

JUL 23 1981

APPENDIX B
L'ESPERANCE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Reef Bay me.

DESCRIPTION

L'Esperance plantation is located on the high ridge land of St. John 1/4 mile south of Centerline Road on the east border of Cruz Bay Quarter. It was a choice site for agricultural purposes for its soil conditions, permanent spring and relatively high precipitation. As a plantation site, it is a small compact unit with fairly large buildings, that include two horsemills, a factory, a free standing cistern, a storage building, a great house, a cook house, a service building, a cemetery, a stone bridge as well as retaining walls, staircases and stone fencing.

It was developed early in the 18th century and has retained features of design and construction in its standing remains of interest for their age and for their variance from the generally accepted layout of plantation sites. The tight grouping of the different units that comprise L'Esperance centered around the Great House is exceptional and predates the pattern that characterizes the normal layout. Architecturally it is notable for, the high quality of workmanship observable in the Great House and Service buildings masonry as well as the use of volcanic sandstone as a building material. This exotic material to the Virgin Islands was probably imported from the Leeward Islands. The masonry remains of the Great House, the south Horsemill and the Service Building are in a fair state of preservation. All other structures are badly deteriorated.

L'Esperance produced sugar in the early 1830's but in the 1840ties discontinued cultivation of cane.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

L'Esperance Historic District is significant for its unusual layout as a sugar plantation and for its association with Governor Eric Bredal, who in the 1720ties owned the plantation and who in 1719 affected the Danish colonization of St. John in the face of British opposition.

Acreage 6¼ acres

Latitude
18° 20' 32"

Longitude
64° 45' 32"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

L'Esperance Historic District is bounded to the West by the trail that from Centerline Road leads to Sieben plantation starting at a point on the trail 250 feet northwest of the storm bridge across Fish Bay Gut and ending 450 feet due

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south of the same bridge, then in an easterly direction for 300 feet across the gut to the bed of the intermittent stream on the east side of the site then following the stream bed in an north and easterly direction for about 700 feet to a point about 225 feet northeast of the oxpound and then westerly to the starting point on the Centerline-Sieben trail. The boundaries include all parts of the historic resource and enclose a natural topographical area between the two streambeds to the west and east of the district.

Appendix B, Historic District

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

NPS ORGANIZATION

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME New Horsemill, L'Esperance Plantation

STRUCTURE NO. H-5.1

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State ☐

Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On the L'Esperance trail to Mollendal, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Centerline Road

UTM REFERENCE: A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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 CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: acres.

Zone Easting Northing

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Circular raised earthfill platform retained by rubble masonry walls.

Physical Description: The circular horsemill has a diameter of 65'. It is located on the south and downhill side of the site. Approached from the north at grade level, the horsemill platform is supported and defined by retaining walls that, on the south side reached heights of 20'. These walls have partially failed towards the south and west, but are still in evidence. Fragments of the foundations of the grinding mechanism are still apparent.

L'Esperance Plantation was brought under cultivation early and was a well-developed sugar plantation by the 1780s. As a plantation site, it is a small compact unit with fairly large building remains. The new horsemill probably dates from the early 19th century

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'33''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}45'32''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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Appendix B; Historic District CLASSIFIED

DISCIPLES
CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

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

STRUCTURE NAME Old Horse Mill, L'Esperance Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south Centerline R

UTM REFERENCE:

A | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Roughly circular level area derived by digging into hillside and filling in downhill area.

Physical Description: The earlier horse mill of the plantation is located to the north of the site and is a platform with a diameter of 50', dug into the uphill north side and towards the southwest, defined by a retaining wall.. Now part of the access road to the newer horsemill and the Great House. The old horsemill can be assumed to date from the 18th century and the earlier period of sugar cane cultivation of L'Esperance Plantation.

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'23''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}45'32''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District CLASSIFIED

REGION Southeast

NPS ORGANIZATION

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Factory, L'Esperance Plantation

STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 3

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State

Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Centerline F

UTM REFERENCE:

CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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 Zone Easting

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

 Northing

part of a complex or district:
acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rubble Msonry rectangular in plan

Physical Description: The remains of a rectangular masonry structure 60'x25' oriented east-west. Except for the west end of the structure, the walls have toppled entirely and provide only meager illustration of the former function of the building.

It does not have the characteristic "T" shaped plan of the conventional sugar factory of the late 18th century and early 19th century and can be presumed to be the remains of 18th century construction.

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°44'32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Free-standing Cistern, L'Esperance Planta- STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 4
tion

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Centerline
UTM REFERENCE: A

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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 CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not
part of a complex or district: _____
Zone Easting Northing _____ acres.

Physical Description: The free-standing cistern is a small masonry structure immediately west of the factory measuring 16'x8'. It is divided into two equal sections - a small storage area and a cistern. The walls stand to their full height.

L'Esperance Plantation was brought under cultivation early in the 18th century and was well developed sugar plantation by 1780. Inadequate research prevents accurate dating of existing remains of its buildings. They probably range through the late 18th century and the early 19th century.

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'23''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'32''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

NPS ORGANIZATION

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Storage Building, L'Esperance Plantation

STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 5

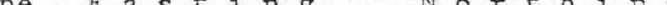
ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐

State ☐

Local ☒ X

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Centerline I

UTM REFERENCE:

A 

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

acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered rubble masonry one story
rectangular in plan.

Physical Description: A one-story masonry structure 12'x25' immediately west of the cistern with doors in both gable ends and two window openings in each long wall.

Assumed to be a storage building because of its proximity to the free-standing cistern and the factory building. It lacks identifying features and may have served several purposes.

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°45'32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

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

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.

Physical Description: The Great House ruin is the best preserved of all structures of the L'Esperance Plantation site. It is located 30' west of the new horsemill and 45' north and uphill of the factory. The considerable grade difference between the site of the latter and the Great House is regulated by a narrow terrace fronting the Great House, supported on a fragmented retaining wall and a steep bank. The house had a masonry ground floor measuring 46'x34' that supported a wood superstructure. The ground floor walls stand to their full height. The north and part of the west wall act as retaining wall for the level area that fronted the yard side of the Great House. The walls are rubble masonry with cut and dressed stone around openings and at corners and with articulated quoins on the free-standing exterior faces. In plan it is divided into an enclosed room 20' wide that runs the full length of the building and a 12' wide, partially open gallery on the south and factory side of the building. The east wall of the structure continues as a retaining wall for the terrace to the north and masonry steps along the west wall of the building lead up to this terrace level. The stonework is handsomely finished and the execution very workmanlike. Except for traces of beams and plates nothing remains of the wood superstructure. Probable dates of construction is late 18th century.

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°45'32" (continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Cook House, L'Esperance Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-5.7

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

[illegible]

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Rubble and brick masonry one story building
rectangular in plan.

Physical Description: The cookhouse is located north and slightly west of the Great House at a distance of approximately 25 feet on the level north terrace. The rubble masonry and brick walls stand from 4' to 6' out of the ground. The building measures 22'x16' and has the unusual feature of two masonry cooking ranges against the interior short walls of the structure, with a brick Dutch oven in the southwest interior corner, contemporary with the Great House and probably of a late 18th century date.

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°44'32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

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

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

UTM REFERENCE:

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

Physical Description: The service building is an "L" shaped rubble masonry structure, measuring 30'x22' west of the cook house, and on the same level. It contained two rooms and another Dutch oven constructed in brick. The function of the structure seems to duplicate the smaller but more elaborate cook house and is not entirely understood.

Latitude $18^{\circ}20'23''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'32''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

REGION Southeast PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 5360
 STRUCTURE NAME Bridge, L'Esperance Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 9
 ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal, some south of Centerline
 UTM REFERENCE: A 1
 Zone Easting Northing CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Arched stone bridge over gut that separates plantation site from old cart road:

Physical Description: The entrance road to L'Esperance from the old cart road that from Centerline Road leads to Sieben and Mollendal crosses a small gut. It is bridged by a small stone arch with a span of eight feet and a width of 6'6". Although still standing the bridge abutments towards the north show signs of failure and in their present condition are subjected to serious erosion.

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°44'32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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Appendix B, Historic District

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NAME Cemetery, L'Esperance Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-5,10

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Centerline

UTM REFERENCE:

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district)

Zone Easting North ing

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A rectangular enclosure defined by rubble masonry walls containing 7 graves marked by raised masonry covers.
Physical Description: A cemetery is located approximately 60' north of the Great House it is defined by remains of walls and contains seven graves marked by raised masonry covers one of which is monumented and carries the inscription "Hendrik Tonis Geboren op S. thomas den 15 January 1733 Overleben op S. Janden 23 September 1765."

Latitude 18°20'23" Longitude 64°44'32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

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(CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

REGION South East PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 5360STRUCTURE NAME Oxpound, L'Esperance Plantation STRUCTURE NO. H-5, 11ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: On L'Esperance trail to Mollendal $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Centerline

UTM REFERENCE:

A

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

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: A rectangular area enclosed by rubble masonry walls and their collapsed remains.Physical Description: A rectangular oxpound is located north of the Great House and east of the cemetery. It is defined by breast high rubble masonry walls but has no visible traces of a roofed shelter for the cattle as is found in most oxpounds.Latitude: 18° 20' 23" Long.: 64° 44' 32"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Virgin Islands National Park Multiple Resource Area
State VI

Nomination	Type of Review	Decision
✓ 1. Brown Bay Plantation Historic District -	-	<u>accept⁺ Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 2. Rustenberg Plantation South Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 3. Dennis Bay Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 4. More Hill Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 5. Hermitage Plantation Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 6. Annaberg Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
7 America Hill Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>Return</u>
✓ 8. Reef Bay Great House Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept Reef Bay Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 9. Reef Bay Sugar Factory Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 10. Jossie Gut Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 11. L'Esperance Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 12. Lind Point Fort ✓ <i>Pending Plan</i>	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
> 13. Liever Marches Bay Hist. Dist. ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
✓ 14. Cathrineberg-Jockumsdahl-Herman Farm -	-	<u>previously listed 3-30-78</u>
✓ 15. Cinnamon Bay Plantation ✓	-	<u>Previously listed 7-11-78</u>
✓ 16. Lameshur Plantation -	-	<u>Previously listed 6-23-78</u>
✓ 17. Mary Point Estate -	-	<u>Previously listed 5-22-78</u>
✓ 18. Annaberg School -	-	<u>Return</u>
✓ 19. Trunk Bay Sugar Factory ✓	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvener 7/23/81</u>
20. -	-	
21. -	-	
22. -	-	
23. -	-	
24. -	-	

DUE 7/8/81 - 7/23/81

Name L'Esperance Historic District dnr-3 Federal
 State, County VI St. John Fed Nom or Request-Agency NPS
 Working Number 6.881.19 Federal Register Date 2.2.82

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☐ Bldg(s)
☒ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☒ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 2
 Photos 4

Nomination prepared by:

☐ State Staff
☒ Local
☐ Other

Action:

☒ ACCEPT 7/23/81
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

*Cruz Bay vic.
 E of Cruz Bay off center line Rd*

*accept - criteria A, B, C
 Grozvenor, Historian
 7/23/81*

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			<i>partly in #7</i>
3. Concepts/Integrity	☒			<i>mostly in MRA cover sheet</i>
4. Concepts/Criteria	☒			
5. Concepts/Boundaries	☒			
6. Contextual Evaluation	☒			

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date Grozvenor 7/23/81See Attached

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior









STREAM BED

TRAIL TO
CENTER LINE

LONG. $64^{\circ}45'32''$

BRIDGE

OLD HORSEMILL

SERVICE BLDG

CEMETERY

OXFORD

V4

STORAGE BL

CISTERN

FACTORY

N

V3

COOK HOUSE

GREAT HOUSE

V2

NEW HORSEMILL

LAT. $18^{\circ}20'32''$

TRAIL
TO SIEBEN

L'ESPERANCE H-5

ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS

50' 0 50' 100' 200' 300' 400'
APPROX. SCALE 1"=100'



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STREAM BED

LONG. $64^{\circ}45'32''$

TRAIL TO
CENTER LINE

BRIDGE

OLD HORSEMILL

SERVICE BLDG

CEMETERY

OX POUND

STORAGE BL

COOK HOUSE

CISTERN

GREAT HOUSE

FACTORY

NEW HORSEMILL

LAT. $18^{\circ}20'32''$

TRAIL
TO SIEBEN

LESPEANCE H-5

ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS

50' 0 50' 100' 200' 300' 400'
APPROX. SCALE 1"=100'

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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000886