

## REEF BAY SUGAR FACTORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION:

Reef Bay Factory Historic District lies at the head of Reef Bay immediately behind the beach. In addition to the factory, the district has a horsemill, the remains of 3 small dwellings, a free standing bake oven, an oxpound, a cemetery with one marked grave and a well and drinking trough. Reef Bay Estate, of which the factory is part, came under cultivation early in the 18th century as a cattle and cotton plantation. About 1800 it was joined with Par Force Estate to the north and the combined estates of more than 400 acres were devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane.

Reef Bay Factory is the best preserved of its kind in the Virgin Islands and has retained its coppers, flues, crystalization platform, tool racks and other features of the sugar manufacturing process as well as a complete mid-19th century steam powered cane crushing system housed in a 1860 addition to the factory.

This addition as well as the secondary buildings of the complex are constructed strictly for their utilitarian purposes and little effort has been given towards creating an architectural impression. The older section of the factory, on the other hand, exhibits considerable evidence of preoccupation with architectural decoration. It stands on an articulated base with stucco band work at corners and around windows and door openings. A double band takes the place of a cornice and the space between them is divided in panels corresponding to the fenestration of the wall below. Acroterions define the corners of the main elements of the structure. The ornamental plaster work is carried through on the interior, and there are indications of a color treatment of band work as well as grooved and painted joints of the plaster and stucco emphasizing the architectural effect.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Reef Bay Factory Historic District is significant for its well preserved "works" which clearly illustrate late 18th and early 19th century sugar production practices and for the architectural quality of its factory building.

Acreage: 5 acres

Latitude: 18° 19' 30"

Longitude: 64° 44' 42"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The historic limits of the factory compound are bordered to the north and west by the trail from centerline road and the Reef Bay shoreline and to the south and east by the mangrove swamp that separates the factory site from the higher land towards the northeast. The boundaries include the presence of all parts of the historical resource as defined by the natural barriers of the swamp and the sea and the historical access trail.



















