

APPENDIX B
BROWN BAY PLANTATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

JUL 23 1981

DESCRIPTION

Brown Bay Plantation is located on the east section of the north shore of St. John in an area of relative dryness. The plantation buildings with few exceptions are located immediately behind the beach of the shallow Brown Bay. In addition to the masonry remains of a horsemill, a sugar factory and a large plantation house and an earlier Great House on the hill to the west of the bay, the site has the masonry footing of two wood frame buildings and four unidentified masonry structures, 2 small cabins, 3 wells and drinking troughs and 2 large cemeteries. The site was not brought under cultivation until the late 18th century and most of the buildings presumedly date from the 19th century or are the much altered remains of the original structures.

The ambitious layout of the sugar factory and its supporting structures built between 1780 and 1800 and the marginal suitability of the area for cultivation of sugar cane led to financial failure and early abandonment of sugar production. In place of it, cotton and by the mid-1800's cattle became the main products of the plantation. Its development illustrates the vicissitude of the islands economy and agriculture during the 19th century. The ambitious buildings are distinctive. They display classical revival details and are impressive by their size and architectural design and also shown signs of several alterations as they were adapted to changing usage.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brown Bay Plantation is significant for the architectural quality of its Plantation House and as an example of a plantation with diversified agricultural activities as evidenced in its building remains.

Acreage:		Latitude	Longitude
30	A	18°21'53"	64°42'38"
	B	18°21'53"	64°42'17"
	C	18°21'39"	64°42'17"
	D	18°21'39"	64°42'38"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Brown Bay Historic District start at the cliffs on the water-line on the north side of the bay and then follows the shoreline south and east to where it turns northerly then it follows a line due south to the intersection with the 80 foot contour and then follows the 80 foot contour in a westerly direction to its intersection with the gut draining the northside of Base Hill and then it continues in a north-westerly direction to an intersection with the foot trail Brown Bay-Leinster Bay and from there in a east-northeast direction to the starting point at the cliffs on the shoreline. The boundaries are defined to include the valley setting of the historical resource and all of its elements. They are partially natural barriers and partially straight lines connecting fixed and identifiable natural and man made features.

situation cannot be described as "on a high hill above his Sugar House" as it is located on the opposite side of the valley on relatively level terrain. More probably Mr. Powell visited Leinster Bay Plantation just west of Brown Bay where the factory as at Brown Bay is close to the beach and the plantation house on a high hill behind it. H-36,14 described below and shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 is probably the ruin of the original Great House of Brown Bay and the present Plantation House a later 19th century development.

Latitude $18^{\circ}21'50''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}32'24''$

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

NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

STRUCTURE NAME Unidentified Structure No. 1 STRUCTURE NO. H-36,6

Brown Bay Plantation

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between

Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE:



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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A one story L shaped rubble masonry building.

Physical Description: A one-story "L" shaped masonry building immediately west of the horse mill, each wing approximately 18' long and 10' wide. About 50% of the walls stand to full height.

Brown Bay Plantation was brought under cultivation in the last decades of the 18th century and most of its numerous buildings probably date from the 19th century or are later adaptations of the original 18th century structures. The unidentified structure No. 1 appears from its location to have been associated with the sugar production and is presumedly of an early date.

Latitude 18°21'50" Longitude 64°24'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

The arches of both staircases have partially collapsed and although the rubble masonry walls of the ground floor still stand to plate height they are cracked through and show other signs of failure. The building judging from its construction materials and design elements is probably the one shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 and consequently dates from the last decades of the 18th century.

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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 Service Building, Brown Bay Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 18

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: on north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE:

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry footings of an "L" shaped structure.

Physical Description: The masonry footings of an "L" shaped structure with an overall dimension of 22'x28' is located uphill and south of the Great House. The building is assumed to have served as a stable or had other service functions connected with the Great House complex. Fragment of a brick pavement is located in the angle between the two wings. The footings are in rubble masonry and at highest point stand 2' above present grade. The deteriorated condition of the service building's remains precludes a positive identification of the building's original functions.

It is believed to be contemporary with the Great House and one of the two structures indicated at this location on the Oxholm map of 1800.

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

