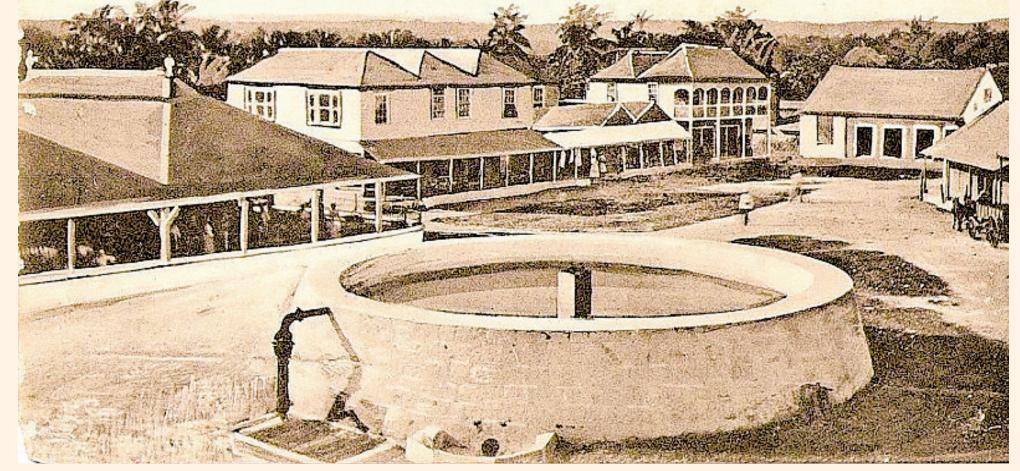
THE JAMAICA NATIONAL HERITAGE TRUST (JNHT) HERITAGE IN ACTION:

Focus on Falmouth



Water Square Falmouth, 1899

ERITAGE IN Action is a signature initiative of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) designed to raise awareness about the protection and preservation of Jamaica's five Historic Districts: Falmouth, Port Royal, Spanish Town, Black River, and Titchfield Peninsula. The inaugural event in this series takes place today, February 5, in the historic town of Falmouth. This exciting event features a dynamic takeover of Falmouth town centre in collaboration with the Trelawny Municipal Corporation. It provides an immersive educational experience for students, business owners, and the general public, focusing on their role in preserving Jamaica's built heritage and showcasing the critical work of the JNHT. If you are nearby, come down to Water Square and enjoy the event. Situated along Jamaica's northern coast near Montego Bay, Falmouth serves as the capital of the parish of Trelawny in the county of Cornwall. Once a bustling political and commercial hub in the 18th and 19th centuries, the town thrived as a major port, facilitating the trade of rum and sugar from the plantations of Trelawny. However, from the 1840s onward, Falmouth experienced a gradual decline. This downturn was exacerbated by Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, which caused extensive damage. While many of the town's historic buildings remained standing, years of neglect took their toll. In response, the Falmouth Heritage Renewal Trust was established in 2001, dedicated to restoring the town's historic structures while also creating economic opportunities through training, job creation, and sustainable development. One of Falmouth's most historically significant landmarks is its old jail, completed in 1814. This Georgian-style structure is a key feature of the Falmouth Historic District. While much of its original design remained intact, structural assessments recommended critical repairs. Restoration efforts included clearing debris, reconstructing the ageing corrugated zinc roof, reglazing or replacing windows as needed, and reinforcing the small entrance portico, which had suffered considerable weather damage. The cutstone walls were carefully restored and repointed with lime mortar to preserve their







authenticity.

Falmouth is recognised as one of the Caribbean's best-preserved historic towns, boasting an impressive collection of Georgian-era buildings. On September 5, 1996, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust designated the historic district a National Monument. For many years, the town saw relatively few tourists, but with the opening of a cruise terminal in 2011, visitor numbers have increased significantly. By maintaining and preserving its architectural heritage including landmarks like the historic jail, court house, Parish Church and Albert George Market - Falmouth has managed to retain its charm and character. As tourism continues to grow, the community hopes that visitors will appreciate the town's rich history in experiencing Falmouth as a historic site.

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