A Photographic Catalog of Structures and Architectural Features at Charles Fort, St. Kitts, West Indies

Charles Fort Archaeological and Historical Project Report No. 2

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Introduction

Charles Fort is located at the south end of Sandy Point Harbor and less than a kilometer northwest of the base of Brimstone Hill. The fort was constructed by the British in 1672 to protect the harbor and was maintained as a military post until 1854. In 1890, after nearly 40 years of abandonment, the fort was converted to a leper asylum. It was used in this capacity until 1996.

This catalog consists of 98 photographs representative of the buildings and architectural features recorded at Charles Fort in May-June, 2000 by the University of Tennessee. A comprehensive discussion of the work carried out at that time and of the buildings found at the site are provided in An Archaeological and Architectural Assessment of Charles Fort, St. Kitts, West Indies by Gerald Schroedl submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Information, Telecommunications, Commerce, and Consumer Affairs (formerly Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Environment) Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies. The pictures produced here were selected from 264 black and white negatives taken during the course of investigations.

The catalog includes, as Figure 1, a map showing the locations of all structures recorded at the site. Figure 2 is a copy of a black and white picture postcard taken by V.E. John of a portion of the northwest portion of the site. This photograph is significant because presently it is the only known historical image of the site's interior, and because it shows extensive gardens and landscaping now represented only by rock alignments or geometric patterns. Clearly shown in the photograph are three buildings, two of which are now represented only by stone foundations. There are 38 recorded structures at the site. These were arbitrarily numbered clockwise beginning in the Northeast Bastion. They are presented in this order.
List of individually numbered structures at Charles Fort.

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Figure 1.—Plan of Charles Fort showing the locations of structures and related features mapped in May-June, 2000
Figure 2.—Reproduction of post card by V.E. John (date unknown but probably circa 1920-1930), showing structures in the northwest corner of the asylum (left to right Structures 31, 33, and 34) and extensive landscaping and gardens. Structure 34 is located in the west end of the cistern catchment area. The edge of the roof at the lower right corner belongs to Structure 4, the Kitchen. Note the decorative trim on the roof. Portions of the decorative stone work shown in the right center were recorded in 2000, see Figures 3 and 4.
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