

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 20 1982

NOV 24 1982

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Petroglyph Site

**2 LOCATION**

*No address*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE  
Virgin Islands

VICINITY OF

CODE  
078

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Virgin Islands

COUNTY

CODE  
700

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<i>NA</i> IN PROCESS	<i>NA</i> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

-Southeast Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1895 Phoenix Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

*NA* VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Office of Lieutenant Governor

STREET & NUMBER

King Street, Government Hill

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

Virgin Islands

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Resources Management Plan, Virgin Islands National Park

DATE

June 1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands National Park

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 806, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

Virgin Islands

## 7 DESCRIPTION

SEE A S 104	CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED					

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### CONTEXT

The Petroglyph Site was located by Theodoor de Booy during a 1916-1917 expedition sponsored by the Museum of the American Indian. The site was noted by Gudmund Hutt during his 1922-23 expedition also. In 1960 Frederick W. Sleight relocated the Petroglyph Site during an archeological reconnaissance [REDACTED]. The National Park Service conducted an archeological survey of Virgin Islands National Park in 1976 to assess prehistoric cultural remains and determined that the Petroglyph Site was one of four sites eligible for nomination to the National Register.

The cultural affiliation of the petroglyphs is unknown. It has been suggested that the petroglyphs may be the work of the Arawak Indians, the Caribs, or possibly the slave population on the island. Similarly, the function of the petroglyphs is also unknown. Speculation has generally centered upon some relationship to ceremonial or religious activities, although this is not certain.

### INTERNAL COMPOSITION

The petroglyphs are carved on boulders [REDACTED]

There are three sets of petroglyphs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The largest figure is in the shape of a sandglass or a figure-eight. Some of the other figures look like crudely drawn human faces, with circles for faces, smaller circles or dots for the eyes, and lines for the mouths. Some have extra lines below the large circle which have been interpreted as arms and legs. This group of figures is 10 feet 4 inches in length.

The second group of petroglyphs is on the same large rock as the first group but to the left [REDACTED]. This group consists of six figures, two of which resemble human forms with simple faces.

The third set of carvings is on the [REDACTED] and consists of three figures. One which has caused speculation as to its origin and meaning is in the shape of a cross, 17 inches high and 11 inches long at the cross arm.

Petroglyphs are found on many of the islands of the West Indies. Although some are certainly unknown because they are hidden in inaccessible places or by heavy undergrowth, most sites found in the open are generally near running water. The Petroglyph [REDACTED] to this type of distribution pattern.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

NA

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

NA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although petroglyphs are found throughout the islands of the West Indies, the Petroglyph Site contains the only known petroglyphs [REDACTED]

The origin, cultural affiliation, and function of the petroglyphs at the Petroglyph Site are all unknown, and further study is required before these can be determined. De Booy, among others, concluded that these carvings were made by the Carib peoples; Rouse and others have concluded that they were made by the Arawaks. Prokopetz and Hamilton of the 1976 NPS survey felt that the petroglyphs did not appear to be prehistoric and may in fact have been carved by members of the slave population on [REDACTED] during historic times.

Similarly, speculation concerning the function of the petroglyphs has varied. It has been suggested that they may be idle doodlings; they may have been produced or utilized during some type of religious or ceremonial activity; they may contain a story or history of some sort; they may mark an assembly point of some kind.

Because the Petroglyph Site is well preserved it provides an excellent opportunity for research into questions of origin and function. A comparative study of the Petroglyph Site carvings with other petroglyphs throughout the West Indies may indicate whether they were carved by prehistoric peoples or by the slave population [REDACTED]. A comparative study of the motifs and forms of the petroglyphs with aboriginal and slave ceramic motifs might also clarify the origins of the petroglyphs.

Certainly function may prove to be more difficult to determine than origin, but comparative study of the Petroglyph Site with other petroglyph sites in the Caribbean and Middle and South American may provide some insight into the functions. Its location near running water and the spatial arrangement of the carvings may provide information about function as well as information about concepts of space and symbolism of the culture which created them.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

de Booy, Theodoor and John T. Faris  
1918 The Virgin Islands - Our New Possessions and the British Islands.  
Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company.

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA
STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lindsay Christine Beditz, Park Technician (Archeologist)

ORGANIZATION

Southeast Archeological Center

DATE

June 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2416

TELEPHONE

904/222-1167

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee,

STATE

Florida 32304

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

1-13-82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7/7/92

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATIONS

The boundaries of the site include all known petroglyphic features in the area. No other evidence of occupation or utilization of the site is known, so only that area containing the petroglyphs is included. The site is less than one acre in size.

ENVIRONMENT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

No excavations have been done at the Petroglyph Site. Because the area is relatively inaccessible and not suitable for occupation, no other investigations have been carried out other than surveys to locate the site.

INTRUSIONS AND DATA LIMITATIONS

At the present there is no threat to the site from agriculture or further development. Because the petroglyphs are relatively inaccessible (i.e., at the water line and on solid rock face) vandalism has not yet affected the integrity of the carvings. Natural weathering of the rock is presently the only threat to the petroglyphs.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hatch, Charles E.

1972 Virgin Islands National Park - St. John Island ("The Quiet Place").  
Washington, D.C.: National Park Service.

Hatt, Gudmund

1924 Archaeology of the Virgin Islands. Proceedings of the Twenty-first  
International Congress of Americanists, First Park. The Hague. pp. 29-42.

Prokopetz, A. Wayne and Christopher E. Hamilton

1977 Survey and Assessment of the Prehistoric Archeological Sites in  
Virgin Islands National Park, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.  
National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee,  
Florida.

Sleight, Frederick W.

1962 Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Island of St. John, United  
States Virgin Islands. The William L. Bryant Foundation, American  
Studies, Report No. 3 Orlando, Florida.