



National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago

HERITAGE

Newsletter

• November 2015 •



Photo: Butler's Cottage, Nelson Island

Welcome to this first edition of the Heritage newsletter, as we seek to update members on the initiatives that have been undertaken within recent months. The National Trust continues to pursue its mandate to safeguard the built and natural heritage by listing heritage properties, undertaking research, hosting educational lectures and films, promoting awareness of heritage and ensuring the preservation and conservation of the Nelson Island Heritage Site.

We have had the benefit of a Council for ten months, gained additional staff and hired interns to assist with projects during the July/August vacation period. The National Trust is now placed under the Ministry of Planning and Development, and we look forward to continuing the work to ensure that the preservation of heritage is the concern of every citizen in Trinidad and Tobago.

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1. LISTING OF SITES



Signing ceremony on July 21st 2015, with Dr. the Hon. Rodger Samuel, Minister of National Diversity and Social Integration, Professor Winston Suite, Chairman of the National Trust, Permanent Secretary Mrs. Joy Persad-Myers, Deputy Permanent Secretary Mr. Claudelle McKellar, Council Members, Margaret McDowall, Vice-Chair; Michele Celestine, Secretary and Geoffrey McLean, Member and Valerie Taylor, Interim CEO of the National Trust.

In July 2015, Dr. the Hon. Rodger Samuel, Minister of National Diversity and Social Integration and Professor Winston Suite, Chairman of the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago officially signed the Register of Heritage Sites for the addition of seventeen sites. Thirty heritage sites across Trinidad and Tobago are now legally protected under the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act. (Act 11 of 1991)

Sites Listed:

1. Carnegie Free Library, San Fernando
2. CLR James House, Tunapuna
3. 58 Piccadilly Street, Port of Spain
4. Calvary Hill Stations of the Cross, Calvary Hill, Laventille
5. St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church, Belmont.
6. St. Joseph R.C. Church, St. Joseph
7. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Independence Square, Port of Spain
8. George Brown House, 6 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain
9. Ortinola Great House, Acono, Maracas Valley, St. Joseph
10. Kong's Store and Cocoa/Coffee Clearing House, Corner De Gannes and Hosein Streets, Arima.
11. Shiva Mandir, 1 Railway Road, Reform Village, Gasparillo
12. Lopinot House, Lopinot Historical Complex, Lopinot Settlement, via Arouca
13. The San Fernando Railway Station, King's Wharf, San Fernando.
14. Lord Harris Square, Port of Spain
15. Arima Dial - Intersection of Queen Street and Broadway , Arima
16. Naipaul House, 26 Nepaul Street, St. James.
17. Greyfriars Church, 51 Frederick Street, Port of Spain.



2. WOODFORD SQUARE: FIRST HERITAGE DISTRICT



On December 11th 2014, Cabinet declared eight properties around Woodford Square as the Woodford Square Heritage District.

The area around and including Woodford Square contains the largest number of important civic buildings in close proximity, which by virtue of their beautiful architecture and outstanding design, capture the country's diverse, vibrant and rich history.

The sites are:

The Red House -1892

The Old Fire Station - 1896

The Holy Trinity Cathedral - 1818

The Old Public Library - 1901

The Old Police Station/Headquarters - 1876

The Cabildo Building -1826

The Greyfriars Church - 1838 and

The "Conquerabia" Mural at City Hall by Carlisle Chang - 1962.

Woodford Square is noted as one of the capital's busiest public squares and recognized as a place of political gatherings, entertainment, discussions and craft markets. During the Independence Movement it was known as "The University of Woodford Square".

The Heritage District designation is important in the pursuit of a heritage economy, as it can lend to many opportunities through economic revitalization and diversification

Photos provided by Joshua Lue Chee Kong



The Old Police Station 1876



The Old Public Library 1901

3. NELSON ISLAND HERITAGE SITE



Nelson Island is one of the Five Islands off Trinidad's west coast in the Gulf of Paria, comprising approximately 5 acres.



Historically Nelson Island was used as a landing and immigration depot, and quarantine facility for East Indian indentured immigrants during the period 1866 to 1917.

From 1917 to the mid-1930's, the island was used as a repatriation center for ex-indentureds returning to India.

Nelson Island remained largely underutilized until 1939, when it was used as a detention centre for a sole detainee. The renowned labour, political and religious leader, Tubal Uriah Butler, was incarcerated from 1937 to 1939 and then during World War II up until 1945.

Austrian and German Jews declared "enemy aliens" were detained on the island for three months during World War II.

During the 1970 Black Power Revolution, the property was again used as a detention centre to detain activists of the Black Power Movement to curb the spread of their ideology.

The island has since been placed under the jurisdiction of the National Trust.

Restoration work has been undertaken on the buildings on the island with slight modifications and a replica Butler's cottage has been built.

On Nelson Island can be found one of the oldest roofed buildings standing in Trinidad and Tobago, which was begun in 1802.

The National Trust is now focused on educating the public as to the importance of this historic property, by hosting events to commemorate all the peoples who were housed at the island through the years.

Plans are afoot for further restoration, as well as conservation and beautification projects. Promotion of the island continues to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago, as an outstanding symbol of the heritage.



One of the oldest roofed buildings begun in 1802

4. NELSON ISLAND EXPERIENCE

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration

THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1970 REVISITED

THE NELSON ISLAND EXPERIENCE

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL, 2015

Tickets available at the National Trust office at 623-9311 ext 2073/2074 and the Water Taxi Terminals

ADULTS - \$150.00 CHILDREN - \$75.00

TOURS • DRAMA • SPOKEN WORD • EXHIBITS • REFRESHMENTS

DEPARTURE
Water Taxi SOUTH Terminal - 10:00AM
Water Taxi NORTH Terminal - 11:00AM

In recognition of historic events that took place on Nelson Island, the National Trust hosted a series of commemoration initiatives during the months of April, May and June highlighting the 1970 Black Power Movement, Indian Arrival and Tubal Uriah Butler.

The objective was to create awareness of the cultural heritage of Trinidad and Tobago, by providing an understanding of the impact of the Black Power Movement, the indentured immigrants' experience and the legacy of Butler.

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration

THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INDIAN ARRIVAL

The Nelson Island Experience

SATURDAY 23RD & SUNDAY 24TH MAY, 2015

ADULTS - \$200.00 | CHILDREN \$100

Tickets available at the National Trust office at 623-9311 ext 2073/2075 Mobile: 308-8197 / 390-6521

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WATER TAXI TERMINALS

SATURDAY DEPARTURE
Water Taxi SOUTH Terminal - 10:30AM
Water Taxi NORTH Terminal - 11:30AM

SUNDAY DEPARTURES
Water Taxi SOUTH Terminal - 6:30AM
Water Taxi NORTH Terminal - 7:30AM
Water Taxi SOUTH Terminal - 10:30AM
Water Taxi NORTH Terminal - 11:30AM

TOURS • CULTURAL PERFORMANCE • EXHIBITS • REFRESHMENTS ON SALE!

The events targeted students of primary, secondary and tertiary schools as well as members of the general public, thus providing on-site education to 972 students and 2,096 adults. The programme featured dramatic presentations, cultural performances, lectures, guided tours, photographic exhibitions, book displays, films and workshops.

Lectures were delivered by Professor Winston Suite, Chairman of the National Trust, Dr. Hollis Liverpool, Clive Nunez, Dr. Fazal Ali, and Mr. Shamshu Deen. Cultural performances were enjoyed from Bro. Valentino, New Butler Associate College, Bro. Resistance, Vikash School of Dance and Surya Stars Tassa Group among others.

The National Trust has since completed a listing of Nelson Island Detainees and information brochures on the 1970 Black Power Movement and Tubal Uriah Butler.

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration

THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TUBAL URIAH BUTLER

THE NELSON ISLAND EXPERIENCE

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

ADULTS: \$200 CHILDREN: \$100

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE Water Taxi Terminal, North and South and at the National Trust Office 35A Wrightson Road Port of Spain

Telephone Contact 623-9311 ext 2075, 2074 or 308-8197, 390-6521

DEPARTURE
Water Taxi SOUTH Terminal - 10:30AM
Water Taxi NORTH Terminal - 11:30AM

TOURS • CULTURAL PERFORMANCE • EXHIBITS • Refreshments on Sale

Preserving One's Heritage

In Middlesbrough, UK, a 900 year old medieval church, boarded up before the 1980's, vandalized for decades, and damaged by fire was on the point of being demolished.

The St. Helen's Church, a listed property, was saved when permission was granted to deconstruct and rebuild the church 40 miles away.

The church was in a total state of disrepair, as the fire had destroyed the roof and windows, the vestry was demolished, stonework and furnishings had been

stolen and the stained glass was smashed.

The church was dismantled by four workers, brick by brick, with each brick numbered. It took over a month to move and was then placed into storage for 10 years.

An amnesty was granted to return stolen stonework and metal, but the project was subject to delays of funding for over two years.

After restoration, the church was finally opened in November 2015 to showcase the heritage of the region. Surely a lesson to be learnt.

5. COUNTRYSTYLE COMMUNITY TOURISM

The National Trust was approached by the village of Lopinot since 2012, with regard to achieving Heritage Village Status. A comprehensive proposal was submitted listing all the historic properties and the natural sites of the village.

In order to ensure that the project could be sustainable, the Trust with the support of the Tourism Development Company engaged Community Tourism Consultant, Dr. Diana McIntyre-Pike of Jamaica to conduct her “Villages As Businesses” workshop from July 10th to 14th.

This workshop has been developed by Dr. Pike to help small businesses understand the concept of Countrystyle Community Tourism, and how they can adapt their small projects to develop viable small business in the tourism field within their communities.



The workshops were well attended by the villagers who gained valuable knowledge and insights into how a community can come together to grow into a successful village business.

Participants had the opportunity to present project proposals and at the end of the workshop received Certificates of Participation.

Arising from this initiative, has been the formation of a Lopinot Countrystyle Community Tourism Steering Committee, which will now take the project of “Villages as Businesses” forward.

Top Right: Count Lopinot House

Right: Dr. McIntyre-Pike lecturing during the workshop.

Bottom: Participants at the workshop.



6. NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE EVENTS



Trinidad Government Railway

The history of the Trinidad Government Railway was shared at an informative lecture in July by Glen Beadon, Railway Historian. He gave an historical perspective with photos and video footage, tracing from Engine 1 to Engine 42, and revealed to many for the first time the railway transportation system which operated in Trinidad. Mr. Beadon identified projects for restoration of engines, railway stations and equipment which should be undertaken in the preservation of our heritage. It was indeed a fascinating presentation which brought nostalgia to some and allowed many to gain a true insight as to the possibility of a railway system in the future.

Sangre Grande

In August, Sangre Grande celebrated 118 years, and to commemorate the grand occasion, a lecture was held with feature speakers renowned historian Michael Anthony and Professor Kelvin Singh. Historical photos supplied by Glen Beadon, Clarence M. Drake and Kennedy DeCoteau were displayed showcasing Sangre Grande in the olden days.

Photo: Professor Kelvin Singh

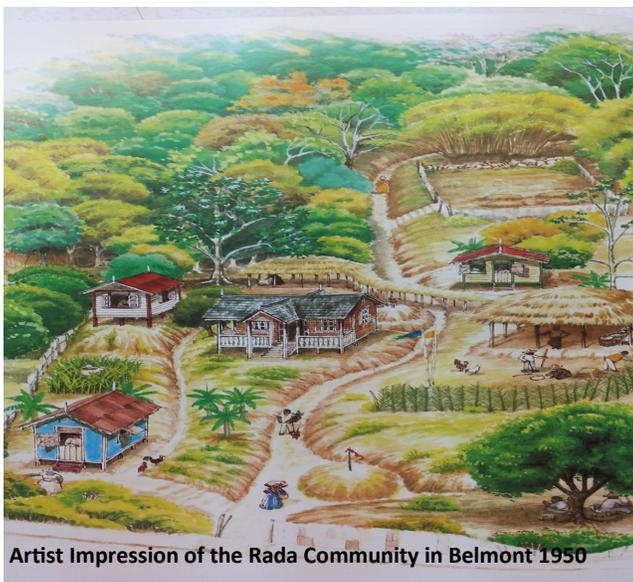


Nelson Island Film

In August, the National Trust participated in a SO.ZI event, which featured films showcasing the heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.

The National Trust was the host on 29th August and the film "Changing Tides: Nelson Island and the Making of Trinidad" was shown.

This was an opportunity to bring awareness of the Heritage Site to many persons, and to garner support for the work of the National Trust.



Artist Impression of the Rada Community in Belmont 1950

Rada Community

On September 16th the Heritage Lecture Series featured Chief Henry Antoine of the Rada Community of Antoine Lane, Belmont.

Chief Antoine spoke on the traditions of the Rada, whose origins are traced to Benin, West Africa. The religion, ceremonies, music, specifically drumming, and cultural lifestyle are still retained and practised to the present day.

The Radas have been influential in the area of culture, and many prominent persons have come out of the community. Insights were gained into the parallels of West African practices carried out by the Rada and Yoruba communities in Trinidad.

6. NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE EVENTS

First Peoples Heritage Week

In October, the National Trust participated in the First Peoples Exhibition in Woodford Square by setting up a booth, where information was shared on the role of the Trust, membership and upcoming events.

Members of the public were able to view the film “Buried Treasure”, highlighting Amerindian heritage in Trinidad and Tobago.



Five Islands Cruise and Nelson Island Tour

An educational cruise was conducted in September, which provided information on the Diego Islands - Kronstadt and Carrera, the Five Islands - Caledonia, Lenagan, Craig, Pelican and Rock, with a guided tour of the Nelson Island Heritage Site.

Attendees obtained geographic and historic data on the importance of these islands in the history of Trinidad and Tobago. Guided tours were conducted of the Hall of the Peoples, Building C Jail Cells, the Mess Hall, Butler's Cottage, the ruins of Marion Hospital, the Gun Emplacement and the Gun Bunkers. Some chose to walk the trails exploring and taking the time to discover the many interesting and historic features of the island.



Vintage Calypso On Nelson Island

In October, Lord Superior and his band were featured on Nelson Island in celebration of Calypso History Month in the promotion of cultural heritage.

The iconic Lord Superior thrilled the audience singing hits like Brass Crown, Girl Born in January, Bed Bug and Frozen Chicken. Attendees also had the pleasure of hearing Bro. Mudada and Abebele as part of the band.

D Alberto visiting from London was an attendee at the event and charmed the audience with his sweet vocals. The band performed for over an hour singing the hits from the 1950's through the 70's, filling in with anecdotes about the industry and the great bards in the artform. The audience was truly appreciative and this is certainly an event to look forward to next year in October.

Volunteer Photography Project

In July, the National Trust sent out a call through the University of the West Indies for volunteer photographers to take photos of historic sites throughout the country. An orientation session was held with participants, who were then provided with a listing of sites to be visited. The project was held over a three month period after which the photos had to be submitted to the Trust.

Over 3,000 photos were received, and the Trust is now undertaking to compile the photographic record, and mount exhibitions throughout the country of the outstanding work done by the volunteers. Special thanks to all those who participated.

7. NATIONAL TRUST PROJECTS



Marlon Green, Research Assistant at the National Trust (left) accepts the donation from Supervisor, Mrs Sarah Durrant (right) of Unicomer Ltd.

The National Trust recently set up a Research and Resource Centre, which contains a collection of publications featuring the history of Trinidad and Tobago. There is also a collection of DVD's which are records of many of the lectures hosted by the Trust, with a few documentaries on historic events.

The Trust recently received a wide screen television and DVD player from Unicomer Limited (Courts) as valued additions to its Resource Centre. Students and members of the general public have begun to use the Centre to undertake research projects.

The National Trust has improved its Reception area setting up a small Gift Shop, which sells publications including "The Built Heritage of Trinidad and Tobago", written for the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad & Tobago. T-shirts highlighting Nelson Island events, cards and other memorabilia are also available, Feel free to visit during working hours: 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.



Historic Signage in Rio Claro

Rio Claro celebrated the bicentennial of the Railway in 2013, and the Trust was invited by the Rio Claro Railway Centennial Committee, comprising of the Mayaro Rio Claro Regional Corporation and the Ministry of Community Development, to assist in the design of signage, to be placed at some of its historic sites.

Signage was created for Knollys Tunnel, the Railway Station, Jeffers Bridge, Jeffers Halt, the Post Office, Scale House and the Halfway House.

The sign at the entrance to Rio Claro was done in a four panel style, which is typical for heritage signage, clearly identifying the historic sites for visitors to Rio Claro. This initiative will be continued throughout the country in towns and communities.

Photo top: Arnold Persad
Photos bottom: Diana John



8. SUPPORTING HERITAGE



Interns at the National Trust

Six interns were able to benefit from vacation employment at the National Trust during the months June to September.

The interns were able to gain a fuller appreciation of national heritage by working on projects on Nelson Island, attending lectures with historians, participating in the Lopinot workshop, assisting with research and being exposed to the operations at the office.

Interns standing: Julien Helle, Domnik Jones-Armour, Brandon Jones-Chow Lin On and Chike Pilgrim . Standing far left and right, Staff Members: Analicia Boyce and Kara Roopsingh. Seated: Professor Winston Suite, Chairman, Michele Celestine, Secretary, Valerie Taylor, Interim CEO .

Appreciation

The work of the National Trust is not possible without the support of many companies and persons, who kindly lend financial and other support for many of the initiatives and projects undertaken. The National Trust would like to thank the following for their invaluable contributions:

- Alescon Readymix Ltd.
- National Infrastructure Development Co. Ltd. (NIDCO)
- National Lotteries Control Board
- First Citizens
- Roger Rajan of Voltec Engineering
- Glen Beadon
- Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry & Commerce
- Earth Company Limited
- Don Carrington—Seamar Divers Trinidad Ltd.
- NALIS
- National Archives
- ASJA
- SWAHA
- Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment & Communications
- Professor Kelvin Singh
- WACK 90.1
- Arthur Sanderson
- Citizens for Conservation
- BG Trinidad and Tobago Limited
- Intercontinental Shipping Limited

Become a member today! Help Safeguard our Heritage!

35 A Wrightson Road,

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1 (868) 623-3832 or 623-9311 Ext: 2073 / 2075



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