

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 8 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUL 19 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Estate Carolina *Sugar Plantation*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. John

CODE

0700

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Marsh Family c/o Gerda Marsh

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

__ VICINITY OF St. John

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

00801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1964

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Estate Carolina lies five miles east of Cruz Bay on St. John. It is significant for the ruins of its early 18th Century sugar plantation, which are among the earliest on all the islands, and for the ruins of the turn-of-the-century rum distillery, which continued production until after World War II. The ruins of the buildings on the site that were part of the sugar plantation, with approximate dates of construction, are the animal mill and the sugar factory (both 1725), and the windmill (1733). The bay rum distillery ruins include the remains of the original distillery, and a neighboring building of unidentified use, (both probably dating from ca. 1900), a later distillery bearing the incised date 1925, and two buildings used as stores, bearing incised dates of 1920 and 1945, respectively.

The complex of the sugar plantation buildings lies roughly 1000' north of King Hill Road and 2500' west of Emmaus Moravian Church. The windmill is the typical cone-shape found on the islands. It is constructed of rubble and ballast brick set in a lime mortar and stuccoed, and is approximately 35' high and 29' in diameter. The mill has windows in the form of semi-elliptical arches on the north, west and southwest, with the main entrance to the south. All the arched openings are faced with brick on the interior, exterior, and jambs of the arches. Measured at the window openings, the walls of the mill are approximately five feet thick. Reveals that originally contained the top of the mill gears are located immediately under the top of the interior wall. A series of timbers that supported the machinery are still in place immediately above the heads of the arches in the interior, from which point they span the diameter of the mill.

The ruins of the animal mill are located roughly 50' to the west of the windmill. Also constructed of brick and rubble masonry and originally covered in stucco, the animal mill is an unusually wide solid drum with low walls, measuring from five to 15' high depending on the grade of the site. The diameter of the mill is 70'. There is no articulation of the exterior, except for a series of rectangular drainage openings about three' from the top of the walls.

The ruins of the factory are located about 15' west of the mill. The originally two-story factory (of which only one story remains) is the typical T-Plan of factories found on the islands, with the long axis of the base of the T running northwest - southeast. Constructed of rubble masonry, and probably originally stuccoed, the factory is 81' by 28' wide, with the top of the T measuring 26' by 104'. The main, southeast wall is divided into eight bays of arched openings, of which only the piers remain. The rear, northwest facade is solid, except at the north corner, which has three arched openings, again marked only by piers. As the remaining walls of the factory are badly deteriorated, the bay division of the ends is indiscernable, as is the main entrance for the factory. Measured at an opening, the walls are 2'3" thick.

The bay rum distillery complex lies just south of King Hill Road and roughly 500' west of Coral Harbor. The two buildings of the original distillery are very deteriorated, and only the basic rectangular foundations of the larger building nearest the road and portions of walls of the smaller structure about ten feet to the south can be seen. The building material is rubble masonry.

continued. . .

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was the first and the richest sugar estate on the island established shortly after settlement in 1717 as an official plantation of the Danish West India & Guinea Co. The ruins of Estate Carolina comprise an exceptionally complete collection of buildings necessary to the production of sugar and bay rum. The exceptionally large animal treadmill with cane crushers dates to before 1725; the stone windmill was built by 1733. The sugar factory has two decks for boiling sugar, extensive cisterns and curing rooms for processing molasses and sugar. It was built by 1725 and probably enlarged periodically. The great house probably dates to the late 1700's. It is shown in an 1833 watercolor and was occupied until 1924 when destroyed by a hurricane.

It was at Estate Carolina that a successful slave rebellion broke out in November 23, 1733. The slave rebellion spread to adjacent estates and engulfed the entire island of St. John with the exception of Durlo's Plantation (Caneel Bay). The rebellion could not be suppressed by the Danes and was put down only upon arrival of four hundred French troops from Martinique and six months of hard fighting.

The plantation became Crown property in 1755 operated by representatives of the King and other shareholders; it and all other Crown properties on the three islands were sold to the wealthy ennobled Schimmelmann family. The Marsh family, originally from Tortola, bought from the Schimmelmanns in the early 1860's and have held the plantation ever since. In 1835 the estate had 1,687 acres, 153 slaves, two mills and 25 houses with 53 rooms. These figures pertained when the Marshes bought it except the laborers were reduced to only 75, reflecting the increasingly deteriorating sugar industry. In later decades it was operated as a cattle ranch. One of the islands' few bay rum stills for separating the oil from leaves on the bay tree was established here around 1900. Its ruins remain with a huge copper still. A newer still was built close by in 1925 which was the last such still to close down on the island, at the end of World War II.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dookhan, Issac. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Company, 1974.
- Knox, John P., A Historical Account of St. Thomas, W.I. New York: Charles Scribner, 1852
- Estate Carolina Deed File, Recorder of Deeds, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.
- Lewisohn, Florence, (ed.) Henry Morton Sketchbook and Diary, 1843-44. Copenhagen: Danish West Indian Society, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 117 $\frac{1}{2}$
 UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet

- ~~A. 18° 21' 17" N - 64° 43' 21" W~~
~~B. 18° 20' 56" N - 64° 42' 55" W~~
~~C. 18° 20' 45" N - 64° 42' 58" W~~
~~D. 18° 21' 02" N - 64° 43' 39" W~~

A					
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C					

B					
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
D					

~~VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The north boundary of the Carolina site begins at a point at 18° 21' 17" north - 64° 43' 21" west (A) and runs 2950' southeast to a point at 18° 20' 56" north - 64° 42' 55" west (B). From here the line runs south 1000' to 18° 20' 45" north - 64° 42' 58" west (C), a point located 575' south of the intersection of King's Hill Road and East End Road. From here it follows west 4075' to 18° 21' 02" north - 64° 43' 39" west (D) and continues 2025' northeast to the beginning point of the boundary.~~

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Samuel N. Stokes,
Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer, Virgin Islands Historical Survey
 ORGANIZATION Virgin Islands Planning Office DATE May 16, 1976
 STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 2606 TELEPHONE (809) 774-1730
 CITY OR TOWN Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801 STATE _____

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE James F. Blake

TITLE Director of Planning SHPO DATE May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/19/96

ATTEST John A. Rios DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE July 16, 1976

John A. Rios KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 3 PAGE two

The Governor's representative for St. John is considering the acquisition of part of Estate Carolina as a park for historic interpretation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE three

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie U.S.V.I.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

About 35' to the east of the early ruins lies the 20th century distillery. It is a two-story rectangle, constructed of concrete block, measuring 22' 9" by 19' 3", with two bays on each side. The date 1925 is incised between the bays of the second story on the east facade.

To the south of both distilleries are located two rectangular buildings that were the stores for the distillery, their long axis running east-west. Both are one-story, constructed of masonry, rubble and stucco, and have hipped roofs. The store immediately south of the 20th century distillery bears the incised date, 1920, and measures 36' 6" by 25' 6". The other building, approximately the same size, bears the incised date 1945.

There are also the ruins of two great houses, both inaccessible. An 18th century great house was located on a knoll roughly 200' north of King Hill Road and roughly 2200' west of Emmaus Moravian Church. A later great house, destroyed in the hurricane of 1924, was located on a knoll roughly 500' northwest of the sugar factory. It would appear from a 1843 or 1844 sketch by Henry Morton that there was a slave village at the bottom of this knoll, to the east. The ruins, if they exist, are inaccessible.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE four

Geographic Coordinates

Tract 1:

- A. 18° 21' 20" north - 64° 43' 11" west
- B. 18° 20' 56" north - 64° 43' 14" west
- C. 18° 21' 00" north - 64° 43' 41" west
- D. 18° 21' 13" north - 64° 43' 39" west

Tract 2:

- A. 18° 20' 54" north - 64° 43' 00" west
- B. 18° 20' 46" north - 64° 43' 01" west
- C. 18° 20' 50" north - 64° 43' 07" west
- D. 18° 20' 55" north - 64° 43' 06" west

Verbal Boundary Description

The Estate Carolina site is divided into two tracts. The boundary of Tract 1 begins at a point at 18° 21' 20" north - 64° 43' 11" west (A) and runs south 2400' to 18° 20' 56" north - 64° 43' 14" west (B), then west 2700' to a point at 18° 21' 00" north - 64° 43' 41" west (C), then north 1300' to point (D) at 18° 21' 13" north - 64° 43' 39" west. From here the boundary runs 2850' northeast to the point of origin (A).

The boundary of Tract 2 begins at point (A) 18° 20' 54" north - 64° 43' 00" west and runs 500' south to point (B) 18° 20' 46" north - 64° 43' 01" west. From point (B) the line runs west 600' to point (C) 18° 20' 50" north - 64° 43' 07" west. From point (C) the line runs north 500' to point (D) 18° 20' 55" north - 64° 43' 06" west. From here the line runs east 500' to the point of origin (A).