove
- Beaches, tide pools, and lagoons
- Beresford Manor
- Bioluminescent marine organisms
- Blue Mountain
- Bordeaux Park
- Butler Bay plantation and waterfall
- Carambola
- Caribbean Dance Company
- Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts
- Castle Nugent
- Cemeteries and Funerals
- Churches
- Columbus Landing Site
- Cramer's Park
- Creque Dam and Road
- Dannika's
- Davis Bay
- Diving "The Wall"
- Dorcsh Beach
- Dunbavin School
- Easter camping
- Estate Annaly
- Estate Bethlehem
- Estate Butler Bay
- Estate Diamond Keturah
- Estate Fire Burn
- Estate Lebenan/Island Dairy
- Estate Mt. Pleasant
- Estate Mt. Victory
- Farmer's Market
- Fish Market
- Fountain Valley
- Frederiksted Harbor
- Frederiksted Library
- Goat Hill
- Government House
- Greathouses
- Ham's Bluff Lighthouse
- Henry Rohlsen
- Heritage Trail
- Horse Races
- Hotel on the Cay
- Jack and Issac's Bays
- Jewelry shops (Sonia, Brian, Waylan)
- Kayaking North Shore
- La Reine
- Manners Bay
- Mt. Eagle (springs)
- Mt. Victory Camp and Drive
- Old Danish School
- Old Rum Factory -La Grange
- Pirate Days
- Plantation Life
- Plantation Night Club
- Plantation Ruins
- Rainbow Beach
- Salt River Burial Grounds
- Saman tree at Little LaGrange
- Seven Hills
- Silk Cotton Trees
- Slave Quarters
- Southgate Farm
- Spy Glass Hill
- St. George
- St. Gerard's Hall -Quadrille Dance
- Steeple Building
- Stomps
- Sunday Market Squares
- Sunset beach
- Teque Forest
- The Caribbean Sea
- Theatres
- Three Kings Parade
- Turtles at Sandy Point
- Wilkes Bay
- Williams Delight Burial Site
- Wills Bay
- Windsor Farm

APPENDIX G: COORDINATING ENTITY EVALUATION

COORDINATING ENTITY FEASIBILITY AND SELECTION FACTORS

Relevant guidance from the Interim National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines, National Park Service - August 2003.

1. Is the organization located in the proposed region? (Congressional testimony)
2. What is the organization's conceptual approach to achieving national heritage area goals? (Congressional testimony)
3. Does the public support the organization as the proposed NHA coordinating entity? (Criteria 6)
4. Does the organization represent the interested/affected community? (Criteria 1, Step 7)
5. Partnerships (Criteria 6, 7)
 - a. What is the organization's experience with partnerships?
 - b. What is the organization's potential for partnerships?
 - c. What NHA partnership commitments has the organization received?
6. Fundraising (Appendix 3 and 4, Criteria 2, Step 7 and 8)
 - a. Explain the organization's past experience with fundraising.
 - b. Provide estimate of funds to be raised by the organization and sources.
 - c. Provide a 3-year financial plan.
 - d. What NHA funding commitments has the organization received?
7. What is the existing organizational capacity and infrastructure?

Lessons learned from existing national heritage area coordinating entities.

1. Will the organization threaten the financial solvency of other community organizations?
2. Is the organization reputable in the community?
3. What will the transition to a NHA coordinating entity entail (time, logistics, and resources)?
4. Does the organization complement the existing portfolio of organizations, business, and government services? Or is it redundant?
5. Can the board members/staff provide reasonable time commitments?
6. What is the management structure? What are the decision-making processes?
7. Do the board chairman and executive director have facilitation, management, strategic planning, partnership, fundraising, and consensus-building experience?

The vision for the St. Croix coordinating entity that was developed through a variety of public involvement efforts, including town meetings, workshops, comment cards, and the interactive website.

1. Does the proposed entity fulfill the public's vision for a coordinating entity?

COORDINATING ENTITY APPLICATION/REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Section One: Community Representation and Public Support

1. Is your organization located in the region proposed for national heritage area designation?
2. Does your organization represent the communities (academic, business, nonprofit, neighborhood, ethnic, etc.) that will be affected by the potential designation of a St. Croix National Heritage Area through board membership, general membership, advisory committees, or programs?
3. How would your organization complement the existing portfolio of organizations, businesses, and government services on St. Croix?
4. How would your organization strengthen community representation and public support for a St. Croix National Heritage Area?

Supporting Materials to be Provided

- *Board member bios*
- *General membership list and/or member number totals*
- *List of advisory or special program committees with history and purpose*

Section Two: Partnerships and Fundraising

1. What is your organization's experience with partnership (government, community, business, nonprofit, etc.) projects?
2. What partnership commitments for national heritage area coordination or special programs has your organization received?
3. What are your organization's plans for partnership projects or partnership building?
4. What is your organization's fundraising experience?
5. Will your organization compete with member organizations or other St. Croix community organizations for funding?

Supporting Materials to be Provided

- *3-year financial plan, (see attachment 1)*
- *List of partnership commitments (see attachment 2)*

Section Three: Organizational Capacity, Infrastructure, and Commitment to National Heritage Area

1. What is your organization's conceptual approach to achieving national heritage area goals?
2. Does your organization represent the broad issues that concern St. Croix's natural historical, scenic, and cultural resources?
3. Will your organization's focus/mission be the national heritage area? How will the national heritage area work fit with your organization's existing programs, etc? Approximately what percentage of time will be focused on the national heritage area?
4. What is the organization's capacity (staff, volunteers, etc.) and infrastructure (office, copy machines, etc.)?
5. What will your organization's transition to the NHA coordinating entity entail (time, logistics, and resources)?
6. Can the board members/staff provide reasonable time commitments?
7. What is the management structure? What is the decision-making process?
8. Do the board chairman and executive director have facilitation, management, strategic planning, partnership, fundraising, and consensus-building experience?



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
100 Alabama Street, SW
1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A6419-SERO (PN)

Claudette Young Hinds, President
SUCCEED, Inc.
4000 La Grande Princesse
St. Croix, USVI 00820

Dear Ms. Hinds:

On behalf of the National Park Service, I want to congratulate the St. Croix United for Community, Culture, Environment, and Economic Development, Inc. (SUCCEED) on the selection to serve as the coordinating entity for the proposed St. Croix National Heritage Area. SUCCEED's application is outstanding and exhibits very strong potential to coordinate the proposed area. Your organization's commitment to the preservation, interpretation, and environmentally-sound economic development of the Islands of St. Croix is evident.

The National Park Service is prepared to recommend SUCCEED as the coordinating entity in the feasibility study for the proposed National Heritage Area (NHA). Cynthia Nelson, project manager for the study, will visit your office in August to discuss specific details. Please do not hesitate to address any questions or concerns you have regarding this process with her. She may be reached at cynthia_nelson@nps.gov or 303-987-6652.

The study team received two strong applications to coordinate the proposed NHA and was left with the difficult task of recommending only one as a preferred alternative. In addition to SUCCEED, the team received a strong application from St. Croix Landmarks Society. The team thus developed a process for selection based on a public vision for the NHA, National Park Service criteria, and an assessment tool developed specifically for this study. I have attached that process for your review. This process led the team to ultimately recommend SUCCEED as the coordinating entity for the proposed NHA.

I am so pleased that two very competent organizations stepped forward to provide leadership in this endeavor. The study team informs me that SUCCEED and St. Croix Landmarks Society work extremely well together and I am confident you will remain partners throughout the future of this proposed NHA. I look forward to working with you and your staff as we collectively study the proposed St. Croix National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

for
David Mela
Regional Director
Southeast Region

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA

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