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**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001

June 22, 2015

Honorable Senator Neville James, President  
31th Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

Good day Honorable Senate President Neville James, Honorable Chairman Myron D Jackson, Honorable Senators, Testifiers, and audience.

My name is Lisa Webster Potter and I am the Chief of Protocol for the Office of The Governor. At the request of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation, I offer my update on the Government Houses furnishings, art and historical collections.

**Government House, St. Thomas**

The most recent appraisal on file is dated April 12, 2013. The appraisal was done to assess the value of the Fine Art for insurance purposes. I am happy to report that efforts to validate and archive the Fine Art was achieved through the dedicated help of Mr. John Jowers, Ms. Deborah Coy, Vice President of 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Art, Christie's Appraisals, Inc, Jennifer Klaus, Associate Specialist – American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture, Christie's Appraisals, Inc. and other various associate specialists also from Christie's Appraisal, Inc. Office of the Governor is in the process of procuring an updated appraisal of the Fine Art inventory through the same partners listed above but has not been completed as of this testimony.

The Fine Art Collection has been valued at \$529,500. The value was derived from the following works:

- 1 Artist Unknown- A View in the West Indies  
\$20,000
- 2 Thomas Hart Benton-Nymphs in Garden  
\$60,000
- 3 Attributed to Gustave Courbet- La Source  
\$10,000
- 4 Armand Guillaumin- Landscape with Curving Path  
\$6,000
- 5 Peppino Mangravite – Columbus Landing  
\$40,000
- 6 Peppino Mangravite- Sugar Cane  
\$50,000
- 7 Peppino Mangravite- Transfer Day Celebration  
\$100,000
- 8 Leonard Midori- Bull and Figure  
\$2,000
- 9 Camille Pissarro- Soleil Couchant a Ergny  
\$100,000
- 10 Attributed to Camille Pissarro- Landscape at Night  
\$1,800
- 11 Camille Pissarro- Study of Two Young Women  
\$4,000
- 12 Camille Pissarro- St. Thomas  
\$12,000

- 13 Camille Pissarro-Figure in a Forest  
\$12,000
- 14 Edouard Vuillard- Le Sable  
\$12,000
- 15 Zao Wou-Ki- Hommage a Henri Rousseau  
\$100,000

Other various artwork under the custodianship of Government House have not been adequately appraised for submission in the above section pending proposed restoration. Mr. Simon Parks of Simon Parks Art Conservation, Inc. has graciously and free of charge offered his expert opinion on the value and condition of remaining works not appraised but are of significant value. Proposed restoration costs are offered in relation to the following pieces:

Eric Winter- Construction Workers, 1965  
\$4,000 - \$4,500

A.E. Daniel- Portrait of a Local Man  
\$2,500

William J. Lord-View of Charlotte Amalie  
\$4,200-\$4,500

The following works of art are on display at Government House, St. Thomas. They are in fair to good condition but have not been appraised:

Lucio Miori-The Conquest  
Camille Pissarro- St Thomas Gris- Gris  
Camille Pissarro- Two Trees with Figures  
Camille Pissarro- Two Standing Women  
Unidentified - A View of St Croix  
Thomas Hart Benton- Nymphs in a Grotto  
Belly Barber - Charles W. Turnbull Portrait  
Belly Barber- Melvin H. Evans Portrait

## **Historical Furniture displayed at Government House, St Thomas**

### **Lobby Area**

Mahogany over Pine Finish Lectern  
Mahogany Drop Leaf Table and Mirror  
Triton Sword  
Mahogany Hat Rack (historical but reconstructed by Ambrose Jervier)

### **Ballroom**

Mahogany Escrioire  
Mahogany Sewing Table  
Mahogany Inkwell hosting Danish Porcelain  
3 Mahogany Parlor Tables from Martinique  
Mahogany Side Board (small)  
Mahogany Desk (Cruzan)  
2 Mahogany ½ Rounds  
Mahogany Side Board (American Fabrication)  
Mahogany Side Board (Large)  
Mahogany Greek Revival Mirror (Cabinet Room)  
5 Mahogany Pedestals  
Mahogany Knife Box  
Van Scholten Bible  
Mahogany Case Box (hosts bible)  
Mahogany Tilt Top Vanity

Other ballroom furniture (chaise, seating, various chairs not indicated above are inspired from southern antique design but are not historical)

## **Art featured at Catharineberg**

### **Den**

Barentzen Engraving  
J Antonio Jarvis Wharf Scene  
J Antonio Jarvis Columbus Landing Scene  
Ray Miles 92' Education Street Scene

### **Dining Room**

Kimberly Boulon rendering  
2 J Antonio Jarvis rendering (un-named)

## **Historical Furniture at Catharineberg**

### **Hallway**

Mahogany Cane Seat Chairs (2 of 10 piece set)  
1 Flensburg Chair with Crest Rail (1 of 4 pieces)  
Mahogany Cane Seat Chaise  
Mahogany Drop Leaf Table  
Mahogany Pedestal

### **Drawing/ Living Room**

Mahogany Tilt Top Table with Conquistador Heads (Suriname)  
4 Mahogany Cane Seat Rocking Chairs (2 matching/ 2 alternate styles)  
2 Mahogany Card Tables with Urn Design Circa 1800's  
2 Mahogany Candle Stand Tables with Clove Pedestal (original pair)  
2 Ajante Candelabra, Silver from Mexico, gift of Former Gov. Schneider  
2 Crystal Hurricane Lamps  
2 Mahogany Victorian Chairs with Hand Carved Flowers on Crest Rail  
1 Mahogany Table (seated with Victorian chairs)  
2 Mahogany Fauteuil Chairs, Burgundy Upholstery  
Mahogany Round Parlor Table  
Mahogany Oval Parlor Table  
Kars tan Oriental Rug Reproduction (acquired from 1844 House, J Stoutt)

### **Dining Room**

2 Mahogany Side Board (Antigua)  
Mahogany Cupping Table, Danish West Indian  
Mahogany 3 Tier Round Wagonette  
Mahogany Console (reproduction but of great quality)  
Mahogany Regency Style 3 Pedestal Dining Room Table  
10 Mahogany Dining Room Chairs

### **Red Bedroom**

Mahogany Bedroom Suite ( No Historical Value)

### **Master Bedroom**

Mahogany Armoire Circa 1800's (1 of 3)  
Mahogany West Indian Table with Turned Legs  
Mahogany Danish Flensburg Chair with Crest Rail (1 of 4)

### **Small Bedroom**

Marble Top Vanity Console, Circa 1880's from Barbados  
2 Danish Flensburg Chairs  
Mahogany Gentleman's Bureau, Southern Plantation Style

### **Room Adjacent to Kitchen**

Mahogany Parlor Press with Bun Legs

### **Den**

Mahogany Drop Leaf Table which transforms to round  
Mahogany Armoire (1 of 3)

### **Historical Furniture at The Battery, St. John**

Mahogany Armoire with Original Interior (1 of 3)

### **Historical Furniture at Government House, Christiansted**

A photo inventory has been provided but has not been archived with descriptions as of the time of this testimony

**The Government House in Fredericksted, St. Croix** has been beautifully restored however there are no furnishings or artwork of historical significance on property. All items featured at the site are replicas which are period appropriate.

East End School House, St. John and Bonne Esperance, St. Croix are structures which have been closed for quite some time and do not house any historical furnishings or artwork.

There are items which have been inventoried in past administrations and are now labeled as missing from Government House's possession. Knowledge of these items and existence of such has been documented through photographs, signed letters and assertions from individuals with intimate knowledge of particular items. Government House at this time cannot determine with any degree of certainty as to any particular time frame relating to any item but is certain that a few missing items can be determined as missing within an administration. Among these items are:

Ivory Console Table – Established missing during Turnbull/ James transition  
Wilmouth Blyden Portrait- Established missing during Farrelly/ Hodge transition  
Coptic Textile Vestment- Established missing during Schneider/ Mapp transition  
Mahogany Sewing Table- Established missing during Mapp/ Potter transition

- 1 Mahogany Sitting Chair- Established missing during Mapp/ Potter transition
- 2 Mahogany Tables- Established missing during Mapp/ Potter transition

The information offered above is a work in progress as the administration is only 5 and ½ months old. We strive each day to create a working archive which will preserve these historical gifts. There was no slate prepared during transition for the Mapp/ Potter Administration to build on. In the interest of accuracy and respect to the true nature and history of these items more time is needed to develop a competent system.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Webster Potter  
Chief of Protocol