

48B NORRE GADE ANNEX

REHABILITATION PROJECT

This building – Norre Gade 48B Annex – constructed ca. 1940 by the Public Works Administration, once housed a cooperative store that showcased local handicrafts and art for sale. The structure was constructed in reinforced concrete and smooth stucco, with symmetrical exteriors of recessed windows arranged in vertical panels. This was in line with the Public Works Administration (PWA) Moderne architectural style common to many New Deal public works projects. The style represented permanence, stability, and authority, while exercising fiscal modesty. A comprehensive historic rehabilitation was completed in 2022 to convert the building for use as a visitor center with public restrooms serving downtown Charlotte Amalie.

Norre Gade 48B is located along the western boundary of the historic King's Wharf area west of historic Fort Christian, which has long been a port of entry bustling with trade, commerce, and social activity linking the town of Charlotte Amalie with its busy harbor. Immediately to its north is the imposing, two-story Hamburg-American Shipping Line Office, designed by German Architect J.P. Schmit. It was completed in 1914 and is thought to be among the first reinforced concrete structures in the Virgin Islands. The building is an important early example of the International Style and the forerunner to the Bauhaus School, which influenced most modern contemporary architecture. That structure, which briefly contained the offices of the German Imperial Consulate, was ceded to the United States Government immediately after the start of World War I. More recently, it became known as the "District Court Building" because it housed the U. S. District Court, along with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Marshal Service. To its north is the former two-story Danish Customs House and Post Office built in the late Nineteenth Century and now a private store.

All these distinctive buildings are part of the Charlotte Amalie Historic District that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Government of the Virgin Islands

Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor
Hon. Tregenza Roach, Lt. Governor

Department of Property and Procurement

Hon. Anthony D. Thomas

Department of Public Works

Hon. Derek Gabriel,
Commissioner

Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources / SHPO

Hon. Jean-Pierre Oriol,
Commissioner

Design-Build Team

Contractor: Custom Builders

Architect: Jeffrey Boschulte, AIA

2022