

APPENDIX B
HERMITAGE PLANTATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

JUL

DESCRIPTION

Hermitage Plantation is located on the North side of Borck Creek one of the several secondary inlets of Coral Bay. The buildings of the plantation are clustered along the ridge of a hillside spur that extends southward from the main spine of the East End peninsula of St. John. The road that from Coral Bay settlement leads to the East End village passes below the plantation site and access to Hermitage is provided by the trail to Brown Bay and North Shore that branches off the East End Road just West of the plantation site. The plantation house remains with associated service buildings, warehouse and shop buildings are located on the higher elevation at the apex of the spur. The ruins of five barracks like structures with a cistern and other service structures are sited south and below the plantation house. Two wells and associated watering troughs in the valley below complete the list of Hermitage known structural remains.

Hermitage Plantation post-dates 1780 but by 1800 was already a well developed site with several buildings. It was then exclusively devoted to the cultivation of cotton. At an unknown date during the mid-19th century it became a cattle farm and continued as such into the early decades of the 20th century. The remains of most of the existing 15 structures appear to date from the 19th century, the plantation house, warehouse and shop however, contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings and were part of the early cotton production.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hermitage Plantation is significant as an example of the plantations exclusively devoted to the cultivation of cotton and raising of cattle.

	Latitude	Longitude
Acreage: 8 acres	18° 21' 31"	64° 42' 01"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point on the East End Road 200 feet west of this roads intersection with the Brown Bay Trail the boundary leads north for 200 feet and then east parallel to the road to the Brown Bay Trail then follows the trail for 500 feet and then east-southeast across the ridge of the spur for 350 feet and then southerly parallel to the Brown Bay Trail to the East End Road and then along the road to the starting point. The boundaries are defined to include all parts of the historical resource and follows existing man made features as trails and roads or straight lines between identifiable fixed points.

The plantation house is probably one of the structures shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 and therefore may date from the period 1780 - 1800.

Latitude $18^{\circ}21'31''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}42'00''$

JUL 23 1931

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 Servants Quarters, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

UTM REFERENCE: A 1 CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry footing of a rectangular building.

Physical Description: The masonry footings of a rectangular building 8'x'12' is located only a few feet north of the cistern. Presumably the walls of the building were of wood or daub and wattle construction. In the photograph of 1905 the building is one story and has a hipped roof. No traces of the superstructure remains today.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'31" Longitude 64°42'00"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE (Attach 4"x5" photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Natl Park CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Quarters No. 2, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37,7

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

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East, of St. John. UTM REFERENCE: CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry footings of a one story rectangular wood building.

Physical Description: The masonry footings and lower walls of a wood frame barracks like building 12'x40' is located south and west of quarters No. 1. Two sets of steps on the northwest side lead up to the floor level of its former interior. Only the plastered rubble steps footings and lower walls remain. In the 1905 photograph the building had a low hipped roof.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD RECORD
(Attach 4"x5" B&W photos)

NPS ORGANIZATION

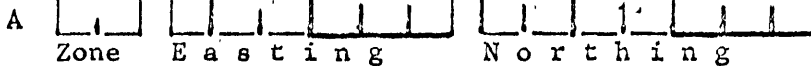
REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Well & Watering Trough No. 1 Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37.15

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE:

UTM REFERENCE:



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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A circular well and drinking trough constructed in masonry.

Physical Description: A circular well 10' in diameter with a 3' wide masonry watering trough encircling the well shaft and a linear drinking trough 3'6" wide and 30' long extending westward from the encircling trough is located 30' west of Watering Trough No. 2. The structure is constructed in stuccoed rubble masonry and the troughs are raised 2' above grade with the well shaft raised an additional foot.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'29" Longitude 64°42'03"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

