The Flood of November 12, 1974, was the largest recorded flood in the area from Fort Christian Village through Charlotte Amalie and Frenchtown to the end of Crown Bay. Records indicate a重现 period of at least 500 years, an interval of about 60 years.

The highest point of a few narrow beaches, little flooding occurred outside of the Charlotte Amalie flood area.

The flood boundaries are controlled to a large extent by the prevailing channel and flood-plain conditions. Inundation of future floods may be affected by changes in channel alignment, alterations of waterway openings at roads, changes in runoff characteristics of the stream caused by increased urbanization, and other cultural developments.

This is the second flood report covering the Charlotte Amalie area. The first was by Haire and Johnson in 1973.

This report is intended for administrators, planners, engineers, and others who are concerned with flood development in areas subject to flooding on the south coast of St. Thomas. More specifically, this information should be useful to those responsible for formulating floodplain regulations that could minimize flood damage.

The report is based on data collected from field investigations conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey immediately after the flood of November 12, 1974, and on the bench marks used for this survey, and their description, locations and elevations above mean sea level are provided in table 1. All elevations given are in feet above mean sea level.

For those readers who may prefer metric units, the conversion factors are listed below:

- To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
- To convert inches to millimeters multiply by 25.4
- To convert miles to kilometers multiply by 1.609
- To convert square miles to square kilometers multiply by 2.591

The U.S. Virgin Islands consist of more than 40 islands and cays located about 1,200 miles southeast of Miami, Florida and about 50 miles west of Puerto Rico. The islands form part of the Antilles Arc, which extends from the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean Sea. St. Thomas is the second largest of the group and has a land area of about 12 sq mi. It ranges from 1 to 3 mi wide and is about 10 mi long.

St. Thomas is characterized by rugged terrain and all streams head in the volcanic uplands forming the backbone of the island. The ridge ranges from about 500 to 1,300 ft above sea level in the interior. The slopes cause rapid runoff and high stream flows. The steep slopes and narrow stream beds are composed of rocks that range in size from cobbles to boulders.

On the coastal plains, stream gradients are mild, the valleys broad, few boulders are found, and deposits of sand and gravel are common. With the exception of the land subject to flooding in the area of Charlotte Amalie (fig. 2), the floodplain area is largely undisturbed. The flood results from direct runoff; therefore, the stream usually causes flooding for a day or two after rainfall stops. Floodwater in the area usually lasts less than a day.

The mean range of ocean tides is only 0.5 ft, and generally the effects of tides on the extent of flooding in the shore area is negligible. However, flooding of shore areas can occur during hurricanes.

Historical information (Bowden, 1974 and Haire and Johnson, 1973) shows that at least five floods have occurred in the Charlotte Amalie area since 1672, when a tidal wave reportedly caused a major disruption along the south coast of St. Thomas. Floods occurred on October 9, 1916, May 5, 1960, October 12, 1974, and November 12, 1974, and these are described briefly below. Other floods that were not available for major floods prior to 1916. Information provided here is for those areas most subject to overlap flooding in the Charlotte Amalie area of St. Thomas (fig. 2).

The largest recorded flood was that of November 12, 1974. The data indicated that the 1974 flood was about one-third higher than the 1960 flood in the Charlotte Amalie-Frenchtown areas. The vicinity of Harry S. Truman Airport was most affected. on March 1, 1965, flood data (fig. 1) and on March 1, 1965, flood data (fig. 1)

The flood was catastrophic and resulted in extensive damage to public and private property. Schools, businesses, government offices, homes, and offices were damaged.

The flood boundaries were estimated by subtracting the effects of the flood from the map, identifying the floodmarks, and interpolating the stage-frequency of the stream caused by increasing urbanization, and other cultural developments.

Selective references Bowden, Martin J., 1974, Hurricane in parametric areas: National Geographic Society, P. O. Box 36416, Building 652, Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico 00934.

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