

APPENDIX B
RUSTENBERG PLANTATION SOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION

Rustenberg Plantation South is located on the high center ridge of St. John north-east of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Road. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John and includes a horsemill, a sugar factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still, a combined warehouse and residence, two oxpounds with stables, two unidentified structures and several remains of slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.

It was developed early in the 18th century as a sugar plantation and the remains of its buildings and structures for the greater part pre-date 1780. In 1852 only 40 acres were still in sugar cane (approx. 8% of the estate). The agricultural activities of the plantation ceased during the following decades and the site was abandoned. Its many years of existence in a relatively undisturbed condition the obvious traces of past occupation including quantities of surface shards makes the site an important historic archeological area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rustenberg Plantation South is significant for its remains of many early buildings that still exhibit original construction methods and plan types.

	Latitude	Longitude
Acreage: 15 acres	A 18° 20' 46"	64° 45' 09"
	B 18° 20' 46"	64° 44' 54"
	C 18° 20' 35"	64° 44' 54"
	D 18° 20' 35"	64° 43' 09"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the point where the trail to Rustenberg Plantation site leaves Centerline Road the boundary of the district follows the beds of the intermittent streams north, east and south of the factory to a point 300 feet southeast of oxpound #1 and from there back to the starting point. The area within the boundaries includes the access trail as well as all elements of the historical resource and its setting on the ridge as defined by the streambeds to the north, east, south and partially to the west of the district.

JUL 23 1981

Appendix B, Historic District

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. 5360STRUCTURE NAME Horsemill, Rustenberg South STRUCTURE NO. H-27, 1ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yards south of Centerline Rd & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Zone Easting NorthingCLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district:
_____ acres.STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Raised circular earth mount defined by rubble masonry retaining walls.Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation is located on the high center ridge of St. John northeast of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Road, the former Konge Vej. By 1780 it was a well-developed sugar plantation and it remained so into the 19th century. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John. It includes a horse mill, a factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still, a combined warehouse and residence, an oxpound with stable, two unidentified structures and several unexposed remains of slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.The Horse mill has a 1824 date stone and is a replacement of the one shown on the Oxholm maps. It is circular in plan with a diameter of 75'. The top surface is at grade level toward the west, but built up to the southeast and north and defined by retaining walls varying in height from 0' to 18'. On the north side, opposite the factory, the horse mill has a vaulted chamber extending approximately 12' into the mill. The factory is 15' north of the mill. The retaining walls supporting the mill platform are in fair to poor condition.Latitude 18°20'42" Longitude 64°44'59"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photos)

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

NPS ORGANIZATION

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Factory, Rustenberg South

STRUCTURE NO. H-27, 2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State ☒ X

Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yards south of Centerline Rd and 3 miles east of Cruz Ba

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rectangular rubble masonry structure in
one and two stories.

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is one of the most extensive and rich plantation sites on St. John. Developed early and apparently abandoned early as a sugar producing plantation, the remains of the plantation buildings contain structures of exceptional interest for their early plan type and construction. They also illuminate aspects of agricultural structures rarely preserved and the site thereby is of importance to the entire territory. Although inadequately researched historically, the growth and decline of the plantation and of its sugar production follows a recognizable pattern characteristic of the economical history of the Virgin Islands. The large village site illustrates a social pattern of the 18th and early 19th centuries as does the relative size and importance given to the different structures of the site.

The factory is a one and two story masonry structure 52' by 45'. The date of construction is unknown but by plan, type and organization, it can be judged to be early and to predate 1790. A cistern is built against the east side of the factory and on the west side an elevated cistern with drinking troughs 15' by 20' adjoin the factory building. The ruins are in a poor condition although some of the walls

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

still stand to plate height. It has retained the boiling bench and fragments of two coppers and of its original limestone pavement.

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'42''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'59''$

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

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

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yds south of Centerline Road & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A [][] [][][][] [][][][] CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
Zone Easting Northing part of a complex or district:
acres.

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

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

STRUCTURE NAME Storage Building, Rustenberg South STRUCTURE NO. H-27.4

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yds. south of Centerline Rd & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Zone	Easting				Northing							

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rectangular one story rubble masonry
building that formerly had one wood framed and sheathed wall.

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is located on the high center ridge of St. John northeast of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Rd. the former Konge Vej. By 1780 it was a well-developed sugar plantation and it remained so into the 19th century. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John. It includes a horse mill, a factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still, a combined warehouse and residence, an oxpound with stable, two unidentified structures and several unexposed remains of slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.

The storage building is a 65' by 15' two room structure east of the horsemill and south of the bagasse shed. The building is constructed east-west with the two end, the partition and the long north wall in masonry. The south wall has a two-foot high masonry sill with traces of a wood frame sheathed embedded in the masonry, but the original exterior finish cannot be determined. The masonry walls stand to plate height and are in fair condition.

Latitude 18°20'42" Longitude 64°44'59"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

The still is an irregular shaped masonry building with overall dimensions of 37' x 30'. The still proper is located on the south side of the building against a raised cooling cistern measuring 24 by 12 feet and extending westward from the center core of the building. A two room storage shed is built against the east and north wall of the cistern. All walls have been preserved to their full height except for

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

the still furnace and chimney. These have collapsed and have been retained in fragments only. It is approximately 125 feet due west of the factory.

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'42''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'59''$

Appendix B, Historic District

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

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

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yds. south of Centerline Rd & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32				
Zone	East ing								North ing																											

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

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is located on the high center ridge of St. John northeast of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Rd. the former Kinge Vej. By 1780 it was a well-developed sugar plantation and it remained so into the 19th century. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John. It includes a horsemill, a factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still, a combined warehouse and residence, an oxpound with stable, two unidentified structures and several unexposed remains of slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.

The warehouse and residence is a one-story masonry structure 20' x 82' oriented southeast to northwest between the still (H-27, 5) and the bagasse shed (H-27, 3) and extending south of both. A bake oven is built against the southeast wall. The south end of the building was used as a residence or quarters while the north end appears to have served as a warehouse facility. About 50% of the structure stands to plate height. The residential section of the building has two rooms separated by a masonry partition and is divided from the warehouse section by a masonry wall. The structure was evidently build in several stages and the walls are constructed in rubble as well as brick masonry. Lat. 18°20'42" Long. 64°44'59"

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

398-574

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NO. H-27, 7

Local ☒ X

UTM REFERENCE:

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

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

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

STRUCTURE NAME Unidentified Structure, Rustenberg, South STRUCTURE NO. H-27, 8

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yds south of Centerline Rd. & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rectangular wood frame and daub and wattle
building on rubble masonry base.

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is located on the high center ridge of St. John northeast of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Rd, the former Konge Vej. By 1780 it was a well-developed sugar plantation and it remained so into the 19th century. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John. It includes a horse mill, a factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still a combined warehouse and residence, an oxpound with stable, two unidentified structures and several unexposed remains of slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.

The unidentified structure is parallel to and 30' northwest of H-27, 6 and south of the still. The structure appears to have been of daub and wattle construction, 48'x15', with the wood posts of the wall sunk in masonry walls about 2½' high. Only fragments of these walls remain.

Latitude 18°20'42" Longitude 64°44'59"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NAME Oxpound & Stable No. 1, Rustenberg South STRUCTURE NO. H-27.9

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 150 yds south of Centerline Rd & 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone East ing North ing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A rectangular enclosure defined by rubble masonry walls.

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is located on the high center ridge of St. John northeast of Camelberg Peak, just south of the Centerline Rd, the former Konge Vej. By 1780 it was a well-developed sugar plantation and it remained so into the 19th century. It is one of the most extensive factory sites on St. John. It includes a horse mill, a factory, a bagasse shed, a storage building, a still, a combined warehouse and residence, slave quarters in addition to gateposts, water troughs and walls.

The oxpound and stable No. 1 are located approximately 200 yards west by southwest of the still (H-27,5) immediately south of the trail from the factory site to the Centerline Rd. The oxpound is a rectangular area 40'x60' defined by rubble masonry walls. A freestanding stable 18'x30' is located in the northeast section of the oxpound. The three remaining walls of the stable stand to plate height and are rubble masonry while the fourth side facing north appears to have had wood posts now missing supporting the roof. The walls of the oxpound are in a poor condition.

Latitude 18°20'45" Longitude 64°45'05"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

1980

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

oxpound while the south wall facing on the enclosure appears to have consisted of wood posts supporting the roof. Sections of the south and west wall of the pound as well as the stable walls have collapsed.

Latitude 18°20'45" Longitude 64°45'05"

Appendix B, Historic District CLASSIFICATION

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION Southeast

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

STRUCTURE NAME Village, Rustenberg South

STRUCTURE NO. H-27.11

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State ☐

Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: South of Centerline Road 3 miles east of Cruz Bay

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone East ing North ing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Terraces on a hillside indicative of old cabin sites.

Physical Description: Rustenberg Plantation South is one of the most extensive and rich plantation sites on St. John. Developed in the mid-18th century and apparently abandoned by the mid-19th century as a sugar producing plantation, the remains of the plantation buildings contain structures of exceptional interest for their early plan type and construction. They also illuminate aspects of agricultural structures rarely preserved and the site thereby is one of importance to the entire territory. Although inadequately researched historically, the growth and decline of the plantation and of its sugar production follows a recognizable pattern characteristic of the economical history of the Virgin Islands. The large village site illustrates a social pattern of the 18th and early 19th centuries as does the relative size and importance given to the different structures of the site.

Rustenburg South has what appears to have been an extensive "village" on the slopes south and west of the factory. Nothing remains above ground of the assumed slave quarters and they are discernible only as an irregular pattern of ill defined terraces on the hillside. The number and actual size of the slave quarters cannot be determined without archeological investigation, but judging from the contours of the slope only, the village contains from 20 to 30 cabin sites. Lat. 18°20'42" Long. 64°45'59"

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



Vault

Historic Name: Rustenberg

Common Name: Rustenburg Plantation Ruins South

(VF Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)
Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing **Date of photo** April, 1973

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Entrance to vault under horsemill (H27, 1) viewed from the north.



Boiling Bench

Historic Name: Rustenberg

Common Name: Rustenburg Plantation Ruins South

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

CVI Natl. Park Mult. Res. Area

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo April, 1973

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Boiling Bench of factory (H-27, 1) viewed from the southeast.



Raised Cistern

(VI Natl. Park Muilt. Res. Area)

Historic Name: Rustenberg

Common Name: Rustenburg Plantation Ruins South
Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo April, 1973
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Raised cistern of factory (H-27, 2) viewed from the
southwest.



Cistern of Still

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)

Historic Name: Rustenberg

Common Name: Rustenburg Plantation Ruins South
Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing date of photo April, 1973
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Cistern of still (H-27, 5) viewed from the south.



Warehouse and Residence

Historic Name: Rustenberg

Common Name: Rustenburg Plantation Ruins South
Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)
Photo credit F. C. Gjessing date of photo April, 1973
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Interior of warehouse and residence (H-27, 6) viewed
from the west.