

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 2 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

**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 Estate Botany Bay

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Westend Quarter

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Amalie CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE U.S. Virgin Islands CODE 78 COUNTY St. Thomas CODE 0900

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Allison E. Jones, Ellen C. Long, Henry Corning, Trustee

STREET & NUMBER 1020 National City Bank

CITY, TOWN Cleveland VICINITY OF Ohio STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas STATE U.S. V.I.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE May 1976 —FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I. STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> _EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> _GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> _ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> _MOVED DATE_____
<input type="checkbox"/> _FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Estate Botany Bay is the farthest point West on the island of St. Thomas. The ruins of the sugar cane factory, probably built around 1800, and the surrounding outbuildings are located on a bluff above the cove of the bay. Few sugar cane factories are remaining on the island of St. Thomas, and with its unusual fortress-like massing, fine proportions and dramatic siting, the factory at Estate Botany Bay has particular significance.

The massing of Botany Bay's factory--a 2-story rectangle (75' x 30') with a central, one story projection (18' x 32') battered toward the interior is in contrast to the usual T-shape plan of factories on St. Croix. The building is constructed of red ballast brick, rubble masonry and local brain coral, and was originally stuccoed. The walls are 3 feet thick, with brick buttresses running the length of the interior wall on the west facade. Attached flanking brick staircases at the intersection of the factory wall and the projection allow access to the level of the central projection. Various remains indicate that the roof of the factory was gabled and had a timber frame. One square pinnacle remains on the NE corner.

The main, western facade has three bays in the form of a large central window opening flanked by two smaller ones. The side walls have three bays, and the rear wall, four. All the window openings have flat, jack arches with brick voussoirs and no keystone, and are splayed to the interior. Wrought iron drive pintles in the corners indicate that exterior shutters were provided. The windows were fitted with horizontal wooden bars, of which several still remain. The wood casings are recessed into the masonry exterior walls, and there are remains of plaster on some jambs and soffits.

The interior is partitioned into a series of rooms, which may have had timber beam ceilings. There is also a series of barrel-vaulted rooms inside the battered projection on the main facade. On the interior, there is a second battered projection about 10 feet square, jutting from the center of the rear, east wall into the interior space. A large iron pot, called a "copper", used to cook the sugar cane juice after it had been heated and skimmed, is now sunken into the projection, but this is not its original location.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Estate Botany Bay is one of the few remaining ruins of a sugar plantation in St. Thomas. The ruins include most of the sugar factory and several walls of the slave quarters. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it can be assumed from property deed records that the plantation was operational in 1810.

The Danes began settlement in the West Indies during the 17th century primarily to develop plantation agriculture. Cotton and sugar were the major crops cultivated. As the world demand for sugar increased, sugar became the most important agricultural product. Sugar production in St. Thomas reached its peak in 1725 and after 1754 the industry became of little importance compared to the growing commercial economy.

The first recorded land transaction for Estate Botany Bay is dated January 17, 1810, in which, after the death of James Murphy, Elizabeth Murphy (with T. Blair and executor O. Buntzen and J.P. Jennings) deeded Botany Bay with belongings to William Punnett and Edward C. Murphy. Estate Botany Bay experienced a series of estate and debt sales in 1814, 1816 and 1818. On July 26, 1827 Botany Bay and neighboring Fortuna were sold by their owner William Punnett to William Ackers Esq., attorney to the Liverpool firm of Falkner and Mandsley, in liquidation of Punnett's debts. Included in the transaction were twenty-nine male slaves, twenty-two women, ten boys, eight girls and stock belonging to the estate consisting of twenty-three mules, eight asses and fifteen horned cattle. Ackens immediately sold the lot to Robert Flemming Esq. of St. Thomas for \$36,000.

The deteriorated conditions of Estate Botany Bay in the late 19th century is indicated by its sale in May, 1878 to Merchant W. White for the purchase sum of \$900. The ruins of Estate Botany Bay are a significant reminder of the importance of sugar cultivation to the agriculture economy of St. Thomas.

The unusual fortress-like massing, five proportions and dramatic siting of the factory, together with the lush surrounding landscape, make Botany Bay a highly significant site.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dookhan, Issac, A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States, Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Company, 1974.

Estate Botany Bay Deed File, Recorder of Deeds, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801.

Interview: Donald Plantz, Caretaker, May 5, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

18° 21' 36" North Lat.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

65° 01' 55" West Long.

UTM REFERENCES

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Samuel N. Stokes,

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margeret Proskauer, V.I. Historic Survey

ORGANIZATION Virgin Islands Planning Office

DATE May 16, 1976

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE (809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE U.S. Virgin Islands

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Thomas R. Blate*

TITLE Director of Planning

DATE May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7-30-76

ATTEST *Charlotte Hillery*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-30-76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 3

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The Virgin Islands Government, Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, has initiated discussions with the owners of Botany Bay with the intentions of acquiring all or part of the estate including the historic site and archaeological site. The Government intends to establish an historic park in association with a recreational facility, stabilize the ruins, and initiate a program of historic, archaeological and nature interpretations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

A small rectangular opening in the center of the south wall appears to be the entrance point of the pipe that carried the unprocessed sugar cane juice by gravity from the site of the original animal mill, on the higher grade SE of the factory. Semi-circular openings reinforced with terracotta and placed mid-way down the length of the south walls, are the openings of tunnels through which the fires under the coppers were stoked. Farther down the wall, there is a series of square openings of tunnels that probably acted as a means of drainage in the refining process, but their specific function is not clear.

A new house has been constructed over the ruins of the site of the animal mill, already mentioned, to the SE of the factory. To the rear of the mill is located the ruin of one of the slave quarters, another similar ruin lies directly behind it.

The landscaping around the factory is in a lush, natural state, though the immediate area surrounding the factory is kept cleared.