

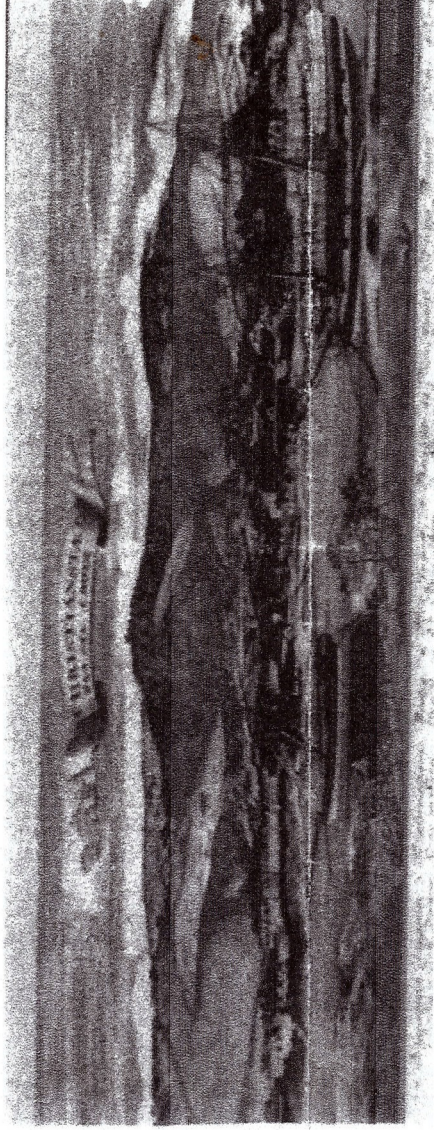
Sites related to Alexander Hamilton in Christiansted

1. Christiansted Wharf
2. Fort Christiansvaern, [times] [jee]
- 3.+4. Numbers 23 and 34 Company Street, [private]
5. St. John's Anglican Church, 27 King Street, [times]
6. Thomas Stevens' Residence, King Street exact location unknown.
7. The site of the former Presbyterian Church 13 Watergut at Prince Street, [commercial]
8. The site of Nicholas Cruger's business Numbers 7 and 8 King Street, [private]





Alexander Hamilton's Christiansted



Few people know that Alexander Hamilton—the Founding Father who defined the government and finances of the newly independent United States—grew up in Christiansted. This walking tour offers an introduction to Alexander Hamilton's world in the capital of the "Danish Islands in America" between the ages of 10 and 18 . . . formative years! *It is a far different story than one may expect. Selected Buildings and sites with a direct association to Hamilton are listed here. Properties that are labeled [private] are not open for tours and sightseeing. Others may be accessible only at specific [times] and may charge a modest entrance [fee]. We encourage you to walk in the the young Alexander Hamilton's footsteps.*

1. Christiansted Wharf: During the second half of the 1700s, Christiansted was a bustling international port. In May, 1765, the Hamiltons and their two sons arrived from Nevis. Eight years later, Alexander Hamilton left from this same wharf for British North America to further his education. His arrival in New York coincided with the eve of the American Revolution. The rest is history!

2. Fort Christiansvaern [times] [fee]: The sight of Fort Christiansvaern in 1765 brought back painful memories to Rachel, Alexander Hamilton's mother. Twenty years before, she had been forced into an arranged marriage with a much older man. She walked out in 1750. Her husband, Johan Michael Lavien, responded by having her jailed in the fort. After several months, he had Rachel released, thinking that, "...she, as a wedded wife, [would] change her unholy way of life and as meet and proper live with him..." It didn't work out that way. Rachel left for St. Kitts, where she met and fell in love with a Scotsman, James Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton was their second son.

3&4. Numbers 23 and 34 Company Street, Christiansted [private]: Two months after their arrival at Christiansted, Rachel and James Hamilton separated. James returned to Nevis, never to see or support his children again. Rachel made a living by running a small store selling plantation supplies. The combination store and residence was located at No. 34 Company Street, although there was a temporary move to No. 23 Company Street in 1767. The store was on the ground floor, and the residence above. Unfortunately, neither structure has survived. Rachel stricken with yellow fever, died on February 19, 1768, at the age of 38.

5. St. John's Anglican Church [times]: The Church of England established this parish in 1760 to minister to the growing number of British subjects on St. Croix. Alexander Hamilton's mother was listed as "Rachael Levine" in the church's burial records for 1768. The original wooden church, destroyed in the 1772 hurricane, was replaced by the existing Gothic Revival church by 1780.

6. Thomas Stevens' Residence: After his mother's death, Alexander Hamilton probably lived with the merchant Thomas Stevens and his family on King Street. Hamilton and Stevens' second son, Edward, became lifelong friends. The exact location of their home has not yet been determined.

7. The site of the former Presbyterian Church: Rev. Hugh Knox, pastor for the Presbyterian congregation in Christiansted beginning in 1772, befriended the teenaged Alexander Hamilton. Knox provided him with religious guidance, and helped to further his education. The congregation's membership declined, and the property was sold in 1818. The church building was later demolished.

8. The Firm of Nicholas Cruger [private]: To help his family, 11-year old Alexander Hamilton went to clerk for the import-export firm of David Beekman and Nicholas Cruger in 1766. Contrary to local tradition, research shows that Cruger's business was located at Nos. 7-8 King Street. Hamilton learned the complexities of international trade and foreign exchange there. He would later tell his children that his experiences with Cruger were "the most useful part of his education." Cruger's building were replaced in the late 1700s by the building you see today.