



Department of Property & Procurement

Government of the United States Virgin Islands

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June 25, 2015

Honorable Myron D. Jackson
Chairman
Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation
31th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, VI 00802

RE: TESTIMONY ON GOVERNMENT OWNED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Dear Senator Jackson:

Thank you for the invitation to participate at the committee hearing on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation scheduled for Monday June 29, 2015 at the Frits E, Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix. I am happy to inform you that my staff and I will be available to attend.

The Department of Property and Procurement presents its formal testimony on the state of Government House and their furnishings, art and historical collections, and as previously stated in correspondence dated March 25, 2015 to the aforementioned committee (copy attached), the Department does not (at this time) maintain care and custody, or an inventory of Historic collections, furnishings and art. Therefore, we have, to the best of our knowledge, provided you a visual survey of those items with significant historical value by their location and date as seen on the photographs provided and attached to this testimony during our execution of the baseline inventory.

The Christies Catalog photographs Nos.9 through Nos.86 represent items housed at Government House and Catherineberg, on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Photographs Nos.87 through Nos.91 are depictions of the East End School House, located on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands which; in its current state of disrepair, have no items of historical value located within.

Upon a visual survey of the Battery in St. John it was clear to the Fixed Asset Team that there were no items of historical value, located on those premises; accordingly no items were recorded as such.

Ltr. to Senator Jackson
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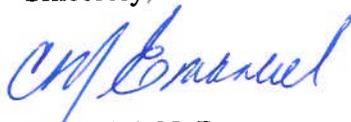
Information regarding historical items located within the Government Houses on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands have not been completed and will be provided to the committee upon completion.

I would like to work with you and the Legislature as a whole in developing a Strategic Plan that would give the Department of Property and Procurement the authority and funding necessary to care and protect the Virgin Island's heritage assets. The strategic Plan will presents a new vision for the Department and will incorporate input from the community, Legislature, GVI employees, and organizations.

The Department will develop a framework to focus its efforts on protecting these assets over the next five years as we develop new sets of strategic goals in this area. It will also guide investments and the allocation of resources and help to integrate and align responsibilities across the Department. Having a Strategic Plan that includes the protection of Heritage assets demonstrates the importance and relevance of the Department in protecting the historical legacy of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Any additional information required will be provided upon request.

Sincerely,



Randolph N. Bennett
Commissioner Designee