

JUL 23 1981

APPENDIX B
REEF BAY GREAT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION

The site of Reef Bay Great House Historic District is on a small spur extending into Reef Bay Valley from Bordeaux Mountain to the east, approximately 1,000 yards inland from the shoreline of the bay. The district contains the Great House, a servants house, a stable, a privy and a well. The elevation is about 250 feet above sea level and it is reached by a trail that branches off the Reef Bay-Lameshur Trail.

The Great House is still partially roofed but several bearing masonry walls show signs of failure and on the interior all woodwork is badly deteriorated as are exterior and interior masonry finishes. The masonry walls of the servants quarters and the stable still stand to plate height in a deteriorated condition. The cookhouse, the privy and the walls of the semi-circular terrace on the north side of the Great House have collapsed as has the once roofed terrace to the south of the Great House.

Reef Bay Great House is the most important architectural monument within the Virgin Islands National Park and a significant example of West Indian architecture. Considered in connection with the remains of Reef Bay Sugar Factory and its historical association with the various ruins within the confines of Reef Bay Valley, it ranks as the most complete exhibit of the plantation economy of the West Indies within the Virgin Islands. Its spectacular and well-planned setting makes it a noteworthy example of historic landscaping, both for the quality of the design and its rarity. Reef Bay Great House was originally the Great House of Par Force. The existing building dates from the early 19th century but it contains within its shell the masonry base of an earlier wood building.

In its present form the Great House is an excellent example of a severely formal classical revival design with well conceived and sophisticated detailing that is carried through on the service buildings and in the retaining walls and fences. The incongruity between the formality and controlled symmetry of the architecture and the irregular topography of the setting has by the builder or the designer been turned to an advantage. Retaining walls, fences and steps direct the approaches and provide changing views of both the buildings and of the surroundings that soften and enrich the severity of the architecture. The original planting of the terraced landscaping has been choked out by bush and can only be guessed at, but sufficient remains of the terraces to provide an idea of the formalized landscape intended.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reef Bay Great House complex is significant as a distinguished architectural expression in a neo-classical manner, that within a time frame of contemporary buildings, is of a highly sophisticated design as well as a true adaptation to the West Indies and to its setting.

Acreage: 5 acres

Latitude
18° 19' 54"

Longitude
64° 44' 25"

There are no UTM references on any published maps of the U.S. Virgin Islands

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Except for a small flat approximately 150 feet by a 100 feet northwest of the Reef Bay Great House, the terrain around the complex is very steep and without any distinctive natural or man-made features. As it is located in a protected area the boundaries of the Historic District have been arbitrarily set as the area bounded towards the west and east as longitude 64° 44' 23" and 64° 44' 27" and towards the north and south as latitude 18° 19' 56" and 18° 19' 52".

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Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15, 1

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1 1/2 miles south of Centerline Rd, Reef Bay Valley on trail to Lameshur

UTM REFERENCE: A. CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: 5 acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered Brick and Rubble masonry dwelling, rectangular in plan one-story high basement.

Physical Description: The building is one story with a partial basement under the north and west side of the structure. On the lower west side, the basement is on grade. On the south and east side, the grade is at first floor level. The building measures 35 feet by 56 feet. It is constructed in rubble masonry with brick lining of corners and around masonry openings. Except for pavements and steps, all masonry surfaces are plastered or stuccoed. The roof is partially a flat brick roof on wood beams and partially a hipped wood roof with metal roofing. Floors are wood on wood beams. A large double masonry stairway leads to a small porch in front of the main entrance on the west fact of the building. The brick roof of the porch is supported on four Tuscan colums. A smaller porch on two colums of similar design shields the rear entrance on the east side of the building. It is severely symmetrical around an east-west axis. Two arcaded galleries to the south and north flank a center core that is accentuated by additional height. The core is 4 by 5 bays with two windows on either side of the entrances and four doors leading from the interior to the south and north gallery respectively. On the exterior base, floor and rail levels, as well as window and door openings, have stucco banding. A dentil course and a very simple cyma recta moulding form
(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
Ruins Unaltered Altered Original Site Moved

the classical revival cornice. The parapet wall above the cornice is divided into panels by stucco banding and the corners carry acroterions. The flanking galleries have stucco banding of corners and base, stucco panels above and below the arches, keystones, spring mouldings, parapet mouldings and on the parapet, domed finials and acroterions. A similar detailing is given the porches. The plaster work is well executed and the design very sophisticated. The interior has trim around door and window openings and cornice mouldings in plaster.

The Great house is still under roof and with all walls standing. All woodwork, however, including rafters and beams have deteriorated beyond repair and within recent years, structural failure of the masonry can be observed in the front and south section of the building. Finishes inside and out are fragmentary only. Roofing throughout has deteriorated.

Latitude $18^{\circ}19'54''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'25''$

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CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Cook House, Reef Bay Great House Complex STRUCTURE NO. H-15.2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National [] State [X] Local []

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1/2 mile south of Centerline Rd, Reef Bay Valley on trail to Lameshur

UTM REFERENCE: A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STRUCTURE Type of and composition: Plastered brick and rubble masonry rectangular in plan one-story.

Physical Description: The Cook House is located in front and to the west of the main house, ten feet below its first floor level. It is a one-story rubble masonry structure 24'2x14'2" with a Dutch oven built into the southwest corner. The exterior walls vary in thickness from 2'3" to 2'6"; the interior is divided into two almost equal sized rooms. The room to the north contained the kitchen with a masonry range along the west wall. Two doors in the east and north wall respectively provided light and additional ventilation to the interior. The south room has one door in the east wall. The south end wall of the cook house now stands only 2'6" above the original floor level, while the back west wall of the cook house stands to a height of 8' measured from outside grade level, or 6'6" from interior pavement level. The cook house was plastered throughout and had the same banding of corners and openings as the other buildings of the Great House complex.

Latitude 18° 19' 54" Longitude 64° 44' 25"

(continue on reverse if necessary) PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent [] Good [] Fair [] Deteriorated [] Ruins [X] Unaltered [X] Altered [] Original Site [X] Moved []

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Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Privy, Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15.4

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1 1/2 miles south of Centerline Rd, Reef Bay Valley on trail to
Lameshur

UTM REFERENCE:
A
Zone Easting Northing CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered rubble masonry, one story and rectangular in plan

Physical Description: The privy was a 10' by 10'6", one-story masonry structure with a door on the northwest side and probably a small window in each one of the three other sides. The building was stuccoed and its cornice and the doorway had slightly projecting stucco bands, as did the other buildings of the site. The south corner stands to a height of 6'9", but other walls have tumbled and only footings and wall fragments remain.

Latitude 18°19'54" Longitude 64°44'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
Ruins Unaltered Altered Original Site Moved

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Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Retaining Walls and Fences, Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15.6

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1 1/2 south of Centerline Rd, Reef Bay Valley on Lameshaui Trail

UTM REFERENCE: A

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 CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered rubble and brick masonry retaining walls, fences and gate posts and steps.

Physical Description: Part of Reef Bay Great House quality lies in its carefully planned and controlled setting of terraces, retaining walls, steps, fences, etc. These features are now almost obscured by vegetation and in some cases, partially destroyed. A terrace in front of the main house separates it from the cook house and servants quarters built to the west and at a lower level. The terrace is bounded to the west by retaining walls up to 12' high topped by circular masonry pillars that once were the posts for the iron fence. Access to the terrace is from the north by three steps and a gate between two 10'3" ornamental masonry gate-posts. The front terrace continues 45 feet beyond the Great House and ends in a raised gazebo. A retaining wall and steps separated the narrow and irregular yards south and east of the building from the front terrace. Steps in the northeast corner of the east yard lead down to the area north of the Great House and provides access to the stable and outhouse. The retaining walls and staircases, where they are still standing, have the same stucco band decoration as observed on the building.

Latitude 18°19'54" Longitude 64°44'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
Ruins Unaltered Altered Original Site Moved