

3779



U. S. SURVEY

Form 501

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

FEB

1918

11-5013

State: *Virgin Islands*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topo Sheet No. *3779*

LOCALITY:

Virgin Islands

St. John Island

Western Part and

Offlying Islands

1918

CHIEF OF PARTY:

O. W. Swainson

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. 3779 Field Sheet E

State VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

General locality SAINT JOHN ISLAND

Locality WESTERN END OF SAINT JOHN ISLAND *Part and offlying Islands*

Chief of party O. W. SWAINSON

Surveyed by O. W. SWAINSON

Date of survey OCTOBER, 1918

Scale 1 : 10000

Heights in feet above MEAN SEA LEVEL

Contour interval 20 feet.

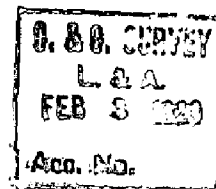
Inked by A. F. GLEASON Lettered by A. F. GLEASON

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report, ☒ Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet

Remarks:



DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
TO ACCOMPANY
FIELD SHEET E 3779
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
1919
O. W. SWAINSON CHIEF OF PARTY

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY SHEET E. 3779

ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The topographic mapping of the area covered by this sheet was part of the work called for in the Superintendent's orders to me dated January 24, 1918.

The area includes that portion of the Virgin Islands extending from the islands lying to the southward of the eastern end of St. Thomas eastward to a line across St. John from Denis Bay to Rendezvous Bay and also the islands belonging to the United States lying on the northern side of the Sound between St. Thomas and St. John. It joins sheet D, eastern end of St. Thomas, on the west and sheet F, middle portion of St. John, on the east.

The field work on the sheet was started September 15, and finished November 2, 1918.

Character of Survey.

More attention was paid to the detail of the interior than is customary. Estate boundary posts that could be found were located. Practically all houses and ruins were located. The cultivation of the land is shown but in general the wire fences are not. It was intended to show the boundary lines between the estates but there was so much uncertainty and dispute as to their location that the plan was abandoned.

The contour interval is twenty feet.

Control.

Triangulation stations were established within a mile of each other along the coast and about four to the square mile in the interior.

Some of the latter were only flags erected in tree tops on hills. The position of these flags was not permanently marked.

Methods of Survey.

Regular plane table methods were used. Flags were placed on practically all distinct hills and these flags cut in with the plane table as they were seen. Different colors and combinations of colors were used to avoid confusion. In this manner very accurate and complete control was obtained. Long traverses were avoided and the short traverses could be frequently checked for both position and elevations.

One man was kept at the plane table to compute elevations as the topographer read the vertical angles and distances. He checked himself by computing the elevation by two different methods. The elevation of most of the critical points was obtained so as to control the sketching of the contours as much as possible.

All roads, stone walls, and fences shown on the sheet were rodded in and vertical angles taken to all rod readings. Therefore these features represent accurate control of the contours. However, the elevations thus obtained were not inked on the sheet.

Many of the elevations became lost after the contours were put in and therefore only about one tenth of the elevations obtained are shown on the sheet.

Description of the shoreline.

Care was taken in inking in the shore line and any unusual features were described by notes on the sheets. It is unnecessary to describe the bays and points here.

Description of the Interior.

There are a few small patches of land under cultivation and

some in grass. But most of the island is covered with first or second growth timber. Apparently the only commercial value this timber has is for firewood or charcoal. It would be difficult for a person to pass through this timber without a cutlass to cut the vines and low bush.

The soil in many places is thick enough for cultivation but it is generally thin and full of rocks.

There are not many houses. Practically all of them are shown on the sheet.

Roads.

The roads are nothing more than trails. The center line road is the only one over which a cart can pass. A man on horseback can travel over most of the others.

Inshore Dangers to Navigation.

All of the dangers are clearly shown on the sheet.

Landmarks.

There are no conspicuous landmarks other than those shown on the sheet that need special mention.

A list of plane table positions and a list of new names is attached to and form a part of this report.

O.W. Swainson
O.W. Swainson, Topographer.
Hydrographic and Geodetic Engineer.

NEW NAMES.

- ✓ HOGNEST BAY. Local name for large bay on N.W. end of St. John.
- ✓? CASEY POINT. Point north of Klein Cinnamon Bay which for short is called K.C. Bay. No known local name.
- ✓ LIND POINT. Northern tip of point north of Little Cruz Bay.
This is the local name.
- ✓? GALLOWS BAY POINT. Local name for point on south side of entrance to Little Cruz Bay.
- ✓? TURNER POINT. Point north of Turner Bay. No known local name.
- CONTANT POINT. Prominent point on N.W. side of entrance to Great Cruz Bay. No known local name.
- SAM POINT. Local name for eastern side of entrance to Chocolate Hole.
- DEVERS BAY. Local name for bay between Sam Point and Bulivun Pt.
- ✓ HENLEY CAY. Local name for largest of Durlow Cays.
- ✓ RAM GOAT CAY. Local name for second largest of Durlow Cays,
Ram Goat C.
- ✓ RATTAY CAY. Local name for smallest of Durlow Cays.
- ✓ MARGARET HILL. Local name for first hill east of John Solomon Hill.
- ✓ JOHN SOLOMON HILL. Local name for Gancee Hill and more frequently used
= Cancee Hill
than Gancee Hill.
- BETHANY. Local name for school and church.
= Bethania

NEW NAMES (Cont.)

- ✓ SESSMAN HILL. Local name for Gift Hill.
- ✓ ROMAN HILL. Local name for the hill rising from the head of Great Cruz Bay.
- ✓ BASS GUT. Local name for large ravine running N.E. from Great Cruz Bay.
- ✓ JINNEY GUT ROAD. Local name for road connecting center line road with Sesaman Hill road.
- ✓ SESSMAN HILL ROAD. Local name for road from center line road to Sesaman or Gift Hill.
- ✓ KLEIN CINNAMON ROAD. Local name for road from Klein Cinnamon (E.C.) Bay estate to the center line road.
- ✓ CENTER LINE ROAD. Local name for main road running through the center of the island.
- ✓ SOUTH SIDE ROAD. Local name for this road.
- ✓ NORTH SIDE ROAD. Local name.
- ✓ SUSSANABERG ROAD. Local name for road between Denis Bay and Sussannaberg.
- ✓ CONTANT. Name of an estate.
- ✓ MONTE. Local name for small group of houses north of Rendezvous Bay.

PLANE TABLE POSITIONS
TO ACCOMPANY SHEET E.

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Object	Lat.	D.M.	Long.	D.P.	Height	Remarks
Cat	18 19	221	64 46	955	58	Brass Topog. Mark
Monte	18 19	628	64 46	1015	190	" " "
Bluff	18 18	1814	64 47	533	11	Rock
Turner	18 19	619	64 47	1219	15	Brass Topog. Mark
Boundary Post	18 19	996	64 47	557	4	Wooden Post
" "	18 19	1338	64 47	1402	3	" "
Rock	18 19	1619	64 47	1696	10	Between Turnera and Gal. Bay Points
Gallows	18 19	1783	64 47	1710		Brass Topog. Mark
Dock	18 19	1824	64 47	1312	3	" " "
CBoulder	18 20	1658	64 47	544		
Hog	18 21	650	64 47	237	25	Brass Triang. Mark
Bal	18 21	114	64 46	1149	35	Conspicuous Rock
Susannaberg Mill	18 20	1328	64 46	648	680	Stone tower
Divide	18 20	881	64 46	1186	585	Brass Topog. Mark
Beth	18 19	1842	64 46	1717	390	" " "
Doe	18 20	296	64 47	470	345	" " "
Blunder	18 21	1793	64 47	1372	5	Highest of Blunder Rocks.
Rock	18 21	1142	64 48	1043	3	Center of Rock off SW Pt Lovango
"	18 21	1373	64 48	1650	1	Off NE end Mingo Cay
Get	18 21	1380	64 49	1012	15	Highest tip of Rk.
Bone	18 19	249	64 49	1111		Mid of rock
Welk	18 18	913	64 49	554	10	Mid of largest of Welk rocks
Rock	18 18	642	64 49	908		Off N end Lit. ST. James
Murder	18 21	1283	64 48	331	4	S. end Murder Rk.

Applied to chart 938. January 1941. L.A. McLean.