



# ST. CROIX LANDMARKS SOCIETY

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Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
2008/9 Annual Report  
Robert L Merwin  
February 2009

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Dear Members, Volunteers, Sponsors and Staff,

Robert L Merwin  
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Thank you for helping us celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Croix Landmarks Society. It is through the commitment and generosity of many people that Landmarks continues the legacy established by the founding members in 1948: to preserve, protect, and exhibit unique historical and cultural resources of St. Croix. By operating and maintaining two museums, sponsoring various cultural events, preserving and protecting important historical information and artifacts, providing educational programs and materials, welcoming residents and visitors, and providing heritage tourism experiences, the Landmarks Society strives to offer the community an invaluable service: preserving our heritage for future generations!

We are excited about the opportunity to acquire a National Heritage Area designation for St. Croix and encourage everyone to participate in the Feasibility Study project now underway. Identifying and promoting the unique and important historic sites, cultural riches, and natural beauty of our Crucian heritage will educate future generations. We look forward to collaborating with the Honorable Delegate Donna Christensen as she leads this new national status project.

We are encouraged by our interaction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Their leadership and guidance offers us inspiration and strategy for moving forward with the development of our organization and implementation of our goals. We were honored to have Mr. Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation as our guest speaker for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and were graciously presented with the President's Award in recognition of our work and accomplishments.

We are developing private-public partnerships to help sustain our organization; partnering with government resources offers opportunities to reduce our costs and take advantage of government programs and grants. Examples include assistance with maintaining the Whim Great House and Heritage Trail, printing media, developing alternative energy sources, and employing senior workers through the Senior Citizen Work Program.

This is a critical time in our history – meeting the economic challenge of survival and growth in the midst of both local and world wide political, financial, and demographic transitions. We are grateful to Stanford for funding a major sponsorship. We hope more corporate partners will make a multi-year commitment and more supporters will consider a tax saving bequest. We are building our membership base and encouraging annual giving.

In addition to our current programs and activities, we are focusing on:

- Developing new and expanded museum displays and interpretive exhibits
- Upgrading our library and administrative offices
- Expanding our community outreach and participation
- Restoring and utilizing our West Indian cottage
- Restoring the Whim windmill blade
- Improving the museum facilities and grounds
- Revitalizing our Museum Store
- Utilizing our volunteer team
- Establishing an annual fund and increasing our endowment funds

With over 50 cruise ship visits scheduled in the 2009 season, the Museums are filled with visitors. We look forward to seeing YOU at Whim and Little La Grange. Bring your friends and off-island guests, explore the Library, enjoy the concerts, browse our selection of historic books in the Museum Store.

Thank you again for your continued support, generosity, and participation. **We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting at Little La Grange on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 o'clock.**

Robert L Merwin

*Preserving the history and culture of St. Croix*

