Hassel Island

Hassel Island forms the western edge of St. Thomas’ harbor. The island covers approximately 135 acres. The highest elevation on the island is the southern peak, at 267 feet.

Originally, Hassel Island was a peninsula. In the 1660s, the Danish government separated the land from mainland St. Thomas with the hopes of creating better water circulation in the harbor.

The earliest documentation of ownership on Hassel Island is under the name “Estato Orlandus”—lit. “This Danish name translates as “Hurricane Hole”.

Today, the island is named after James Hassell, the first owner of the land. There are many alternate spellings of the family name.

The fortifications on Hassel Island are the only surviving British fortifications from the Napoleonic Wars on U.S. soil.

Management Concerns

Dufusing, breaking or removing any natural or historical features on the island is prohibited.
Do not climb on hill-walls or structures; they crumble easily and serious injury can result.
Do not pick up any artifacts.
Some plants are poisonous. Do not touch or taste any unfamiliar plant.

Private property exists on Hassel Island. Please respect property owners’ rights; do not trespass.
It is illegal to litter on park land or in park waters. Please help keep Hassel Island beautiful by packing up your personal trash and disposing of it on St. Thomas.
Fires are prohibited.

Hassel Island Historic Trails

Trail Head
Shiley’s Battery Trail
Officers’ Quarters Trail
Cowell’s Trail

Historic sites or visible ruins
Numbers correspond to descriptions on reverse

Private property boundaries
Virgin Islands government property

Legend

0
0.2 miles

North