

JUL 23 1981

Reef Bay

APPENDIX B
REEF BAY GREAT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION

The site of Reef Bay Great House Historic District is on a small spur extending into Reef Bay Valley from Bordeaux Mountain to the east, approximately 1,000 yards inland from the shoreline of the bay. The district contains the Great House, a servants house, a stable, a privy and a well. The elevation is about 250 feet above sea level and it is reached by a trail that branches off the Reef Bay-Lameshur Trail.

The Great House is still partially roofed but several bearing masonry walls show signs of failure and on the interior all woodwork is badly deteriorated as are exterior and interior masonry finishes. The masonry walls of the servants quarters and the stable still stand to plate height in a deteriorated condition. The cookhouse, the privy and the walls of the semi-circular terrace on the north side of the Great House have collapsed as has the once roofed terrace to the south of the Great House.

Reef Bay Great House is the most important architectural monument within the Virgin Islands National Park and a significant example of West Indian architecture. Considered in connection with the remains of Reef Bay Sugar Factory and its historical association with the various ruins within the confines of Reef Bay Valley, it ranks as the most complete exhibit of the plantation economy of the West Indies within the Virgin Islands. Its spectacular and well-planned setting makes it a noteworthy example of historic landscaping, both for the quality of the design and its rarity. Reef Bay Great House was originally the Great House of Par Force. The existing building dates from the early 19th century but it contains within its shell the masonry base of an earlier wood building.

In its present form the Great House is an excellent example of a severely formal classical revival design with well conceived and sophisticated detailing that is carried through on the service buildings and in the retaining walls and fences. The incongruity between the formality and controlled symmetry of the architecture and the irregular topography of the setting has by the builder or the designer been turned to an advantage. Retaining walls, fences and steps direct the approaches and provide changing views of both the buildings and of the surroundings that soften and enrich the severity of the architecture. The original planting of the terraced landscaping has been choked out by bush and can only be guessed at, but sufficient remains of the terraces to provide an idea of the formalized landscape intended.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reef Bay Great House complex is significant as a distinguished architectural expression in a neo-classical manner, that within a time frame of contemporary buildings, is of a highly sophisticated design as well as a true adaptation to the West Indies and to its setting.

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Acreage: 5 acres

Latitude
18° 19' 54"

Longitude
64° 44' 25"

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Except for a small flat approximately 150 feet by a 100 ~~feet~~ northwest of the Reef Bay Great House, the terrain around the complex is very steep and without any distinctive natural or man-made features. As it is located in a protected area the boundaries of the Historic District have been arbitrarily set as the area bounded towards the west and east as longitude 64° 44' 23" and 64° 44' 27" and towards the north and south as latitude 18° 19' 56" and 18° 19' 52".

Appendix B, Historic District CLASS

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15, 1

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

UTM REFERENCE:

UTM REFERENCE:
A. 
Zone Easting Northing

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

Physical Description: The building is one story with a partial basement under the north and west side of the structure. On the lower west side, the basement is on grade. On the south and east side, the grade is at first floor level. The building measures 35 feet by 56 feet. It is constructed in rubble masonry with brick lining of corners and around masonry openings. Except for pavements and steps, all masonry surfaces are plastered or stuccoed. The roof is partially a flat brick roof on wood beams and partially a hipped wood roof with metal roofing. Floors are wood on wood beams. A large double masonry stairway leads to a small porch in front of the main entrance on the west fact of the building. The brick roof of the porch is supported on four Tuscan columns. A smaller porch on two columns of similar design shields the rear entrance on the east side of the building. It is severely symmetrical around an east-west axis. Two arcaded galleries to the south and north flank a center core that is accentuated by additional height. The core is 4 by 5 bays with two windows on either side of the entrances and four doors leading from the interior to the south and north gallery respectively. On the exterior base, floor and rail levels, as well as window and door openings, have stucco banding. A dentil course and a very simple cyma recta moulding form

(continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☒

Ruins ☐ Unaltered ☒ Altered ☐ Original Site ☒ Moved ☐

the classical revival cornice. The parapet wall above the cornice is divided into panels by stucco banding and the corners carry acroterions. The flanking galleries have stucco banding of corners and base, stucco panels above and below the arches, keystones, spring mouldings, parapet mouldings and on the parapet, domed finials and acroterions. A similar detailing is given the porches. The plaster work is well executed and the design very sophisticated. The interior has trim around door and window openings and cornice mouldings in plaster.

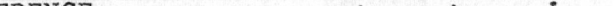
The Great house is still under roof and with all walls standing. All woodwork, however, including rafters and beams have deteriorated beyond repair and within recent years, structural failure of the masonry can be observed in the front and south section of the building. Finishes inside and out are fragmentary only. Roofing throughout has deteriorated.

Latitude 18°19'54" Longitude 64°44'25"

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Cook House, Reef Bay Great House Complex STRUCTURE NO. H-15.2

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

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

Physical Description: The Cook House is located in front and to the west of the main house, ten feet below its first floor level. It is a one-story rubble masonry structure 24'2x14'2" with a Dutch oven built into the southwest corner. The exterior walls vary in thickness from 2'3" to 2'6"; the interior is divided into two almost equal sized rooms. The room to the north contained the kitchen with a masonry range along the west wall. Two doors in the east and north wall respectively provided light and additional ventilation to the interior. The south room has one door in the east wall. The south end wall of the cook house now stands only 2'6" above the original floor level, while the back west wall of the cook house stands to a height of 8' measured from outside grade level, or 6'6" from interior pavement level. The cook house was plastered throughout and had the same banding of corners and openings as the other buildings of the Great House complex.

Latitude 18° 19' 54" Longitude 64° 44' 25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

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

STRUCTURE NAME Servants' Quarters, Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15.3

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Centerline Rd, Reev Bay Valley on trail to ^{Lameshaur}

UTM REFERENCE: _____
 A 
 Zone Easting Northing

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

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered Brick and Rubble masonry
rectangular in plan one-story.

Physical Description: The servants' quarters is the best preserved of the four utility buildings. It measures 18'5" by 14'4" and is northwest of the main building. It was constructed to line up with the cook house and is 7'11" north of it. It is a one-story masonry building, standing on an accentuated base. The building was plastered throughout and with an exterior decorative banding of windows, corners and eaves. All walls stand to full height although damaged and with only traces of the original finishes. Wood frames for the door and one of the windows are still in place. All other woodwork, including the hipped roof, have disappeared.

Latitude $18^{\circ}19'54''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'25''$

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

NPS ORGANIZATION

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NO. H-15.4

National ☐State ☒ X

Local _____

UTM REFERENCE:

A 
Zone Easting Northing

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

rectangular in plan

Physical Description: The privy was a 10' by 10'6", one-story masonry structure with a door on the northwest side and probably a small window in each one of the three other sides. The building was stuccoed and its cornice and the doorway had slightly projecting stucco bands, as did the other buildings of the site. The south corner stands to a height of 6'9", but other walls have tumbled and only footings and wall fragments remain.

Latitude 18°19'54" Longitude 64°44'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

JUL 23 1981

NPS ORGANIZATION

STRUCTURE NAME Stable, Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15.5

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1½ miles south of Centerline Rd., Reef Bay Valley on

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: Plastered rubble masonry, one-story
rectangular in plan.

Physical Description: The stable is a one-story masonry building measuring 14'4" by 39'1". It was built into the side of the hill and its rear, southeast wall also served as a retaining wall. Both end walls have a centered window opening 3'0" by 3'9" high. The front wall that has collapsed, appears to have had either two or three large openings. The exterior was stuccoed and corners, window openings, base and top of walls were accentuated by slightly projecting stucco bands. The two remaining walls stand partially to their full height and the roof appears to have been hipped.

Latitude 18°19'54" Longitude 64°44'25"

(continue on reverse if necessary)

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

Appendix B, Historic District

NPS ORGANIZATION

REGION Southeast

PARK/AREA NAME Virgin Islands Nat'l Park

CODE NO. 5360

STRUCTURE NAME Retaining Walls and Fences, Reef Bay Great House STRUCTURE NO. H-15.6

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 1½ south of Centerline Rd, Keet Bay valley on Lameshaui Trail

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

A

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Zone Easting Northing

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: Plastered rubble and brick masonry retaining walls, fences and gate posts and steps.

Physical Description: Part of Reef Bay Great House quality lies in its carefully planned and controlled setting of terraces, retaining walls, steps, fences, etc. These features are now almost obscured by vegetation and in some cases, partially destroyed. A terrace in front of the main house separates it from the cook house and servants quarters built to the west and at a lower level. The terrace is bounded to the west by retaining walls up to 12' high topped by circular masonry pillars that once were the posts for the iron fence. Access to the terrace is from the north by three steps and a gate between two 10'3" ornamental masonry gateposts. The front terrace continues 45 feet beyond the Great House and ends in a raised gazebo. A retaining wall and steps separated the narrow and irregular yards south and east of the building from the front terrace. Steps in the northeast corner of the east yard lead down to the area north of the Great House and provides access to the stable and outhouse. The retaining walls and staircases, where they are still standing, have the same stucco band decoration as observed on the building.

Latitude $18^{\circ}19'54''$ Longitude $64^{\circ}44'25''$

(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 -	-	accept <u>Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 2. Rustenberg Plantation South Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 3. Dennis Bay Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 4. More Hill Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 5. Hermitage Plantation Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 6. Annaberg Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
7 America Hill Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>Return</u>
✓ 8. Reef Bay Great House Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept Reef Bay Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 9. Reef Bay Sugar Factory Hist. Dist. -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 10. Jossie Gut Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 11. L'Esperance Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
✓ 12. Lind Point Fort ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
> 13. ^{Rendering Plant} Liever Marches Bay Hist. Dist. ✓ -	-	<u>accept - Beth Grosvenor 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 Grosvenor 7/23/81</u>
20. -	-	
21. -	-	
22. -	-	
23. -	-	
24. -	-	

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

Name Reef Bay Great House Historic District dnr-3 Federal
State, County VI St. John Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____
Working Number 6.8.81.191 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 1
Photos 3

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)

*Bordeaux vic.
W of Bordeaux*

*accept - criterion C
Groverna, 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 description</i>
3. Concepts/Integrity	☒			<i>in MRA cover form</i>
4. Concepts/Criteria	☒			
5. Concepts/Boundaries	☒			
6. Contextual Evaluation	☒			

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

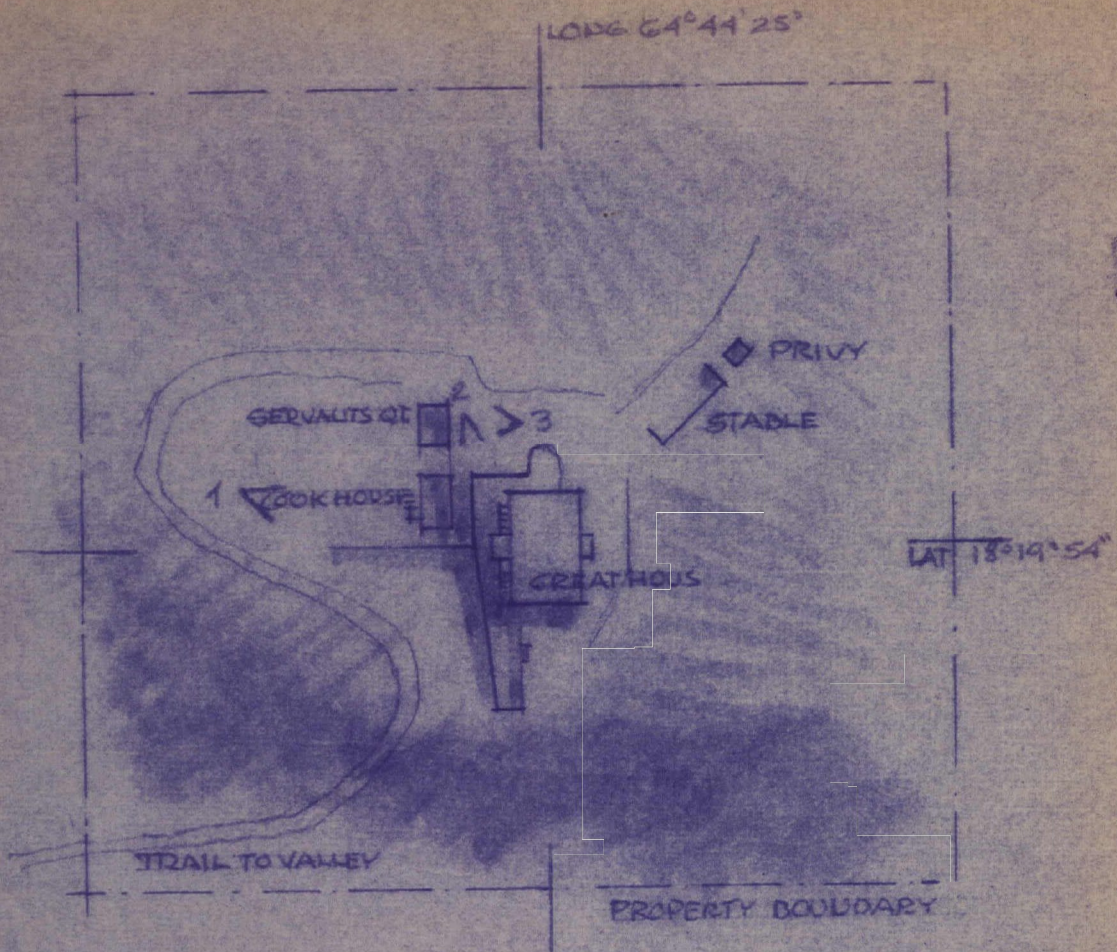
Reviewer/Date Groverna 7/23/81

See Attached _____

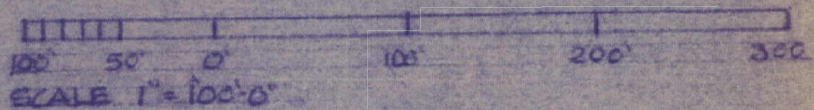








PHOTOGRAPH SKETCH MAP

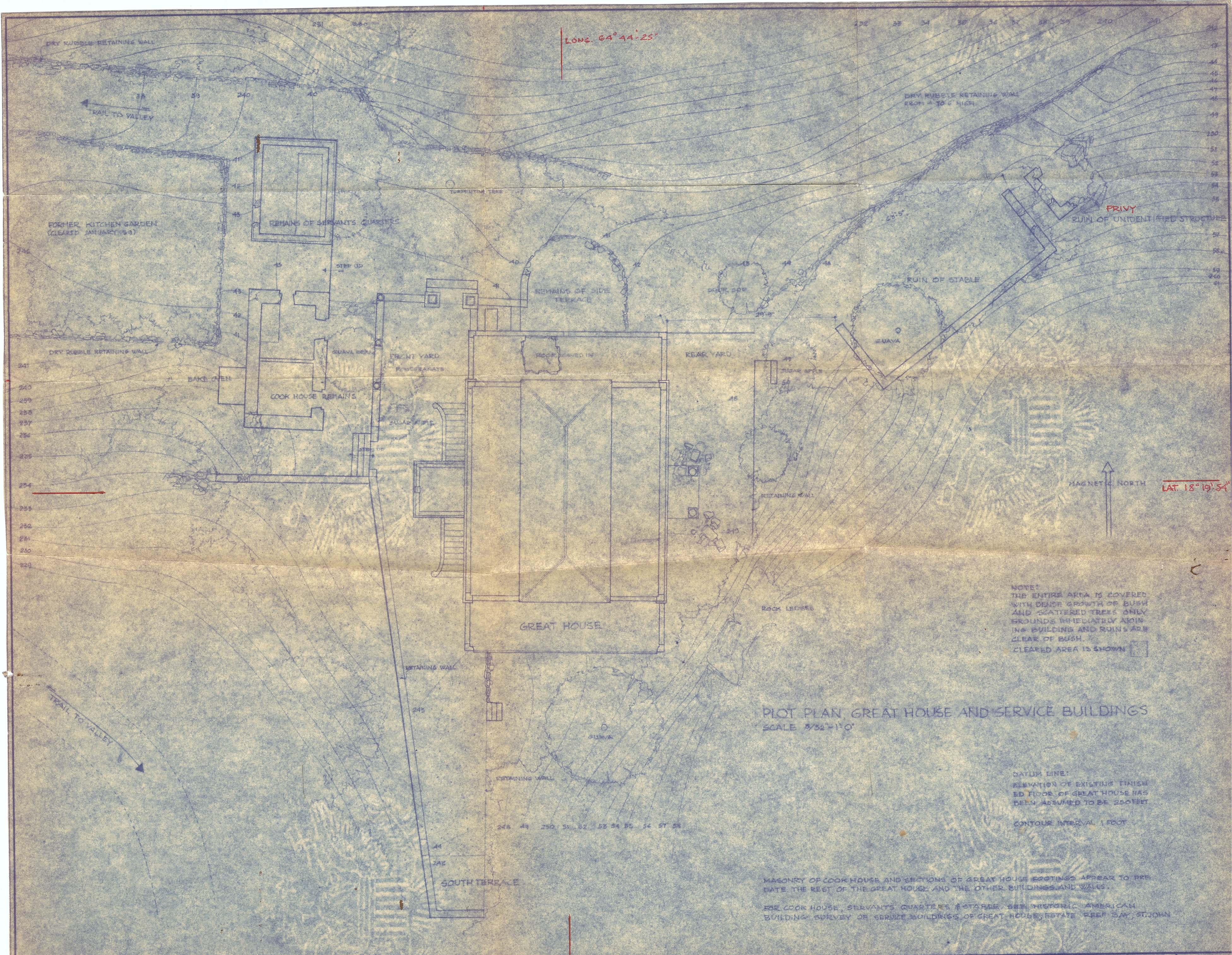


NORTH

REEF BAY GREAT HOUSE H-15
ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS



JUL 23 1981



PLOT PLAN, GREAT HOUSE AND SERVICE BUILDINGS
SCALE 3/32"=1'0"

NOTE:
THE ENTIRE AREA IS COVERED
WITH DENSE GROWTH OF BUSH
AND SCATTERED TREES ONLY
GROUNDS IMMEDIATELY ADJAC-
ING BUILDING AND RUINS ARE
CLEARED OF BUSH.
CLEARED AREA IS SHOWN

DATUM LINE:
ELEVATION OF EXISTING FINISH-
ED FLOOR OF GREAT HOUSE HAS
BEEN ASSUMED TO BE 250 FEET
CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 FOOT

MASONRY OF COOK HOUSE AND SECTIONS OF GREAT HOUSE FOOTINGS APPEAR TO PRE-
DATE THE REST OF THE GREAT HOUSE AND THE OTHER BUILDINGS AND WALLS.
FOR COOK HOUSE, SERVANTS QUARTERS & STABLE, SEE HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDING SURVEY OF SERVICE BUILDINGS OF GREAT HOUSE ESTATE REEF BAY, ST. JOHN

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000886