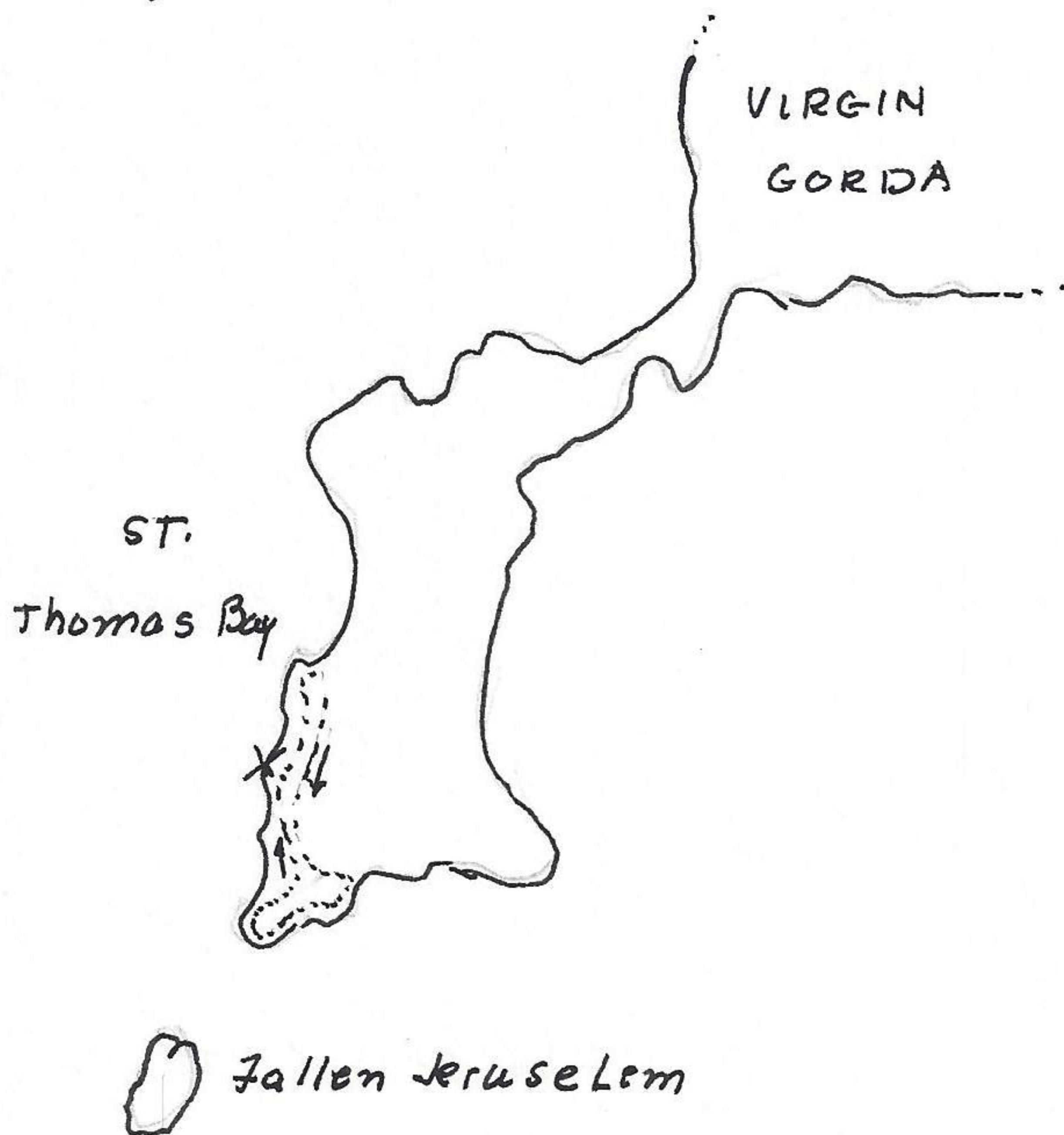


Virgin Gorda, Virgin Islands

Aug. 18, 1957

Trip to Virgin Gorda with Supt. Harold Hubler and wife, Thomas Donnelly and wife and 4 guests from St. Thomas at the SW end of this island.



Took 9 pictures in this area of large rocks (570818-1) to (570818-9). These rocks are clewite which is a close relative of granite and because they were formed at great depths and cooled slowly they fractured into large blocks. These blocks have been eroded by general atmospheric elements although some high concretions suggest wave action at high levels of the ocean. The erosion is by concoidal fracture and surface grain deterioration. The clewite is made of phenocrysts of feldspar, microcline and others. Some of these individual blocks are about 90' high. The areas between the blocks are very in-

teresting and cool. On short trip to north and then to south to extreme tip and return, observed the following birds: Killdeer (2 pairs); smooth-billed ani, gray headed Kingbird; grassquit (nest of 3 eggs) placed in cacti; laughing gull; noddy; tern; mockingbird; western sandpiper; red-necked pigeon (?); ground dove; and 5 species of lizards - Anolis crestellus, Anolis stratellus; Ameiva; Sphaerodactylus. Some Ameiva extremely large. This island is connected with the large island adjoining would be an excellent island to study as it is easy to get about and there are unique ecological niches not represented on other islands. This island of large boulders (not main Virgin Gorda) is an exposed part of a batholith which, submerged, carries west thru Sir Francis Drake Channel to near the eastern end of St. Thomas Island. The following reconstruction shows a possible way in which these islands could have been formed. This idea is only a working hypothesis. The infolding is from shrinkage and convection of the surface of the earth. The volcanic bombs at point NE of Caneel Bay and the great thickness of volcanic