

2015 Annual Report



St. Thomas Historical Trust

Annual Meeting

Windward Passage Hotel

April 6, 2016

www.stthomashistoricaltrust.org

President's message



Dear Trust Members,

Welcome to our 2015 Annual Meeting. Rest assured that the Trust will continue with its forward momentum. The past year has been a stressful one, as apparently it has been for many Boards of other non-profits. But we managed to plow ahead and accomplish a lot.

2015: The second phase of the Step Street project is in the process of being completed thanks to our Step Street project task force leader Malcolm Schweizer. You can now see the fruits of our labor as the renovation of first section of the steps has been completed.

We continue to maintain and improve Hassel Island so that both residents and visitors can enjoy the wonderful historical tours offered by the Trust and others.

This is thanks to Board member Vince "Doc" Palancia, Chairman of the Hassel Island Task Force and Alan Wentworth of Sea Tow.

We had a very successful 2015 Coal Pot Cook Off. With help from the Department of Tourism, our sponsors, Trust volunteers and our Board members Charles Consolvo and Patricia LaCorte. We are planning the Annual Coal Pot Cook Off for May 17th, 2016 in Emancipation Garden and look forward to seeing you there.

Our annual Halloween Gala was well attended and raised funds needed to help support our many projects. Thanks to Penny Woods and Board member Patricia LaCorte for their work all summer long.

Our Lecture Series, organized by Gail Glanville, brought speakers with interesting and thought provoking subjects to our members.

Next Year: We are looking forward to the Virgin Islands Centennial celebrations that will occur in 2017. This will be a very special time for all Virgin Islanders. It will be a time to showcase our beautiful islands to the entire world. We hope that you and your family members will want to be part of the many exciting projects related to this event.

A Thank you: We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ronnie Lockhart for his many years of service as our president. He has been a wonderful (and witty) leader and has overseen the huge growth and effectiveness of the Trust. He has guided the many projects that the Trust has been successful in completing; the Hassel Island Preservation project, the Step Streets repairs, our educational projects, and the Annual Halloween Gala to name a few. He used his many connections, both personal and governmental, to expedite the cumbersome red tape that comes along with the types of projects taken on by the Trust.

As always, we hope that you will continue to support us in our mission to "Identify, protect and preserve the history, sites and culture of St Thomas."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frannie Newbold". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frannie Newbold / President

Contents

President’s message.....	1
Annual Membership Meeting AGENDA.....	2
Current Board of Directors.....	3
Proposed New Directors.....	5
Historical Trust Staff.....	6
Organizational Chart.....	7
Committee Reports.....	8
Treasurer’s Report.....	8
Finance Committee.....	11
Fundraising.....	12
Coal Pot Cook Off.....	12
Halloween Gala.....	13
Membership.....	14
Tours.....	14
Museum.....	15
Lecture Series.....	15
Task Force Reports.....	17
Hassel Island Report.....	17
Fort Christian Report.....	20
Step Street Report.....	21
Thanks.....	26

Annual Membership Meeting AGENDA

- 5:30 pm – Cash bar open
 - 6:00 pm – Call to order Frannie Newbold, Acting President
 - 6:10 pm – “The Charlotte Amalie Saladoid Excavation” documentary
 - 6:40 pm – Recess 10 minutes
 - 6:50 pm – Membership meeting convenes
 - 6:55 pm – President’s message
 - 7:00 pm – Presentation of Awards: Vince Palancia
 - 7:05 pm – Committee Reports
 - 7:20 pm – Voting, ballot counting and announcement of new board
 - 7:45 pm – Concluding remarks – Frannie Newbold
 - 7:20 pm – Membership meeting recesses
 - 7:25 pm – New board meets, elects officers for new term.
 - 8:15 pm – New board adjourns
-

Current Board of Directors

Frances Newbold - Acting President

Frances brings great marketing experience to STHT. A graduate of Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Frances has lived and worked in the Caribbean since 1977. She manages a staff of 12 plus - from production artists to writers and distribution personnel, and currently publishes three tourist guides (St Thomas and St John This Week, St. Thomas in a Day, and St Croix This Week) and runs the VirginIslandsThisWeek.com website, as well as tourist maps to 18 Caribbean islands and 11 Mexican destinations. As such, her association with STHT is a common interest, as her favorites in life include sailing, boating, Caribbean history, architecture, flora, fauna and travel.

Charles W. Consolvo – Acting Treasurer

Charles began practicing law in St. Thomas in 1976, and then moved into retailing. He holds a Master's degree in Maritime History and has lectured extensively on the maritime history of St. Thomas. From 1978 to 2008 he was a trustee and general counsel of Island Resources Foundation. He holds a Master's Degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of Leicester. He is a member of a number of professional societies, including the Society for Historical Archaeology and the society for Nautical Research, and is a Registered Professional Archaeologist. He has restored two historic buildings in downtown Charlotte Amalie, has two sons born here, has participated actively as a Cub Scout leader and in the youth soccer program.

Gail Glanville – Acting Secretary

Gail Glanville is a copywriter, entrepreneur and 10,000+ hour practitioner of energy psychology. As a counselor and copywriter, she counts among her international clients holistic professionals in nine countries. As a copywriter, Gail has developed branding, event promotion and website content for a state-wide association of medical professionals in RI, for an international training institute in AZ, for a trade association in the US and Canada, and helped a range of independent practitioners transition from beginners to established professionals in their markets. As an entrepreneur, Gail was the original owner and founder of Sunbow Location Services, a St. Thomas private company that worked with the VI Film Promotion Office to attract and service motion picture and high-end TV commercial companies enjoying the variety and beauty of the islands' locations. This company created a new industry for the islands and brought \$2 to \$3 million annually in new revenues to the island economy before it was sold. Gail was a founding Board member of the Repatterning Practitioner's Association and is a 2011 inductee into the RPA Hall of Fame. She also served as the Interim Director of the Resonance Repatterning Institute. With the founder, Chloe Faith Wordsworth, she co-authored the book about Resonance Repatterning, *Quantum Change Made Easy*. Gail has also served on the Board of the VI Conservation Society in St. Thomas, The Providence Center for Mental Health in RI, and the Vestry of St. Martin's Church in RI. Happily returned to St. Thomas after a 17-year absence, Gail is enjoying reunions with old friends and opportunities for growth with forward-looking organizations like the St. Thomas Historical Trust.

Priscilla Hintz

Priscilla Hintz Rivera is the director of PHR-Art Projects, a socially driven, multidisciplinary enterprise that specializes in arts management consulting, fine art exhibitions, curatorial services, and arts-integrated projects. Priscilla is a creative strategist with a passion for the arts. She possesses a unique combination of experience in nonprofit management, the arts, and business administration. Priscilla has been a devoted arts and cultural advocate in the Virgin Islands for the past 20 years. Most recently, as co-founder of Artvi Advocates, a non-profit arts organization whose mission is to support and promote the arts in order to enhance the cultural, social, and economic well being of the Virgin Islands. Priscilla holds a Masters Degree in Arts Administration from Goucher College and a BA in Social Sciences with a concentration in Caribbean studies from the University of the Virgin Islands. She recently obtained a professional certificate in Museum Studies from Universidad del Turabo, in Puerto Rico and an Arts Marketing certificate from Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York City. Priscilla has worked with such organizations as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., Arts Alive-Tillett Foundation, Artfusion Magazine, Trans-Caribbean Dairy Corp., and the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce.

Patricia LaCorte

Patricia LaCorte was born in France and a graduate of Cordon Bleu in Paris has been sharing her culinary concepts with Virgin Islanders and visitors for over three decades. Currently Patricia is the owner and Executive Chef of Oceana Restaurant, Grande Cru Restaurant, Fresh Bistro and Fresh Scoops Gelateria. She has also been intensely involved in the Historical Trust's past fundraising efforts.

Ronald S. Lockhart

Ronnie is the owner/proprietor of The Crystal Palace B & B and Herbie's Big Top. He has served in many Board capacities for St. Thomas community organizations, including President of the Rotary Club of St. John (1998-2000), Director, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, St. Thomas, St. Thomas-St. John Friends of Denmark, and the Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association. He earned his B.B.A. from Ft. Lauderdale University (1974). He enjoys collecting and exhibiting Danish West Indies and Virgin Islands antique postcards and professional photography.

David J. O'Connell

David has been registered as a Certified Public Accountant in the U.S. Virgin Islands since 1972. His education has included a BA in Business Administration and graduate courses in Finance, Accounting and Marketing from Temple University in Philadelphia. He has also undertaken continuing education courses to keep up to date in my field. David is still active as a CPA, and has also served on the Boards of the Humane Society, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands and United Way. He looks forward to using his abilities to assist the Trust in its important work.

Vincent “Doc” Palancia

Vincent John “Doc” Palancia, was born and raised in Brooklyn NY. Formal Education includes an MS. ED, in Counseling, and BA Degrees in English and Psychology. Serving over 20 years as a Major of United States Marines’, he is a veteran of Vietnam, Beirut, and Desert Storm. While on active duty, he served the Office of the President of the United States as Marine 1 Helicopter Co-pilot for President James Earl Carter III. After military retirement, he had several other successful careers as a Court Mediator for the State of North Carolina, Middle school guidance counselor, Home construct contractor and finish carpenter. As a world traveler, amateur military historian, he became interested in the military history and historical significance of Hassel Island several years ago. He now serves on the Board of Directors, is Chairman of the Hassel Island Task Force, and as is his passion, Lead Guide for the Hassel Island tours. He is a semi-retired, full time resident of St. Thomas in and is married to love of his life, Doris.

Malcolm Schweizer

Malcolm Schweizer is the District Sales Manager for FedEx in the Caribbean, managing employees throughout the islands. He has received numerous leadership awards in his 25 years with FedEx. Malcolm volunteers at My Brother’s Workshop, teaching wooden boat building on Saturdays. He is also a member of the board for the St. Thomas Chapter of the Salvation Army. Malcolm owns a historic home on Crystal Gade which he has spent the past year restoring to its original beauty. He resides there with his wife Amy and daughter Petra.

Proposed New Directors

Kim Holdsworth

Counts creativity and organization among her lifetime skills. Trained as a historian (Colorado College, BA in Third World History) and in graphic design (American Academy, Associate of Arts degree), she has owned and run a VI advertising agency, and worked as editor of a VI weekly magazine. For the past decade she was director at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) of the US Virgin Islands KIDS COUNT Data Book, an annually researched and compiled data report detailing the well-being and risks of VI children and families. A VI resident since 1983, Kim is currently active in managing a family business, in My Brother’s Workshop, and as working member of a 6-person VI art studio.

Luana Wheatley

Raised in St. Thomas, Ms. Wheatley began her career in the hospitality industry after years on the creative side of retail. In 1992, Wheatley began working with Barker, Campbell & Farley, the PR Agency of Record for the USVI Department of Tourism. When the GVI changed agencies to Martin Public Relations, Wheatley continued as liaison, preparing itineraries, researching information and accompanying media and film crews visiting the islands. In 2000, she moved to the Agency headquarters in Richmond, VA and after 2 years assumed the position of Senior Account Supervisor of the USVI account. Wheatley contracted with the USVI Hotel & Tourism Association for many years to provide strategic public relations before joining the Department of Tourism in 2011 as Assistant Director of Public Relations. Wheatley was recently

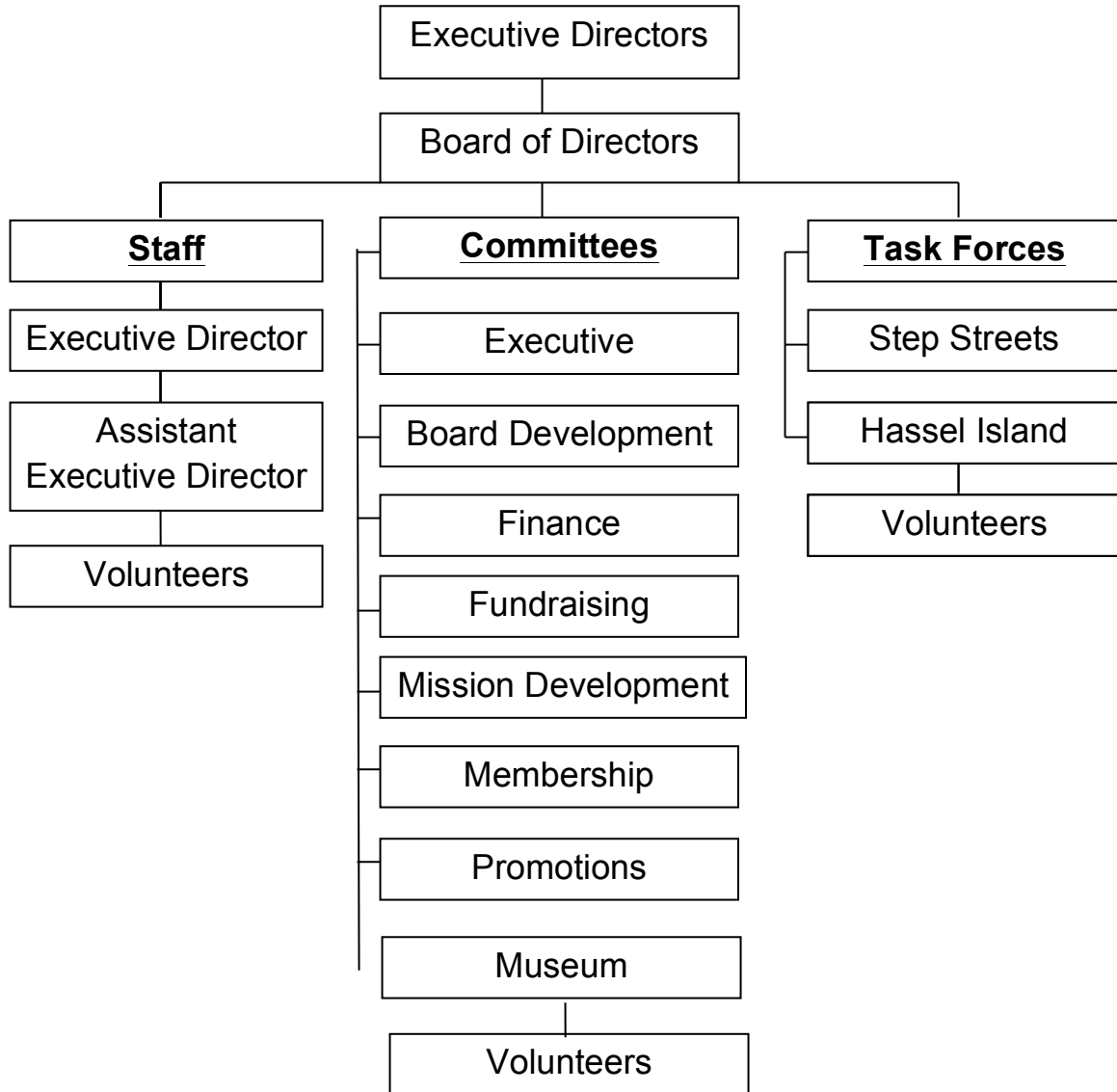
promoted to Director of the Film Office, an office in charge of attracting commercial shooting, music video production and recording, TV/Movie filming, print shoots, and other media forms.

Historical Trust Staff

Erik Lief Miles

Erik joined the Trust Staff in June of 2014 as the new Executive Director. He is a fourth generation Virgin Islander, his family came to St. Thomas in the 1800s with the West India Co. His Great Grandfather, Rasmus Johansen was the Chief Engineer who built the WICO dock. Erik attended public and private schools on St. Thomas and England, graduating from St's. Peter and Paul, later attending the University of the Virgin Islands. While going to school, Erik worked in his Father's photography and film studio as well as for the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife as a Field Data Technician, where he later helped to develop the VI Tree Boa Habitat Assessment Protocol. He has spent thirty years working camera in the film industry on documentaries, music videos, commercials, episodic television and feature films. Some of the more notable are "Any Given Sunday", "There's Something About Mary" and "Analyze This". He has worked as a cameraman for NOAA, NASA, National Geographic, BBC, The Cousteau Society and many more. For further information on Erik's professional film career you can go online to www.studio5films.com or to the International Movie Database @ www.imdb.com.

Organizational Chart



Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

St. Thomas Historical Trust

Treasurer's Report For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015

The Treasurer's Report has been prepared from our books and records by our Accounting firm, Accounting Strategies Group, LLC. Unfortunately the Trust lost the Services of it's Treasurer to ill health in February, and his duties have been taken on by Board Member Charles Consolvo, as acting Treasurer. We have worked diligently with our accounting firm to ensure that the data presented is accurate.

Presented below are the comparative balance sheet and profit and loss statements for fiscal years 2015 and 2014. The current economic climate on St. Thomas has resulted in a significant deterioration of the trust's financial condition, which makes it imperative that you, our supporters, continue with both your financial support and volunteer efforts. Reach out to your friends and acquaintances and urge them to join us in our mission to identify, protect and preserve the history, sites and culture of St. Thomas. Without you, we cannot move forward for the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Consolvo

Acting Treasurer

03/06/16

St Thomas Historical Trust Inc
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of September 30, 2015

	Sep 30, 15	Sep 30, 14	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Cash Transfer	366.45	0.00	366.45	100.0%
First Bank				
STHT-Hassel Island	0.00	108,563.23	-108,563.23	-100.0%
Total First Bank	0.00	108,563.23	-108,563.23	-100.0%
Merchant's Bank - Checking (Fund...	74,427.14	38,729.61	35,697.53	92.2%
Merchant's Bank - Money Market	100,990.97	100,487.37	503.60	0.5%
New Petty Cash Acct.	91.60	91.60	0.00	0.0%
Paypal	0.00	34.53	-34.53	-100.0%
Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.0%
Total Checking/Savings	176,076.16	247,906.34	-71,830.18	-29.0%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	575.00	950.00	-375.00	-39.5%
Grants Receivable	0.00	5,226.00	-5,226.00	-100.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	575.00	6,176.00	-5,601.00	-90.7%
Other Current Assets				
Prepaid Expenses - GALA	6,800.00	6,800.00	0.00	0.0%
Undeposited Funds	0.00	250.00	-250.00	-100.0%
Total Other Current Assets	6,800.00	7,050.00	-250.00	-3.6%
Total Current Assets	183,451.16	261,132.34	-77,681.18	-29.8%
Fixed Assets				
Accumulated Depreciation	-14,125.00	-11,827.00	-2,298.00	-19.4%
Equipment	15,119.10	15,119.10	0.00	0.0%
Office Equipment	1,856.37	1,856.37	0.00	0.0%
Signs	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	2,890.47	5,188.47	-2,298.00	-44.3%
Other Assets				
Collectibles	30,550.00	30,550.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Assets	30,550.00	30,550.00	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL ASSETS	216,891.63	296,870.81	-79,979.18	-26.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	500.00	0.00	500.00	100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	500.00	0.00	500.00	100.0%

03/06/16

St Thomas Historical Trust Inc
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of September 30, 2015

	Sep 30, 15	Sep 30, 14	\$ Change	% Change
Other Current Liabilities				
Accrued Expenses	500.00	5,998.00	-5,498.00	-91.7%
Deferred Income - GALA	8,675.00	15,175.00	-6,500.00	-42.8%
Payroll Liabilities	991.38	1,398.16	-406.78	-29.1%
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>10,166.38</u>	<u>22,571.16</u>	<u>-12,404.78</u>	<u>-55.0%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>10,666.38</u>	<u>22,571.16</u>	<u>-11,904.78</u>	<u>-52.7%</u>
Total Liabilities	10,666.38	22,571.16	-11,904.78	-52.7%
Equity				
Restricted Net assets	107,486.46	140,261.00	-32,774.54	-23.4%
Retained Earnings	68,074.40	0.00	68,074.40	100.0%
Unrestricted Net Assets	98,738.79	134,037.65	-35,298.86	-26.3%
zAllocate "Net Income"	0.00	34,735.65	-34,735.65	-100.0%
Net Income	-68,074.40	-34,734.65	-33,339.75	-96.0%
Total Equity	<u>206,225.25</u>	<u>274,299.65</u>	<u>-68,074.40</u>	<u>-24.8%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>216,891.63</u></u>	<u><u>296,870.81</u></u>	<u><u>-79,979.18</u></u>	<u><u>-26.9%</u></u>

03/06/16

St Thomas Historical Trust Inc
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
October 2014 through September 2015

	Oct '14 - Sep 15	Oct '13 - Sep 14	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Contributions Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Donations	21,013.20	17,992.58	3,020.62	16.8%
Gala Income	54,306.00	71,573.00	-17,267.00	-24.1%
Grants (Grants)	128,900.00	11,400.00	117,500.00	1,030.7%
Hassel Island	15,031.55	49,319.72	-34,288.17	-69.5%
Hassel Island Admin Reimb	15,015.74	0.00	15,015.74	100.0%
Historic Walking Tours	620.00	690.00	-70.00	-10.1%
In Kind Other	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	-100.0%
In Kind Rent	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Interest Income	940.06	1,128.08	-188.02	-16.7%
License Plates	6,187.65	7,331.00	-1,143.35	-15.6%
Membership Dues	13,167.20	14,871.00	-1,683.80	-11.3%
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	845.03	-845.03	-100.0%
Museum Events	128.00	30,583.00	-30,455.00	-99.6%
Museum Store/Merchandise	1,134.90	6,755.97	-5,621.07	-83.2%
Raffle Tickets (proceeds of sale)	0.00	1,460.00	-1,460.00	-100.0%
Total Income	280,464.30	245,449.38	35,014.92	14.3%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold	2,988.66	6,658.66	-3,670.01	-55.1%
Total COGS	2,988.66	6,658.66	-3,670.01	-55.1%
Gross Profit	277,475.65	238,790.72	38,684.93	16.2%
Expense				
Admin Expense Allocations	15,449.15	0.00	15,449.15	100.0%
Bank Service Charges	2,855.34	2,108.01	747.33	35.5%
Cash Over/Short	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Depreciation Expense	2,298.00	2,255.00	43.00	1.9%
Dues and Subscriptions	240.00	100.00	140.00	140.0%
Events	0.00	3,922.77	-3,922.77	-100.0%
Fort Christian Expense	0.00	18.26	-18.26	-100.0%
Gala Expenses	19,425.43	17,350.01	2,075.42	12.0%
Grant Expenditures (non-HI)	19,171.33	6,108.62	13,062.51	213.8%
HI Restricted Grant Expenses	143,196.28	85,530.43	57,665.83	67.4%
HI Unrestricted Expenses	20,834.93	7,340.03	13,494.90	183.9%
Insurance	6,641.44	6,494.99	146.46	2.3%
Licenses and Permits	0.00	25.00	-25.00	-100.0%
Marketing Expense	985.16	1,172.87	-187.51	-16.0%
Meetings	41.67	3,332.74	-3,291.07	-98.8%
Miscellaneous	48.98	0.00	48.98	100.0%
Museum	137.40	0.00	137.40	100.0%
Office Supplies	3,199.56	2,412.69	786.87	32.6%
Payroll Expenses	78,509.65	78,984.93	-475.28	-0.6%
Postage and Delivery	207.78	327.43	-119.65	-36.5%
Premises	540.00	1,649.59	-1,109.59	-67.3%
Printing and Reproduction	2,474.00	1,000.00	1,474.00	147.4%
Professional Fees	15,681.25	17,187.50	-1,506.25	-8.8%
Rent	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Services Other	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	-100.0%
Utilities	3,557.97	4,704.51	-1,146.54	-24.4%
Total Expense	359,493.30	273,525.37	85,967.93	31.4%
Net Ordinary Income	-82,017.65	-34,734.65	-47,283.00	-136.1%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Admin Income Allocations	13,943.25	0.00	13,943.25	100.0%
Total Other Income	13,943.25	0.00	13,943.25	100.0%
Other Expense				
Reclass Class	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Net Other Income	13,943.25	0.00	13,943.25	100.0%
Net Income	-68,074.40	-34,734.65	-33,339.75	-96.0%

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee currently consists of Frank McConnell, Charles Consolvo, and Julia Vargas,. We are also looking for new members.

Fundraising

The 3rd Annual Coal Pot Cook-Off



The 3rd Annual Coal Pot Cook-Off was held at Emancipation Park on May 19, 2015. This was a new venue, moved from the hill in front of Ft. Christian, and proved to be a very successful location. More than 350 locals and tourists made donations for tickets for delicious food sampling, prepared by the competing chefs. Coal pots are a part of



traditional Caribbean culture and many people are not aware of their use and versatility.



Although coal pots were traditionally made from clay, they could be constructed from almost any material, including iron wheels. This photo shows some of the traditional foods prepared, Johnny cakes. Chefs were encouraged to utilize local produce, and four local farmers joined the event to display their produce. The chefs were judged by professional chefs, and the happy winners are shown below.



Music was provided by Milo and the Kings, and the awards ceremony was very ably hosted by Addie Ottley.

We owe many thanks to our sponsors and to the Trust volunteers who turned out to assist with the myriad tasks required to make this event a success.

The Trust will again sponsor the 4th annual Coal Pot Cook-off on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between noon and 3pm. We will again be looking for volunteers to assist on the day of the event. Please make a note of the date and be sure and attend.

The STHT 2015 Halloween Gala.



2015 Halloween Gala costume winners. Image Courtesy of Erik Miles.

The 8th Annual 2015 Halloween Gala Fundraiser at Oceana was once again a great success. This year's costume party theme was "Don't Stop The Carnival!" and our party goers really dressed for the occasion. Early in the evening Brenda Sylvia and assistant treated the gathering to a fire show. There was music and dancing. Oceana put on another spectacular Halloween themed menu and guests dined among Felipe Ayala's stunning décor. During dessert there was a costume contest followed by a silent and live auction. It is an event not to be missed.

Membership

Total paid membership as of March 17, 2016 is 80.

Please make every effort to get your friends to join us, with our web presence at www.stthomashistoricaltrust.org and PayPal, it is very easy.

Tours

Hassel Island Tours

Hassel Island Tours Hassel Island tours for the calendar year 2015 continued with the assistance of our volunteer tour guides, Michael Ibarren, and Shari Charnock. Alan Wentworth and his Sea Tow Virgin Islands crews again played a big part in the tours, ferrying numerous visitors, tourists, locals, adults, children in church, and school groups to Hassel Island over the harbor to the site of the Creque Marine Railway, Careening Cove or the Garrison House area. Tour interest is growing exponentially, with over 350 visitors in the first six months of 2015. In addition, local schools continue to show a growing interest in tours. Our biggest accomplishment was the increase of Virgin Island School Student visits to Hassel Island.

Historic Downtown Walking Tours

2015 saw the continuation of Historic Downtown Walking tours. Volunteer Margaret Abbott has been gracious enough to head most of these tours. Numbers here have been steadily growing as well, with the Downtown Walking Tour quickly becoming a preferred (and no cost) field trip for public schools and youth organizations. Donations are always welcome.



2015 Lockhart Elementary School Tour of Downtown. Image Courtesy of Erik Miles.

Museum

2015 was a record year for the museum. Hundreds of visitors and locals alike visited the museum this year. It had become a popular visit for School and Summer Youth Groups.

Our expert museum docents for 2015 were Mary-Ann Hickey, Rev. Bob & Sue Johnson and Millie George.

Volunteers

We wish to thank our scores of wonderful volunteers. Because of their service in the museum, leading walking tours, helping with cleanups we have been able to serve our visitors. We would like to continue to have this cultural and historical display available in the future. Please join the volunteers for a day a week or a couple of hours. Your generosity of time helps to keep the museum open.

Lecture Series

St. Thomas Historical Trust Preservation Stakeholders Lecture Series was put together by Gail Glanville.

“The Preservation Conundrum. When to preserve, when to let go.”

On Saturday April 4 at the Johansen House, St. Thomas, **David Knight, Sr.**, an historian on the Preservation Commission, was the first speaker in a series of St. Thomas Historical Trust Historical Trust Preservation Stakeholder lectures.

At the inaugural lecture, historian David Knight traced the historic development of Charlotte Amalie, emphasizing the diversity of our origins and resulting difficulty of coming together around a common vision.

He spoke about the many groups in- **St. Thomas Historical Trust Preservation Stakeholders Lecture Series**

“The Preservation Conundrum. When to preserve, when to let go.”

On Saturday April 4 at the Johansen House, St. Thomas, **David Knight, Sr.**, an historian on the Preservation Commission, was the first speaker in a series of St. Thomas Historical Trust Historical Trust Preservation Stakeholder lectures.

At the inaugural lecture, historian David Knight traced the historic development of Charlotte Amalie, emphasizing the diversity of our origins and resulting difficulty of coming together around a common vision.

He spoke about the many groups involved, on all 3 islands and the BVI, in the preservation of Virgin Island history, culture and architecture. Unfortunately, few of them talk to each other in meaningful ways. This results in lack of funding and coordinated will to move forward with any one of the many plans that exist.

What if all these groups had better ways to connect and were better able to communicate/coordinate their trajectories? What are current trends in ideas and history of historic preservation? We need to go deeper than the buzzwords like “adaptive re- use.” What does that really mean for our cosmopolitan and varied island cultures.

Recommendation: Find the will to come together and allow fresh ideas to develop. Find the common denominators and establish priority first steps that ALL GROUPS agree on and can find doable ways to garner support.

“Preservation and Possibility”

The second of the St. Thomas Historical Trust lecture series was presented by **David Bornn** and was held Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Attorney Bornn, a driving force behind the Downtown Revitalization (DRI) effort for Charlotte Amalie, gave an update on a few of the new possibilities coming into fruition as a result of the vision developed during the past 5 years by the DRI program.

Attorney Bornn presented a well-developed perspective on how to upgrade the town’s infrastructure, enhance resident’s quality of life and tourist’s experience, and stay within mandated historic preservation laws.

Third Series Speaker: Nadine Marchena Kean

“Preservation, Revitalization & Me.”

The third in the series of the St. Thomas Trust’s lively lecture series was presented by **Nadine Marchena Kean**, Director of the VIEDA’s Enterprise and Commercial Zone Commission, was held Saturday, June 20, 2015.

As a Virgin Islander who has been an economic developer for over 25 years in New York, Japan and now here in the Virgin Islands, Director Kean currently focuses on community development.

Her talk highlighted the most critical issues we face in revitalizing our historic towns. She focused on potential solutions and answered questions from the audience.

Director Kean also holds board memberships in the VI Genealogy Society and Caribbean Genealogy Library.

Lecture Series sponsored by the Vento Family Trust.





First Series Speaker: David Knight, Sr. Images Courtesy of Erik Miles.

Task Force Reports

Hassel Island Initiative

“Who will tell the story, if there is no story to tell?”

The Hassel Island Task Force started the year continuing to work under the Memorandum of Agreement with the Virgin Islands National Park Service (VINPS) and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Virgin Islands Department of Natural Resources, for Prince Frederick’s Battery, the Garrison House and Cowells’ Battery/Signal Station.

Garrison House utilization as Hassel Island Museum is nearing completion of the planning phase. The Garrison House Museum Design/Exhibit plan has been submitted. Future Garrison House plans are to restore one section of the fence that surrounded the structure at time of the British Occupation 1807-1815. This project has been generously funded by the Prior Family Foundation and Avna Cassenelli.

2015 saw the completion of the Restoration stone work on the Lime Kiln and Cowell’s Battery. Cowells’ Battery/ Signal Station Barracks House has boarded up, with the physical and fiscal help of Diageo VI, to prevent further deterioration. Discussions have been entered into with VISHPO to raise funds to restore the Barracks House and the Mast at Signal Station.

The construction plans to reconstruct the Machine Shed, and rebuild the sea walls at Creque Marine Railway ARE STILL waiting at the NPS level!

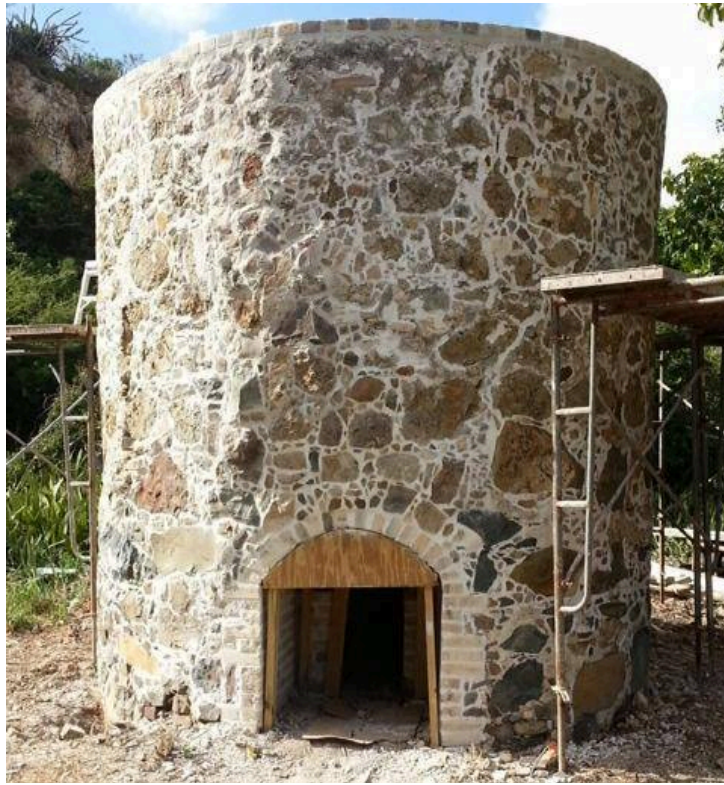
Trail and site clearing continued monthly during 2015 based upon The Trust and VINPS established and agreed upon guidelines for Trail and site clearing.

Hassel Island DVDs were donated to every school on St. Thomas, helping to share the island's unique history with the next generation of heritage preservationists.

2015 saw an increase in visitors to Hassel Island as well as four very successful Hassel Island trash clean-ups, averaging approximately 100 bags of trash removed during EACH clean-up. None of the above Hassel Island accomplishments could be achieved without the hard work of our trusty volunteers funded by our major donors, Avna Cassenelli, Filippo Cassenelli, Sebastiano Cassenelli, Diageo VI, Inc, Alpine Securities, Kimelman Family Foundation, White Bay Group, Joanne Bozzuto, Prior Family Foundation, John Digges, and Budget Car & Truck Rental. Please consider volunteering your time or make a contribution (or both!) to preserve our heritage and history on Hassel Island .



Prince Frederik's Battery, Hassel Island. Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia.



The Lime Kiln Under Restoration. Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia.



Repointed bricks, Prince Frederik's Battery . Image Courtesy of Doc Palancia.

Fort Christian

2015 saw meetings conducted with the Trust and SHPO on Fort Christian. Levi Farrell, Ft. Christian Curator met with and gave Trust members a tour of the Fort and outlined his vision for the Fort and its' proposed open date late in 2016. Mr. Farrell has asked if The Trust could assist in possibly funding one of the Forts exhibits, notably the 1st Lieutenants Quarters and Danish Soldier Barrack exhibit. That proposal is under review by the trust.

As can be seen the restoration of Fort Christian, walls painted, and glimpses of interior work nears completion, we look forward to working with VISHPO the opening of the Fort this fall.



Fort Christian . Image Courtesy of Erik Miles.

Step Streets

STHT Bred Gade Step Street Project Presented by Malcolm Schweizer



Proposed Bred Gade Step Street Restorations. Image Courtesy of Jon Euwema

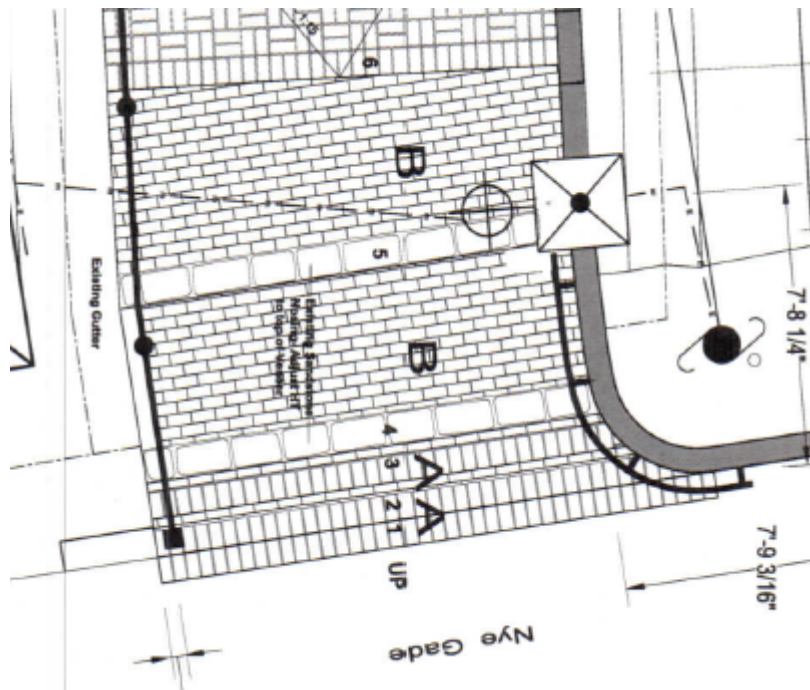
The mission of the St. Thomas Historical Trust is to identify, protect, and preserve the history, sites, and culture of St. Thomas. Part of that history is our many historic step streets. These streets are unique to St. Thomas, and many of them have fallen into disrepair. The St. Thomas Historical Trust has made an effort to give back to the community by helping preserve our historic step streets.

Bred Gade was identified as being in most need of repair. This is the long step street which goes from Nye Gade up Denmark Hill. The original vault was in jeopardy of collapsing, and the steps had undergone many prior attempts at preservation, some of which resulted in concreting over the original brick and stone. The St. Thomas Historical Trust undertook a project to repair and restore the Bred Gade step street.

A grant was given by the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office to upstart this project. A portion of these funds were used for a thorough site survey and the drawing of plans for the project.

With the remaining funds, the St. Thomas Historical Trust wanted to address the greatest need, which was to restore the vault and steps leading to the second landing of the step street. This was the area in most disrepair, and which was causing the step street to be unusable.

The following illustration shows the architect's rendering of the entrance to Bred Gade. The areas labeled "A" and "B" are the areas being addressed in this stage of the project. This would be the limit for existing funds, but would make the step street useful again, with the hopes of generating donations for expanding the renovation as planned.



Balbo Construction was contracted for this project. They have experience in restoring historical sites, and showed that they were able to complete this project with consideration for utilizing period-correct materials and making the most use of existing salvageable materials.

The brick for this project was made in St. Croix especially for the project to match the original brick found during the excavation. Although it was impossible to identify the exact construction due to past renovations covering the first steps with concrete, the new façade is an accurate representation of what was used during the period, and based on bricks found at the site, is in keeping with the history of Bred Gade.

The original stones which formed the edge of the first two landings was salvaged and reused in this project in order to maintain as much of the original as possible. The original railing will be maintained until further funds are generated.

The first portion of this project is almost complete, only awaiting approval for extending one additional step into Nye Gade. In order to properly repair and strengthen the original vault, a layer of concrete with rebar was poured over the vault. This raised the vault slightly from the original, and therefore in order to maintain a uniform rise and run, an additional step needs to be completed where the step street joins Nye Gade.

The St. Thomas Historical Trust is open to anyone wishing to donate further funds to the project. Two of our board members have chipped in money to cover the cost of the additional step and additional brick to complete this phase. The next phase of the project, pending funding, will be to build the wall and pad for the trash bins at the foot of the step street, as well as finishing the next landing and repairing the original iron railing.

The following images show various stages of completion:

Exposed vault, in need of repair.



Forms in place, rebar being installed.



Vault poured and being skinned with brick.

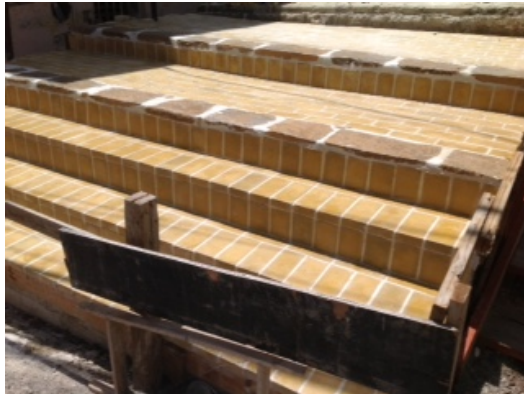


Original stone pavers being placed.

Bricks being faced.



Current Stage



Many, many thanks to our wonderful donors and volunteers

Margaret Abbott

Anne Chauncey

AH Riise

April Newland

Bellows International

Bob Inbarren

Bread and Cakes

Bulgari

Cobia Fagan

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Libraries, Archives and
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Ingrid Bough, The Virgin
Islands State Historic
Preservation Office: Levi
Farrell, Airall Fontaine
and Sean Krigger*