APT MIAMI
GATEWAY TO THE HEMISPHERE

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SAINT LUCIA

BIOGRAPHY

Germaine Joseph

A BSC degree in Architecture with 5 years work experience in conservation and preservation of Cultural Heritage. Specializing in Built Heritage and managing a register of two hundred and fifty historic buildings for listing while developing draft legislation for the preservation and conservation of these historic buildings.

Recently certified in Museum Conservation Skills and Values Heritage Management at the University of the West Indies in conjunction with the OAS. Her current research interests include Cultural Heritage Management, Heritage in the Tourism Industry, Heritage Interpretation, Anthropology, Archaeology and the restoration of Built Heritage.

Germaine was awarded a 2019 fellowship with the Museums Association of the Caribbean for her work at Walcott House, the birth museum of Sir Derek and Roderick Walcott.

Since her term with the Saint Lucia National Trust Ms. Joseph has married her passion for Architecture with her fervor for cultural heritage and preservation.

- Pigeon Island National Landmark, Gros- Islet, Saint Lucia

Fort Rodney Restoration -Traditional methods for adaptability

The Saint Lucia National Trust has a mandate to preserve and protect the patrimony of Saint Lucia. In this light the Trust has a responsibility to implement the listing of Buildings Project which is crucial to the preservation of the patrimony of Saint Lucia, in that it will provide a framework for the listing and preservation of historic buildings of Architectural merit.

In recent years the Trust has documented 250 historic Buildings Island wide and has an active campaign to sensitize Saint Lucians about the value of built heritage. Climate change has been recognized as a clear threat to the condition and the outstanding universal value of our built heritage, with extended periods of rain, flash flooding and other weather phenomenon continuing to have a detrimental impact on our built heritage.

In 2017, the western corner of Fort Rodney, an 18th century fortification which played a pivotal role in the war between the British and the French for possession of the island, collapsed after the passing of tropical storm Maria. The collapse of the wall was exacerbated by a tree lodged in the south western corner of the Fort.

In 2019 the Trust received support from a volunteer, Mr. Johnny Martin (see figure 1 & 2) a Conservator and specialist in lime mortar to repair Fort Rodney.

Although the root was dead it took a considerable amount of skill and strategy to remove it from the corner of Fort Rodney. Mr. Martin systemically sleuthed the hillside for fallen rocks from the side of the existing structure to restore the Fort. After the collapse the rocks rolled and scattered down the hillside. Mr. Martin followed the traditional method of construction by inserting shims and binding them with lime mortar to restore the fort to its original standing.

The project was subject to heavy rains from a tropical wave during the restoration. The first test for the restoration works to Fort Rodney. In the same light we adopted the strategy of applying wet towels overnight and spraying with water, to deal with the effects of extreme rise in temperature during the day which would adversely affected the drying of the lime mortar. Spraying with water prevented the lime mortar from drying too fast from the extreme heat.

Currently most of our built heritage is in disrepair and threatened by the effects of climate change. The two extreme conditions during the restoration of Fort Rodney served as an eye opener to the unstable weather patterns that the Caribbean has had to endure in recent years.

The Trust is encouraged by the successful restoration of Fort Rodney and is working towards the preservation of our built heritage. We continue to monitor the restored south western corner of the Fort for the effects of climate change.

Fort Rodney-Pigeon Island National Landmark

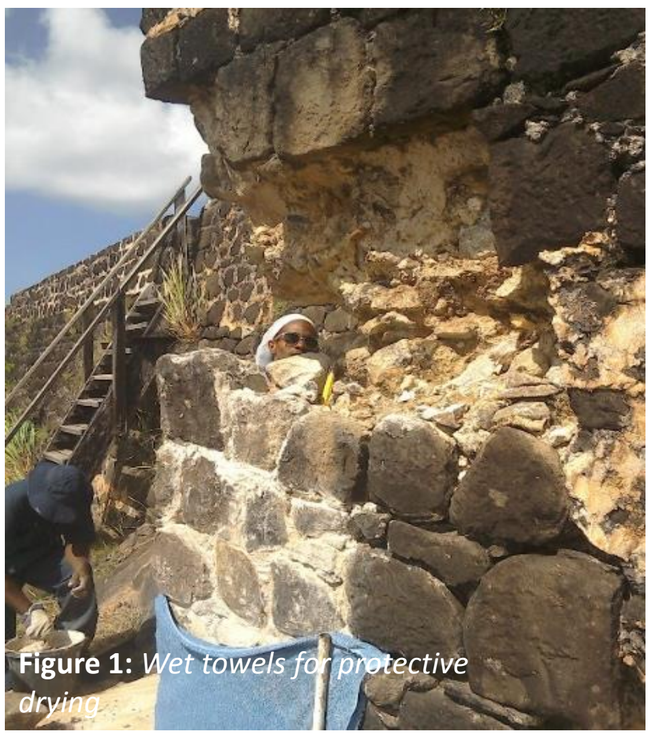

Figure 1: *Wet towels for protective drying*

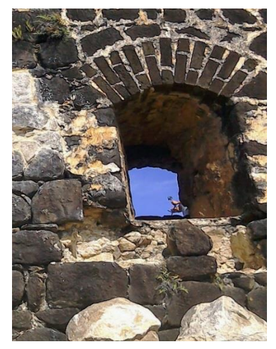

Figure 4: *Window sill before repair*

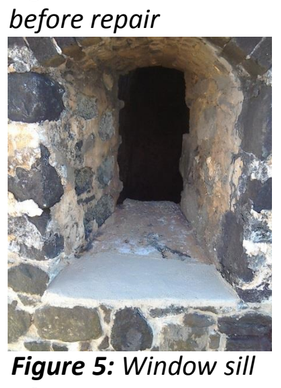

Figure 5: *Window sill after repair*

Figure 2: *Before the restoration of Fort Rodney*

Figure 3: *After the restoration of Fort Rodney*