

PH 0502472

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 15 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 25 1978

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

* *
Bottler's Bay

AND/OR COMMON

Estate Butler's Bay

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fredriksted

STATE

Virgin Islands

VICINITY OF

CODE

78

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0400

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

Caribbean Equities Corporation, Mr. Ralph K. Smith, Jr., Secretary

STREET & NUMBER

Sage, Gray, Todd & Sims, 140 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

STATE

St. Croix, V. I.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virgin Islands Survey of Historic Places

DATE

May 6, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input 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 Butler Bay is located on the west coast of St. Croix, 2.1 miles north of Frederiksted in Northside A Quarter. At the present time the estate includes two great houses, three slave quarters, a cookhouse, sugar factory, stables, an overseer's house and a number of accessory structures. The wind-powered crushing mill has been incorporated into a modern house on a hill above the factory and is not included in this nomination.

The two great houses are located on an elevated terrace at the northeast corner of the estate. The north house, the earliest, is two stories in height, six by seven bays and rectangular in plan (56'x63'). The corrugated tin hipped roof replaces one of a similar design lost in a hurricane of 1828. The front (west) elevation has a two story seven bay arcaded gallery running full length, with four windows and three doors, in an alternating pattern, in the building facade. The north wall has six windows at each level. The east and south facades are on the upper level of the terrace and only the second story is in view. They reflect the fenestration patterns of the walls opposite, except that there is no gallery along the east side. The walls are coral block and rubble, stuccoed, with a brick double belt course. The arcade has segmental arches with raised keystones and molded impost blocks and flat plinths. There is a molded cornice band (cyma reversa on cavetto) surrounding the house at the eaves line, and a low parapet wall. The windows and doors have the typical louvered blinds on the interior and panelled shutters on the exterior.

The upper (main) level is served by a double flight of coral stairs at the south west corner of the house, leading to the terrace and an entrance at the south end of the upper gallery. The interior at this level is divided into three rooms by east-west board partitions. The board walls have excellent mahogany doors, each with two raised panels and brass box locks. Each room has a separate wood tray ceiling with a dentiled cornice. The windows and doors have flat arches with splayed jambs. There is no chair rail, but there is a base with molded cap.

The second house is located to the south and east of the first attached to the corner of the earlier residence. Five bays by four, rectangular in plan (44'6" x 26'10"), the house has brick and rubble two story walls, stuccoed, and a corrugated tin pyramidal roof. There is a brick belt course at the upper floor level and a simple projecting brick cornice. Window and door openings are flat arched with keystones, and the jambs are splayed. They have the typical combination of louvered blinds and panelled shutters.

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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Butler Bay is historically significant because it is one of the finest examples of a restored Danish greathouse in the Virgin Islands.

Originally known at "Bottler's Bay" when it was given free to a new settler to encourage agriculture in the northwestern part of the island, the site was developed during the Golden Age of the Virgin Islands. A 1764 inventory notes the typical houses plus a lumber house and "sickhouse," pigeoncote and privy (called the "necessary house"). A sugar works of considerable size included five coppers (boiling cauldrons), a distillery which used 12 liquor casks of 3,000 gallons each and two stills. More than 80 slaves worked the plantation.

The house was of the same style as the masonry townhouses of Christiansted, with a two-story arcade and staircase to the side. The 1828 hurricane took its roof. The arched galleries were among the most beautiful on the island. The partial kiln which is left looked like a New England root cellar, but with two small furnaces inside, openings for firing in front, and a large hole in the roof for ventilation.

Philip Freneau, the so-called "Poet of the Revolution," stayed at Butler Bay during the early part of the war. Here he wrote the nature rhapsody, "The Beauties of Santa Cruz."

The plantation exemplifies the great days of sugar and rum in the Islands. St. Croix surpassed the other islands in the Danish colonies in its agricultural development and proved to be most beneficial to the Danes. By the 1780's the sugar plantations on St. Croix were prospering. By 1812-1814 sugar production on the island reached its peak. There were 175 plantations in operation with 75% of their acreage in cane.

After the Napoleonic wars, plantation agriculture began to decline in the Danish West Indies. Sugar production had expanded to other areas such as Cuba and Puerto Rico whose more fertile soil gave them an advantage over the Danish West Indies. Europeans added more competition for the Danes with the development of the sugar beet industry. Absentee landlordism made it difficult to maintain

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A one story, 20' x 22', gabled roof cookhouse is located immediately south of the second house. With rubble, stuccoed walls, the cookhouse retains its charcoal range, hood and chimney. Behind the cookhouse is a vaulted roof rubble cistern, and to the south, at grade level, below the elevated terrace, is a two room, one by two bay slave cottage. Rectangular in plan (15'9" x 24'8") the cottage has rubble walls and a corrugated tin roof. The gable end walls have copings. West of this complex, across a wide terrace and at a lower elevation are two altered structures that, in all probability, date from the period when Butler Bay was a working sugar plantation. The northernmost structure is one story with a shed roof, 28' x 52'6". The stuccoed coral block and rubble walls retain evidences of wide segmental arched openings, now filled in and reused as windows. The roof form and these large entrances suggest a possible original use as a wagon or carriage shed or repair shop. The second structure, much larger and to the south of the first, has been so altered as to preclude a determination of its original use. It is rectangular in plan, with coral and rubble walls and a hipped roof.

Southwest of the residential complex, along the entrance drive from Butler's Bay, lies the factory with its associated outbuildings, all in various states of ruin. The factory ruin, closest to the Bay, is "T" shaped in plan, 108' x 26'6" on the long side and 27' x 57'9" on the short leg. The longer section, running east-west parallel to the drive, is two stories high. Remaining portions of the end walls indicate that it had a hipped roof, now gone, with pockets set in a ledge for the timber trusses.

Rubble walls divide this eight bay long section into three areas, two at two bay width, and the larger space occupying the eastern four bays. The western section was the boiling room of the sugar factory, and retains part of the boiling bench and furnaces. The shorter part of the "T" was also gabled, with coral and rubble walls, stuccoed. There is a cistern under the upper level of this leg. There is another large cistern attached to the outer wall of the boiling room, at the west end of the factory, and a free standing well north of the central bays, near the drive.

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PAGE Two

The overseer's house is located east of the factory, south of the entrance drive. Rectangular in plan, 20'3" x 57'8" including porches at both ends. Five by two bays, the walls are stuccoed coral and rubble, with an exposed timber roof system, fastened with trunnels, supporting the hipped roof. The window and door openings are flat arched, and have splayed jambs. Heads, sills and casings are timber and the floor is wood. The interior is divided into two areas, one two bays wide, the other three, by a tongue and groove board wall. The wall extends to cornice height, and the upper area, to the ceiling, is filled in by latticework set in a Chinese Chippendale pattern. The partition has a good raised panel mahogany door, and the windows and exterior doors are provided with the typical louvered blinds and panelled shutters. There is a shed roof, frame porch at either end of the house, and a shed roof kitchen and entry porch, and a hipped roof dining room added at a later time to the south east corner.

Opposite these later additions is the ruins of a 12' x 37' gable roofed slave quarters. Two bays by five, the walls are stuccoed rubble, with flat arched openings retaining remnants of the original board shutters. Across the entrance drive from the overseers house is the ruins of still another slave quarters. North of the overseer's house is located a stable, now greatly altered.

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sufficient control over the plantations' production and heavy debt made it impossible for the planters to take appropriate measures to maintain the soil. Finally, slavery, which provided the planters with cheap labor, was abolished in 1848 and, with the increase in operating expenses, many plantations discontinued production.

Only in St. Croix, where plantations were consolidated into central factories, did the industry manage to continue into the 20th century. The sugar industry virtually ended with World War I when the United States ceased cross-Atlantic shipping.

Estate Butler Bay is of architectural significance because of the two Great Houses, both restored, the overseer's house and the cookhouse. The complex as a whole is of greater architectural significance than the individual buildings.

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PAGE Four

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Zabriske, L. K. The Virgin Islands of the United States of America -
Historical and Descriptive Commercial and Industrial Facts, Figures
and Resources: New York, 1918

McGuire, James William. Geographic Dictionary of the Virgin Islands.
Special Publication No. 103 (Serial No. 269), United States Coast and
Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce. Washington, D. C., 1925

Westergaard, Waldemar Christian. The Danish West Indies Under
Company Rule (1671 0 1754), With a Supplementary Chapter, New York,
1917

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10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property ^{19.63} ~~51.8~~ acres *Revised 7/12/78*

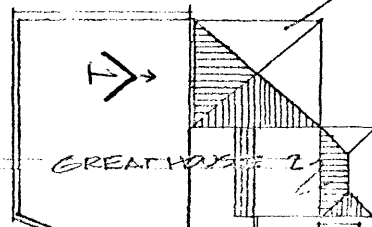
Verbal Boundary Description:

See attached sketch map showing boundary of
nominated site outlined in red.

STABLE OR SHED



GREAT HOUSE 1



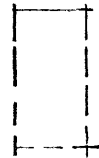
GREAT HOUSE 2

LOCKHOUSE
SLAVE WORKER

ALTERED STRUCTURE



STABLE (RUINS)



SLAVE QUARTER



CATTLE PEN (RUINS)



FACTORY (RUINS)



OVERSEER'S HOUSE



SLAVE QUARTER



EZON SINO



NORTH

BOTTLE'S BAY - SITE PLAN OF CRAIK, U.S.V.I. SCALE 1" = 100' ± RW

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