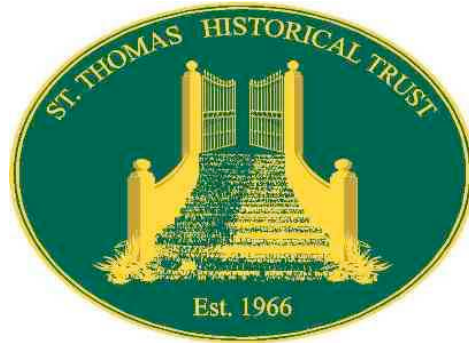


Our Mission:

*To identify, protect and preserve  
the historical identity, structures  
and sites, and cultural heritage of  
St. Thomas  
through education, advocacy and  
promotion*



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June 9, 2008

Dear Friends of the St. Thomas Historical Trust:

It is hard to believe that it has been only one year since our June 9, 2007 Hassel Island Preservation Fund Raiser, hosted at the beautiful home of Ricardo and Josefina Charaf on Hassel Island. It is a great pleasure to report to you what we have accomplished together in our first year of collaboration with the National Park Service, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Friends of the VI National Park. The accomplishments described below could not have happened without your generous contributions towards the preservation of the historical treasures on Hassel Island.

The Board of the St. Thomas Historical Trust is extremely proud of what its donors and volunteers have made possible. Each of you have played a critical role in this successful initial first phase towards making the Hassel Island National Park a reality. We have prepared this report to let you know precisely what has transpired this year. Our report is a special "thank you" to each participant, without whom the outstanding accomplishments of the last year could not have happened.

Since June 2007 the St. Thomas Historical Trust entered into contracts with Sea Tow Virgin Islands and Stefferson Marine & Construction to complete preservation and stabilization projects at a cost to the Trust of over \$100,000. Contributions from the Friends of the VI National Park and in-kind assistance from the Government of the Virgin Islands were also instrumental in completing the initial phase of an ambitious scope of work.

The first order of business was the clean up of the sea-floor bottom within the footprint of the Creque Marine Railway slipway area out to the northern throat, or entrance, between the seawalls. Stefferson Marine & Construction provided experienced labor, commercial divers, lifting equipment, underwater cutting equipment, vessels and a crane to ready the slipway for the projects to follow. The National Park Service supervised that work and was ever present to preserve and catalogue artifacts located around the slipway and retrieved from the sea floor. Substantial amounts of debris were removed and eventually trucked to the landfill.

Next, the Trust contracted with Sea Tow Virgin Islands to begin the process of removing stranded, derelict or wrecked vessels along the shoreline of Hassel Island. The VI State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the six vessels to be removed and authorized their removal in October 2007. Each of the six vessels was examined, photographed and the requirements for ecologically and historically sensitive removal were carefully evaluated and documented. Where hazardous materials were involved, special procedures were necessary. All six

unsightly vessels, some that dated back to Hurricane Hugo, have now been removed! In addition, Sea Tow moved along the shoreline of Hassel Island and removed all large marine flotsam, boat parts, car bumpers, etc. and crushed large debris into small pieces for loading into trash containers that were ultimately transported to the Bovoni Landfill for proper disposal by Solid Waste Management.

On December 8, 2007 the National Park Service followed up the progress of the Sea Tow large debris removal and organized a full day of volunteers who “bagged and dragged” smaller items and placed them in designated areas for removal by Sea Tow. Again, National Park representatives supervised this process to ensure that historically significant artifacts were segregated, catalogued and preserved. The collaboration of the entire community made this a productive and inspiring day. Many of our young people and volunteers had the opportunity to visit and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Hassel Island for the first time.

Finally, from March through May 2008 the St. Thomas Historical Trust, Friends of VI National Park and National Park Service took a last opportunity to have Sea Tow work on four additional areas before their special equipment headed back to the New England for its next assignment.

First, Sea Tow returned to the Creque Marine Slipway area. They cleared approximately 2.1 acres of debris, segregated any hazardous material using approved HAZMAT techniques and placed any historically or archaeologically significant material on the site as directed by the VINPS supervising archaeologist. Next, Sea Tow moved to the Manfred Compound and performed similar work in that area. Sea Tow then moved on to Fort Shipley, mowing a path 6 feet wide from the area of the Creque Marine Railway to Fort Shipley, along an historic route that had been flagged by VINPS. At Fort Shipley they removed all vegetation in and around the Fort as marked by VINPS, treated it with herbicide under VINPS guidelines, saved all vegetation identified to be saved by VINPS and gathered any historically or archaeologically significant material as directed by the VINPS supervisor. Last but not least, Sea Tow returned to the Creque Marine Railway slipway where our work began and that had been home to the Sea Tow vessel since December 2007. Sea Tow then removed all overburden above the paving stones from the waterline to the existing clear paving stones and spread the material collected in an adjacent area as designated by the VINPS representative. We are pleasantly amazed with the relatively good conditions of several of the structures.

From whatever vantage you see Hassel Island the amazing progress of the last year is astonishing. The entire community came together to make Phase One of the Hassel Island stabilization and preservation a great success. Without the extraordinary generosity of our St. Thomas Historical Trust donors this would not have been possible. On behalf of the Board I thank each of you personally and sincerely.

We are very excited as we embark on year two of the Hassel Island Preservation Initiative. We hope that you will continue your generous support and join us at our lectures, events and new mini museum at the Royal Dane Mall. We are arranging a special tour of Hassel Island for you on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> and will contact you with further details. Please save the date.

Thank you again for your generous support of the mission of the St. Thomas Historical Trust.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Lockhart  
President

## ST THOMAS HISTORICAL TRUST

### HASSEL ISLAND EXPENDITURES

June 1, 2007 to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2007	Studio Five	\$ 7,500.00
July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Stefferson Marine	\$ 3,600.00
July 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Stefferson Marine	\$ 8,400.00
September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Wayne Bryan	\$ 65.00
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	Clean the Bay	\$ 4,500.80
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	Sea Tow	\$ 21,361.47
December 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Sea Tow	\$ 8,000.00
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 8,000.00
April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 7,750.00
April, 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 3,893.00
May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 12,500.00
May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 9,200.00
May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 7,500.00
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	Sea Tow	\$ 250.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$102,520.27</b>

## Hassel Island Before and After



Creque Marine Railway and Head House before



Creque Marine Railway and Head House after clearing



Manfred Compound before clearing



Manfred Compound after clearing



Regina Maris before



Regina Maris after clearing



Ft. Shipley curtain wall before



Ft. Shipley curtain wall after



Ft. Shipley guardhouse before



Ft. Shipley guardhouse after