St. Croix's Harborside Light: A Study in Neglect

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The Harborside Light on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, ca. 1857. The lighthouse system in the Saint Thomas and Saint John districts was the site of the first internationally sold U.S. bonds marketed through the New York Stock Exchange and was the first U.S. government lighthouse to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The system was designed by John Drysdale, an English marine engineer, and built for the U.S. Government by the Rockwood Iron Works in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The system was dismantled and reassembled on St. Croix in 1858, but it was abandoned during World War II. The system was later restored and put back into service in the 1970s. The Harborside Light is one of the few remaining lighthouses in the U.S. Virgin Islands that is still in use today. The light is a historic site and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.