



# Department of Property & Procurement

Government of the United States Virgin Islands

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March 25, 2015

Honorable Myron D. Jackson  
Chairman  
Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation  
30<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
St. Thomas, VI 00802

**RE: TESTIMONY ON GOVERNMENT OWNED HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Dear Senator Jackson:

I regret to inform you that my staff and I will be unavailable to attend the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation meeting scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015. Please accept this letter as my formal testimony on this matter.

Your letter, dated March 16, 2015, requests an update on the conditions of several government-owned historic buildings including the respective Government Houses, Denmark Hill and the Lieutenant Governor's residence on St. Croix as well as their furnishings, art and historic collections.

As a matter of jurisdiction, the Department of Property & Procurement does not maintain care and custody of, or an inventory of, historic collections, furnishings, and art. Simply put, the department's only involvement in such artifacts is for insurance coverage as contents in the buildings in which they are housed. Moreover, the department is not involved with engineering assessments, maintenance historic artifacts nor determining the historic relevance of a property, piece of art or furniture. As you are aware, such matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources.

However, as always, this department is willing to assist by assigning identified artifacts to the appropriate agency's inventory, making sure said artifacts are covered under the Government's insurance schedule of values and are present and accounted for during our bi-annual inventory inspections. During our 2014 inventory of the Lieutenant Governor's residence in Sion Farm and Government House in Christiansted, no items were identified as having historic relevance. It is solely the agency's responsibility to identify said items for proper recording and insurance.

I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience the Department's absence may cause. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (340) 774-0828.

Respectfully,

  
Cecilia Milliner Emanuel  
Acting Commissioner