



Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Enriching Our Heritage



Headquarters House built in 1755 by merchant Thomas Hibbert. It was the seat of Jamaica's Legislative Council from 1872-1962 and now houses the Duke Street offices of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust.

Take a leisurely ride through any part of Jamaica and you will find it impossible to ignore the amazing reminders of our rich heritage.

Our elegant great houses, petite vernacular homes, the weathered beauty of our historic churches, towering forts, ancient sugar mills and long abandoned vine covered waterwheels, the imposing statues in our town squares and the still used centuries old courthouses. Each is a testimony to the creativity, skill and craftsmanship of the Jamaican people. Each has a story to tell. Many of these are on the Jamaica National Heritage Trust's list of protected sites and monuments.

OVERVIEW

The Jamaica National Heritage Trust which replaced the Jamaica National Trust Commission in 1985, works to protect and preserve the reminders of our rich and varied heritage. Under the law, the Trust is responsible for declaring or designating places and objects of historical value as National Monuments or Protected National Heritage. The historic Headquarters House in downtown Kingston, which was the home of the colonial Legislative Council 1872-1962 now houses the Trust.

MISSION

At the JNHT our mission is:

To inspire a sense of national pride through the promotion, preservation and development of our material cultural heritage, utilising a highly motivated and qualified team in conjunction with all our partners.

Our activities include:

- ❖ Protecting through law, sites that qualify to be called National Monuments and Protected National Heritage.
- ❖ Managing and maintaining specific heritage sites.
- ❖ Providing technical advice to owners of heritage sites.
- ❖ Conducting archaeological and historic research on sites.
- ❖ Bringing history alive for students through heritage education.



The Rodney Monument in historic Spanish Town Square.

- ❖ Making links with community groups to protect their heritage.
- ❖ Providing information to the public on heritage sites.
- ❖ Conserving archaeological objects.
- ❖ Conducting heritage resource surveys.

SOME OF OUR SITES

Spanish Town

Jamaica's first city and the parish capital of St. Catherine. Founded in 1534 by the Spanish, it is where you can see the first cast iron bridge built in the western hemisphere (1801). The 'old world charm' of Spanish Town Square with its beautiful examples of Georgian architecture, is a testament to the skill of Jamaican artisans and craftsmen of centuries ago.

Seville Heritage Park

Located just outside St. Ann's Bay (the parish capital of St. Ann and birthplace of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey) is Seville. Christopher Columbus spent a year in this town which was built by the Spanish on the site of a Taino Indian village called Maima. Seville is the site where the culture of three worlds - Amerindian,



One of the lovely vernacular houses in historic Falmouth.

European and African had their first encounter. This is the story of Jamaica from its beginning. Here, overlooking the sparkling blue Caribbean sea, the Trust displays for public viewing a collection of Taino, Spanish, British and African artifacts in a tranquil setting.

Falmouth

This 18th century Georgian seaside town is the parish capital of Trelawny. Laid out on a Georgian grid plan, it is said to be the finest example of its kind existing in this part of the world. From modest homes to large public buildings, here we are able to see an array of some of the most beautiful examples of Georgian architecture to be found in the island. The entire town has been declared a National Monument.

Blenheim

The birthplace of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante can be found nestled on the slopes of the Dolphin Head mountains some five miles southwest of the picturesque town of Lucea, the capital of Jamaica's smallest parish - Hanover. The house has been restored and offers beautifully landscaped picnic grounds and a



A water wheel used to power cane grinding operations at Seville.



An exhibition is housed here at Blenheim where National Hero the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante was born.

comprehensive exhibition, which tells the story of the colorful life of Sir Alexander, independent Jamaica's first prime minister.

Roxborough

Situated in the cool climes of Manchester some six miles southwest of the capital town of Mandeville, is the birthplace of the Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley, the country's last Premier and a founding father of independent Jamaica. A commemorative wall stands on the foundation of the house where he was born and overlooks a lovely garden of indigenous plants.

Fort Charles

Formerly called Fort Cromwell, this brick and timber fort in historic Port Royal on the peninsula of the Palisadoes, was built by the English in 1655 after their capture of Jamaica from the Spanish. Walk on



Front elevation of a building at Roxborough.



The Giddy House at Fort Charles.

Nelson's quarterdeck in the footsteps of the famous Lord Admiral Nelson and you look at one of the world's largest natural harbours - Kingston Harbour. Beneath these waters lie the sunken city of Port Royal, haunt of the Buccaneer Sir Henry Morgan, before its inhabitants were consigned to the depths by the great 1692 earthquake.

Rio Nuevo

This battle site is located in the beautiful parish of St. Mary. Standing on an acre of ground is a monument to the lives lost in the battle of Rio Nuevo in 1658 when the forces of England's Oliver Cromwell routed the Spanish conquistadors and changed the course of world history.

INCENTIVE

Sections 26 and 27 of the JNHT Act provide owners of protected national monuments who incur capital expenditure in the development and maintenance of such sites to claim tax relief under Section 13 and subsequent sections of the Income Tax Act.

The Trust also offers technical advice and support to owners of heritage sites. This is to encourage conservation and maintenance of the site.

For further information contact us at

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