

C  
O  
P  
Y

File Reference  
L58

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Region One  
Richmond, Virginia

*Hubler*  
*M.P. file*

April 6, 1956

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Memorandum

To: The Director  
From: Regional Director, Region One  
Subject: Proposed Establishment of Virgin Islands National Park

Enclosed, in duplicate, is summary of the discussions of the conference which Mr. Hubler and I had with you and members of your staff March 15, 1956, on the proposed Virgin Islands National Park. This summary reflects some further discussion Mr. Hubler had with other members of your staff of the preliminary draft we prepared in Washington March 15.

Mr. Hubler explains that his acreage figures are based on a summation of recent surveys of the parcels which have been purchased by or are being negotiated for by Jackson Hole Preserve for inclusion in the Park and a planimetric computing of the balance of the proposed Park area. It appears to us that this method should produce the most nearly accurate figures possible at this time. Future additional property surveys may call for some revision of these estimates. Since it is susceptible to greater error than Mr. Hubler's method, we have not considered it worthwhile to make a planimetric computation of the area from our print of the revised plan, even for comparative purposes. In connection with this matter of extent of the area, I also invite your attention to Item 10 of the Summary concerning our discussions of control of non-Park use of waters in or adjacent to bays on the perimeter of the Island. Likely the question already has been presented to the Solicitor's Office for study.

The summary has been signed by Mr. Hubler and by me and is recommended for your approval.

(Signed) Elbert Cox  
Regional Director

Attachment

Copy to: Superintendent, San Juan NHS

SUMMARY OF  
MEETING OF DIRECTOR, MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF,  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK PROJECT

MAR 27 1956  
*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
H. K. G.  
S. Smith  
J. Mitchell  
Sage  
R. Schiff

March 15, 1956

I. Proposed Boundary

The proposed boundary as agreed upon is shown in green on the attached plan. An approximate acreage of \_\_\_\_\_ would be included in this proposed boundary. This acreage, in addition to 284.5 acres, the amount in the cays, would total \_\_\_\_\_ acres. These acreages were determined by planimeter on those areas which have not yet been surveyed. The areas surveyed are those which have been purchased or have been negotiated for by Jackson Hole Preserve for inclusion in the park. This estimated acreage is as accurate as can be determined without running a survey of the entire perimeter of the area.

The acquisition of Grass, Mingo, Lovango and Congo Cays would receive low purchase priority.

II. Proposed Development Area

We see no need for a development area at Fish Bay. The development area shown at Mary Creek would serve no particular purpose; instead the development area will be at Estate Annaberg where perhaps the most interesting estate ruins exist.

III. National Park Service Boat Tour

There is no apparent present need for a boat tour by a National Park Service concessioner. A majority of the boating around St. John can be adequately handled by private enterprise. As a matter of fact, there is a boat rental service at Red Hook at the present time. They now have three or four boats for hire and expect to increase this number as time goes on. It is also doubtful that it will be necessary to set up a concession for transportation between the islands of St. Thomas and St. John in that this activity will be provided also by private enterprise. There is in existence at the present time a private boat operator who runs regularly scheduled trips to St. John from St. Thomas daily.

Concession boat operations may prove to be desirable for special trips such as to the Marine Gardens for which naturalist service could be provided.

#### IV. Utility Area and Structures - St. John

It was agreed that the National Park Service utility area and service boat landing facilities should be coordinated with those of the Caneel Bay Plantation adjacent to what is commonly known as Hurricane Hole in the Cruz Bay area. Joint planning with Mr. LaFarge of Mr. Rockefeller's staff will be necessary. Mr. LaFarge and Mr. Rockefeller have indicated that they would have no objection to this coordination of activities.

As regards additional lands required, it is our thought that the small parcel of public land on the east end of the park should be reserved for possible use.

#### V. Public Contact Station - St. John

The use of the public contact station for park Administration Building on Battery Point at Cruz Bay was discussed. This would involve building quarters and offices for the local administrator elsewhere in the Cruz Bay area. Hubler will contact local officials to discuss this problem after which further studies for this development will be made.

#### VI. Employee Residences - St. John

Employee residences in the Cruz Bay area would be necessary. These should be located on the hill just north of Cruz Bay within the proposed park in the region of Lind Point.

#### VII. Roads - St. John

An automobile road should be built between Estate Carolina to Lameshur Bay to serve the public as well as to provide access to the ranger station contemplated at Lameshur. It should be noted that only a portion of this road will lie within park property.

#### VIII. Hotel and Tourist Accommodations - St. John

We are of the opinion that no facilities of this type should be constructed within the park since adequate space is available outside and on the island of St. Thomas. Concession developments at Caneel and Trunk Bays are to remain.

IX. Ranger Station - St. John

A ranger station at Mary Creek is not needed. This area can be conveniently patro'led by boat from Cruz Bay.

X. Control of Shore Line - St. John

Park acreages include only those lands above the water line, and there is no provision for control of non-park use of waters in or adjacent to the bays on the perimeter of the island. Extension of the boundaries to include water beyond the shore line would reduce the acreages allowed within the park and is therefore not considered feasible. The Solicitor's office will be requested to study this question and advise us of measures or means to exercise control.

XI. Wharf and Small Storage Building at Red Hook - St. Thomas

The land requirements at this point are about 10 acres located immediately across the bay from the public dock, on which there is now a gravel processing plant.

XI. Headquarters - St. Thomas

Headquarters for the Caribbean units of the National Park Service should be in Charlotte Amalie. The preferred location for headquarters is in Old Fort Christian. For such an arrangement, however, Governor Gordon will most probably insist that the Old Fort be designated a National Historic Site. The Governor has indicated that he would have the Fort vacated and turned over to the National Park Service for use, except for space within the Fort for a small museum to be operated by the local Museum Society.

The Old Fort offers the most advantageous location for park headquarters. It occupies a very prominent point easily accessible to the public, with adequate parking, etc. Historical interpretation of the Fort structure would be handled by the National Park Service.

Any arrangement for the use of the Fort for park headquarters should include only the Fort proper, excluding the adjacent property.

XII. Service Employee Residences - St. Thomas

There are no areas within the town limits that would be available or desirable. An area adequate for quarters will be purchased on the road to Red Hook from Charlotte Amalie. The location would be outside, but close to the city limits. Water supply and sewage disposal would have to be provided regardless of where quarters are located. There is no adequate city water supply.

March 15, 1956

---

---