

INTERIM REPORT

**on the
CULTURAL RESOURCES
OF PLOT 144, ESTATE WHIM,
ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS,**

by

**A. E. Figueredo
Post Office Box 938
Kingshill, V.I. 00851-0938**

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The **Study Area** for this interim report is **Plot 144**, Estate Whim, West End Quarter, Frederiksted Jurisdiction, District of St. Croix, Virgin Islands of the United States. Its surface area is approximately 37.4 acres.

The owners of the Study Area, **Imperial Properties, Inc.**, intend to subdivide their property for eventual sale and further development. In this connection, it has come to their attention (1) that they may require a cultural resources survey, and (2) that the Study Area may contain historical remains.

With the preceding in mind, Imperial Properties, Inc., has retained an archaeologist, A. E. Figueredo, to ascertain in a preliminary and non-destructive manner the approximate location and boundaries of any cultural resources within the Study Area. This is a first step necessary to the planning of development, and is not to be construed as a Phase I cultural resources survey.

It is intended by Imperial Properties, Inc., to consult with the Division of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to define an appropriate scope of work for a Phase I cultural resources survey. This interim report is to demonstrate that intent, and to provide basic information both to DAHP and to CZM in order to help them define said scope of work.

PREHISTORIC RESOURCES

No prehistoric resources are known to be found within the Study Area. There are, however, likely spots for settlement by various of the known prehistoric cultures of St. Croix. One of these is the land behind Camporico Beach, which is entirely within the Study Area.

A sampling methodology ought to be adopted with the goal of locating any possible prehistoric remains. This should include test pitting and transect sampling, as well as the customary 100% surface reconnaissance.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Study Area apparently was uninhabited during early historical times. We find no cartographic or documentary evidence for habitation before 1751. On that date, the Study Area, which is part of Matricul 10, West End Quarter, is shown as the property of Arthur, Jacob, and Thomas Gumbs. It is unclear at present whether the Gumbs owned the Matricul together, or owned separate estates within the Matricul.

About 1755, Matricul 10 became the property of Cornelius Hendrickson. He and his heirs were to retain ownership of at least part of Matricul 10 into the next century. A small portion (2,000 Danish feet) is shown as owned by Rapsaat Heyliger in 1797.

The Study Area became part of a larger estate, known as **Camporico**, around the beginning of the XIX Century. It included, by 1859, matriculs 5, 8, 10, and 11. This larger estate (which by 1825 boasted a tower windmill for grinding sugar cane) had its settlement located well to the north of the Study Area. It is unlikely that any building or habitation took place within the Study Area between 1800 and the present.

Oxholm's map of 1797 shows a battery mounting two cannon either in or very close to the Study Area, but definitely within Matricul 10. This battery is not shown in his map of ca. 1774, so that likely it was built between these two dates. Later maps fail to show it, so it may have been abandoned shortly after 1797.

The search for historic evidence should include an effort to find any signs of activity for the period when the Hendricksons owned the Study Area, and an effort also to locate at least traces of the battery. It is possible that no building took place within the Study Area at all, but that settlement was concentrated elsewhere in Matricul 10. It is possible also that the battery may have been utterly demolished by having its building materials borrowed for other construction after its abandonment.

Of course, it is possible also that unattested settlement took place within the Study Area during historic times, or that evidence may be found for particular undisclosed exploitation of resources there. A diligent search for such potential evidence is desirable.

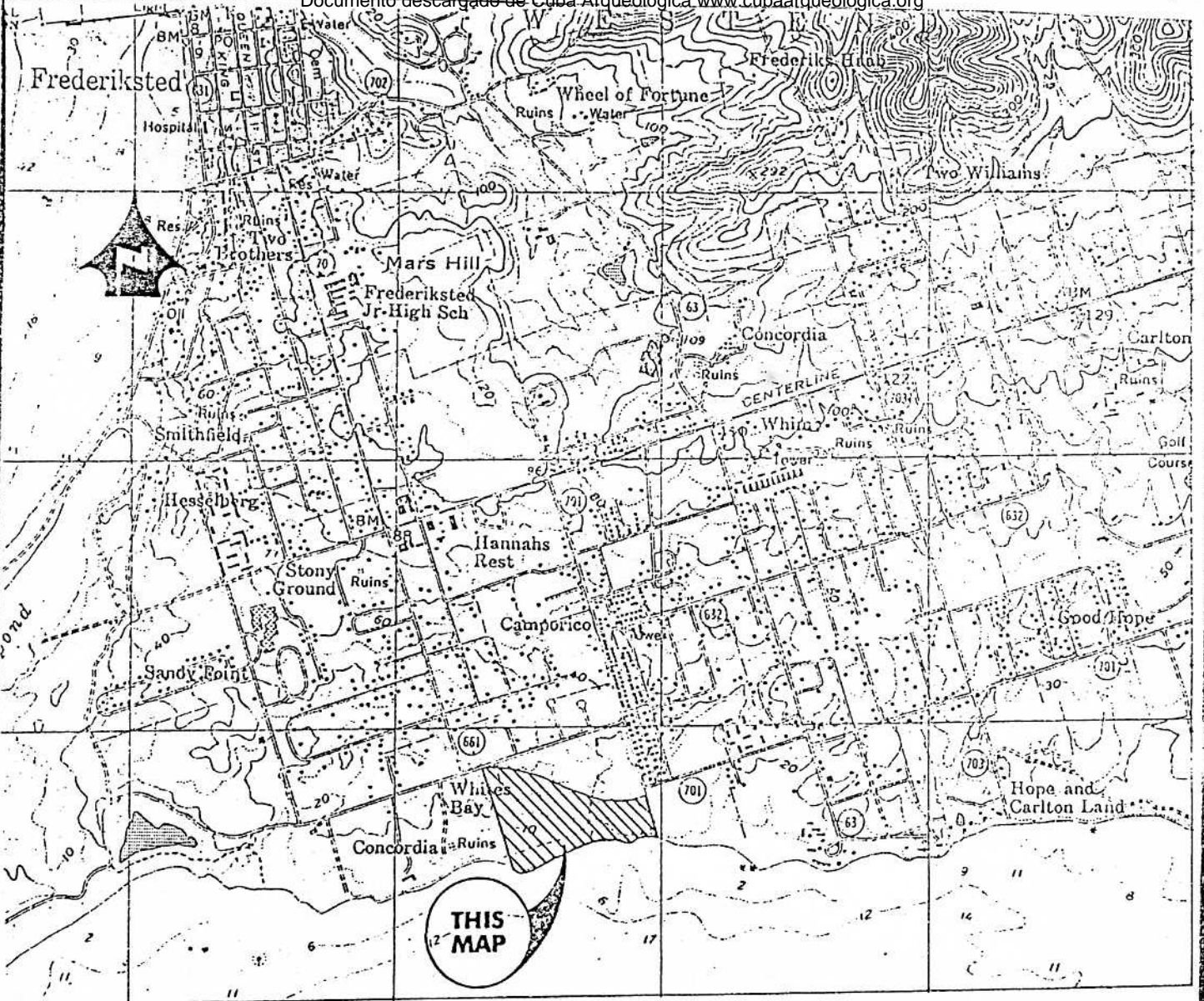
FIGURES

Figure 1

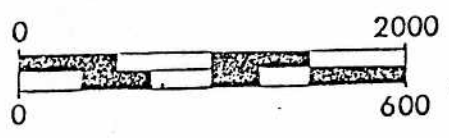
Location map of the Study, or Project, Area.

Figure 2

Oxholm's map of 1797, showing a battery near or in the Study Area.



 PROJECT AREA



ESTATE WHIM PLOT 144

LOCATION MAP



Figure 2