

APPENDIX B
BROWN BAY PLANTATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

JUL 23 1981

DESCRIPTION

Brown Bay Plantation is located on the east section of the north shore of St. John in an area of relative dryness. The plantation buildings with few exceptions are located immediately behind the beach of the shallow Brown Bay. In addition to the masonry remains of a horsemill, a sugar factory and a large plantation house and an earlier Great House on the hill to the west of the bay, the site has the masonry footing of two wood frame buildings and four unidentified masonry structures, 2 small cabins, 3 wells and drinking troughs and 2 large cemeteries. The site was not brought under cultivation until the late 18th century and most of the buildings presumably date from the 19th century or are the much altered remains of the original structures.

The ambitious layout of the sugar factory and its supporting structures built between 1780 and 1800 and the marginal suitability of the area for cultivation of sugar cane led to financial failure and early abandonment of sugar production. In place of it, cotton and by the mid-1800's cattle became the main products of the plantation. Its development illustrates the vicissitude of the islands economy and agriculture during the 19th century. The ambitious buildings are distinctive. They display classical revival details and are impressive by their size and architectural design and also shown signs of several alterations as they were adapted to changing usage.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brown Bay Plantation is significant for the architectural quality of its Plantation House and as an example of a plantation with diversified agricultural activities as evidenced in its building remains.

Acreage: 30	Latitude		Longitude	
	A	18°21'53"	64°42'38"	
	B	18°21'53"	64°42'17"	
	C	18°21'39"	64°42'17"	
	D	18°21'39"	64°42'38"	

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Brown Bay Historic District start at the cliffs on the waterline on the north side of the bay and then follows the shoreline south and east to where it turns northerly then it follows a line due south to the intersection with the 80 foot contour and then follows the 80 foot contour in a westerly direction to its intersection with the gut draining the northside of Base Hill and then it continues in a north-westerly direction to an intersection with the foot trail Brown Bay-Leinster Bay and from there in a east-northeast direction to the starting point at the cliffs on the shoreline. The boundaries are defined to include the valley setting of the historical resource and all of its elements. They are partially natural barriers and partially straight lines connecting fixed and identifiable natural and man made features.

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Sugar Factory , Brown Bay Plantation

STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State ☒ X

Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north-shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay and Hermitage

UTM REFERENCE:

Figure 1 consists of three schematic diagrams labeled A, B, and C, representing the experimental zones. Each diagram shows a horizontal timeline with vertical bars indicating stimuli and vertical lines indicating responses. Zone A (Easting) shows a sequence of stimuli and responses. Zone B (Northing) shows a similar sequence. The diagrams illustrate the timing of stimuli and responses for each zone.

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rectangular one story rubble masonry
structure.

Physical Description: A relatively small rectangular factory 27'x42' consisting of only a boiling house. The factory was intended to be "T" shaped in plan but was either never completed or altered. The unfinished section, the curing and storage wing is now a walled open courtyard between the completed section of the factory and the newer plantation house to the east. The ruins stand to the head height of the windows. The chimney is missing. The curing and storage wing, the head of the "T" shaped plan layout was apparently intended to be 2 stories. The building in all probability was erected during the last decades of the 18th century.

Latitude 18°21'50" Longitude 64°42'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Plantation House, Brown Bay Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-36.3

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone	East	ing	North	ing

part of a complex or district:
acres.

Physical Description: A large and impressive ruin of a plantation dwelling house, 60'x70'. Originally a two-story building with a masonry grand floor and a second story in wood, it was expanded with a late 19th century two-story masonry addition as well as additions of one story masonry construction. It incorporates storage and other work functions of the plantation. The walls still stand to their full height with masonry staircases to the former wood second story. There are 3 cisterns, two of which still hold water. The exterior still exhibit considerable architectural embellishment such as projecting quoins, bands, raised panels and fragments of cornices with classical revival mouldings.

In the "Journal of Cuthbert Powell" describing a trip from St. Thomas to Tortola on the 18th of February of 1797 and a stop over at a plantation on the northeast end of St. John then owned by William Brown the plantation or great house is mentioned "as pleasantly situated on a high hill above his Sugar House." Cuthbert Powell's description of his visit with William Brown has been associated with Brown Bay because of the identical names, and although Brown Bay does have a great house at some distance from the sugar house and at a higher elevation its

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

situation cannot be described as "on a high hill above his Sugar House" as it is located on the opposite side of the valley on relatively level terrain. More probably Mr. Powell visited Leinster Bay Plantation just west of Brown Bay where the factory as at Brown Bay is close to the beach and the plantation house on a high hill behind it. H-36,14 described below and shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 is probably the ruin of the original Great House of Brown Bay and the present Plantation House a later 19th century development.

Latitude $18^{\circ}21'50''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}32'24''$

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

JUL 23 1981

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast	PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park	CODE NO. 5360
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STRUCTURE NAME Farm Building No. 1, Brown Bay STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 4
Plantation

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John-on-trail between
Leinster Bay and Hermitage

UTM REFERENCE:

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry foundations and lower walls in rubble masonry formerly supporting a rectangular wood structure.

Physical Description: This structure is the footings and low masonry walls of a rectangular building 12'x20' and with the upper sections of the walls constructed in wood. The building is located behind the beach near the center of the bay approximately 100 yards southeast of the plantation house except for traces in the masonry nothing remains of the wooden superstructure.

No date for the structure can be established with certainty, presumably it is one of several buildings needed in a full scale agriculture pursuit and therefore can be assumed to date from the early 1800s.

Latitude $18^{\circ}21'42''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}32'24''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

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

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.

Latitude 18°21'50" Longitude 64°24'25"

(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 Masonry Well & Drinking Trough No. 1 STRUCTURE NO. H-36.7
Brown Bay Plantation

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

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 drinking trough surrounding a circular well 6' in diameter constructed in rubble masonry.

Physical Description: A well and drinking trough of an uncommon design is located 40 feet south of the factory. The well is a circular masonry shaft 6' in diameter and the walls of the shaft stand about 4' above present grade level. It was surrounded by a circular drinking trough 3' wide and raised 18" above present grade level. Similar layouts for wells and associated drinking troughs occur at Lameshur and Dennis Bay on St. John and in several locations on St. Croix but there generally with a well tower supporting a small windmill for hauling the water. The existing remains are in poor condition and show no traces of supporting a windmill.

Brown Bay Plantation was brought under cultivation during the late decades of the 18th century and most of its buildings presumably date from the 19th century or are 19th century adaptations of the original earlier structures.

Latitude 18°21'50" Longitude 64°42'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

Report prepared by:

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

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

Date _____

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

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

The functions of the structure which adjoins the cemetery No. 2 (H-36, 10) are not known. Presumably it dates from the 19th century.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

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. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Unidentified Structure No. 3 Brown Bay STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 12

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒ Plantation

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage

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 rubble masonry wall of small structure roughly rectangular but so buried in vegetation that its extent has not been

Physical Description: determined accurately.

One rubble masonry wall 15' long and in very poor condition is located uphill and 10 yds north of the west end of the cemetery in a dense cover of "catch & keep". No determination has been made of the extent of the structure beyond the standing remains.

Brown Bay Plantation is located on the east section of the north shore of St. John in an area of relative dryness. The plantation buildings with few exceptions are located immediately behind the beach of the shallow Brown Bay. In addition to the masonry remains of a horse mill, a sugar factory and a large plantation house and an earlier great house on the hill to the west of the bay, the site has the masonry footing of two wood frame buildings and four unidentified masonry structures, small dwellings, wells, drinking troughs and two large cemeteries. The site was not brought under cultivation until the late 18th century and most of the buildings presumably date from the 19th century or are the much altered remains of the original structures.

Latitude 18°21'50" Longitude 64°42'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

The arches of both staircases have partially collapsed and although the rubble masonry walls of the ground floor still stand to plate height they are cracked through and show other signs of failure. The building judging from its construction materials and design elements is probably the one shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 and consequently dates from the last decades of the 18th century.

NPS ORGANIZATION

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

[illegible]

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

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

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Unidentified Structure No. 4, Brown Bay

STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 15

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ Plantation ☐

State

Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE:

A  Zone Easting Northing

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

· STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Square rubble masonry footing.

Physical Description: The remains of a footing or masonry platform is located on the north side of the Great House and about 10' west of the bake oven. The remains extend only a few inches above grade and are approximately 5' square. Although the unidentified structure No. 4 is clearly associated with the Brown Bay Plantation Great House, it has not been determined if it is contemporary with this late 18th century structure or a later addition to the Great House complex.

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" BSW Photo)

JUL 23 1981

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION	Southeast	PARK/AREA NAME	Virgin Islands Nat'l Park	CODE NO.	5360
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STRUCTURE NAME Cabin No. 1, Brown Bay Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 16

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The rubble masonry footings of a rectangular daub and wattle or wood building.

Physical Description: The masonry footings of a building 14'x16' are located 60' west of the Great House. Nothing remains of the building except for the footings and it is assumed that it was either of wood or of daub and wattle construction. The cabin is part of the Great House Complex and presumedly was servants quarters. It may have been contemporary with the late 18th century Great House or a later addition to the site.

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

PARK/AREA NAME

Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 17

Local ☒ X

UTM REFERENCE:

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

Physical Description: The masonry footings of a building 8'x12' are located 300' east and along side the trail that leads up to the Great House. No traces of the superstructure remains. Cabin No. 2 is part of the Great House Complex of Brown Bay Plantation. Its relative age has not been determined and it may be contemporaray or post date the late 18th century Great House.

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

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

STRUCTURE NAME Service Building, Brown Bay Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-36, 18

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: on north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE: A

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry footings of an 'L' shaped structure.

Physical Description: The masonry footings of an "L" shaped structure with an overall dimension of 22'x28' is located uphill and south of the Great House. The building is assumed to have served as a stable or had other service functions connected with the Great House complex. Fragment of a brick pavement is located in the angle between the two wings. The footings are in rubble masonry and at highest point stand 2' above present grade. The deteriorated condition of the service building's remains precludes a positive identification of the building's original functions.

It is believed to be contemporary with the Great House and one of the two structures indicated at this location on the Oxholm map of 1800.

Latitude 18°21'11" Longitude 64°42'36"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

REGION SoutheastPARK/AREA NAME Virgin IslandsNPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360STRUCTURE NAME Cemetery No. 1, Brown Bay PlantationSTRUCTURE NO. II-36,19ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐State ☒Local ☐LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On north shore of east end of St. John on trail between
Leinster Bay & Hermitage.

UTM REFERENCE:

A ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Zone Easting NorthingCLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district:
_____ acres.STRUCTURE: type or, and composition: Rectangular enclosures defined by breast
height rubble masonry walls containing several identifiable graves.

Physical Description: A walled cemetery is located 30 yards southeast of the road
that from Hermitage crosses the northeast peninsula of St. John and enters Brown
Bay from the east and then continues westward to meet the Coral Bay-Leinster Bay
trail. The cemetery is approximately 400 yards southeast of the plantation house
H-36,3. It is rectangular in shape and measures 25 by 38 yards. The plastered
rubble masonry walls are four feet high and are in a fair state of preservation
except towards the northeast where sections of them have collapsed. The corners
are accentuated by pillars with a projecting band and a pyramidal finial.

The cemetery contains a number of identifiable graves without markings but only
one monument. This is a small sarcophagi raised 30 inches above grade and topped
with an upright inscribed marble slab set in a niche at the head of the grave. The
monument is surrounded by a cast iron fence on a raised brick masonry curb. It
is set over the grave of James Thomas Abbot Davis, a 2 and a half year old boy who
died Nov. 20th, 1860.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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



Factory

Historic Name: Brown Bay, Brynes Bay (1800),

Common name: Brynd Bay (1780)
Brown Bay Plantation

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit: F. C. Gjessing date of photo 4/1973

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Section of firing trench of Factory (H-36,2) viewed
from the south.

(VI National Park Mult. Res. Area)

JUL 23 1981 JUN 8 1981

1 of 5



1872
N

Plantation House

Historic Name: Brown Bay, Brynes Bay (1800)
Brynd Bay (1780)

Common Name: Brown Bay Plantation

Mano Bay, Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

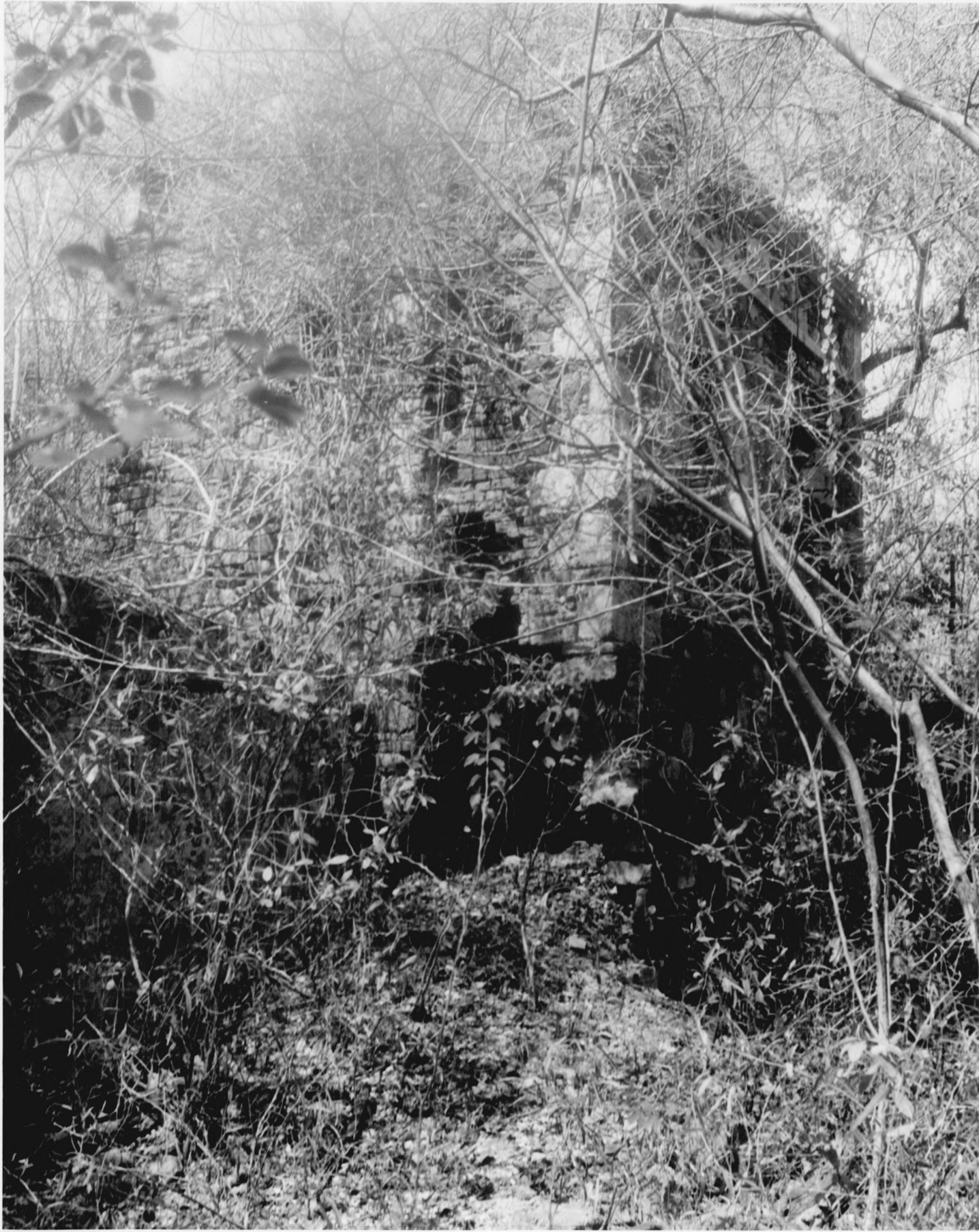
Photo Credit: F.C. Gjessing Date of photo April, 1973
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Detail of the 1872 addition to the Plantation House
H-36,3 viewed from the east.

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

JUL 23 1981

2 of 5



Plantation House

Historic Name: Brown Bay, Brynes Bay (1800),
Brynd Bay (1780) y

Common Name: Brown Bay Plantation

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

South section of the Plantation House H-36,3 viewed
from the southwest. JUL 23 1981

(V1 National Park Molt. Res. time) JUN 8 1981 3 of 5



Cemetery No. 1

Historic Name: Brown Bay, Brynes Bay (1800),
Brynd Bay (1790)

Common Name: Brown Bay Plantation

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

Gate of cemetery No. 1 H-36, 10viewed from the south.

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

JUL 23 1981 JUN 8 1981

4 of 5



Monument over James Thomas Abbot Davis

Historic Name: Brown Bay, Brynes Bay (1800),
Brynd Bay (1780)

Common Name: Brown Bay Planation

Maho Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

Monument over James Thomas Abbot Davis

Cemetery No. 1 H-36,10 viewed from the southeast.

(VI National Park Molt. Res. Area)

JUL 23 1981

JUN 8 1981

5 of 5