



## TVIL Protected Lands Revealed!

### Part 4: A Piece of Castle Nugent History Estate Lowry Hill Preserve - St. Croix, USVI

In 2016, TVIL accepted the donation of 42 acres of land from Pat and Macy Wall, who wished to see it preserved as open space. The property, a variably sloping forest and shrub hillside, is part of a local area characterized by a history of settlement and agricultural use along the south shore of St. Croix. Efforts have been underway for many years to protect the natural habitat and open space, aesthetic values and historically significant features of the south shore.

In 2006, a 1200-acre Castle Nugent National Historic Park was proposed to the US Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives that same year. Unfortunately, with the change of political winds and the economic crisis of 2008, the project languished and stalled. The then Secretary of the Interior described the area as one of the most beautifully preserved historical park sites in the national inventory.

The property offers significant historical resources, including gravesites dating from the early 1800's and the potential for further identification of both pre- and post-Columbian artifacts.



Photo 1 – looking across the property to the south shore



Photo 2 – looking west across the lowlands and hillsides of the property



Photo 3 – from the ridgeline above the property, looking east towards St. Croix's east end

The donation of the Lowry Hill property is a significant addition to the local protected areas inventory including Great Pond and TVIL's Marienhoj property, and we hope this thoughtful action on the part of the Wall family may encourage additional protection activities within the area of the proposed Castle Nugent National Historic Park.

In the long term, the property will be maintained in its natural state, protecting the natural resources of the land including open, undeveloped green space and wildlife habitat. The Trust for Virgin Islands Lands has committed to the protection and stewardship of this important land. Please donate to assist the trust in this important work. Every donation, of any size, helps us continue to achieve our mission. <http://www.virginislandslandtrust.org/>

This land is an open space and wildlife preserve. There are no trails within the property. The public can enjoy views of the property from the roads and neighborhoods surrounding the property and from the waters off the south shore.