

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Christiansted National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CHRI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Built in 1749 the Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse is the largest and oldest former slave trading complex under the United States flag. For approximately 85% of all slaves imported to the sugar producing island of St. Croix, Christiansted was their point of entry.

The Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse is a complex of three structures grouped around a walled courtyard. All buildings and walls are of yellow brick and rubble masonry. The warehouse complex was completed in 1749 by slave and artisans under supervision of Chief Surveyor for the Danish West India and Guinea Company. The architectural character is a blending of eighteenth century and early nineteenth century details.

These structures are within the Christiansted National Historic Site which is located in Christiansted on the island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Which is approximately 1,200 miles southeast of Florida or a 2 1/2 hour flight from Miami.

The centennial vision for the park is to rehabilitate the interior of the main warehouse facility for use as a slave trade museum and restore the complex to a circa 1833 appearance. The majority of the structures are still largely intact, and a large body of graphic and documentary evidence exists that detail the appearance of the facility during the 1830's, the restoration and reconstruction can be completed with a high degree of accuracy.

The existence of extensive Danish activities, coupled with the historic building, will afford the park unparalleled opportunities to interpret the transatlantic slave trade using Christiansted as a case study. Static and interactive exhibits will interpret the human, social, and economic dimensions of the Danish slave trade.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Joel A. Tutein

