



THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Annual Report 2021-2022

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The National Trust was established by the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act, chapter 40:53 of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago. An important part of its mandate is to preserve, manage, maintain, repair and service natural and built heritage properties of interest and to make provision for the access to and enjoyment of these properties by the public. According to the Act, the Trust is deemed to be a charitable institution of a public character. It is managed by a Council that reports to a Minister responsible for National Heritage, which at this time is the Minister of Planning and Development. Six of the eleven members of Council are appointed by the Minister but at least three of these must be from organisations that have similar objectives to the National Trust.

The membership of the National Trust elects the other five members of Council, allowing the public to have a voice and make a contribution to the preservation of National Heritage. There are now 3,000 members registered and the numbers are growing steadily. In the past five years the staff has grown from two assistants to sixteen persons versed in heritage preservation and research, education and outreach, administration and finance and business development, sales and marketing. The National Trust has become well known for its tours, trips, exhibitions and lectures throughout the length and breadth of the country and focuses on a wide range of clients from the thousands of school children to senior citizens and active adults.

It utilises partnerships with state and private organisations to enable the management, maintenance and repair works to be done on the properties it manages. It has several years of experience in event management and outreach as well as facility management. As a response to the limits on public congregation, the National Trust has created virtual tours and is beginning to advertise tour packages catering to smaller numbers and will be rolling out additional videos, films, webinars and lectures utilising its website and social media platforms.

The National Trust completed a Strategic Plan in 2019, which lays out the road map for successful growth and development. It has through its associate membership with the International National Trust Organisation, been able to forge links with National Trusts across the world and in particular in all of the Caribbean. In fact a close working relationship has developed with the Barbados, Guyana, Bermuda and St Lucia National Trusts and the Heritage Trust of Curacao, all of whom own and successfully manage hundreds of historic properties.

The National Trust is a membership-based organisation which generates income as well as receives stipends from the State. Its governance and financial structure enable it to respond quickly to the needs of the properties that are under its control. Its audited accounts are produced annually and provided to its members and the general public as well as to its client Ministry.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, MARGARET MCDOWALL

The year October 2021 – September 2022 began with the National Trust moving into our heritage space – at least we made an accommodation so this could be our address. Our official offices will be mainly in the Mews, which has not been outfitted as yet. The only unit that was basically in place was the Trust shop which occupies a ground floor room of the Heritage House. The rest of the departments have rotated their staff in two of the rooms on the first floor. Unfortunately, this accommodation has come without air-conditioning and that has been the greatest challenge we have faced since then. Fortunately, this will soon be behind us as the Ministry of Planning and Development has allocated the funds for us to complete the Mews and also complete the Heritage House, which still does not have disabled access and air conditioning.

You will remember that while the restrictions on gathering were being relaxed, there was still some reluctance to participate in public gatherings and so while we began some of our usual activities, the scale and numbers had to be reduced, which of course resulted in less revenue gained than before the Pandemic. Fortunately, the Heritage House was very attractive for persons who wished to have small gatherings and photo opportunities and we were able to get some revenue to make up for some of the shortfall of the revenue we required to keep operating.

The National Trust also used this venue to create events and we had exhibitions for Divali, Christmas, Carnival and Easter plus a large sale of Antiques. In addition, Mille Fleurs was chosen as one of the three venues for the highly successful ‘Patriartism’ art festival and was the location for the elaborate closing ceremony. While we did not receive any revenue for this event, we did get the funding to complete a classy heritage -themed bathroom wing and we showcased the potential of the space, which did result in bookings. The Education and Outreach department continued their virtual lectures and tours, resulting in an extremely successful ten-week lecture series with the Dutch Embassy on the shipwrecks in the Tobago harbour. This really demonstrated the potential of expanding our clientele to the heritage enthusiasts and professionals over the world.

These lectures, tours, blogs and videos produced in conjunction with the Heritage Preservation and Research Department, are still accessible on our YouTube channel and this has certainly increased the online education thrust of the website. We also were successful in getting the water taxi to undertake one sailing for Indian Arrival Day and that opened the appetite for more events of that kind. Before I leave the Outreach and Education Department, I should mention the participation of one of its members, in a ‘Re-Imagining International Sites of Enslavement’ programme, a collaboration between the International National Trust (INTO) and the American



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, MARGARET MCDOWALL

National Trust which used the Lopinot Historical Complex as its local project.

I should also recognize the Business Development and Marketing Coordinator who has extended his scope to the coordination of all the departments.

The Heritage, Preservation and Research Department (HPRD) continued apace as they had already adjusted their workflows and internal communication to the online world. While each came into office one day per week, one would hardly have known from the level of work they produced. This unit used the time to complete and list 8 properties of interest and complete additional dossiers of other properties, undertook a rigorous examination of the heritage assets lists and register that existed, ensuring that the information was complete and correct so that the new inventory of Heritage Assets is robust and with the assistance of the Outreach Department, was able to increase the information on the sites and in particular locational information that then could be provided to the regional corporations and state agencies. This year the HPRD commenced the monitoring process starting with Listed properties. This task plus the overall increased profile of the HPRD has resulted in the growth of requests for information and advice from government agencies in particular.

This department also began to implement the Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago -the grant project funded by the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, which is aimed at understanding climate change as it relates to selected heritage sites with a view of increasing their resilience to the increasing sea level rise.

The HPRD also carefully documented the traditional construction of the Benab at the Banwari burial site so that this can be used as an educational tool. The staff also collaborated with the O&E Department as well as community groups to assist in celebrating the various cultural and historical events that this country had and thus demonstrate how important and interesting our heritage is. I must also mention the sterling contribution to the Woodbrook Residents Association, which included becoming the publisher for their book, but also facilitating the launch, the communication and liaison with all the stakeholders that were needed to make this book a reality.

This year also saw Nelson Island beginning to emerge as a heritage hospitality centre as much of the basic infrastructure was improved, including the toilets, sewer system, additional solar lighting, a deck in the main assembly area, general improvement to the lighting guttering, handrails, paintwork and a wooden slipway to the waters edge.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, MARGARET MCDOWALL

The Facilities department also successfully commenced the benab at the Banwari Burial Site which had been delayed due to the pandemic restrictions the year prior.

The year that has just ended will be reported upon more fully in the next annual report. Suffice to say that I am pleased at the resilience of all staff members in particular who despite the lack of accommodation have continued to enthusiastically use all of their resources to achieve our goals. We are currently preparing our new Strategic plan and we know that our greatest asset is our staff, Council and subcommittee members whose names are all published in this annual report. I heartily thank you all. I must mention the contribution of the Honorable Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Ministry of Planning and Development – several of whose departments and agencies are aligned to the work we are doing and have assisted us throughout the year. We have also worked well with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Works and Transportation. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

Finally, I want to thank all the National Trust Members, many of whom have volunteered with us, read our articles, provided feedback and advice, and participated in the tours, lectures, and exhibitions. We appreciate your support. And we know that we will grow from strength to strength.

Margaret McDowall
Chairman



Our Team

Council

- Margaret McDowall, Chairman
- Neisha Ghany, Deputy Chairman
- Dominic Romain, Treasurer
- Candice Ramsaran, Secretary
- Jacqueline Weekes Penco, Appointed Member
- Marie Abdulah, Elected Member
- Mark Franco, Elected Member
- Dr Ryan Mohammed, Elected Member
- Cezanne Chang, Elected Member

Tenders Committee

Landmarks Committee

- Rudylynn De Four Roberts
- Mark Franco
- Dr Ryan Mohammed
- Dr Avril Siung Chang

Staff

Administration Department

- Shamila Ramcharan, CEO
- Pauline Philip, Operations Coordinator
- Kathleen Kanhai-Buhjawan, Accountant
- Margaret Harewood, Accounts Clerk

Heritage Preservation and Research Department

- Kara Roopsingh, Senior Heritage Preservation and Research Officer
- Karishma Nanhu, Heritage Preservation and Research Officer
- Nesyamn Ranut, Heritage Preservation and Research Officer
- Ashleigh Morris, Heritage Preservation and Research Officer
- Maya Doyle-Fox, Research Officer
- Catherine Serrant, Research Assistant

Projects and Facilities Department

- Kumi De Souza, Senior Projects and Facilities Officer
- Sean Austin, Facilities Technician
- Junior Marcano, Facilities Custodian
- Courtney Martin, Custodian

Outreach and Education Department

- Graeme Suite, Business Development and Marketing Coordinator
- Joseph Bertrand, Outreach and Education Officer
- Marlon Green, Outreach and Education Officer
- Cheryl Ali, Sales and Reception Officer
- Tiy Cross-Lovelace, Social Media, Marketing and Outreach Officer
- Carlene Philip, Outreach Assistant



TREASURER'S REPORT



Financial year 2022 presented mixed fortunes for the Trust. The decision to employ innovative strategies in 2020 and 2021 in an effort to keep our membership and other stakeholders engaged with the Trust during the Covid lockdown, bore fruit in 2022 resulting in a 118% increase in Trust generated income from \$227,683 in 2021 to \$495,726 in 2022.

As soon as the Covid restrictions were lifted, we set about to capitalize on the public's yearning for a return to some semblance of recreational normalcy, mainly through our tour offerings which saw a 153% increase in revenue generated over the previous year from \$100,581 in 2021 to \$253,256 in 2022.

Our in house tours, coupled with heightened social media marketing brought increased foot traffic to Mille Fleurs and this exposure put the heritage house in the spotlight as a now much sought after venue for a host of revenue earning activities for the organization.

Unfortunately, the improved performance in the aforementioned area was not sufficient to overcome the challenges presented by the decline in our main income source for fiscal 2022, that of government subvention which fell by almost \$1m from the previous year.

The Trust posted a realized net income for FY 2022 of \$3,245,001 as opposed to \$4,011,334 in 2021, a decline of almost 20%.

As such 2022 ended with another disappointing deficit of \$565,488 as compared to \$161,756 the previous year. This would put a significant dent in our surplus in the general reserve fund which ended the year at \$462,473 down from \$1,027,961 in 2021.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Increased Trust activity also brought increased expenses, whereby general and administrative expenses for 2022 increased by approximately \$400k over the 2021 comparative primarily in the areas of Trust events and other contracted services, Nelson Island maintenance and security services.

These mixed results, encouraging in some areas but seemingly disappointing in most, underscore the absolute imperative for the Trust to become more financially self sufficient. It is a reality not lost to the Trust Council and one of which we are intimately aware.

We are of the unflinching view that heritage awareness and preservation can play integral roles in the country's development through its diversification thrust and the National Trust stands ready and willing to lead this charge.

To this end, the Council, ably assisted by the general staff continues to work tirelessly in finding novel solutions to not only improve the financial standing of the Trust but also hasten the execution of its strategic mandate and plan. These include membership growth which has seen a noted uptick within recent times, attributable to the increased promotion and visibility of the Trust across various social media platforms, new tours, rental of the Mille Fleurs heritage house by both private and corporate entities and other forms of public engagement.

Particular focus is also being placed on accessing international grant funding for heritage related projects, as the Trust was the beneficiary of same in 2022 to the tune of USD \$200k for our Resilient Heritage project.

We have established strategic partnerships with several members of the diplomatic corps with a view to cementing their patronage and support for our various ventures.

The Trust continues to enhance and upgrade the offerings of the historic sites that fall under our charge to ensure they remain aesthetically appealing and relevant.

We have also boosted our school outreach initiative as we seek to promote heritage awareness and inculcate a heightened sense of appreciation for our heritage assets among its

future custodians, that is our nation's children. This has resulted in an increased number of school tours to Nelson Island and Mille Fleurs as well as significant patronage of our newest and highly popular Magnificent 7 tour.

Visitor accommodation has been vastly improved at the Banwari Trace with the installation of a benab in 2022 and work continues on the site with additional upgrades planned.

The Council and staff of the National Trust continue to work assiduously to build an institution in which you the membership and all stakeholders can be pleased.



TREASURER'S REPORT

I take this opportunity to thank our auditors Aegis Business Solutions for the yeoman service which they have provided to us over the years but more so over the last year, in ensuring that we meet our statutory obligations as it pertains to the accurate production of our annual report.

On behalf of my Council colleagues, I thank you all for your unwavering support and look forward to same and even more in all of our future endeavors.

Dominic Romain,
Treasurer



Preservation & Research

In the period 2021-2022, the National Trust made significant strides in heritage preservation, successfully listing an additional sixteen (16) properties of interest. These were published in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette, taking the total number of Listed Properties of Interest to fifty-nine (59), all of which are protected under the National Trust Act of Trinidad and Tobago. You can view the complete list at <https://nationaltrust.tt/heritage-sites/listed-properties/>.



Understanding Properties of Interest

The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act, Chap 40:53, defines “properties of interest” as encompassing a wide range of categories. This includes monuments, fossils, places, or sites of natural beauty or those of national, historic, scientific, or archaeological significance.

A ‘monument,’ in this context, can be any structure or work created by either humans or nature, whether above or below the surface of the land or sea, which is of architectural, aesthetic, or historical importance.



The Significance of Listing

Listing is not just a simple act of designation. It is a comprehensive, legally binding process that provides properties of interest with both recognition and protection.

The term 'Listed Property of Interest' refers to any site, building, or object that has been accorded this legal safeguard under the National Trust Act.

Significantly, listing does not alter the ownership status of a property. The property remains in the possession of its current owner, who is free to sell it but is obliged to inform the National Trust if such an event occurs.

Listed sites and objects serve as tangible links to our nation's history and cultural heritage, and they are given legal protection against unauthorised demolition, alterations, and defacement. Should the property change hands, the new owner will also be bound by the same protective measures outlined by the listing category.



The Listing Process

The National Trust maintains an Inventory of Heritage Assets, an official compilation of historic sites across Trinidad and Tobago deemed noteworthy for potential listing. There are 455 sites on this Inventory. Properties can be nominated for inclusion by their owners or the general public via our website. However, being on the Inventory does not guarantee eventual listing.

For a property to move from the Inventory to become a Listed Property of Interest, it must meet specific National Trust Act and the official Listing Policy criteria. A rigorous evaluation is conducted, involving extensive research, the creation of a Dossier, and a meticulous assessment by the Landmarks Sub-Committee.

In summary, the listing process is rigorous and methodical, designed to ensure that only sites of true national significance are afforded the legal protections and public recognition they deserve.



PRESERVATION & RESEARCH - Newly Listed Properties of Interest



2021	
Cabildo Building	Grade 2
George Brown House	Grade 2
Knowsley	Grade 1
Naipaul House	Grade 3
PTSC (Trinidad Government Railway) Building	Grade 2
Lopinot House	Grade 2
Carnegie Free Library	Grade 3
Woodford Square	Grade B
2022	
President's House	Grade 3
Our Lady of Montserrat Roman Catholic Church	Grade 1
St James Police Barracks & Commissioner's Residence	Grade B
Rock Island	Grade B
Craig Island	Grade B
Lenagan Island	Grade B
Pelican Island	Grade B



Monitoring Programme Continues

Monitoring of Listed Properties of Interest continued in this period. The purpose of monitoring is to liaise with stakeholders and owners to ensure that the Properties are being maintained according to their grade and to maintain a relationship with them.

Exchange Village Mud Mandir

K.R. and K.N. from (HPRD) and RDR, D.S. visited the Mandir on 13/10/21 and documented the conditions of the Mandir

On the recommendation of RDR, HPRD worked to assist the Mandir with detailing of the Leepay work.

Reform Village Shiva Mandir

K.R. and K.N. from (HPRD) and RDR, D.S. visited the Mandir on 13/10/21 and documented the conditions of the Mandir.

Caurita Petroglyphs December 2021



Dossiers

A property of interest must have a dossier produced in order to be recommended for listing. The dossier is a comprehensive document that contains the pertinent details of a heritage asset being nominated for listing. This document must provide a history, justification against the criteria, measurements, photographs, drawings, surveys, descriptions and other pictorial or dimensional impressions of the heritage asset.

Property of Interest Dossiers Completed

- Carnegie Free Library
- Knowsley Building
- Naipaul House
- President's House (Port-of-Spain)
- Lapeyrouse Cemetery
- George Brown House
- The Five Islands
- Our Lady of Montserrat Roman Catholic Church



Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago is a grant project funded by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) through the U.S. Embassy Port of Spain and implemented by the National Trust in partnership with the University of Florida Historic Preservation Program (UFHP) and the Craig Group. It is a two-phase initiative aimed at advancing the resilience and long-term preservation of Trinidad and Tobago's historic sites and cultural resources as they are impacted by climate change.

The project's areas of focus are downtown Port of Spain (St. Vincent Jetty Lighthouse, Fort San Andres and the Port of Spain Old Railway Station, also known as the PTSC building) and the historically significant Nelson Island, located off the fishing village of Carenage.

In 2021, the Trust, with collaboration from UFHP, was one of 22 applicants from around the world to secure the highly competitive AFCP 20th Anniversary Partnership Program grant in 2021 and was awarded a total of U.S. \$ 199,960 for Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago.

The U.S. Department of State Federal Assistance Award was signed on September 20 2021, marking the commencement of preparations for the project's research.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the UFHP and the Trust was enacted on March 18 2022, allowing for initial data sharing among project partners and making way for the first visit by UFHP and the Craig Group to Trinidad, from April 24 to May 4 2022.

During this first visit, the official launch of research was signalled by an event held at the Mille Fleurs heritage house on April 26 2022, at which Margaret McDowall, Chairman of the National Trust, introduced stakeholders to the partnership project and its purpose. In attendance at the launch were the Honorable Penelope Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development, and Mr. Shante Moore, US Embassy Port of Spain Chargé d'Affaires.

Project partners took advantage of their first visit to Trinidad to tour project sites and gain an understanding of the country's socio-cultural context, interviewing and speaking to Trust staff and relevant stakeholders about their concerns regarding the condition of heritage structures. The team from UFHP also began the process of documenting and mapping the project sites, through the use of terrestrial LiDAR (laser scanning) technology and other digital imaging techniques, such as drone imaging and 3D photogrammetry.





The Craig Group led a series of stakeholder focus group sessions at the Kapok Hotel from 27th to 29th April 2022, to engage feedback from a wide cross section of stakeholders including government officials, civil society actors, community-based groups and faith-based organisations. The sessions focused on key thematic areas related to the project: Heritage Tourism, Nature-based Adaptation, Building Adaptation, Land Use Policy and Adaptation Strategies for the Future. The insights gleaned from these stakeholder sessions are to be included in findings provided by the project's final report, which is expected to be published in 2023. Work and activities towards completion of all project deliverables continue through December 2023.

Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago intends to serve as a model that can be replicated for the preservation of heritage sites across Trinidad and Tobago and in the wider Caribbean region. More information about Resilient Heritage Trinidad and Tobago can be found on the project website: <https://resilientheritagett.com/>.

The project had the primary goal of re-categorising the existing Inventory of Heritage Assets into approved categories, making the data readily accessible to the public through our website. This initiative aimed to optimise the Inventory for more effective heritage management.

The primary objective was to ensure the Inventory became a robust tool for heritage management, enabling heritage enthusiasts and professionals to access valuable information.

The Heritage Preservation and Research Department (HPRD) made significant progress in the Inventory categorisation process. Two distinct approaches were executed:

- Bare Bones Approach: This approach furnished an extensive list of heritage assets categorised by region.
- In-depth Approach: This approach delved deeper, emphasising the type of asset within specific municipalities.

Both approaches were meticulously developed, presented, and subsequently approved by the Landmarks Subcommittee on July 15, 2021.

Furthermore, the HPRD established an effective collaboration with the Outreach and Education department, fostering weekly interactions aimed at populating the various data fields. This leg of the project ended on September 1 2021 completing the following regions:

- Arima
- Chaguanas
- Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo
- Diego Martin
- Penal/Debe
- Port of Spain
- Point Fortin
- Princes Town
- Mayaro/Rio Claro
- San Juan/Laventille
- Sangre Grande
- Siparia
- Tobago
- Tunapuna/Piarco

This progress demonstrated a significant step towards providing the public with accessible and comprehensive heritage data. The collaborative efforts and dedication of the team involved contributed to the successful execution of this project. (Nesyamn Ranut)



PRESERVATION & RESEARCH - Site Visits

DATE OF SITE VISIT	LOCATION	CONTEXT
12th October 2021	St. James Barracks	This visit occurred to discuss the proposed demolition of one of the Old Female dormitories to make way for a new facility. (Nesyamn Ranut)
6th December 2021 7th December 2021 8th December 2021 12th December 2021	Fort George Lopinot Historical Complex Fort Picton River Estate Museum and Waterwheel	<p>A meeting took place on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, between the National Trust and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts (MTCA). During this session, the MTCA provided essential updates on the transfer of four historic sites from the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to their oversight.</p> <p>The MCTA articulated their commitment to restoring and repairing these sites, with initial priority given to the Lopinot Historical Complex and Fort George. In recognition of the National Trust's expertise in heritage preservation, they emphasised their intention to work in close collaboration and seek our approval throughout the project's duration. It was made clear that there is a sense of urgency in commencing the restoration work due to the acquisition of PSIP (Public Sector Investment Program) funding that has specific timelines for utilisation.</p> <p>Consequently, the MCTA invited the National Trust to visit the mentioned sites. (Nesyamn Ranut)</p>
22nd March 2022	Cabildo	The National Trust was asked to assess the damage to Cabildo building and to advise on how to proceed with its repair. (Nesyamn Ranut)
12th October 2022	Penny Bank	Site visit to assess the location to be adaptively reused as a Carnival museum



Collaboration with Success Laventille Networking Committee for African History Month 2021

The Heritage Preservation and Research Department (HPRD) collaborated with the San Juan Laventille Networking Committee and various stakeholders to develop its 2021 Emancipation into Calypso History Month and African History Month programs.

Most of the activities primarily involved the reposting of National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago (NTTT) articles focused on Emancipation and the Black experience in Trinidad and Tobago. Three NTTT articles were featured during this period:

- “Ring the Bell - A Look at the Spiritual Baptist Faith”
- “A Lion Amongst Men: The Story of ELMA FRANCOIS”
- “Rocking the Colonial Order: Brother Resistance and the Rapso Uprising”

Additionally, the Trust provided support for two panel discussions as part of African History Month:

November 16, 2021: “Pan Africanism and Persistent African struggles - referenced to 1970 and the Black Power Uprising”

Speakers:

- Mr. Khafra Kambon (Director of Regional and Pan-African Affairs, ESCTT, and Former Chairman ESCTT)
- Servant Kwasi Mutema (Leader of the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC))
- Servant Jawara Mobota (Chief Spiritual Elder and Chairman of the Council of Spiritual Elders, NJAC)
- Moderator: Sis. Ife Alleyne (Director of Youth Affairs, NJAC, and Principal of the New Butler Associate College)
- Focused Audience: Secondary Schools - History and Caribbean Studies Students.

November 18, 2021: “Cultural Reclamation: Slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and the impact on African culture in Trinidad and Tobago”

Speakers:

- Mr. Corey Gilkes (Independent Researcher & Representative, The Philosophical Society of T&T)
- Dr. Tyehimba Salandy (Africa Speaks Network (ASN))
- Servant Nyahuma Obika (Former T.T. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Former Deputy Political Leader of NJAC)
- Moderator: Mrs. Valerie Taylor (Education and Development Consultant, Former Interim CEO, National Trust T&T)
- Focused Audience: Secondary Schools - History and Caribbean Studies Students.





Banwari Benab Documentation

The Heritage Preservation and Research Department's mission includes the documentation of traditional buildings in Trinidad and Tobago, in alignment with Goal #3 of the Strategic Plan (2019-2023). Our recommended approach involves conducting research on traditional construction methods, using photography and videography.

In December 2021, the Senior Project & Facilities Officer confirmed that the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, our contracted partner, was on the cusp of constructing a benab, a traditional First Peoples hut, at the Banwari Trace Archaeological site. This benab is envisioned as a hub for educating the public about archaeology and the history of the indigenous peoples of Trinidad and Tobago.

The project is divided into three distinct phases:

Phase 1 - Planting the Benab's Support Posts:

- Sourcing, cutting, and transporting the necessary wood to the site (completed in December 2021).
- Site preparation, including cleaning and treating the posts on-site before they are erected.
- Laying out the footprint of the Benab, digging holes, and placing the support posts.

Phase 2 - Erecting the Roof Frame:

- Acquiring, transporting, and constructing the roof frame, along with associated activities.

Phase 3 - Completing the Roof with Timit Leaves:

- Adding Timit leaves to the roof frame for its completion.

The Trust assigned a two-member team, Graeme Suite and Nesyamn Ranut, to cover the benab construction. Their roles encompass videography, photography, and conducting interviews for comprehensive documentation. The team initiated its coverage on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, which commenced with the treatment of the construction materials, particularly the wood, with a wood pesticide/preservative.

On March 16, the team returned to capture the ceremonial blessing of the space and the subsequent digging of holes and placement of posts. On this occasion, Chief Bharath was interviewed, shedding light on the history of benabs and the approach to their construction. Subsequent visits on April 20 and May 11 allowed the team to observe the progress with the benab's frame on each occasion.

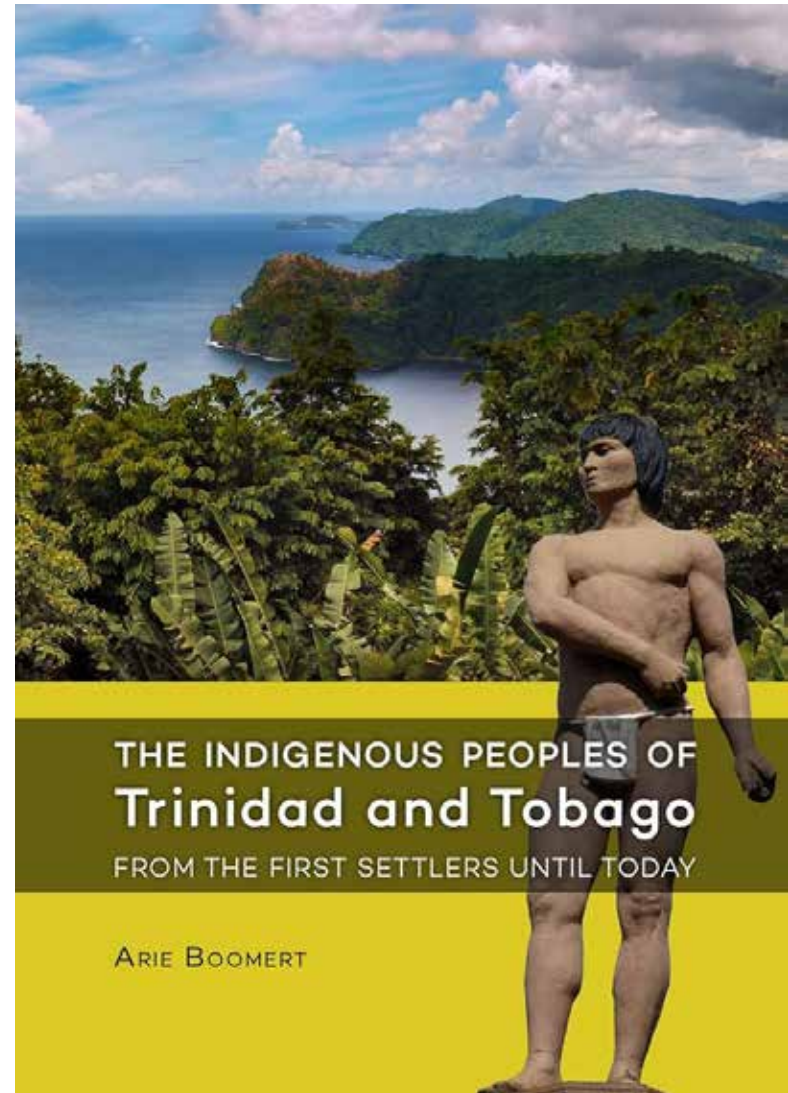
The team now awaits further instructions from the Chief of the Santa Rosa First Peoples regarding the next phase of construction.



Book Donation

International Day of the Words Indigenous Peoples 2021

On the occasion of “International Day of the Words Indigenous Peoples 2021” the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago made a special presentation of books to the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community. The books, “Indigenous Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago: From the First Settlers Until Today by Arie Boomert” were part of a larger collection received from The Royal Netherlands Institute of South Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), to the National Trust, on Heritage, Archaeology and History in the Caribbean, some of which were earmarked for the Santa Rosa First Peoples.



Lecture Series: From Vlissingen to Nieuw Walcheren: The Dutch Presence in Tobago and the West Indies

The Virtual Conference: "From Vlissingen to Nieuw Walcheren: The Dutch Presence in Tobago & The West Indies," was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Trinidad and Tobago, the Scarborough Harbour/1677 Rockley Bay Research Project, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Sint Maarten, and Tobago Library Services. Running from December 2021 to January 2022, the lecture series featured 11 presentations that offered an in-depth look at the Dutch colonial legacy in Tobago and the wider West Indies.

This multi-organisational and interdisciplinary event attracted scholars, historians, and researchers, contributing to an enriching and wide-ranging discourse. The virtual format allowed us to reach a broad and geographically diverse audience, thereby meeting our objectives of fostering scholarly dialogue and public engagement on this important historical topic. The quality of presentations was highly praised, confirming the event's role as a landmark in the study of Dutch colonial legacy in the West Indies. We extend our deepest gratitude to all partners and participants, and look forward to future collaborations and scholarly pursuits in the coming year.



The poster features the Kingdom of the Netherlands logo at the top left. The main title "FROM VLISSINGEN TO NIEUW WALCHEREN" is in large orange letters, with the subtitle "THE DUTCH PRESENCE IN TOBAGO & THE WEST INDIES" in blue below it. The background is a historical painting of a harbor. A blue banner contains the text: "Jacob Benckes: His Adventurous Life and Strange Surprising Legacy". Below this is a photo of Jan de Vries, with his name "Jan de Vries" in large orange letters and "Author and Independent Researcher" in white below it. To the right, a white box says "Jan 14th 2022". At the bottom, a blue bar contains the text: "Atlantic Standard Time - 10:00 am | Central European Time - 3:00 pm".



THE NATIONAL TRUST
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Tobago Library Services
ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

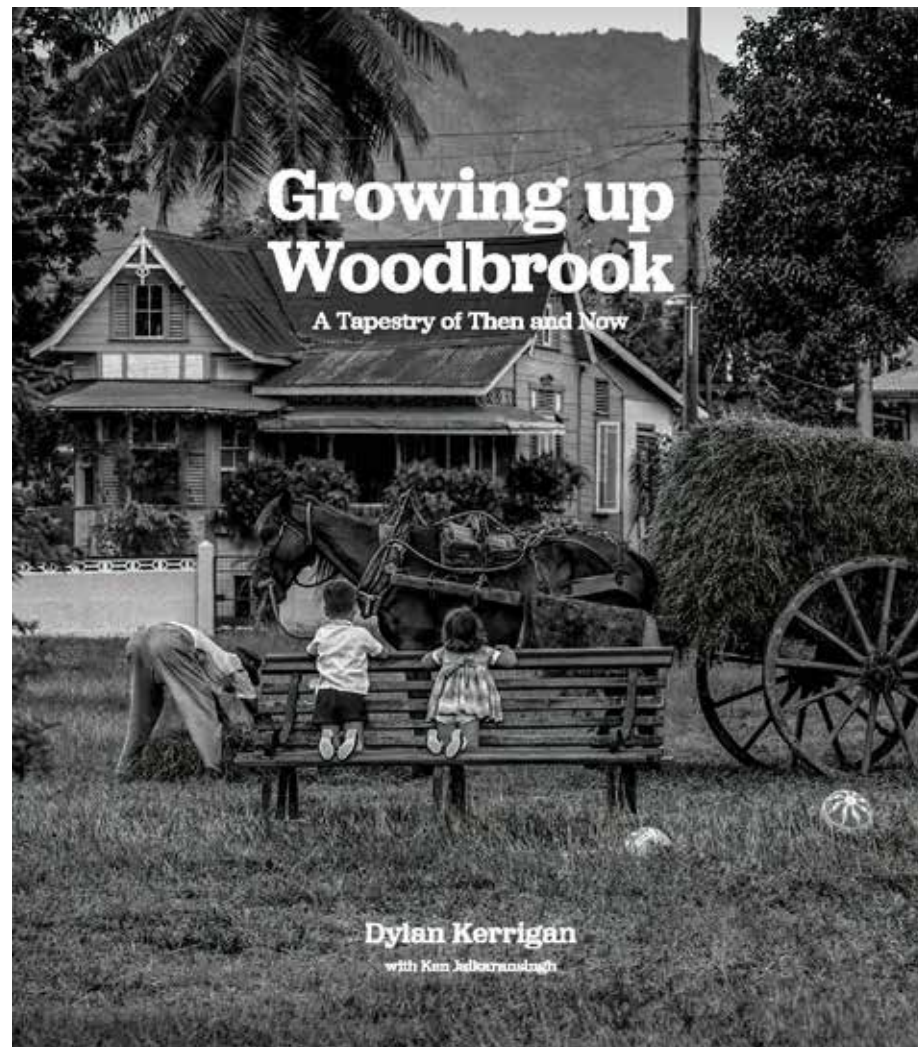


National Trust Becomes Publisher

The National Trust began the process of applying for an ISBN number for the publication of Growing Up Woodbrook book on February 25, 2022 and received our ISBN Number on March 9 2022 for the Growing Up Woodbrook publication. (Nesyamn Ranut)

Growing Up Woodbrook Book Project

The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago and The Woodbrook Residents Committee successfully launched the book, Growing Up Woodbrook: A Tapestry of then and Now: An Amazing Square mile in History on December 1 2022. The other phase of the project is the creation of a video which would, in part, utilise some of the interview footage already produced. The team is also producing podcasts (some of which have already been publicised) to further flesh out some of the ideas contained in the book as well as to help with sales. (Nesyamn Ranut)



Collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Development for Europe Day (2021)

In 2021, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago commemorated Europe Day. The Ministry of Planning and Development, with the collaboration of the National Trust and the National Archives, produced a commemorative publication and contributed valuable information and images to the article.

The Heritage Preservation and Research Department of the National Trust identified numerous heritage sites in Port-of-Spain and other areas, highlighting their European-based legacies for Europe Day.

The publication emphasised the importance of heritage in communities, showcasing how past traditions and spaces could be integrated into modern life through “Adaptive Re-use.” (Nesyamn Ranut)



MINISTRY OF
**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT**



PRESERVATION & RESEARCH - Articles and Blogs

TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR & COLLABORATORS
The Last Ship	26/05/21	Article: This article was about the last ship to bring Indentured Indians to Trinidad, the S.S. Ganges. It briefly looks at the end of the indentureship system.	Karishma Nanhu
Indian Contribution Printable	29/05/21	Student Printable Worksheet: The team researched and edited information on six key sites: The National Archives' Indian Indentureship Records, Nelson Island Immigration Depot, Jinnah Memorial Mosque, Exchange Village Shiv Mandir, Susamachar Presbyterian Church, and the Port of Spain Temple. To engage students, three activities were included: a place names word scramble, a word search, and a hand-drawn dot-to-dot of the Jinnah Memorial Mosque.	Karishma Nanhu Joseph Bertrand Maya Doyle Ashleigh Morris Kara Roopsingh Nesyamn Ranut Graeme Suite
Indian Arrival Day Social Media Posts	4/05/21	4 Story Posts were submitted to Tiy for the public holiday for social media engagement and education.	Maya Doyle
Elma Francois Blog	1/06/21	Biography on Elma Francois submitted for Labour Day	Maya Doyle
Labour Day Social Media Posts	1/06/21	3 Story posts submitted to Tiy for social media	Maya Doyle
Sociological Report: The Relationship between Cap De Ville Bunkers and the Cap De Ville Community	October 15, 2021	This report provides a sociological analysis of the connection between the Cap De Ville Bunkers and the local community of Cap De Ville.	Maya Doyle
Blog: Unveiling the Mysteries of Lapeyrouse Cemetery	October 26, 2021	This engaging blog post delves into the intriguing histories of the graves and statues within Lapeyrouse Cemetery, offering readers a concise yet captivating exploration of this historical site.	Maya Doyle



Projects & Facilities



Nelson Island PSIP 2022

Significant maintenance and upgrade works were done on Nelson Island on the Heritage Buildings. New lighting and new guttering, handrails to Mess Hall and Restoration Paintworks on the Mess Hall.

These items fulfilled the goals for improving the visitor experience to the island. The lighting and guttering works, along with the handrails at the Mess Hall were done utilising in-house labour and skilled labour from the Ministry of Works. The restoration paintworks at the Mess Hall were done by a contractor.

New Toilets & Showers

The existing toilets at the Jail Cells were in a dilapidated condition and urgently required attention. Also, there were no adequate Showers and Changerooms for Visitors. This project was listed in the Business Plan as a critical infrastructure project. This job was done by a Contractor with the Ministry of Works assisting with the plumbing connections.





New Outdoor Deck

This infrastructural upgrade project was listed since 2019 and approved by the Tenders Committee since then, but only done in 2022 when funds became available. This area is the only shaded space on the Island where we can seat 200 – 300 persons for large events. What the deck provides is a safe and dry seating area, even after it rains.

New Sewer Treatment System

The existing sewer tanks were damaged and urgently required replacement. This job was not only an urgent health & safety item, but also an integral part of the operations, as the entire sewer storage infrastructure was removed and replaced in this offshore environment. The Trust was originally in discussions with the MOWT Engineers to have the Ministry assist with this project in 2021 but the availability of MOWT staff has been challenging due to the COVID Public Health restrictions. This project was done by a Contractor.

New Solar Lights & Poles

As part of the development of the Five Islands as an Eco Heritage Destination the installation of solar lights was listed as one of the projects in the Business Plan for fiscal 2022. This project satisfied our green energy and environmental conservation commitments and was also a critical security item and has become a priority as the lights in the night would act as a deterrent to individuals using the Islands as a space for their illicit activities.

New Access to Bathing Area & Perimeter Rails

As part of the development of the Five Islands as an Eco Heritage Destination the development of a Sea Bathing Area was listed as one of the projects in the Business Plan for fiscal 2022. But to minimise the impact on the environment, in this first phase only an access deck was installed at the identified bathing space. Proper perimeter rails were also installed along the entire island.





Banwari Trace Archaeological Heritage Site PSIP – Construction of Benab

Funds were sourced and Contract awarded in 2021 but due to the COVID related challenges experienced worldwide, the works were done in 2022.

Outreach & Education

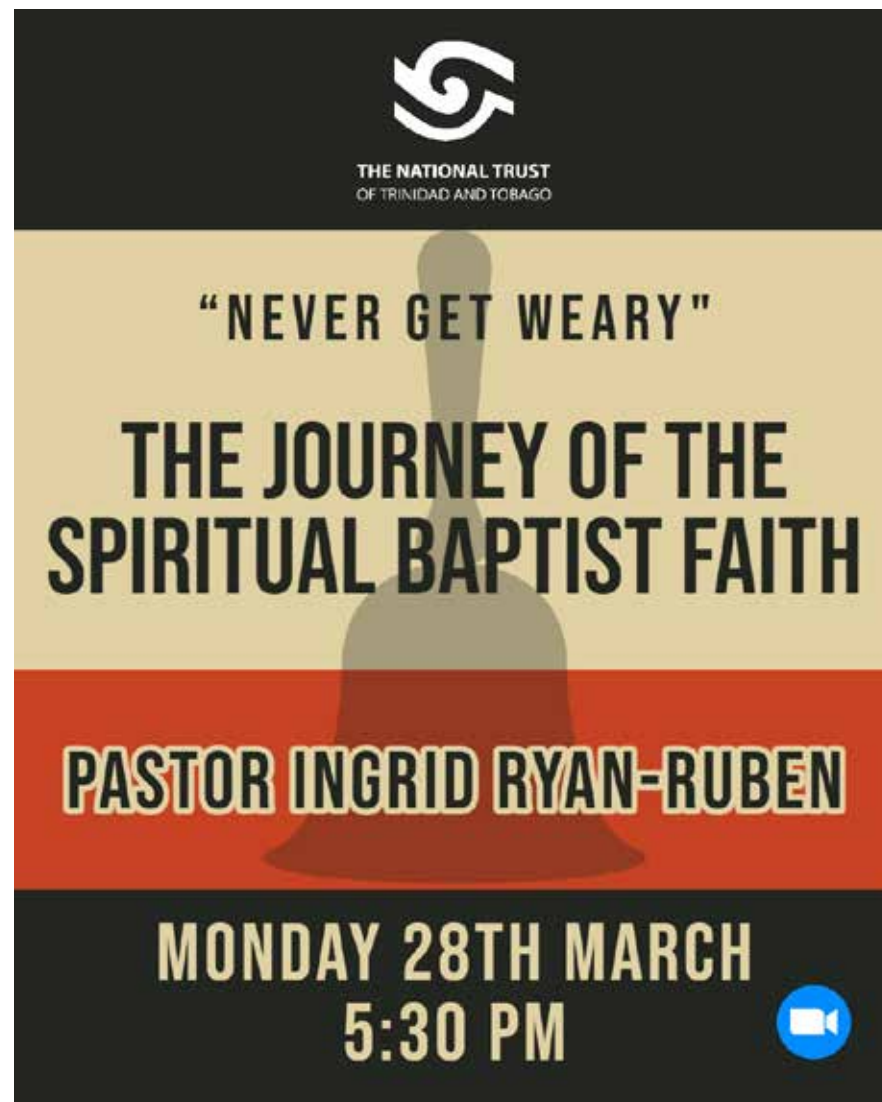
In the reporting period, the impact of public health restrictions to limit the spread of the infectious COVID 19 virus were being eased and this afforded more movement of people and gatherings. However the WATER TAXI, the main vessel for major events, remained unavailable for Charter resulting in no school tours to Nelson Island during this time. The National Trust continued to make a number of adaptations to safely conduct in-person and virtual outreach activities.



Lectures

Lectures remain an important platform for the National Trust to engage subject matter experts who can share detailed information, experiences and opinions with members about heritage preservation and related cultural heritage issues. Members participated in a range of discussions including the railroad system, the Shouter Baptist experience and Indian indentureship. The extended use of virtual meetings meant not just that members from all over the world could participate but the Trust had increased access to facilitators abroad for more diverse experiences and ideas to be shared.

There was a well-supported and documented 10-part lecture series on shipwrecks in Tobago facilitated in partnership with the Dutch Embassy which brought into focus the significant underwater tangible heritage assets and issues with research and conservation of same. Dr. Kathrin Nagele facilitated a discussion on “Ancient DNA and the Genetic History of the Caribbean” which included consideration of the difficulty in recovering ancient DNA in the tropics. It also looked at what has been learned from the already analysed genomes of Caribbean ancestors and discussed the interdisciplinary, co-creative processes needed to piece together the puzzle of the Caribbean’s deep genetic history, and to situate Trinidad within it.



Tours

The National Trust continued to develop a mix of virtual and in-person tours to sustain awareness of the tangible heritage assets and associated cultural heritage. Due to ongoing Public Health restrictions, in-person tours did not resume until February 2022 and for the next seven months, the high level of anxiety surrounding public gatherings, meant only the most adventurous persons would register for in person tours. In that period approximately 42 tours were facilitated but with much smaller guest numbers.

Virtual Tours such as Forts of Port of Spain, Moruga Heritage and Museums Tour were also created and shared with members to continue the mandate of education. Other virtual tours included History of Arima and Nelson Island.





Volunteers

The Volunteer Program was redesigned and relaunched creating online resources for interested volunteers to be introduced to the work of the National Trust and expectations of the various departments in the National Trust. An online application and registration system was implemented and training and engagement was facilitated online due to the ongoing Public Health concerns and restrictions.





Public Affairs

The National Trust hosted its first meeting with the new French Ambassador Mr. Didier Chabert and discussed areas of mutual interest and opportunities for co-operation.

The National Trust was invited to comment on an application for the issuance of a license to quarry in the vicinity of the Caurita Petroglyphs in Maracas St Joseph. The Trust's participation included consultations with the Santa Rosa First Peoples who revere the Caurita Petroglyphs as a sacred site.

Special Events

The move to Mille Fleurs enabled the National Trust to develop event space rental services which facilitated individuals and organisations making use of Mille Fleurs for private functions. The National Trust also began staging its own public events as an avenue for both generating funds for maintaining the premises as well as promoting the mandate for giving the public greater access to protected heritage sites, to engender in them, an interest in advocacy for preserving such properties of interest.

National Trust events staged at Mille Fleurs included exhibitions for Divali and Carnival, Christmas lighting up and family activities for Easter.

Mille Fleurs was selected as one of venues around the Savannah for the staging of the national PatriARTism festival in celebration of 60 years of independence. The heritage house was the repository for a section of the extensive Angostura Art collection as well as the venue for the festival's Closing Night celebrations.

Nelson Island - Indian Arrival Day experience

A special stakeholders' tour was staged on Nelson Island aimed at commemorating Indian Arrival and strengthening relations between the National Trust, the

Ministry of Planning and Development and stakeholders among the statutory bodies operating under the Ministry of Planning and Development as well as embassies and other government Ministries. The initiative was instrumental in giving stakeholders better insights into the potential for Nelson Island's development and the Trust's path for doing so.



Special Projects

Rise Program

The Trust has continued to participate in the Re-imagining International Sites of Enslavement (RISE) project, a knowledge-sharing programme that is a collaboration between INTO and the American National Trust for Historic Preservation. Joseph Bertrand is the Trust's representative. The Trust has introduced the Lopinot Historical Complex as its local project which is presented and discussed among the cohort of international participants. Lopinot has a Layered history from First peoples, African Enslavement, and Indentured Labor. The project gives the Trust, in collaboration with the Lopinot—based NGO the opportunity to assist in the telling of the African Enslavement Narrative and learning best practice for Signage, Tours, Tour guides and use of space.



**INTERNATIONAL
NATIONAL TRUSTS
ORGANISATION**



Antiques Sales and Exhibition

The National Trust undertook a new initiative to partner with a third party for the display and sale of private antiques at Mille Fleurs. This was an avenue for developing a new revenue stream which was consistent with showing complementary use cases for a heritage house.

The Antiques Sale featured household effects in the estate of Dr Dorothy Mahabir which included items inherited from Dr Frank Mahabir, reputed to be one of the first East Indian persons to qualify to practice medicine in Trinidad and Tobago and the former District Medical Officer of Princes Town / Moruga from 1918 – 1944.



Website Upgrade

The IADB -funded website upgrade project was started in November 2021. In meetings between the vendor and the Trust, details for modifying the look and feel and functionality of the website were worked through so that a functioning prototype could be launched by December 17th.

Additional improvements continue to be made while troubleshooting any teething issues. The site also improved integration of the Heritage Asset Inventory database and members database. The functionality of the website continued to be expanded with new features for integrating inventory, membership, volunteers and events.



NOTES

