

JUL 23 1981

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.

Acreeage: 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 seperates 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.

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

UTM REFERENCE:

Report prepared by:

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 Factory, Reef Bay Estate STRUCTURE NO. H-13,2ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Shoreline of Reef Bay 1 3/4 miles south of Centerline Road

UTM REFERENCE:

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Zone Easting NorthingCLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district: _____ acres.STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered brick and rubble masonry laid out in a T shape and with extensions towards the north and southwest

Physical Description: The factory is of brick and rubble masonry construction with stuccoed and plaster walls. The older section of the factory had a flat roof, the addition of the 1860s, a hipped roof. The older section of the factory is "T" shaped in plan, almost identical to the illustration of the ideal factory in P. J. Oxholm's book, Over de Vestindiske Øers Tilstand, published in Copenhagen in 1797. The stem of the T is 40'6" wide by 37' long, and contains the boiling house with a boiling bench of five "coppers" along the west wall over a flue and a furnace. West of the boiling house, but within the stem of the "T", is the firing trench, where the furnace was stoked. The firing trench had a roof supported on arches and square pillars. Three rectangular windows below the level of the firing trench roof and two circular vents in the space between the roof of the firing trench and the higher roof of the boiling house allowed the steam from the boiling bench to escape. The boiling house is divided into two sections by a wall running north-south with the large arched openings. The eastern section, like the firing trench, had a slightly lower roof and houses the crystallization pans. Two windows and a door in the east wall and south wall, respectively, provided additional ventilation

Latitude 18°19'30" Longitude 64°44'42"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Report prepared by:

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FOLDER DRY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" folder)

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

STRUCTURE NAME Dwelling No. 3, Factory Reef Bay Estate STRUCTURE NO. H-13.5

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Shoreline of Reel Bay 1 3/4 miles south of Centerville Road.

UTM REFERENCE:

A	[] []	[] [] [] [] [] []	[] [] [] [] [] []	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rubble masonry, one-story rectangular in shape

Physical Description:

Dwelling No. 3 of Reef Bay Factory site is located about 50 yards southeast of the factory and 20 yards east of the horsemill. It is a single room rubble masonry structure with a gable roof. It measures 10'x15' and the walls are only partially preserved.

Latitude $18^{\circ}19'30''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'42''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Report prepared by:

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Report prepared by: .

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 Oxpound, Factory, Reef Bay Estate STRUCTURE NO. H-13.7ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Shoreline of Reef Bay, 1 3/4 miles south of Centerline Road

UTM REFERENCE:

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Zone Easting NorthingCLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district:
_____ acres.STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: An area roughly triangular in shape defined by dry stone walls and the retaining wall of the horsemill.

Physical Description: _____

An irregular shaped oxpound defined by dry stone walls and the retaining walls of the horsemill extends outward in a southeasterly direction from the horsemill. It appears to be an enclosure for confining such dray animals used in the working of the draw of the horsemill during periods of rest more than an oxpound proper. No traces have been observed of a corral shelter or feeding troughs as is generally observed in oxpounds proper

Latitude 18°19'30" Longitude 64°44'42"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Report prepared by:

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 CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Cemetery, Factory, Reef Bay Estate STRUCTURE NO. H-13.

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Shoreline of Reef Bay 1 3/4 miles south of Centerline Road-
UTM REFERENCE: A [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE, (if not
 Zone Easting Northing part of a complex or district:
 acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: One raised masonry and monumented grave
a cemetery with undefined limits.

Physical Description:

An ill-defined cemetery is located southeast of the horsemill and south of the oxpound. It is known to contain the graves of three members of the Marsh family. Only one, the grave of William Marsh is monumented, by a built up masonry structure surmounted by a standing cross.

Latitude 18°19'30" Longitude 64°44'42"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Report prepared by: .

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Appendix, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photos)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360STRUCTURE NAME Well and Drinking Trough, Reef Bay Estate STRUCTURE NO. H-13,9ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Shoreline of Reef Bay 1 3/4 miles south of Centerline Road

UTM REFERENCE:

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Zone Easting NorthingCLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district: _____
acres.STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Shoreline of Reef Bay 1 3/4 miles

Physical Description: _____

A well connected to a 40 foot long plastered masonry drinking trough for cattle is located 200 feet northeast of the factory. The trough is 3 feet wide and raised 2 feet above grade and is built in a straight line east west. The well is located at its east end. The circular walls of the well stand 2'-6' above grade and have a diameter of 5 feet.

Latitude 18°19'30" Longitude 64°44'42"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Report prepared by:



Engine House

(~~VI~~) (VI Natl. Park M.H. Res. Area)

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands.

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

West and north elevation of engine house of factory
(H-13, 1) mill round and cane crushers to the right
(H-13, 1).



Factory

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Mult. Re. Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Storage wing (Left) and firing trench (right) of factory

(H013, 2) viewed from the west.

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Factory

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)

Photo credit F.C. Gjessing Date of photo 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Curing and storage wing of factory viewed from the northeast, still in foreground (H013, 2).



Factory

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing **Date of photo** 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Factory building viewed from the southeast, curing house to the right and boiling house to the left (H-12, 2).



Horsemill and Factory

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Resource Area)

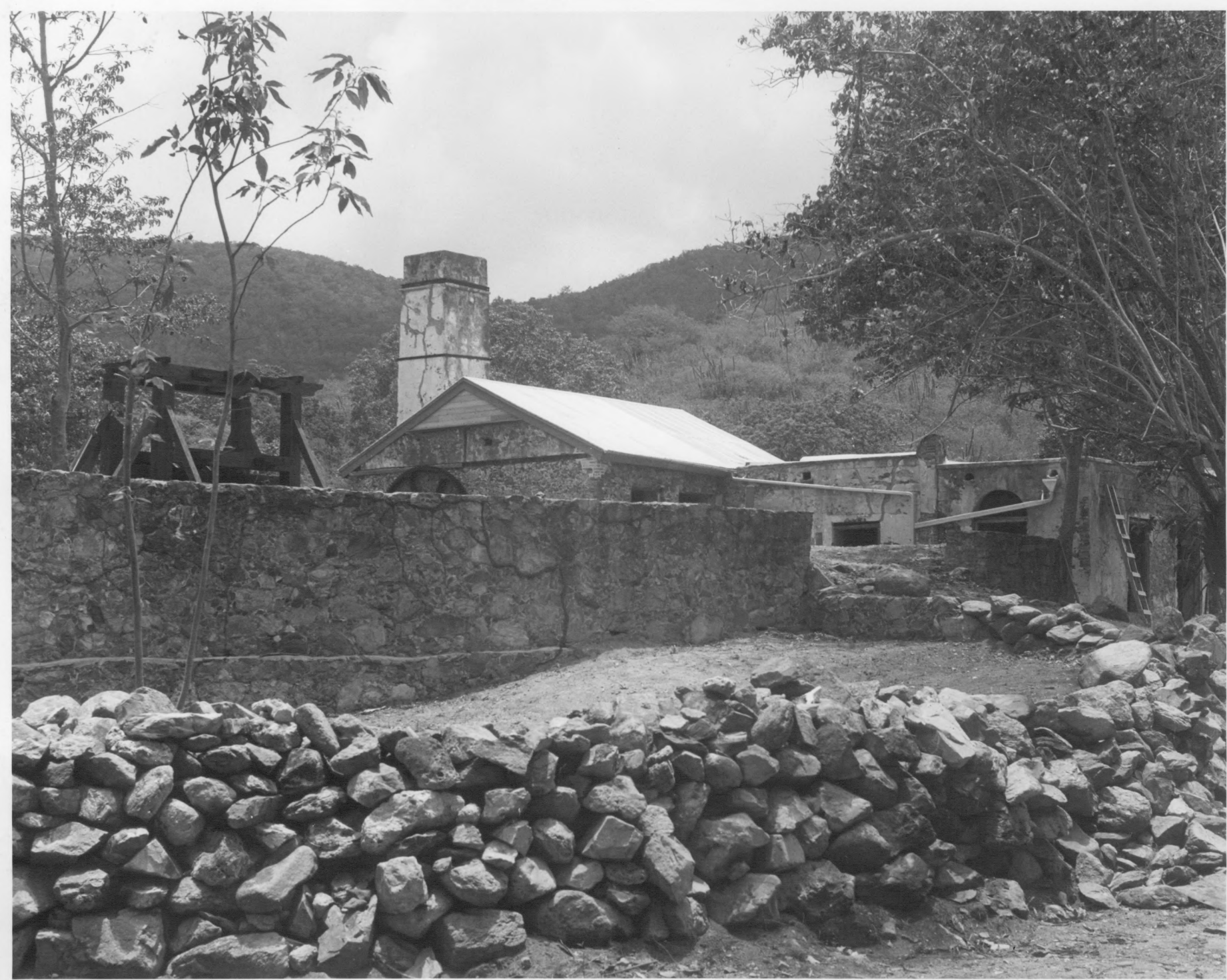
Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Horsemill, H-13, 1 (Left) and factory building (H-13, 2)

viewed from the southeast. 1860's engine house in center of view with boiling house to the right.

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Horsemill

~~Historic~~ name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo 6/26/78

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Horsemill (H-13, 1) with remains of oxpound wall
(H-13, 7) in the foreground viewed from the south-
southeast. Factory building in background (H-13, 2).

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Factory

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

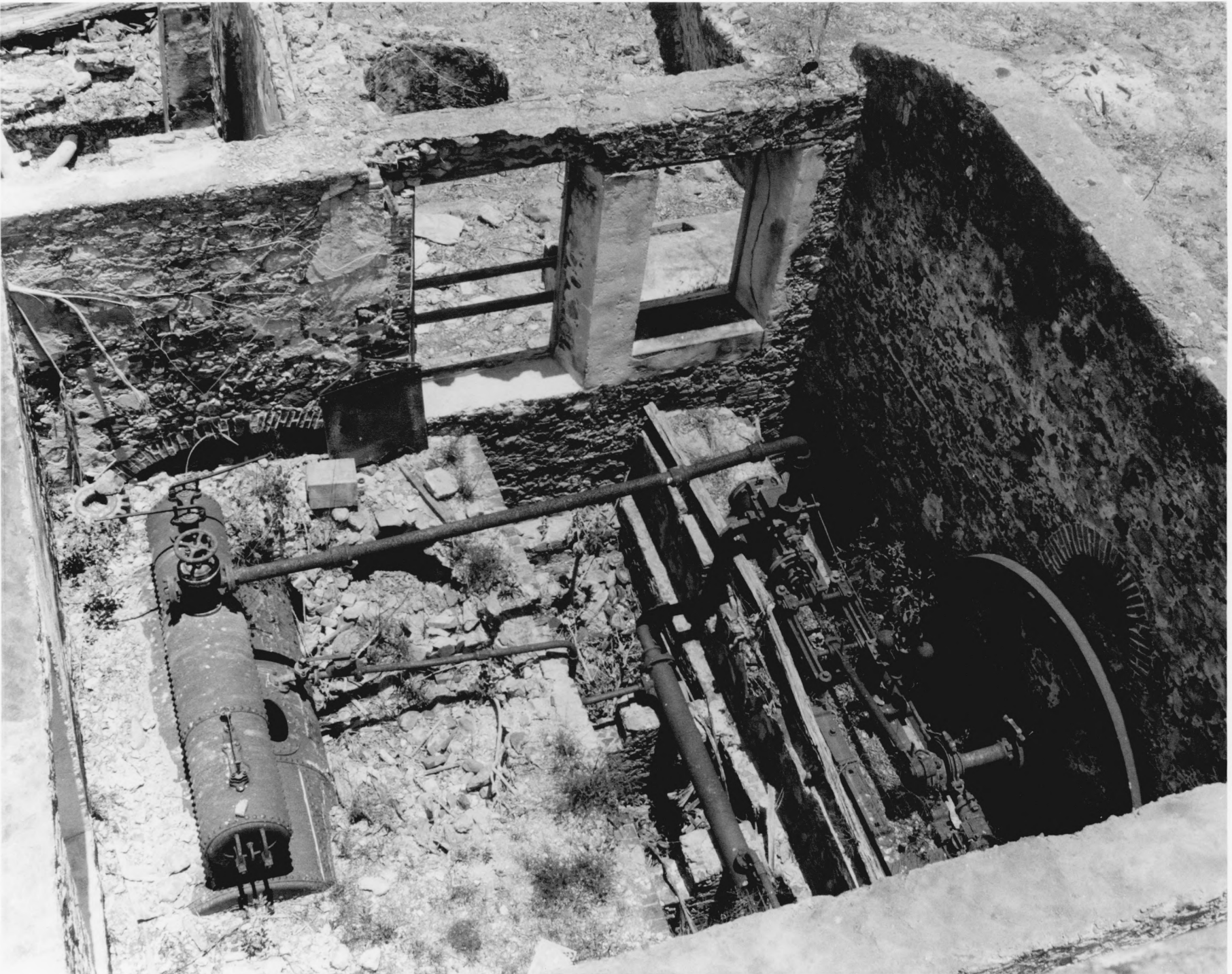
Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(US Nat'l Park Multiple Resource Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo July, 1970

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Interior of boiling house of factory (H-13, 2) viewed from the south, prior to reroofing.



Steam Engine Room

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

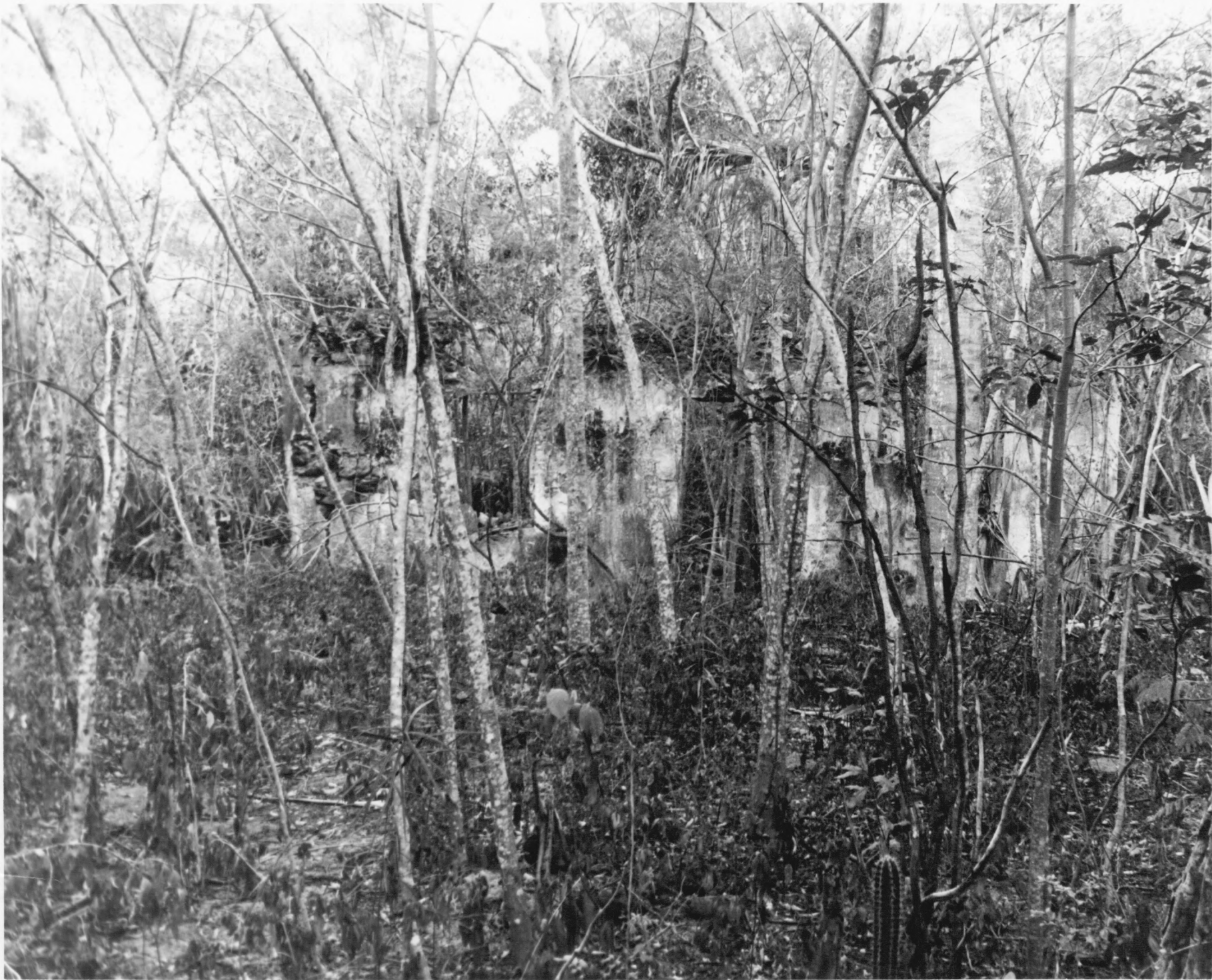
Reef Bay Quarters, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VF Natl. Park Mult. Res. Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing Date of photo July, 1970

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

**View of steam engine room of factory (H-13, 2) from
top of stack prior to reroofing and cleaning of debris.**



Dwelling No. 2

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Multiple Res. Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing date of photo April, 1976

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Dwelling No. 2 h-13, 4 viewed from the southwest.



Bake Oven

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Mult. Res. Area)

Photo credit F. C. Gjessing date of photo April, 1976

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Bake Oven H-13, 6 viewed from the south.



Grave

Historic Name: Reef Bay Plantation

Common Name: Reef Bay Factory

Reef Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Nat'l. Park Molt. Res. Area)

Photo credig F.C. Gjessing date of photo April, 1976

negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Grave of William Marsh viewed from the north (H-13, 8).