

APPENDIX B
HERMITAGE PLANTATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

JUL

DESCRIPTION

Hermitage Plantation is located on the North side of Borck Creek one of the several secondary inlets of Coral Bay. The buildings of the plantation are clustered along the ridge of a hillside spur that extends southward from the main spine of the East End peninsula of St. John. The road that from Coral Bay settlement leads to the East End village passes below the plantation site and access to Hermitage is provided by the trail to Brown Bay and North Shore that branches off the East End Road just West of the plantation site. The plantation house remains with associated service buildings, warehouse and shop buildings are located on the higher elevation at the apex of the spur. The ruins of five barracks like structures with a cistern and other service structures are sited south and below the plantation house. Two wells and associated watering troughs in the valley below complete the list of Hermitage known structural remains.

Hermitage Plantation post-dates 1780 but by 1800 was already a well developed site with several buildings. It was then exclusively devoted to the cultivation of cotton. At an unknown date during the mid-19th century it became a cattle farm and continued as such into the early decades of the 20th century. The remains of most of the existing 15 structures appear to date from the 19th century, the plantation house, warehouse and shop however, contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings and were part of the early cotton production.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hermitage Plantation is significant as an example of the plantations exclusively devoted to the cultivation of cotton and raising of cattle.

	Latitude	Longitude
Acreage: 8 acres	18° 21' 31"	64° 42' 01"

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point on the East End Road 200 feet west of this roads intersection with the Brown Bay Trail the boundary leads north for 200 feet and then east parallel to the road to the Brown Bay Trail then follows the trail for 500 feet and then east-southeast across the ridge of the spur for 350 feet and then southerly parallel to the Brown Bay Trail to the East End Road and then along the road to the starting point. The boundaries are defined to include all parts of the historical resource and follows existing man made features as trails and roads or straight lines between identifiable fixed points.

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 Plantation House, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37.1

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay East End of St. John

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: The rubble masonry ground floor that once supported a second story in wood.

Physical Description: The plantation house is located on a high point of the spur on ground that slopes down steeply towards the east and more gently towards the south and west. The standing remains are the masonry walls of a ground floor that once carried a second story in wood. The central core of the building is 30' square. A porch 12x20' supported on heavy walls and a ground floor vaulted chamber is built against the west side of the core. A 6' wide masonry staircase leads up to the porch from the north. A paved walkway on the north side of the building's core leads from the staircase to a second 7' wide walkway on the east side of the building that separates the core from the cook house, a 16'x13' one story extension towards the northeast. A 14'x17' freestanding cistern is north and east of the cook house and divided from it by a 4' wide staircase leading down to the lower terrain east of the plantation house. A 1905 photographic view of Hermitage shows the plantation house with its second story. It was then roofed by three parallel hipped roof sections over the porch and two over the main core. It also appears that the roof then extended over walkway on the northeast side of the building making the cook house which had a flat shed roof and the cistern an integral part of the plantation house.

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

The plantation house is probably one of the structures shown on the Oxholm map of 1800 and therefore may date from the period 1780 - 1800.

Latitude $18^{\circ}21'31''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}42'00''$

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 Servants Quarters, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 2ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

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: The masonry footing of a rectangular building.Physical Description: The masonry footings of a rectangular building 8'x12' is located only a few feet north of the cistern. Presumably the walls of the building were of wood or daub and wattle construction. In the photograph of 1905 the building is one story and has a hipped roof. No traces of the superstructure remains today.Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.Latitude 18°21'31" Longitude 64°42'00"

(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 ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

UTM REFERENCE:

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

Latitude 18°21'31" Longitude 64°42'00"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B,,Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT
(Attach 4"x5" EOW Photo)

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park CODE NO. 5360STRUCTURE NAME Shop Building, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 4ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

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: Masonry footings and lower walls of a rectangular building.

Physical Description: The footings and lower walls of a rectangular building 30'x21' is located approximately 40' north of the warehouse (H-37, 3). The wall apparently supported wood frame walls. The building has the unusual features of the two additional internal footing walls 8' in from the other walls for its full length indicating the floor supported a fairly heavy load or possibly machinery. The building also has a gently sloping ramp 6' wide centered on the west long side leading up to the former floor level of the interior. It is beyond the frame of the 1905 photograph of Hermitage plantation and its former appearance is consequently open to conjecture however, judging from its condition and the nature of its construction, it predates the photograph.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'31" Longitude 64°42'00"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FTEC.

(Attach 4"x5" New

APPENDIX

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NAME Cistern No. 2, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37.5

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

UTM REFERENCE:

A Zone Easting Northing part of a complex or district:
acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Freestanding rectangular masonry cistern.

Physical Description: A small freestanding rectangular cistern 7'x12' constructed in plastered rubble masonry approximately 70' south of the plantation house.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE (Attach 4"x5" box)

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NAME Quarters No. 2, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 7

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East, of St. John.

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 masonry footings of a one story rectangular wood building.

Physical Description: The masonry footings and lower walls of a wood frame barracks like building 12'x40' is located south and west of quarters No. 1. Two sets of steps on the northwest side lead up to the floor level of its former interior. Only the plastered rubble steps footings and lower walls remain. In the 1905 photograph the building had a low hipped roof.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(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	☐

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

11 19

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo)

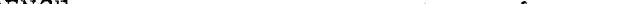
NPS ORGANIZATION
CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 10

National ☐State ☐

Local ☒ X

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creed, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: The masonry footings of a one story wood building.

Physical Description: The rubble masonry footings and lower walls of a rectangular barracks like building 14'x60' is located 40' southwest of Quarters No. 4. The walls supported a one story wood superstructure that in 1905 had a low hipped roof. Only the badly fragmented footing walls remain of the building.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm Map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42 01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

11

NPS ORGANIZATION

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 11

Local ☒

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

[illegible]

Physical Description: The rubble masonry footings and lower walls of a rectangular barracks like building 14'x42' is located 30' northwest of Quarters No. 4. The walls supported a one story wood superstructure that in 1904 had a low hipped roof. Only the badly fragmented footing walls remain of the building.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast	PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park	CODE NO. 5360
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STRUCTURE NAME Cistern No. 3, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37.12

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF

110

UTM REFERENCE:

A 
Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type or, and composition: A freestanding rectangular cistern
constructed in plastered rubble masonry.

Physical Description: A freestanding cistern 14'x20' is built into the northwest slope of the ridge approximately 20' north of quarters No. 6. The downhill north and southwest side of the cistern is strengthened by buttresses. Steps centered on the southeast long side lead up to the top of the cistern. The structures is in good condition and intact except for the shed roof that once covered it.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

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

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

STRUCTURE NAME Watering Trough No. 1, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37, 13

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

UTM REFERENCE:

UTM REFERENCE: CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
A

 part of a complex or district:
Zone Easting Northing acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A rectangular masonry watering trough.

Physical Description: A rectangular plastered rubble masonry drinking trough 5'x8' raised approximately 2' above grade level is located 12' northeast of the cistern.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'30" Longitude 64°42'01"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

ML

(Attach 4"x6")

... (MCCAW, ZAN) ...

STRUCTURE NO. II-37, 14

Scene

Local ☒ X

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

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 rectangular masonry watering trough

Physical Description: A linear stuccoed masonry watering trough 4'x40' and raised 2'6" above grade is located on the edge of the flat north of the East End Road and immediately west of the trail leading up to the plantation site. The trough is oriented southwest-northeast.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and wish 50 to 60 acres of cleared land. Although the remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'29" Longitude 64°42'03"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD (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 ☒

A

Zone Easting Northing

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

Latitude 18°21'29" Longitude 64°42'03"

(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)

STRUCTURE NAME Well & Watering Trough No. 2, Hermitage STRUCTURE NO. H-37.16

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On Borck Creek, Coral Bay, East End of St. John

UTM REFERENCE:

A

Zone	East	ing	North	ing
1	1	1	1	1

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A circular well and watering trough
constructed in masonry.

Physical Description: A circular well 10' in diameter with a 3'6" wide encircling watering trough. The shaft of the well and the watering trough is constructed in plastered rubble masonry.

Hermitage Plantation was brought under cultivation between 1780 and 1800. The plantation is shown on the Oxholm map of 1800. At that time it was already well developed with several buildings and with 50 to 60 acres of cleared well.

Although remains of all the existing 15 structures of the district appear to be 19th century construction it is possible that they contain elements of the pre-1800 buildings shown on the Oxholm map.

Latitude 18°21'29" Longitude 64°42'03"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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



Plantation House

Hermitage

Coral Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit F.C. Gjessing, Date of photo 11/25/75
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

North entrance to ground floor of Plantation House
H-37,1 viewed from the interior (south).

JUN 8 1981



Cook House

Hermitage

Coral Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo credit: F. C. Gjessing, Date of photo 11/25/75
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Cook houlse (left) and cistern of plantation house
H-37,1 viewed from the east.

JUN 8 1981

JUL 23 1981 2 of 6



Plantation House

Hermitage

Coral Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Plantation House H-37, 1 north side of building with a section of Cistern No. 1 showing to the left in the photo.



Bake Oven and Cook House

Hermitage

Coral Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

Photo Credit F. C. Gjessing, Date of Photo 7/6/76
Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

The remains of the bake oven and masonry cooking range
in the cook house of the Plantation House viewed from
the west, H-37,1

JUL 23 1981 JUN 8 1981 4 of 6



Quarters No. 2

Hermitage

Coral Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

Negative viled at Virgin Islands National Park

West wall of Quarters No. 2 (H-37,7) viewed from the south.



Quarters #4

Hermitage

Coral Bay, Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

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

Negative filed at Virgin Islands National Park

Quarters No. 4, H-37,9 viewed from the southwest, note the remains of the collapsed wood superstructure.