

## Overview of Grenada's Cultural Heritage

Grenada's Historical Sites and landmarks ranges from:

1. Colonial Forts and coastal batteries
2. Military buildings
3. Historical buildings
4. Natural sites
5. Shipwrecks
6. Archaeological Sites
7. Estate houses
8. Slave Pens
9. Wind-mills
10. Lime Kilns

However, from a legal standpoint to date we can safely report that only two sites have official recognition; namely, the Amerindian Site at the Pearls Airport and the Louis la Grenada Mausoleum at Morne Jaloux.

Other than this, recently as late 2007, Cabinet approved a list of 22 sites to be considered for declaration (please find attached).

Under the Natural and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (NCHAC), of the Physical Planning Unit, over three hundred (300) buildings within the Town of St. George, were identified for listing as historical buildings. Despite this however, today there is no official or National Inventory of heritage sites. At the same time, what ever has been done in this regard had been the efforts of organizations such as the Grenada National Trust and the Willie Redhead Organisation.

Of quite importance or worthy of mentioning is the recent signing by Government of the following UNESCO conventions:

- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression 2005
- Convention on Anti-doping in Sports, 2005.

In terms of legal framework there is still a level of overlapping of responsibilities between the various Government Ministries and organizations. For instance:

1. Physical Planning and Development Control Act of 2001, also has responsibility for the Natural and cultural heritage

2. The Grenada National Trust Act of 1967 gives the Trust responsibility for establishing museums but not responsible for the present Grenada National Museum. It also has broad responsibility for some cultural heritage and marine parks which are really under the jurisdiction of, managed and regulated by the Fisheries Department.

We also have in existence other legislations/institutions such as the Cultural Foundation and in recent times as part of the efforts at restoration of the Fortifications of St. George's, under a project funded by the European Union, a new structure call the Heritage Management Authority was proposed to manage firstly the Forts, then after all aspects of the built heritage.

### **Way Forward**

We are still toughing with the various ideas as to which is the best structure to adopt since it is felt that under the past National Parks System, the heritage was not given adequate attention. Also, the matter of qualified human resource personnel was another case in point.

Hence it was felt, and strongly supported that as the way to go by the EU, was the setting up of the Heritage Management Authority which a draft legislation was prepared. We look forward to this seminar/workshop to give us some clarity and possible leads.

## **List of Proposed Sites To be Declared as National Heritage Landmarks/Monuments in Grenada.**

- 1. The Fortified System of fortification of St. George's and adjoining sites – hospital compound etc.**
  - Fort George built on an old battery from the 1660s; regarded as the smallest fort on the Island however, it is the most important military establishment having played a part in every aspect of Grenada's military and political history. Expanded from 1706 – 1710, it is now within its Tricentennial (300 years) of expansion. Regarded as one of the classical examples of early Bastion Tracer Forts.
  
- 2. Fort Matthew, Frederick and Adolphus Complex which includes the Home for the Age and Prisons, Richmond Hill Tennis Court**
  - between 800 – 1500 yards of Fortification built from 1779 – 91, as a siege fort to withstand an invading army for a period of 6 months. Considered to be a major break through in military architecture
  - Government House Compound – bought in 1790 and established as part of the fortified complex with the Government Battery decommissioned in 1850.
  
- 3. Fort and Underground Tunnel Network at Old Fort/Hospital Hill Redoubts – part of the fortification network and best tunnel system built by the French during 1779**
  
- 4. Portic Point and Ruin Point Salines - \*NPPA Act. 1990 could be considered also – Site of old Medieval Leather Tannery last remaining of its kind on the Island**
  
- 5. Financial Complex Carenage – to be considered as part of the core historic district of St. George's. Established in 1822 it was one of the best Commissariat and Ordinance Complex in the Caribbean**
  
- 6. National Museum Compound including the Drill Yard and open space leading up to the Old St. James Hotel – Museum**

**Compound was established as the French Garrison when they relocated the Old Town of Fort Louis to the New town of Fort Royal. It was also the site of the Goal and later the first Hotel on the Island. The open spaces were the Foso/Glaxis of the Fort.**

- 7. Knox House – built by the French and also used by the British as former Governor’s Compound, Chief Guard Huts, Legislature, Supreme Court and library -\* privately owned by the Presbyterian Church**
- 8. The Market Square – established as part of the early grid system for the town during the 1730s, it was used as the chief military parade square for the troops. Was also designated as the public market square in 1791.**
- 9. Louis La Grenada Mausoleum at Morne Jaloux - built by the Legislature in honour of Louis La Grenada a French Coloured who fought with the British against the French during the Fedon Rebellion - PPDC Act 25 of 2002**
  
- 10. Carib’s Leap at Sauteurs – site of the infamous Morne de Sauteur “Hill of the Leapers” incident between the Caribs and French in 1650 -NHP Act. 18 of 1990**
- 11. White Lime Kiln Mt. Rodney Sauteurs – old kiln used for burning the natural deposits of lime found in that area and used for the construction of the town -PPDC Act. 25**
- 12. The Piton at Levera – hill overlooking Levera and Bathway with main access from Rose Hill - NPPA Act. 42 of 1990**
- 13. Telescope Point – site of 1795 coastal battery that saw action during the Fedon’s Rebellion, was important for the protection of the Grenville Harbour -National Parks and Protected Areas Act. 42 of 1990**
- 14. Remains of Old Town Marquis – first town in St. Andrew’s raised/burn to the ground during the Fedon’s Rebellion - PPDC ACT. 25 of 2002 - \*site privately owned**
- 15. Amerindian Stone Mount Rich – with approximately 60 petroglph drawings, stone regarded as important Caribbean Amerindian Site -National Heritage Protection ACT. 1990 – 9(1)**
- 16. Duquesne Petroglyph Drawings – largest Petroglyph drawings on Island -NHP ACT. 1990 – 9 (1)**

17. **Old Water Cistern at Paddock – first started during the 1730s as the old water system to serve shipping in the harbour, hence the spout at ballast ground -PPDC ACT 25 of 2002 - 40.**
18. **La Sagesse Pond and Standing Stone – a small wet land area known for a rich bird life – the standing stone is on the site of the first built town in Grenada, Megrin Settlement established by the British in 1609: 2009 will mark 400 years of this attempted British settlement – potential NPPA ACT. 42 of 1990 – ownership needs to be sought out**
19. **Pearls Airport – Amerindian Site? Airport building? – already identified under the National Heritage Protection ACT. 1990- extent of site to be demarcated**
20. **Paradise Bridge – 1811 – 13, PPDC ACT 25 of 2002- built by Gentle Men Apprentices is the only Georgian Bridge of its type on the island**
21. **Carriacou – Grand Bay, Sabazan Amerindian Sites – under serious threat**
22. **Dumfries Carriacou – once considered to be the best agriculture plot on the Island – cultivation ran from sugar, cocoa and finally limes. Was site of agricultural experiment such as the growing of mauby and animal husbandry – black belly sheep. Rich in early French and British history**

**N.B. The following three pieces of Legislations will have to be taken into consideration:-**

- a. **National Parks and Protected Areas Legislation of 1990**
- b. **Physical Planning and Development Control Act 2002.**
- c. **National Heritage Protection Act NO.18 of 1990**

**\*\*From numbers 1 – 8 to be considered under the Physical Planning and Development Control Act 25 of 2002.**

**Marine Protect Sites (MPA) for example Molinere MPA, are under the Department of Fisheries, \*\*Ministry of Agriculture thus have their own legislation and management systems**

## **Major Policy Decision**

Government/Cabinet will have to decide on the reviving of the Grenada National Parks System including the National Parks Advisory Council due to the absence of the adequate management structure.

Sites listed, are ones, which are mainly owned and maintained by Government, except The Knox House Complex and Marquis Old Town. It should be pointed out also, that the listing and declaration of sites would have consequences both financial and legal for Grenada. Hence, the emphasis to date, has been on those more or less controlled by Government. Such considerations are being guided by the Physical Planning and Development Control Act 2002 : Part VI – Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage.

A system of listing and categorization is presently being developed by the Physical Planning Department as part of the establishment of the Conservation Zone for St. George's.