

APPENDIX B
LIEVER MARCHES BAY HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION

Liever Marches Bay is a shallow bight on the north shore of St. John immediately east of Brown Bay. The 450 feet of shingle beach is backed by a triangle of less than 4 acres of level land flanked by the steep slopes of spurs extending northward from the spine of the east end ridge of St. John. The ruins of what appears to be a rendering plant or an abattoir is located 30 feet behind the shoreline and to the east and southeast of the ruins are two wells with watering troughs.

Liever Marches Bay is named on the Oxholm survey of 1780 and on the Oxholm map of St. John of 1800 but not on any later map of St. John nor does any survey or map of St. John indicate the presence of the structures, agricultural activity or other development of the valley behind Liever Marches Bay. It is assumed that the abattoir or rendering plant was erected sometime during the mid-19th century when raising of livestock in many parts of St. John had replaced more intensified agricultural pursuits and completely on both the large adjoining estates of Hermitage and Brown Bay. The masonry walls of the abattoir are in fair condition and still stand to plate height except for a section of the northeast corner. The site is of considerable local interest as the plant is the only one of its kind known to have been preserved.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The abattoir of Liever Marches Bay is the only one of its kind on St. John and is significant as the illustration of the changing in agricultural practices from the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton to raising of cattle.

	Latitude	Longitude
Acreage: 4 acres	18° 21' 15"	64° 42' 06"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Historic District of Liever Marches Bay is bounded to the north by the low water line of the bay starting and ending at the cliffs that flank the pebble beach and towards the west, south and east the 40 foot contour line. The boundaries are defined to include all the level land behind the bay and all parts of the historic resource.

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 Rendering Plant, Liever Marchés Bay STRUCTURE NO. H-35,1ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: North shore of St. John immediately east of Brown 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: One story rectangular rubble masonry building.

Physical Description: The rubble and brick masonry walls of a one story rectangular building 24'x36' feet is located approximately 30' back from the shoreline on the west side of the small valley. All walls stand to their full plate height except for the northeast corner. Sea action appears to have undermined the footings of this part of the building and caused its collapse. A doorway is centered in the west long wall of the building raised two steps above the existing grade. There are 2 window openings in the west wall north of the doorway. The east wall has 3 window openings placed opposite the doorway and windows of the west wall. The north wall has 2 windows and an additional doorway. At the base of the south wall there are several vent and firing openings now partially buried by accumulation of debris. The southern Third of the interior has a slightly lower floor level than the rest of the building and a boiling bench against the south wall with imprints in the masonry of the large straight sided circular pots. No traces of a chimney have been observed on the exterior and it is possible that it may have been an interior one built against the south west corner. The building had a hipped roof.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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Latitude $18^{\circ}21'15''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}42'06''$

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

STRUCTURE NAME Well & Drinking Trough No. 1 STRUCTURE NO. H-35.2

Liever Marchés Bay

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of St. John immediately east of Brown 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: A circular well with a linear drinking trough constructed in rubble masonry

Physical Description: A circular well 6' in diameter constructed in rubble masonry is located about 90' southeast of the rendering plant H-35, 1. A linear drinking trough constructed in rubble masonry, 4' wide and raised approximately 2' above grade extends west from the well.

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Latitude 18°21'15" Longitude 64°42'06"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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



Liever Marches Bay

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Mgmt. Res. Area)

Photo credit: F. C. Gjessing date of photo 7/6/76

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

North wall of rendering plant H-35,1



Rendering Plant
Liever Marches Bay

Maho Bay Quarter St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Mgmt. Res. Area)

Photo Credit: F.C. Gjessing Date of Photo 7/6/76

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Interior of rendering plant H-35-1 showing traces of
pots in north wall.



Well and Drinking Trough No. 2

Liever Marches Bay

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

(VI Natl. Park Mgmt. Res. Area)

Photo credit: F.C. Gjessing Date of photo 7/6/76

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Well and Drinking Trough No. 2, H-35, 3 viewed from
the southeast.