

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Estate Botany Bay

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Westend Quarter

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE
78

COUNTY

St. Thomas

CODE

0900

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☒ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Allison E. Jones, Ellen C. Long, Henry Corning, Trustee

STREET & NUMBER

1020 National City Bank

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

Ohio

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

U.S. V.I.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Estate Botany Bay is the farthest point West on the island of St. Thomas. The ruins of the sugar cane factory, probably built around 1800, and the surrounding outbuildings are located on a bluff above the cove of the bay. Few sugar cane factories are remaining on the island of St. Thomas, and with its unusual fortress-like massing, fine proportions and dramatic siting, the factory at Estate Botany Bay has particular significance.

The massing of Botany Bay's factory--a 2-story rectangle (75' x 30') with a central, one story projection (18' x 32') battered toward the interior is in contrast to the usual T-shape plan of factories on St. Croix. The building is constructed of red ballast brick, rubble masonry and local brain coral, and was originally stuccoed. The walls are 3 feet thick, with brick buttresses running the length of the interior wall on the west facade. Attached flanking brick staircases at the intersection of the factory wall and the projection allow access to the level of the central projection. Various remains indicate that the roof of the factory was gabled and had a timber frame. One square pinnacle remains on the NE corner.

The main, western facade has three bays in the form of a large central window opening flanked by two smaller ones. The side walls have three bays, and the rear wall, four. All the window openings have flat, jack arches with brick voussoirs and no keystone, and are splayed to the interior. Wrought iron drive pintles in the corners indicate that exterior shutters were provided. The windows were fitted with horizontal wooden bars, of which several still remain. The wood casings are recessed into the masonry exterior walls, and there are remains of plaster on some jambs and soffits.

The interior is partitioned into a series of rooms, which may have had timber beam ceilings. There is also a series of barrel-vaulted rooms inside the battered projection on the main facade. On the interior, there is a second battered projection about 10 feet square, jutting from the center of the rear, east wall into the interior space. A large iron pot, called a "copper", used to cook the sugar cane juice after it had been heated and skimmed, is now sunken into the projection, but this is not its original location.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 3

PAGE one

The Virgin Islands Government, Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, has initiated discussions with the owners of Botany Bay with the intentions of acquiring all or part of the estate including the historic site and archaeological site. The Government intends to establish an historic park in association with a recreational facility, stabilize the ruins, and initiate a program of historic, archaeological and nature interpretations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

A small rectangular opening in the center of the south wall appears to be the entrance point of the pipe that carried the unprocessed sugar cane juice by gravity from the site of the original animal mill, on the higher grade SE of the factory. Semi-circular openings reinforced with terracotta and placed mid-way down the length of the south walls, are the openings of tunnels through which the fires under the coppers were stoked. Farther down the wall, there is a series of square openings of tunnels that probably acted as a means of drainage in the refining process, but their specific function is not clear.

A new house has been constructed over the ruins of the site of the animal mill, already mentioned, to the SE of the factory. To the rear of the mill is located the ruin of one of the slave quarters, another similar ruin lies directly behind it.

The landscaping around the factory is in a lush, natural state, though the immediate area surrounding the factory is kept cleared.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☒ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Estate Botany Bay is one of the few remaining ruins of a sugar plantation in St. Thomas. The ruins include most of the sugar factory and several walls of the slave quarters. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it can be assumed from property deed records that the plantation was operational in 1810.

The Danes began settlement in the West Indies during the 17th century primarily to develop plantation agriculture. Cotton and sugar were the major crops cultivated. As the world demand for sugar increased, sugar became the most important agricultural product. Sugar production in St. Thomas reached its peak in 1725 and after 1754 the industry became of little importance compared to the growing commercial economy.

The first recorded land transaction for Estate Botany Bay is dated January 17, 1810, in which, after the death of James Murphy, Elizabeth Murphy (with T. Blair and executor O. Buntzen and J.P. Jennings) deeded Botany Bay with belongings to William Punnett and Edward C. Murphy. Estate Botany Bay experienced a series of estate and debt sales in 1814, 1816 and 1818. On July 26, 1827 Botany Bay and neighboring Fortuna were sold by their owner William Punnett to William Ackers Esq., attorney to the Liverpool firm of Falkner and Mandsley, in liquidation of Punnett's debts. Included in the transaction were twenty-nine male slaves, twenty-two women, ten boys, eight girls and stock belonging to the estate consisting of twenty-three mules, eight asses and fifteen horned cattle. Ackens immediately sold the lot to Robert Flemming Esq. of St. Thomas for \$36,000.

The deterioriated conditions of Estate Botany Bay in the late 19th century is indicated by its sale in May, 1878 to Merchant W. White for the purchase sum of \$900. The ruins of Estate Botany Bay are a significant reminder of the importance of sugar cultivation to the agriculture economy of St. Thomas.

The unusual fortress-like massing, five proportions and dramatic siting of the factory, together with the lush surrounding landscape, make Botany Bay a highly significant site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dookhan, Issac, A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Company, 1974.

Estate Botany Bay Deed File, Recorder of Deeds, Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801.

Interview: Donald Plantz, Caretaker, May 5, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

UTM REFERENCES

18° 21' 36" North Lat.

65° 01' 55" West Long.

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Samuel N. Stokes,

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margeret Proskauer, V.I. Historic Survey

ORGANIZATION

Virgin Islands Planning Office

DATE

May 16, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2606

TELEPHONE

(809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Thomas F. Blake

TITLE

Director of Planning

DATE

May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. J. Munter
Charles E. Henry

DATE

7-30-76

DATE

8-31-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Estate Batamy Bay

State

V.I.

Working Number

6.2.76.3533

76001861
St. Thomas

Island

TECHNICAL

Photos 2Maps 1

UTM can't be checked

CONTROL

pl

6.4.76

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

6-14-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

I question the architectural significance of a roofless "ruin" when we're given no indication of how the construction of this building relates to other early 19th century island buildings or to other sugar plantation construction in the VI. nevertheless, the property is clearly eligible for agricultural significance in St. Thomas

Accept

S. Oldham

6/15/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

Not mentioned in the report is the potential for archaeological investigation. Specifically, the mention of a slave quarter may yield interesting information on the acculturation and assimilation of Native Africans into European society. would this consideration ~~would this~~ change the boundaries of the area? etc. Send back 6-22-76

OTHER

HAER

Inventory photo 1/29
3.7.76Review Accept Early
7/16/76

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Since there is a gov't plan for acquisition, restoration & stabilization of ruins and archeological remains, it is probably safe to assume that archeology has been considered adequately.

Accept

Cole

7/30/76

KEEPER

Hunt

8.2.76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

JUL 30 1976

Federal Register Entry

9-7-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



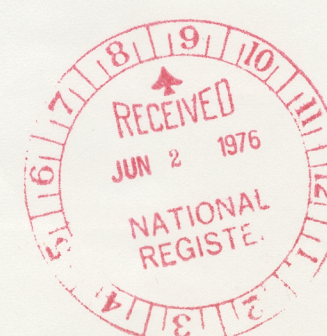




Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with Office of Territories,
U. S. Department of the Interior
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and U. S. Dept. of Public Roads
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1954-1955
Hydrography from USC&GS chart 905, dated 1952
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Virgin Islands extension
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1955

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 0.8 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt

WESTERN ST. THOMAS, V. I.
N 1818—W 6500/7.5 X 6
1955

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered JUL 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Christiansted Historic District	Christiansted St. Croix Island
Whim	Frederiksted vicinity St. Croix Island
<u>Estate Botany Bay</u>	Charlotte Amalie vicinity St. Thomas Island
Magens Bay Archeological District	Charlotte Amalie vicinity St. Thomas Island

Also Notified

Hon. Ron de Lugo
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Thomas Blake
Planning Director
Virgin Islands Planning Board
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

PR

MMott/row

8/4/76

NR Data Sheet

mo 3/3/78

DATE: 6-14-76
 Reviewer: EAS KP
 INITIALS: EAS
 NR
 DOE JUL 30 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Estate Botany Bay

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

Westend Innster W of Charlotte Amalie

CITY, TOWN

St. John's Virgin Islands

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

VICINITY OF

Charlotte Amalie

COUNTY

code 0900

St. Thomas Island

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS

REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1

unknown - 4

not applicable - 7

not intact

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2

unknown - 5

not applicable - 8

not intact

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3

unknown - 6

Not applicable-9

not intact

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

Unexcavated

UNALTERED

ALTERED

Reconstructed

Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- Factory - Plantation - Farm

now- Unoccupied

SIGNIFICANCE:

3 4 6 7 9 ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/Gov't/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events:

Growth and decline of sugar production
in the Virgin Island - 17th, 18th, and 19th
centuries.

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

C. 1800
1810 or earlier

1810 - 1878

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

3

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 story rectangular brick and stone structure with
a central one story projection. The building now
has no roof and all the windows and doors are
missing. Nearby are the ruins of several slave
quarters.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

constructed early in the 19th century,
Estate Botany Bay, is significant as one of the
few remaining ruins of a sugar plantation in
St. Thomas. During the early 18th century sugar
was the most important agricultural product in the
Virgin Islands but declined in importance after 1754.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events :

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1810 - 1878

C. 1800

1810 or earlier

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

3

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 +

✓ Brick, coral, and rubble

Unexcavated stone ruins of a sugar cane factory and some slave quarters

Representative of ~~the~~ 18th C. rise and 19th C. decline ⁱⁿ ~~of the~~ economic importance of sugar cultivation; one of few ^{ruins of a} sugar plantation ~~ruins~~ remaining on the island. *on another form also in the*

Virgin Islands but declined in importance after 1870.