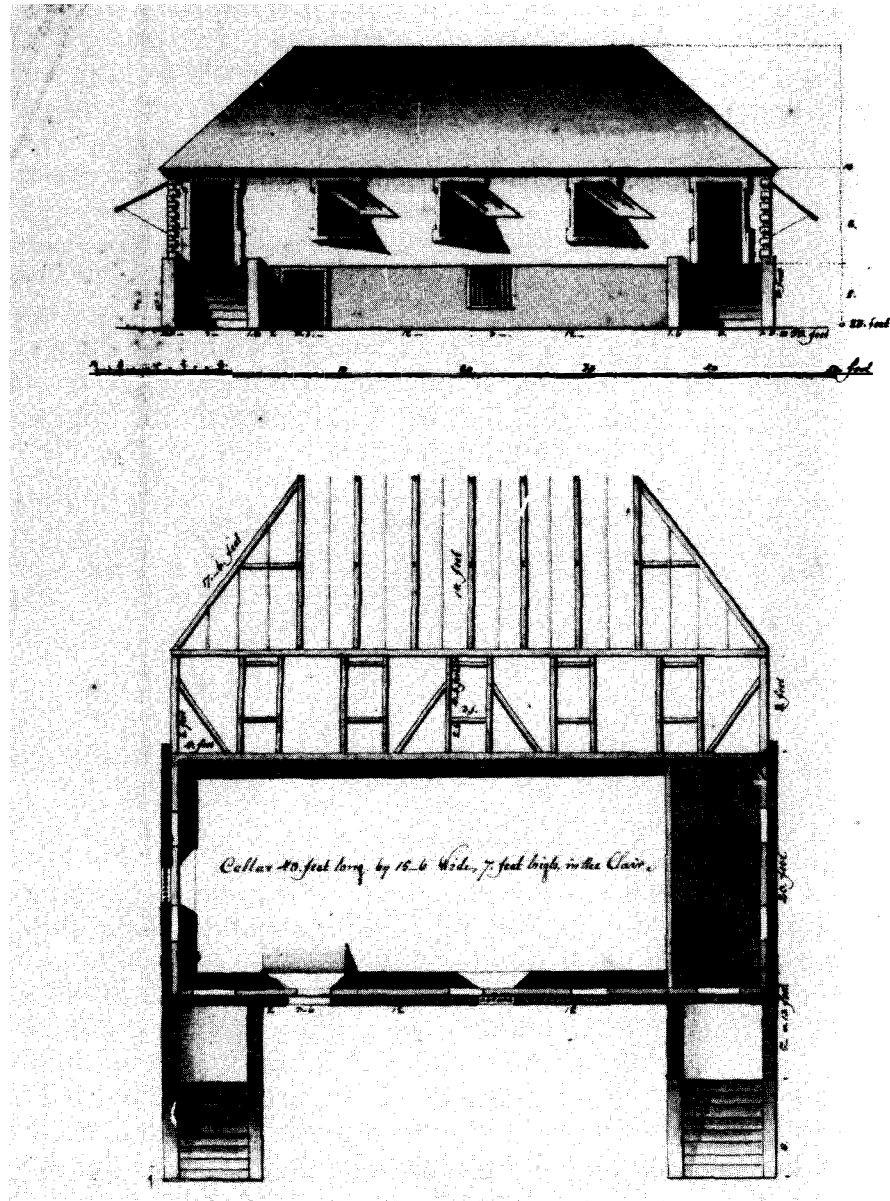


3. Drawing of a barrack for soldiers in Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius, by Samuel Fahlberg in 1828. (ARA, G.G. Westindische Bezittingen 1828-1845 no. 345.)



The Destruction of 1819

On Monday September 20th the first signs of an approaching hurricane could be observed. There was a stillness in the atmosphere and a severe groundsea occurred. Then by midnight, a wind of increasing force started to blow. Between Tuesday 5 o'clock PM until 5 o'clock AM the next day, the hurricane, which was alledgedly accompanied by three shocks of an earthquake, reached its full force. Trees were torn out and houses were blown form their foundations. Illustrative for the force of the gale was that a cannon, a sixpounder on an iron carriage, was blown halfway from Fort Amsterdam to Fort Willem I, a distance of just over one kilometer.¹²