

World Heritage Scanned Nomination

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UNESCO Region: AFRICA

SITE NAME: James Island and Related Sites

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 5th July 2003

STATE PARTY: GAMBIA

CRITERIA: C (iii)(vi)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 27th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Criterion iii: James Island and Related Sites on the River Gambia provide an exceptional testimony to the different facets of the African-European encounter, from the 15th to 20th centuries. The River Gambia formed the first trade route into the interior of Africa and became an early corridor for the slave trade.

Criterion vi: James Island and Related Sites, the villages and the batteries, were directly and tangibly associated with the beginning and the conclusion of the slave trade, retaining its memory related to the African Diaspora

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

James Island and Related Sites present a testimony to the main periods and facets of the encounter between Africa and Europe along the River Gambia, a continuum stretching from pre-colonial and pre-slavery times to independence. The site is particularly significant for its relation to the beginning of the slave trade and its abolition. It also documents early access to the interior of Africa.

1.b State, Province or Region: Lower Niimi and Upper Niimi districts and Banjul Municipality

1.d Exact location: N13 18 58.2 W16 21 25.9 *Multiple Locations*

SERIAL ID N°	NAME	COORDINATES
761-001	James Island	, N13 18 58.2 W16 21 25.9
761-002	Six-Gun Battery	, N13 27 08.4 W16 34 18.4
761-003	Fort Bullen	, N13 29 07.6 W16 32 56.0
761-004	Ruins of San Domingo	, N13 20 11.0 W16 22 46.1
761-005	Remains of Portuguese Chapel	, N13 19 57.8 W16 23 14.2
761-006	CFAO Building	, N13 19 59.5 W16 23 05.9
761-007	Maurel Frères Building	,

**NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION
ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

James Island
and Related Sites

THE GAMBIA

September 2001

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1. Identification of the Property

a. Country (and State Party if Different)

The Gambia

b. State, Province or Region

James Island, Albreda, Juffureh, and San Domingo, are located in the Lower Niumi District, North Bank Division.

Fort Bullen is located in the Upper Niumi District, North Bank Division.

The Six-gun Battery is part of Banjul Municipality.

c. Name of Property

James Island and Related Sites

d. Exact Location on Map and Indication of Geographical Co-ordinates to the Nearest Second

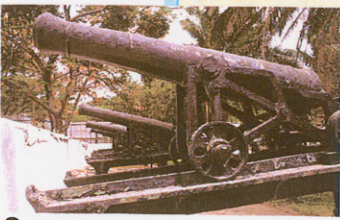
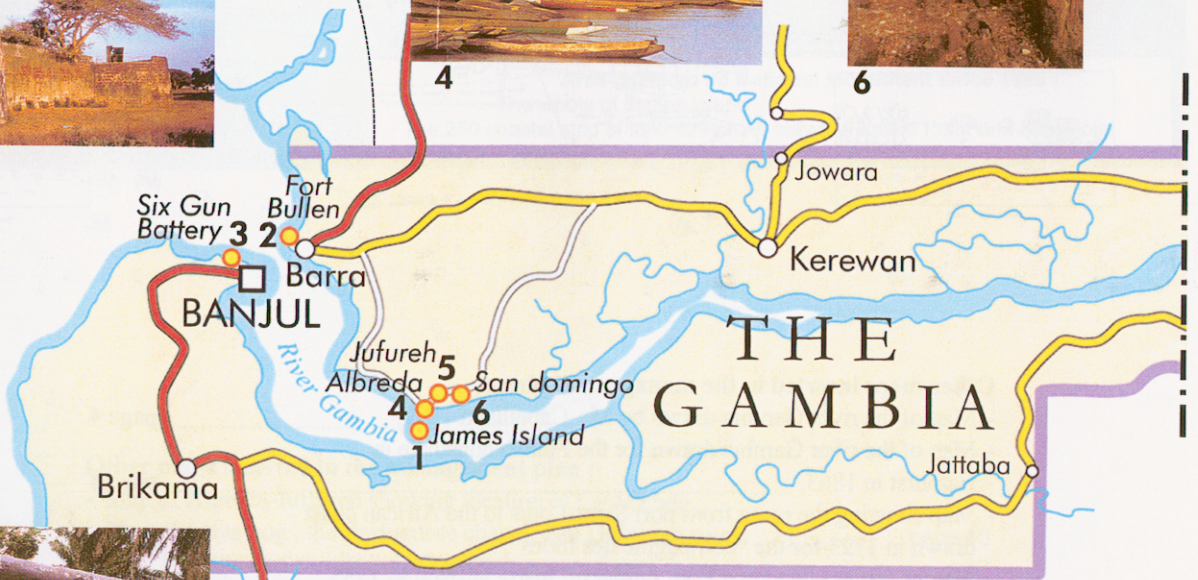
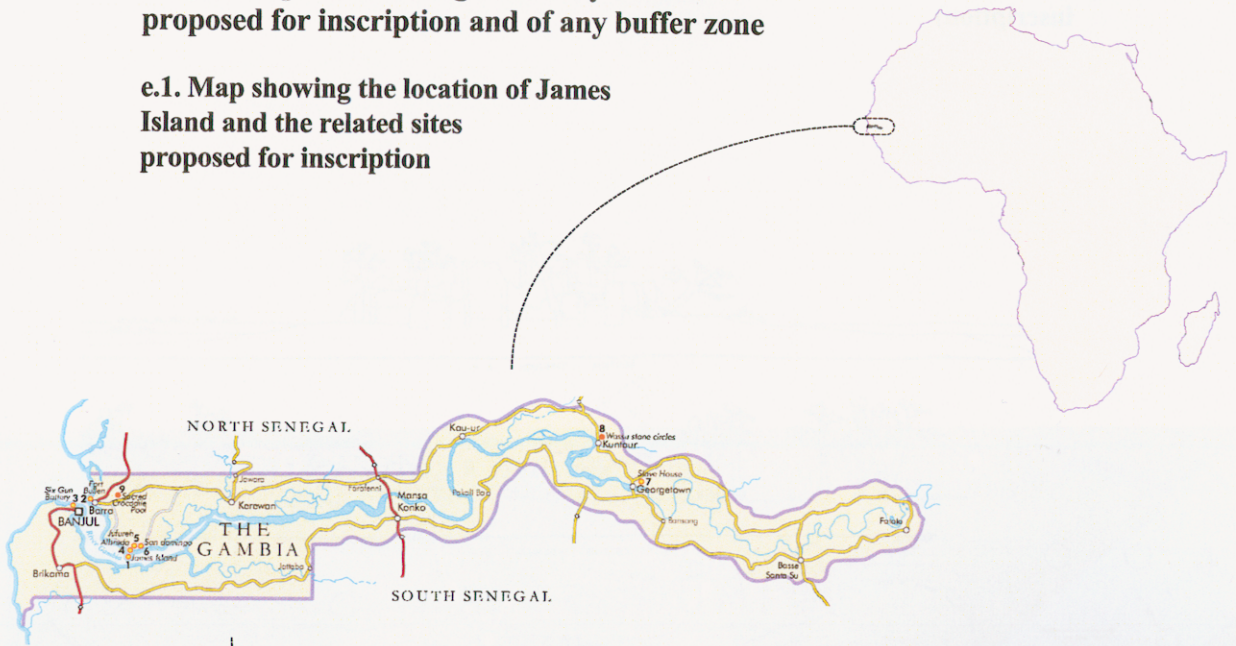
James Island and Related Sites are located at the mouth of the river Gambia that has its source in the Fouta Jallon, the mountains of Northern Guinea. The river Gambia is navigable for a long distance (250 miles upstream for ocean going vessels), and therefore, was (and still is) a major gateway for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the inland.

The following sites are considered for inscription.

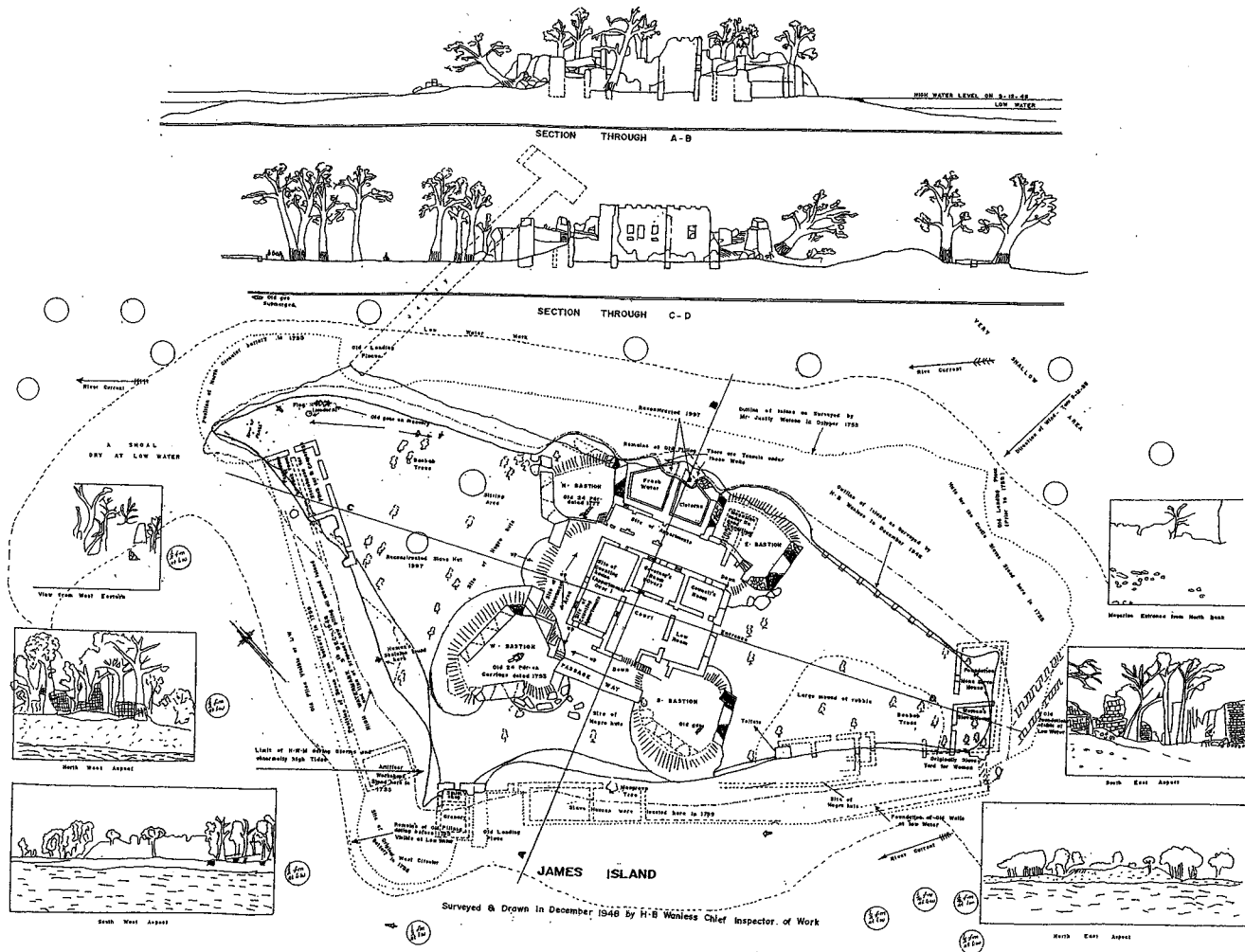
- James Island is located 30 km away from the mouth of the River Gambia at **13°19'North, 16°21'West.**
- The ruin of the first Portuguese settlement at San Domingo is located on the north bank of the river close to James Island. The ruins of the French and Portuguese settlements at Albreda are located 1 km west of San Domingo, and the Mandingo village of Juffureh is next to Albreda on its northern side. All of these sites are at **13°20'North, 16°23'West.**
- Fort Bullen is located in Barra at the mouth of the river on the north bank at **13°29'North, 16°33'West.**
- The Six-gun battery is located at the northern extremity of Banjul at the mouth of the river on the south bank at **13°28'North, 16°35'West.**

e. Maps and plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone

e.1. Map showing the location of James Island and the related sites proposed for inscription



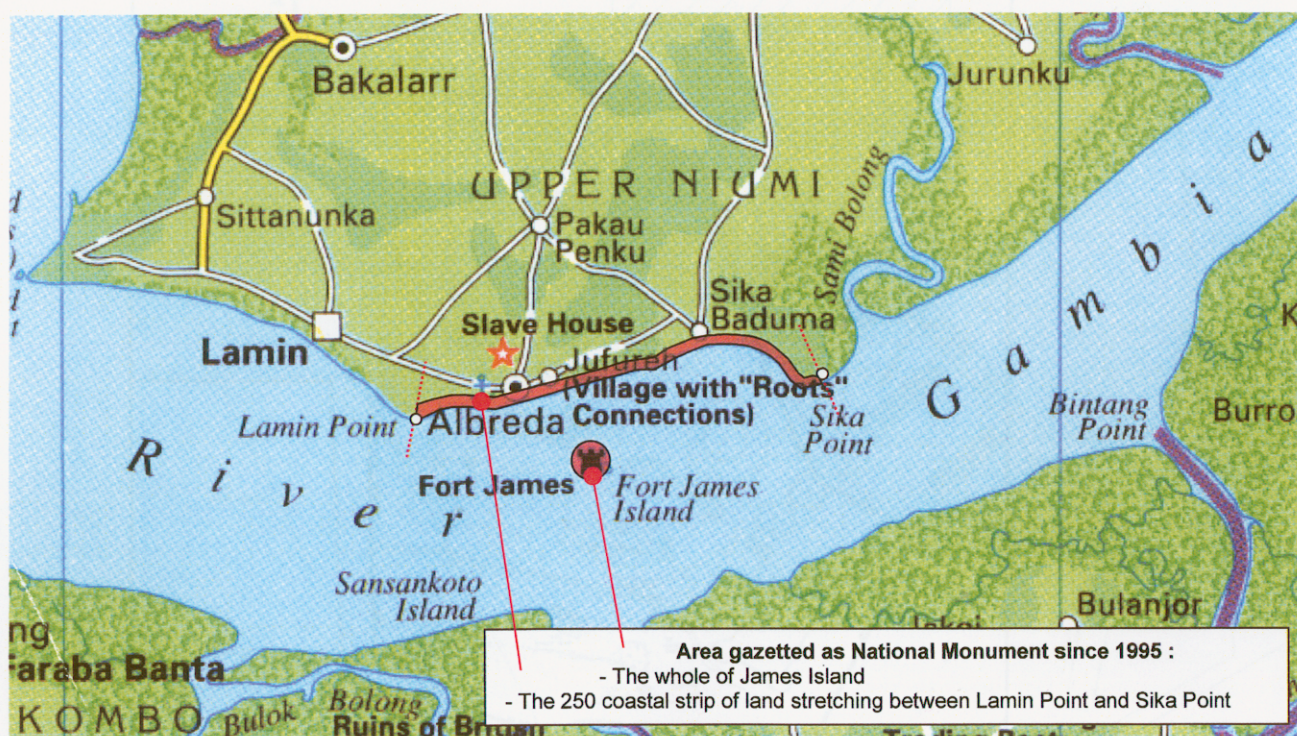
e.2. Map of James island and the fort (the whole fort is proposed for inscription)



Other maps inserted in the management plan :

- Map of the river Gambia drawn by Mr. Capellis in 1779, page 4
- Map of the river Gambia drawn for the French consulate in Bathurst in 1863, page 8
- Map showing the route from port Saint-Louis to the African coast drawn in 1723 for the "compagnie des Indes", page 15
- Plan of James Island and Fort, drawn by Justly Watson in 1755, page 19
- Plan of James Island and Fort, drawn by James Fiddes in 1755, page 20
- Aerial view (graphic reconstitution) of James island as it was during active service, and as it is today, page 23

e.3. Map of the Albreda, Juffureh, San Domingo historic zone

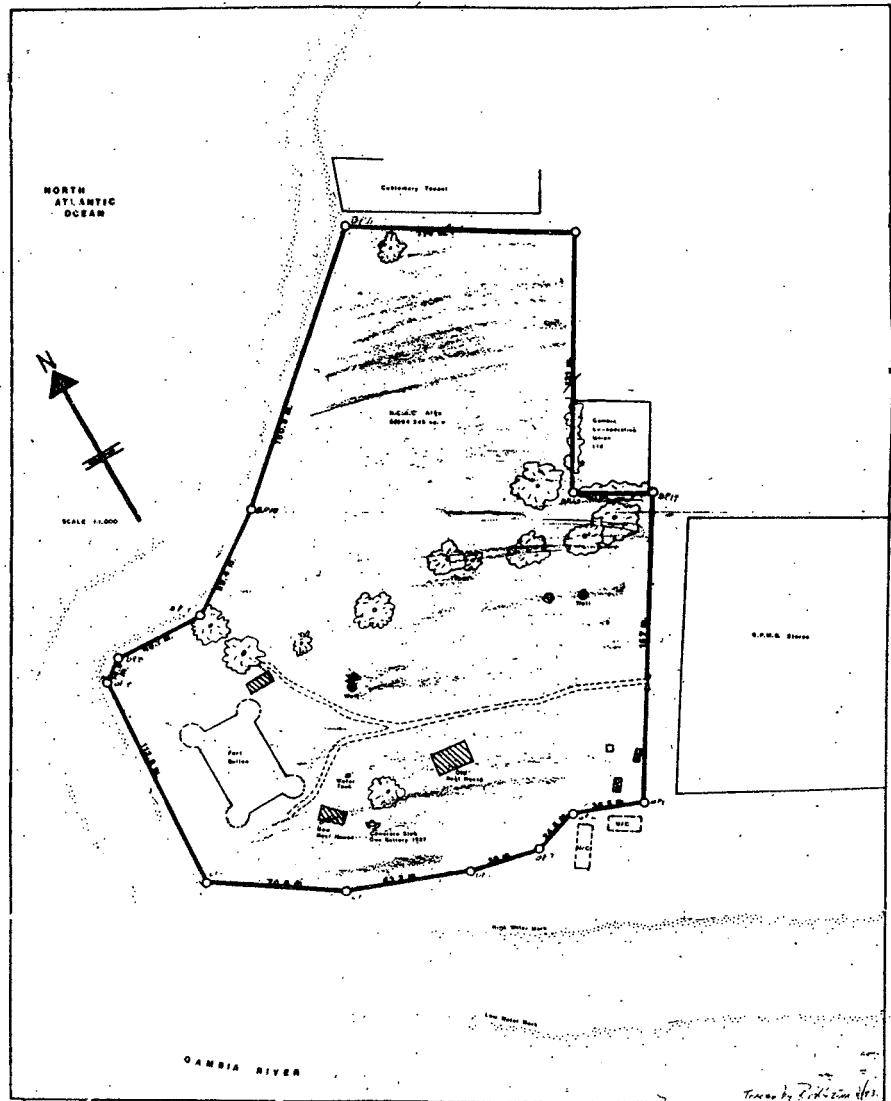


Other maps inserted in the management plan :

- Map of Albreda-Juffureh showing location of CFAO bdg.,
Maurel frères bdg., the Portuguese chapel, San Domingo ruins, page 40
- Plan, sections and elevations of the Portuguese chapel, page 42
- Plan, sections and elevations of CFAO building, page 45
- Plan, sections and elevations of Maurel frères building, page 48
- Plan, sections and elevations of San Domingo ruins, page 50

e.4. Map of Fort Bullen site. The whole site is proposed for inscription as proclaimed National Monuments in 1995

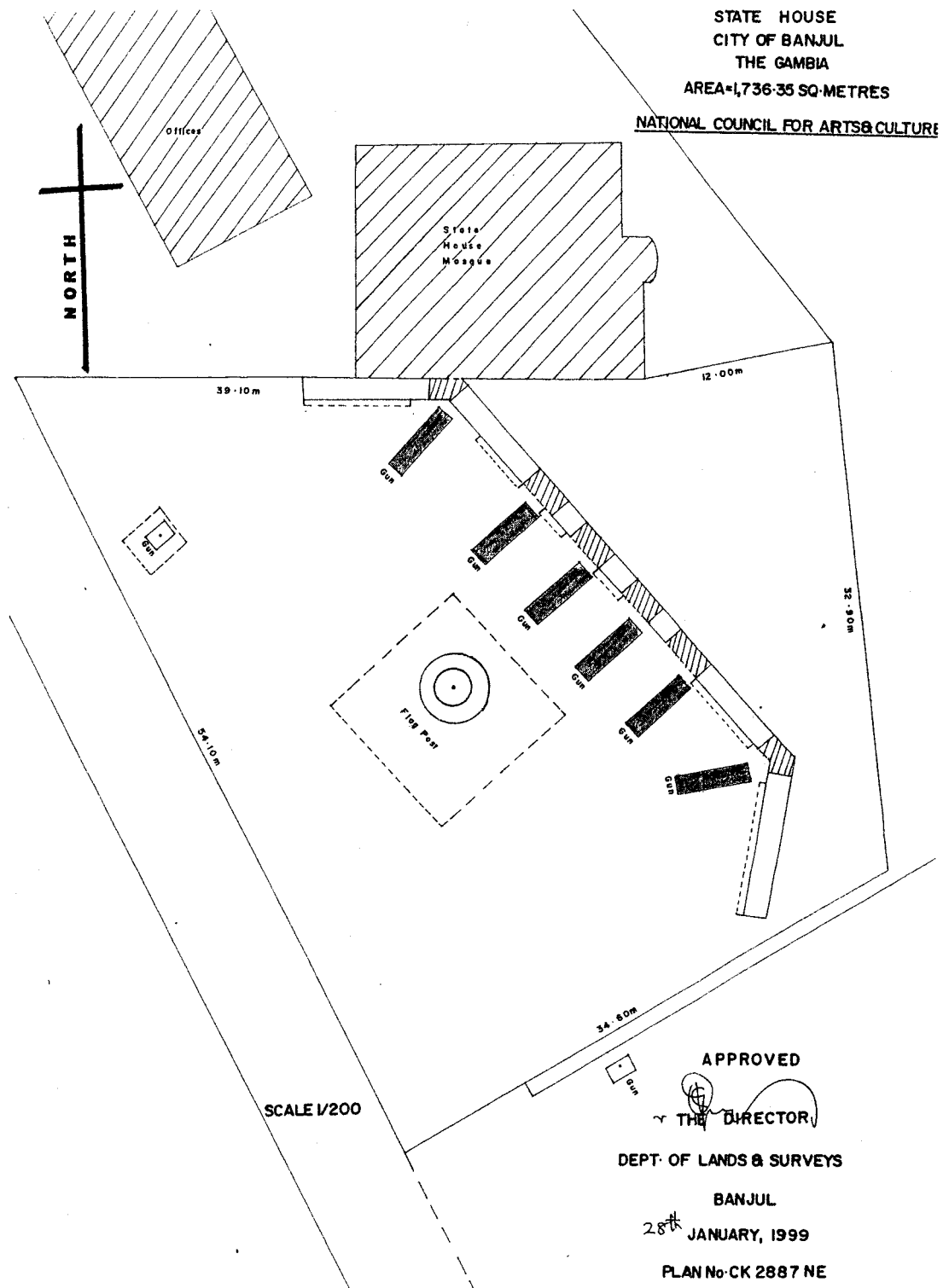
C. The whole of Fort Bullen and its immediate land area at Barra Point measuring 62964.546 square metres as indicated in the following diagram.



Other maps inserted in the management plan :

- Map of Barra, showing the position of Fort Bullen, page 65
- Plan and elevations of Fort Bullen, page 67

e.5. Map of the 6-gun battery site



see also :

- Map of Saint Mary Island in 1820, page 59
- Map of Banjul today with position of the six gun-battery, page 60

f. Area of Property Proposed for Inscription (ha.) and Proposed Buffer Zone (ha.) If Any.

The area proposed for inscription includes:

- The whole of James island and its fort
Area: **0,30 Ha** (3085 m²)
- The coastal strip of land proclaimed as a National Monument on the north bank of the River Gambia facing the island. This strip of land serves as buffer zone for all the historic structures situated in the villages of Albreda and Juffureh and the abandoned settlement of San Domingo. The inscribed land measures 250m from the high-water mark and stretches between Lamin point and Sika point (12-km coastline).
Area of the entire zone: **300 Ha**
- The whole of Fort Bullen and its surrounding land, proclaimed a National Monument in 1995, at Barra point.
Area: **6,3 Ha** (62964 m²)
- The 6-gun battery plot situated within the State House, Banjul
Area: **0,17 Ha** (1736 m²)

2. Justification for Inscription

a. Statement of Significance

James Island and Related Sites is the most important ensemble of historic structures found in The Gambia and is of significance at both the regional and global level. Together, these sites illustrate all the main periods and facets of the Afro-European encounter along the River Gambia, a continuum that stretched from pre-slavery times to the independence period. The site is significant for its relation to the slave trade and its abolition, to the beginning of the colonial era in Africa, and to the Second World War and beyond.

Even though its location has changed, the Niuminka village of Juffureh was already in existence before the first European settlements and was often mentioned in European writings of the period. Juffureh bears testimony to the relations between the European traders and the local Kingdoms of Niumi and Badibou. It was the King of Niumi who originally gave land (James Island, San Domingo, and part of Albreda) to the first European settlers in the area. The European settlements occupied the sites closer to the river to allow faster access to James Island and visiting ships, while the African settlements were somewhat more inland. The relationship between Juffureh and these new settlements illustrates the changing relationships over time between the local and European communities.

The ruin at San Domingo presents the earliest period of the European involvement in the area, the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1456. This ruined building along with a well and cemetery comprise some of the first evidence of European settlement in the region. This site are not only important for the currently known physical structures, but also for the potential for continued archaeological research which could shed more light on this important period in history. Albreda possesses several remains of the French *comptoir* that date to the early period of French involvement in the area. This town also contains the remains of one of the earliest Portuguese chapels in West Africa.

James Island (1456) with the remains of its bombarded fort is a perfect witness to the intense inter-European rivalry for trading interests. When seeking a sea route to India, merchants and explorers began to exploit the West African coast, to purchase goods like gold and spices. Not finding these commodities further north in Senegal, the traders did locate them along the River Gambia, which became one of the first exchange zone between Europe and Africa. More significantly, however, the island was important as a holding ground for slaves before their transshipment to Europe and the Americas. This aspect will be discussed more below. The fort changed hands numerous times between the Portuguese, French, British, and Dutch and the fabric of the fort suffered with each change of ownership. The current ruined state of the site bears physical testimony to these clashes, and its isolated position in the river has conserved its setting up to the present day.

The Six-Gun Battery (1816) and Fort Bullen (1826), located on both sides of the mouth of the River Gambia, came much later than James Island and were built with the specific intent of thwarting the slave trade once it had become illegal in the British Empire after the passing of the Abolition Act in 1807. These two structures are particularly significant because they are the only known defensive structures in the region to have been built specifically to stop slaving interests. The other fortifications of the region (including James Island), were constructed as a means of enhancing and controlling the trade in slaves (and commodities) rather than in stopping it. These two military positions allowed the British to take full control of the River Gambia, eventually paving the way for the establishment of the colonial government, a period well illustrated by many colonial buildings in Banjul and the Governor's Rest House at Fort Bullen. Finally Fort Bullen shows evidence of its reuse during the second World War (1939-1945) as a strategic observatory and artillery post. This later period illustrates yet another European rivalry that had spread to the African continent.

To return to the issue of slavery, the significance of this abhorrent commerce in human beings cannot be underestimated for its negative effects on Africa and many other parts of the world. As one of the largest points of transshipment for slaves in the region, James Island and Related Sites can be seen as being of particular importance for both its tangible remains and intangible values related to the slave trade. This association with the slave trade was strongly enhanced following the publication of Alex Haley's book, *Roots*, in 1975 and the accompanying television series in 1976. Since that time, James Island and Juffureh (the presumed village of Haley's ancestor) have increasingly become a place of pilgrimage for Africans in the Diaspora. For the ancestors of many of these Africans, James Island probably provided the last view of a continent they were never to see again. Because it is almost impossible for most Africans in the Diaspora to trace the specific path of their ancestors, Haley's work has given focus to their relationship with the African Continent. In this regard, James Island and Related sites is a unique memorial to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

b. Possible Comparative Analysis (Including State of Conservation of Similar Properties)

West Africa has many remains of forts, castles, and trading posts that are contemporaneous with James Island and Related Sites. Two in particular, the Island of Gorée and the Forts and Castles of Ghana have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List. This comparison will focus on the two already inscribed sites. ICOMOS may wish, however, to carry out a more detailed comparative analysis of this typology for the sub-Saharan Africa region.

The first point of comparison between James Island and Related Sites and the two sites already on the World Heritage List has to do with the scope of the nominated area. The inscribed site of Gorée Island consists only of the island itself without including any of the related mainland areas. The island is large enough to contain a number of fortifications and residential areas and as such was taken for the purposes of World Heritage inscription as a self contained unit. James Island, on the other hand, is a very small island and the fort covers, more or less, its entire area. In order to understand James Island fully, it is important to look at its broader context and its relationship to its surrounding areas. For this reason, parts of both sides of the river bank, in the form of other fortifications and settlements have been included. Similarly for the Forts and Castles of Ghana, this

site would probably be called today a serial nomination because it is made up of a series of individual structures (forts, castles, and trading posts). This site, as nominated, takes no account of the context of these forts and their relationship with their surroundings. In summary then, it can be said that the inscription of James Island onto the World Heritage List would offer a more complete understanding of the relationship of these types of fortifications with their surrounding areas.

In addition to its more complete context, a second element of comparison relates to the presence of the many layers and facets of the history of Afro-European encounter that are embodied by the site. The town of Juffureh represents the historical values of the area dating from before slavery and contact with the European traders in the region. The ruin of San Domingo then illustrates the period in which the first European settlements were begun on land given by the King of Niumi and the area became one of the first exchange zone between Europe and Africa. James Island and fort as well as the expanded settlements of at San Domingo, Albreda, and Juffureh can then be seen as representative of the period in which trade contacts expanded and the slave trade was started and strengthened. Finally the Fort Bullen and Six-Gun Battery sites take us to the period of the suppression of slavery and the beginning of the colonial era. It is felt that the completeness of the historical layers compare positively to the 2 sites already on the World Heritage List, and also to other similar sites in the region.

More specifically in relationship to the slave trade, it can be said that James Island and Related Sites is as significant or more significant than Gorée Island and other such sites. James Island was, in fact, one of the largest points of transshipment for slaves in the region and is, therefore, important for its tangible and intangible associations to the slave trade. This significance in comparison to other sites is enhanced even further due to Alex Haley's *Roots* which has made Juffureh and James Island an important symbolic significance the world over.

There are also several other unique aspects of this site. The ruin at San Domingo, a small two-storey fortified house, is the oldest evidence of European settlement in the region. It can be foreseen that further archaeological research in the area would provide invaluable information on that specific period. The Portuguese chapel at Albreda is also from approximately the same period meaning that is one of the first Christian churches in the region. In addition (as mentioned in the Statement of Significance above), Fort Bullen and the Six-Gun Battery are particularly significant because they are the only known defensive structures in the region to have been built specifically to stop the slave trade rather than first being used to enhance and control it.

Another aspect of the site worth mentioning in regard to comparison with other sites is the nature of James Island as a ruin. As a rather vulnerable spot, the fort was destroyed and reconstructed a number of times throughout its history until its final destruction in 1779 by the French. Unlike other sites such as Gorée and many of the forts and castles in Ghana, James Island has not undergone major restorations and retains its status as a ruin. James Island, therefore, has a particular power in conveying the violent nature of this period of history.

The setting can also be seen as having a comparative advantage in relation to other sites in the region. James Island is somewhat isolated, with access gained only from small wooden boats. In addition, its isolated location also means that tourist development (e.g. large hotels or restaurants) and some of the negative experiences for visitors (e.g. hawkers) can also be controlled. The experience for the visitor when approaching and visiting the island, therefore, remains a more authentic, spiritual, and thought provoking experience than at other sites.

c. Authenticity/Integrity

The *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* lists four aspects of authenticity which a site could meet in addition to the nomination criteria. These aspects are design, material, workmanship, and setting. Because James Island and Related Sites is a group of mostly ruined sites, it is felt that “design” is not an applicable aspect for this site. Although the basic design elements have not changed or been added onto, it is not felt that the ruined state of the various buildings give a complete picture as to the original design (nor should they, necessarily.) The other aspects will be discussed below.

Material

In regard to the material aspect of authenticity, James Island and Related Sites can be said to have a very high degree of authenticity. Most of the individual sites that make up the nominated area are ruins, which have had very little change or substitution of material since the periods when they were last in use.

The fort at James Island has never been rebuilt since it was destroyed for the last time in 1779. The material seen today at the ruin is the same that was present at the time of destruction. In fact, it is still possible to identify some of the materials brought as ballast and used in the construction of the walls of the fort. Only small amounts of consolidation and maintenance have been carried out to arrest deterioration.

The same is true for the other two fortifications that are a part of the nominated area, Fort Bullen and the Six-Gun Battery, and the ruin at San Domingo. For the most part, these structures maintain their material authenticity from the period of their construction and use. In the case of Fort Bullen, there were some additions made during World War II. A concrete bunker, constructed during that period, has been removed as part of conservation work carried out in 2000. A second concrete slab still remains at the site as does a navigation light. These elements should not be seen as compromising the overall authenticity of the site, however.

The town of Albreda must be looked at in two respects when looking at material authenticity. The ruins of the European buildings such as the chapel and CFAO Building can be said to have a high degree of material authenticity. In the case of the former, the remains show no signs of later alterations. In regard to the CFAO building, there have been some minor changes over time, such as the replacement of a floor slab and the reinforcement of ceiling beams with iron bars.

Albreda should also be examined as a living town. Obviously, in the case of living towns, some new building materials have been introduced over time. But, as one walks through the town, the traditional materials are also still very much in evidence. In addition, the traditional urban pattern has been well maintained, as have the communal open spaces within the village.

The same holds true for Juffureh. As a living community, many of the traditional earth and thatch materials still remain, although there has also been the introduction of more modern materials (in particular, corrugated iron sheets for roofs).

Workmanship

Although the traditional methods (using local stones, river sand, and oyster shell lime) for conservation and maintenance of the fort and other structures had been lost by the local artisans, the conservation training that was carried out in 1997 and 2000 has served to reintroduce these methods into the care and maintenance of the ruins. Works carried out over the past 4 years have used these methods and it is expected that it will continue into the future.

Setting

In relation to location and settings, James Island can be said to have a very high degree of authenticity. The island sits in the middle of the river at a distance from the mainland which

ensures that its setting is totally undisturbed. Approach is still by small boats and canoes which add to the feeling of isolation of the island. In fact, it can be said that the approach to James Island by small boat or canoe is as close as one can possibly come in modern times, to what the approach would have been like in previous centuries.

In the same way, Fort Bullen can also be seen to have a strong authenticity of setting. The fort is bordered by the river on one side, and by a large piece of open land (serving as a buffer zone) on the other side. This open land ensures that there is no encroachment and conserves the setting of the fort.

The towns of Albreda and Juffureh can also be said to be authentic in their setting. They continue to function as living villages, but are far enough away from Banjul to conserve their rural character and activities such as fishing and farming. In addition, car traffic is almost non-existent in the villages.

d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these Criteria).

Criteria iv. be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

James Island and Related Sites is an outstanding illustration of the phases of the Afro-European encounter from the 15th Century up through the colonial era in Africa. The site shows many layers and facets of this long and turbulent history. The history of the site starts with the town of Juffureh, representing the period before slavery and contact with the European traders in the region. The ruin of San Domingo and the Portuguese church at Albreda then illustrate the period in which the first European settlements were begun, and the area became one of the first exchange zone between Europe and Africa. James Island and its fort, as well as the expanded settlements of at San Domingo, Albreda, and Juffureh can then be seen as representative of the period in which trade contacts expanded and the slave trade was started and strengthened. Finally the Fort Bullen and Six-Gun Battery sites take us to the period of the suppression of slavery and the beginning of the colonial era. Remnants of World War II era construction represent the final evidence of yet another European rivalry that had spread to the African continent.

Criteria vi. be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural):

James Island and Related Sites is directly and tangibly associated with the Atlantic slave trade, a chapter in the history of mankind that cannot be underestimated for its negative effects on Africa and many other parts of the world. As one of the largest points of transshipment for slaves in the region, the physical remains within this site embody the intangible values connected with this destructive period. The association with the slave trade was strongly enhanced following the publication of Alex Haley's book, *Roots*, in 1975 and the accompanying television series in 1976. Since that time, James Island and Juffureh (the presumed village of Haley's ancestor) have increasingly become a place of pilgrimage for Africans in the Diaspora. For the ancestors of many of these Africans, James Island probably provided the last view of a continent they were never to see again. Because it is almost impossible for most Africans in the Diaspora to trace the specific path of their ancestors, Haley's work has given focus to their relationship with the African Continent. In this regard, James Island and Related sites is a unique memorial to the Atlantic Slave Trade.

3. Description

a. Description of Property

James Island

James Island is situated on the Gambia River, 30 km away from the river mouth. Its location at equitable distance between the North and South banks made it a strategic place to control the waterway. The fort is situated in the middle of this very small island which covers an area of approximately 0.3 hectare.

The fort is roughly square in plan with bastions at each corner. The bastions are polygonal in shape with the end chamfered, probably to fit in the limited available space above the water line. The bastions rise about 5 meters above the ground level, and between them are curtain walls of the same height. Against the northeastern curtain wall, on the water side, a large water cistern divided in two equal compartments was built to collect rainwater.

The Fort is made of stones extracted from the main land and from Dog Island, situated 17 km downstream, on the north bank. Imported stones, broken tiles and burnt bricks brought as ballast can also easily be identified in different parts of the fort. All these materials are bonded with mortar made of river sand, shells and lime. Lime was obtained from the heating of oyster shells in basic kilns fed with firewood. This type of lime is produced at present on the south bank.

Openings in the masonry work were bridged with Rhun palm lintels. All roofs have collapsed, but most probably, they were flat, using timber (or palm tree) beams and covered with lime mortar. The magazine, under the Eastern bastion, is the only remaining covered space. It is roofed with a stone vault.

Because the Island was just big enough to hold the fort, it had to be artificially extended to provide more space for its occupants. This was done through erecting a series of poles all around the Island and backfilling so as to get platforms on which activities could be developed and buildings constructed. This backfilling has almost completely disappeared today.

All original structures are in ruins. They comprise:

- the fort itself;
- the slave house (north of eastern point);
- the governor's kitchen (south of eastern point);
- the blacksmith shop (south);
- a store (south of western point).

There are a few recent additions to the site:

- the jetty, made of rhun palm trunks;
- a navigation light;
- a toilet block;
- a replica of a slave hut (built to protect a model of the island used for visitor interpretation);
- a round concrete table with benches;
- flag poles.

There are also several cannons mounted on concrete. At low tide, some remains of the poles that were used to contain the backfill of the island extensions are visible.

Access to the site is by boat, either from Albreda / Juffureh or directly from Banjul. The larger boats coming from Banjul rely on fishermen's boats from Albreda / Juffureh to transfer their passengers onto the island. The jetty allows access at any tide. During the rainy season, however, access becomes more difficult because the tide becomes so high that the jetty proves a bit too low on the island side.

The island is partly covered with immense baobab trees that have grown naturally since the island was abandoned. These baobabs house a colony of pelicans. The surroundings of the island are still very rich in various species of fish.

Albreda

Albreda is the only village in the area with a jetty sufficiently long to allow for small boats and crafts to dock at all times. It is situated in the middle of a large area of agricultural land that can be divided into two main components. In the coastal zone, there are scenic rice fields bordered on one side by a small beach and mangrove trees and on the other by immense trees of different species. The land on the other side of the village is devoted to mango trees, cassava, groundnut and vegetable farming.

Albreda is a typical contemporary Mandingo village with large remaining patterns of the local traditional settlements. If there has been a tendency to utilise some modern building materials, the traditional ones are still much in use. Moreover, the traditional urban network and the convivial verandas where one meets neighbours and visitors have been maintained. Also, there are still many communal open air meeting places (Bantaba) within the village.

The remains of the European settlement at Albreda comprise the chapel, some remaining freestanding walls and foundations, and the picturesque CFAO building on the waterfront.

The Chapel: The chapel, known to have been built by the Portuguese in the late 15th century, is in ruins, but more than 50% of its walls are still standing, including the full back elevation. The large walls are built of sand and lateritic stones laid in a lime mortar. Just beside the chapel (30m on the west) is a free standing wall, which is contemporaneous with the church.

CFAO Building: The CFAO¹ building in Albreda stands at the water's edge near the wharf. It is a two-storey building with an adjacent single storey warehouse. The ground floor, accessible through an open, arcaded veranda, served as a shop and store for goods. The top floor was used as a residence for agents of the trading company.

At high tide, the South wall is lapped by the waves. It is not clear if the river has, subsequent to construction, eroded the river bank up to this point, or if the building was placed close to the water intentionally to give easier access to the warehouse by boats, possibly through some sort of platform using a pole and backfill system such as was used at James Island.

This two storey structure is made of brick and stone masonry. A concrete slab has replaced the original floor probably made of wood and supported by rhon palm beams reinforced with I- shaped iron bars. The building covers an area of 216 m².

Most of the walls are exposed without plaster; this is historically very interesting as it shows the fabric. It testifies to more than 500 years of various additions, demolitions and changes. The result is a mix of local boulders, chalk blocks, stones and fired clay bricks. CFAO bought this building in 1902. Though the architect is not known, a 1847 plan of Albreda shows a stone building in the same location.

¹ CFAO : stands for « Compagnie Française d'Afrique Occidentale »

Juffureh

Juffureh is next to Albreda, to the northeast, and therefore is not along the river. Like Albreda, it is a typical developing Mandinka village with a mixture of round and rectangular earth structures (adobe) roofed with thatch or more recently corrugated iron sheets.

One of the most important aspects of Juffureh is its identification by Alex Haley as the village of his ancestor who was taken to America. It is here that the Kinteh family, from which Haley claims ancestry, continues to live to the present day. The compound of the Kinteh family is a pilgrimage destination. It now has a large open hall (Bantaba) where Binta Kinteh, the current matriarch of the family, receives pilgrims and visitors. A visit to Juffureh also comprises a stop at the Alkalo's Bantaba (reception hall of the Chief of the village) and to the only remaining warehouse, the Maurel Frères building.

The Maurel Frères Building: This building was constructed around 1840 by the British and was later used as a warehouse by a Lebanese trader named Maurel. It was rehabilitated in 1996 and was transformed into a small museum on the Atlantic Slave Trade in the Senegambia. Exhibits comprise explanatory panels in a sequence that covers the evolution, process and results of the triangular trade, concluding with the contemporary African Diaspora. Old illustrations, photographs, slave trading implements, registers of freed slaves, and guns and ammunitions are used to illustrate the overall themes.

San Domingo

San Domingo stands 1000 metres east of Albreda and about 70 metres south of the main road. The Portuguese established it in the late 15th century and at that time had gardens, a cemetery, a church and a well. Today, only the ruins of a 8.5 x 8.5 m one storey house, identified as remains of the Portuguese settlement can be seen. Only two walls remain. The building materials are sand and lateritic stones put together with lime mortar. Loopholes at the ground floor level suggest that the occupants had a preoccupation with security and defence.

With the exception of these walls, no signs can be seen above ground of this first settlement. It is very likely, however, that further archaeological investigation would reveal more traces between the actual ruins and the river (according to the village elders).

Six-Gun Battery

Six-Gun Battery was completed in 1821 in the newly constructed town of Bathurst, which was founded in 1816 on Saint Mary Island. The reason for its construction was that the Battery could afford sufficient firepower to stop any ships trying to sail out of the river mouth and that naval vessels on patrol would then effect their capture. However, the Battery's firepower could not cross the entire width of the river mouth, which is about 8 miles wide at this point. The Battery consists of six 24 pounder guns. The six guns are installed on inclined rails fixed at an average of 1m height. They are protected by a large parapet wall made of stones laid in lime mortar and plastered with lime sand mortar. Their layout allows an angle of coverage of about 30°.

The Six-Gun Battery is located within Banjul, in the State House compound, at the edge of the river. The canons are visible behind the fence when passing the entrance of the State House but they can not be approached without obtaining a special permission from the government.

Fort Bullen

Fort Bullen sits at the end of Barra point, on the north bank of the river, opposite Banjul. The fort is built close to the end of the point, and is protected from the sea by a defensive wall made of stone and boulders. Around the fort, on the east and northern sides is a vast piece of empty land. This large scenic land currently plays the role of a buffer zone. A few large old trees provide shade on this open land. The site is constantly freshened by the wind blowing from the sea. The site is very close to the Banjul/Barra ferry landing. There is a gravel road from the ferry landing that passes between several mechanics workshops, a groundnut depot, and the Fisheries Department project site. The access road goes through the buffer zone, giving cars access to the fort.

In plan, the fort is a 45 m x 30 m rectangle with four circular bastions in the corners. In between the bastions are curtain walls enclosing the fort. The courtyard is accessible through two doors, one on the seaside, in the middle of the western wall, and the second in the eastern wall. Compared to James Fort, Fort Bullen is relatively low with an average wall height of approximately 3.5 m.

Within the fort are remains of buildings, which were built in the courtyard or stood against the curtain walls. On the northern side is a free standing 3 x 4,5 m stone building with two rooms. One of the rooms was covered with a concrete slab during WW II to serve as an ammunition store. The slab is sagging and access inside is forbidden for security reasons. The second room has been covered with a single pitch roof in July 2000, to house a permanent exhibition. The remains of walls of another room can be seen against the western wall next to the entrance. A concrete stage was constructed in 1996 inside the fort against the eastern wall for use during cultural events.

Below the southeast bastion is a vaulted room. It is approximately 12 m² in size and on the back wall are listings of ammunition previously stocked in the room. A similar room also exists under the northwest bastion but it is much smaller in size and has been filled up with rubble. Near the entrance to the southeast bastion is the only tree, a huge fig, which provides shade above the entrance and covers part of the bastion. The four bastions can be accessed with stone and brick staircases, which are all in good condition. A navigation light sits on the western end of the courtyard. The light sits on a 15-m high metal structure fixed on a concrete slab. It is rather discrete since the wire fence, which encircled it, was removed in July 2000.

Against the north wall, there are remains of a raised walkway connecting the two bastions. The walkway is built on top of brick arches. From the original six arches, two were restored in July 2000, one is half collapsed, and 3 have totally disappeared. The courtyard also had a concrete bunker built during the Second World War. For aesthetic and security reasons, this bunker was demolished during the July 2000 conservation programme.

Four canons are lying on the ground of the fort. One is in front of the northwest bastion and dates from World War II. The other three, one in front of the new rest house and two in front of the entrance, are the original canons of the fort. According to the Alkalo of Barra, the old canons were on the bastions until the Second World War when they were dismantled by the British to make way for the reinforcement of the bastions and the installation of new and more modern guns.

The other built structures around the fort comprise:

- *The Old Rest House*: This was the residence of the Travelling Commissioner of the colonial administration at the beginning of the century. The walls are made of mud and the house is covered with a large double-pitched roof covering a narrow veranda on the four sides. The caretakers presently occupy it even though it is in bad condition. The caretakers have put up small structures behind it to serve as toilet and bath.
- *The Wooden Rest House*: This structure was erected in the 1950s near the southeast bastion. It is a 3 bedroom prefabricated wooden house raised on top of concrete columns. The first floor serves as accommodation while the space below allows for parking and storage. The building structure is still sound but the external wooden covering has started to decay. The building is no longer occupied, accelerating the decay process of the building.
- In 1996, a third rest house with an adjacent toilet block was built on the northern side of the fort. The house has been rented out for some years but it has since been returned to the NCAC.

b. History and Development

The Gambia, like most parts of West Africa, was probably already inhabited 1.6 million years ago. The Carthaginians first documented the existence of the river, from which the country takes its name, in the 5th century BC. However, the most direct prehistoric evidence come from more recent times, viz., the stone circles on the north bank of the river and the shell mounds sites of the estuary which illustrate widespread habitation from around 750 AD.

Associated with the stone circles complex are burial mounds locally called *mbanar* which are reminiscent of burials known in the empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai which were prominent in the western Sudan until the late 15th century. From various *tarikhs* handed down by Islamic religious scholars, we have also learned that the territories now recognised as The Gambia fell under the rule of two major kingdoms; the Kingdom of *Kaabu*, an off shoot of eastern migrations from the Mali Empire (ca. 1200-1867), and the *Jollof* Kingdom (ca 1300-1500) to the north and west. The decline of both kingdoms is linked to increased European presence on the continent and a change of focus from the Saharan bound trade to the Atlantic.

By the 14th and 15th centuries, Kaabu became an empire in its own right, following the decline of Mali and the subsequent rise of Songhai to the east. Through alliances, intermarriages, and internal migrations, Kaabu asserted its independence and came to dominate the whole of the Senegambia. Its cultural influence was much more important than its political control, as it gradually became the cultural nucleus for the Mandinka of the Senegambia and Guinea-Bissau.

Kaabu played a big role in Atlantic-oriented trade before any Europeans arrived. The event which had the most marked impact on the western Mandinka, was the arrival of the Portuguese between 1446 and 1456 when they reached the Senegambia. Using the Gambia River to access the interior, the coastal areas became the main frontier of acculturation. However Kaabu maintained its traditional religion, barring the road to Islam until the 1800s. By 1456, the Portuguese had established contact with the indigenous population, the Niuminkas. Thus began a period of trade and cross-cultural relations which over the next five hundred years substantially changed the face of The Gambia, through the exploitation of the local resources.

For a long time, the River Gambia was considered a more valuable trading place than Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or Côte d'Ivoire. It was closer to both Europe and America and moreover allowed seafarers to avoid the "no wind black point". Moreover there was ample opportunity to trade. Also, because of its natural harbours, ships could safely anchor in the river, which is one of the most navigable in the region. The River Gambia also had a specific advantage in being able to reach a very vast hinterland. By that time, rumours of mountains of gold had already been popularised by Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324-25. Numerous merchants and explorers came to purchase gold, ivory, hides, cloth, and slaves in exchange for European products such as jewellery (beads), guns and spirits.

James Island was used as a resting ground for fishermen long before the arrival of the Europeans on the Senegambian coast. The local people called it *Johe* (Wollof) or *sandymunko Joyo* (Mandinka) the latter probably a corruption of San Domingo Island. Oral history recounts that abundant fish could be found in its environs.

Its hereditary rulers were and still are *Niuminkas*. It was from them that, together with a piece of land in Juffureh, the Island was acquired by a company of servants of the Duke of Courland (now Latvia) who started building the first fort in 1651. The Courlanders were soon overcome by the British who seized the island on the pretext that it was a Dutch colony. They renamed it James Island, after James, Duke of York. This set a trend in the historical development of the Island, which was largely influenced by relations between the powers in Europe. Between 1661 when the British took over the fort from the Courlanders and 1779 when it was destroyed for the last time by the French, the fort was destroyed and rebuilt seven times and shifted hands as many times between the British, French, Dutch, and also pirates and mutineers.

The ease and frequency at which the island was blockaded and overrun reflects the vulnerability of the location and the indispensable need for links with the people living on land. Hence the profusion of European settlements in the adjacent area of Juffureh, Albreda, San Domingo and Sika. The river being salty at this point, and the cisterns incapable of catching enough rain even for the small population of under fifty which usually inhabited the fort, the island was totally dependent on the mainland for its water supply and firewood.

By 1815, James Island was abandoned as a base because of its irreparable state and the fact that control over the river was exercised from Bathurst.

San Domingo is the earliest Portuguese settlement in the area. It was established by Luso-African traders who acted as host-brokers and middlemen for the Europeans. The settlement was said to have had a well, cemetery and church. San Domingo was indispensable to the community of James Island. Apart from providing fresh water, it was there that the European traders met their African counterparts. Sometimes sick or worn-out inhabitants of the island were sent to San Domingo for recuperation. The site present the ruins of a two-storey building with loopholes at basement level, suggesting a defensive function.

In 1681, **Albreda**, which was probably another Portuguese settlement, was rented to French traders by the King of Niimi. It became the location of the French *comptoir* in The Gambia and a strategic place to control the inhabitants of James Fort. Albreda, together with San Domingo, served as the main trading outlets of the Kingdom of Niimi and the westernmost terminus of the long distance trade routes from the interior. At the demand of the English, Albreda was abandoned by the French in 1857, but it is clear that the French came back, as there are some remains of two French trading company buildings in Albreda: Maurel Frères and CFAO. **Juffureh**, situated some way back from the river is the village of the Mandingo trading counterparts and the location from where the British traded as business companies and ruled the area.

Fort Bullen at Barra and **The Six-Gun Battery** in Banjul, are the only structures known in West Africa to have been constructed by Europeans for deterring the trade in slaves. Even though the British Government had proscribed the slave trade, unscrupulous traders were still operating. The River Gambia had been recognised by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 as a British possession, and the 1807 Abolition Act made slave traffic illegal on the river. The acquisition of Bathurst (now Banjul, the capital) from the ruler of Kombo, and soon after, the construction of a battery of six 24-point canon, two field pieces at its shores, and a barracks to house 80 soldiers, was mainly aimed at addressing this situation. The idea was that the battery could afford sufficient fire power to stop any ships trying to sail out of the river mouth and that their capture would then be effected by naval vessels on patrol. Within months of setting up base in Banjul, five slave ships were seized by the new arrivals.

However, it soon became apparent that the Battery's fire power could not traverse the entire width of the river mouth which is about 8 miles wide at this point. Ships could easily escape by moving closer to the north bank of the river. Fort Bullen was therefore constructed in 1827 on the north bank, opposite the Six-Gun Battery, to cover this escape route. The Fort was constructed under the supervision of Commodore Charles Bullen who was sent by the British government to consolidate the work of suppressing the slave trade in The Gambia. With gun batteries on both sides of the river mouth, the British finally had full control over all trade on the River Gambia.

The Six-Gun Battery and Fort Bullen were abandoned in 1870. During the Second World War, Fort Bullen was re-used as an observatory and artillery base by the British army as a mean to protect against a possible attack from the French Vichy Government which controlled Senegal. This precaution proved to be unnecessary. After World War II, the fort was again abandoned.

c. Form and Date of Most Recent Records of Property

The most recent records of property are the reports written as part of conservation projects sponsored by the World Heritage Centre in 1997 and the World Monuments Fund in 2000. These reports contain photographs, sites descriptions, technical description of the works carried out, cost of materials and workmanship of the works undertaken.

- *B. Ceesay, T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island and other related sites, Final Report*, CRATerre-EAG, World Monument Fund, NCAC, Grenoble, France, September 2000.
- *T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island, In situ training programme*, UNESCO, NCAC, CRATerre-EAG, Grenoble, France, December 1997.

Detailed descriptions of the site history can be found in the guide published by the National Council for Arts and Culture:

- *B. Ceesay, A. Meagher, R. Tobin, A. Samuel, Historic sites of the Gambia*, an official guide to the Monuments and sites of the Gambia, NCAC, Banjul, The Gambia, 1998

A more detailed bibliography is available in section 7c.

d. Present State of Conservation

James Island

The fort and all historic structures on the island are in a ruined state. The ruins are stabilised, and well protected by a capping. The structures built just at the limit of the high tide are at times beaten by the waves, especially during storms. In some cases, the base of the walls are undermined due to the repeated lapping of the lime mortar by the waves. This occurs at a slow pace and most of the threatened parts have already been protected.

The artificial extensions that were maintained by the rhun palm posts are becoming eroded. Recent observations and monitoring show clearly that the erosion is still on-going, but at a very slow pace. A programme for the stabilisation of the shore is being set up, as well as continued monitoring of the whole site.

Albreda-Juffureh

As living places, the villages are well kept by the inhabitants. A part from the roofs, which are gradually replaced from thatch to corrugated iron, the houses are well maintained in the traditional way. Circulation in the villages is still done on narrow mud roads or paths, and cement buildings are very few.

CFAO Building

The quality of the walls is rather poor and susceptible to erosion. The building is in a state of ruin, and small parts regularly collapse. In July 2000, only 50% of the walls were still standing. There is no longer a roof on the building and the staircase has also disappeared. Half of the concrete slab is also missing.

Maurel frères building

The building is in a very good state of conservation, since it has been fully restored in 1996.

San Domingo

The Portuguese chapel and San Domingo are in a state of ruins. However, the ruins have been stabilised and the most endangered parts were reinforced in July 2000. This included the restoration of 2 loopholes on San Domingo ruins, and the re-filling of cavities in the masonry work of the Chapel. The Maurel Frères building was fully restored in 1996 and is in a very good state of conservation.

Six-Gun Battery

Very good state of conservation.

Fort Bullen

The fort itself is in a good state of conservation. The most endangered part of the site is the sea defence wall on the ocean side. The wall is continuously beaten by the waves, and parts of it have collapsed. Twenty metres of the damaged wall were rebuilt in July 2000, and it is foreseen to gradually rebuild the whole of it.

e. Policies and Programmes Related to the Presentation and Promotion of the Property.

Apart from the Six-Gun Battery, which is not yet open to the public, James Island and Related Sites are well promoted by the tourism industry and by the Gambia Government (The Gambia National Tourist Office. web site: <http://www.gambiatourism.info/>). The sites are used as the main tourist attraction to the country, together with the annual Roots International Homecoming Festival, which also takes place on the proposed sites. James Island is mentioned in a great number of other web sites as well.

Site promotion and presentation is mainly done through:

- the slave trade museum opened in 1996 in the Maurel Frères building, Albreda. This museum presents the history of the Atlantic slave trade and the Senegambia;
- a 106 pages guide on all historic sites in the Gambia printed in 1999 by the NCAC.

Many promotion and site presentation activities have been implemented in the year 2000 to improve the visitor's experience and promote the site. They include:

- preparation of new signboards;
- printing of 6 different postcards of James Island (2000 copies printed for each);
- design and printing of a presentation flyer (4000 copies);
- 8 new postcards representing all the sites have been printed and are sold at the various sites since September 2000;
- Printing of a coloured leaflet on James Island in 2000;
- Preparation of an exhibition room in Fort Bullen in 2000;
- New road signs placed in 2000;
- several newspapers articles, radio and television programmes organised to promote the sites and promote NCAC's work.

4. Management

a. Ownership

All the sites are owned by the State.

b. Legal Status

Apart from the six-gun battery, all the proposed sites are gazetted as National Monuments.

- **James Island:** The site is legally protected and vested in the custody of the National Council for Arts and Culture who controls it and is responsible for its conservation. The island was gazetted as a National Monument in Legal Notice N°20 of 1995
- **Albreda-Juffureh complex:** All the historic buildings described in the previous chapters in San Domingo, Juffureh and Albreda are gazetted as National Monuments together with James Island since 1995 in the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995.
- **Six-gun battery:** The site is presently the subject of National Monument proclamation. The President's Office, the major stakeholder has supported proclamation, which is now awaiting gazetting at the Attorney General's Chambers. Once proclaimed a National Monument, the site will come under the purview of the NCAC. But the site will certainly have to be co-managed with the Office of the President.
- **Fort Bullen:** The site was gazetted as National Monuments in 1995. Exact site boundaries are shown in the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995.

c. Protective Measures and Means of Implementing Them

As "national monuments/historic sites" under the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995, the proposed sites are legally protected. The "NCAC act" of 1989 gives powers to the National Council for Arts and Culture to control the protected area.

"No person is allowed to alter a site without the consent of the NCAC. A person who contravenes the provision of this law is liable to a fine, or in default of payment, to a term of imprisonment (section 19-2)."

The effectiveness of this protective system has been tested more than once. A sand-mining project, which was to be implemented in the Albreda-Juffureh zone, never evolved after NCAC protested.

The National Council for Arts and Culture is also a member of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team, under the National Environment Agency. NCAC staff members who can monitor developments represent the council there. New projects can not be implemented without the approval of the council.

The recent craft market developed in Juffureh was constructed after consulting the NCAC, who followed the process from the design to the construction stage. Archaeologists from the council are also present when new developments occur to monitor all digging work.

Developments of a larger nature require planning permission from the Kerewan Area Council, which is also represented by the Planning Officer in our Historic Site Management Committee, evolved through the development of the management plan.

The *Legal Notice No. 20 of 1995* can be seen in appendix 1

The *National Council for Arts and Culture Act of 1989* can be seen in appendix 2

d. Agency/Agencies with Management Authority

Museums and Monuments Division of the National Council for Arts and Culture, P.O. .Box 151, The Gambia (an executive agency of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism).

e. Level at Which Management Is Exercised (e.g., on Property, Regionally) and Name and Address of Responsible Person For Contact Purposes

Management of the sites is exercised at the Government level by:

Baba Ceesay
Principal Cultural Officer
National Council for Arts and Culture
Museum and Monuments Dept.
National Museum Premises
Independence Drive
PMB 151 Banjul, The Gambia
Tel : (220) 226 244
Email : Musmon@qanet.gm

f. Agreed Plans Related to Property (e.g., Regional, Local Plan, Conservation Plan, Tourism Development Plan)

The accompanying management plan is the result of the joined effort of numerous organisations and people who contributed in many different ways to collect information, analyse it, identify the key issues and finally develop the 5 year plan.

65 people were involved in the preparation of this 5-year plan. They represented the following groups of stakeholders:

- The Ministry of Culture and Tourism(2)
- The National Council for Arts and Culture(8)
- Department of State for Education(1)
- Department of State for Tourism and Culture(1)
- The National Tourism Office(3)
- Representatives of Barra Town(18)
- Representatives of Upper Niumi(1)
- Representative of North Bank Division(1)
- Representatives of Kerewan Area Council(5)
- Representatives of Juffureh and Albreda(22)
- Africa 2009 / CRATerre-EAG(2)
- Africa 2009 / ICCROM(1)

g. Sources and levels of finance

The revenue generated from this group of sites mainly comes from entry fees. The total annual revenue realised from the Albreda-Juffureh complex including James Island ranges between US\$17,000 and US \$20,000. (1999 and 2000 figures). But it is noteworthy that these figures are very much dependent on the vagaries of the tourist season which is at present witnessing a downward trend.

Revenue collected from the site in the form of ticket and brochure sales are paid to the Revenue Collector at the National Museum on a monthly basis. These are then put together with other NCAC income and banked in a general NCAC account. Expenditure from this account is dictated by need, but mostly predicated on a yearly programme of action submitted to Council for approval at the beginning of each financial year.

The postcards and flyer sold at the sites also serve to raise funds for regular maintenance. The main selling points at the moment are the National Museum in Banjul, the slave trade museum in Albreda and the tourist boat going to James Island. 60% of what is realised from the sales will be used for reprints while the remaining 40% will be used for conservation activities.

Established Tour Operators who bring in group-visits enter into agreement with the NCAC by which their visitor numbers are recorded and the company is invoiced at the end of each month. Individual visitors pay the mandatory fee before being allowed visiting.

Recurrent expenditure on monuments and sites in general is provided for by the NCAC in its regular yearly budget. Such expenditure is usually related to the purchase of equipment such as rakes, cutlasses, wheel barrows, etc. for routine maintenance work. In the case of James Island, purchase of Rhun palm and nails and fees for the workers for the maintenance of the access jetty is always included in the yearly budget. Additional clearing and small maintenance work are to be considered (included in the 2001-2005 management plan).

h. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

In 1997, the World Heritage Committee funded a programme aimed at reducing the risk of degradation to the site and building capacities within and around NCAC². The programme lasted for 25 days and involved 55 participants from Albreda-Juffureh, Fort Bullen and Banjul.

In July 2000, another programme took place at 5 sites (James Island, CFAO building, Albreda chapel, San Domingo ruins and Fort Bullen) and involved 26 craftsmen from The Gambia, including 6 staff members of the National Council for Arts and Culture. Of this team, 12 had previously participated in the 1997 training. CRATerre-EAG conservation experts supervised both of the above programmes.

The Principal Cultural Officer of the NCAC was also a participant to the first AFRICA 2009 regional course on conservation and management of Immovable Cultural Heritage held in Mombasa, Kenya (5 July to 3 September 1999) and has subsequently participated in other AFRICA 2009 activities.

² for more details, see following report : *T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island, In situ training programme*, Unesco, NCAC, CRATerre-EAG, Grenoble, France, December 1997

i. Visitor Facilities and Statistics

James Island	Tour operators	Individual visitors	total
1998	13618	5002	18620
1999	11251	2660	13911

Fort Bullen	Tour operators	Individual visitors	Educational groups	total
1999	1459	563	478	2500
2000	1849	939	231	3019

j. Property Management Plan and Statement of Objectives (copy to be annexed)

The objectives of the plan are:

- To stabilise the state of conservation of the sites
- To increase awareness and improve visitors experience
- To use the sites to generate development within the local communities

For more information, see attached management plan.

k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance).

All the management and maintenance of the sites is done by the staff of the National Council for Arts and Culture. The distribution of staff involved in the conservation of the proposed sites is as follows:

Sites	Staff description	responsibilities
All sites in the Gambia	1 Principal Cultural Officer (NCAC)	- ensure the proper conservation and maintenance of the sites - oversee and coordinate staff
James island	1 caretaker	- maintain the site - do daily monitoring - attend to visitors - collect revenues - execute routine work (cleaning, tree surgery, maintenance of security chains, descriptive panels, and visitor paths)
Albreda - Juffureh San Domingo	1 caretaker	- maintain and clean the site - ensure security - take care of the San Domingo ruins and the CFAO Building
	1 museum attendant	- take care of the museum - sell tickets
	1 semi-permanent staff	- take care of the guesthouse
Fort Bullen	2 caretakers	- maintain the site - do daily monitoring - ensure security - execute minor conservation works
	1 attendant	- attend to visitors and guide them - collect revenues
The six-gun battery	grounds staff of the Office of the President	- maintain and clean the site

For more information on NCAC's management structure, see attached management plan, page 91-92

5. Factors Affecting the Property

a. Development Pressures (e.g., Encroachment, Adaptation, Agriculture, Mining)

The river naturally protects James Island, which is not exposed to any sort of development. As part of the State House, the Six-Gun Battery is well guarded and protected against development.

Juffureh and Albreda are not exposed to uncontrolled development. The road crossing these villages is not a major trade route, only a few cars bringing villagers to Barra can be seen every day. The inhabitants survive on fishing and farming and this rural area is not in a development process. Development pressure affects more the South Bank of the river, around Banjul.

Only Fort Bullen, situated near the heart of Barra town has more of a potential to be exposed to encroachment. There is an ample buffer zone around the fort, however, and the NCAC has been vigilant to ensure that any tentative encroachments have been stopped.

b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., Pollution, Climate Change)

The river gradually erodes the artificial extensions and protective walls erected to protect the buildings constructed next to the river (James Fort, Fort Bullen and CFAO building), but the process is rather slow, and only an extraordinary rise of the river level (due to exceptional rainfalls) could damage the sites. The situation is monitored.

c. Natural Disasters and Preparedness (Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, etc.)

Not applicable

d. Visitor/Tourism Pressures

Tourism is not yet sufficiently developed to represent a threat, especially since James Fort has been equipped with paths, signs and chains in 1997, preventing the destruction of wall by tourists walking on the ruins.

e. Number of Inhabitants within Property, Buffer Zone

Nobody lives on James Island and none of the monuments included in the proposed property are inhabited. Inhabitants can only be found in Albreda and Juffureh. Albreda has a population of 1850 and Juffureh 1300 inhabitants (1993 Census).

f. Other

6. Monitoring

a. Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation

- State of conservation of the walls
- Size and shape of the island
- Monitoring reports prepared by the NCAC
- Documentation of maintenance and conservation works

b. Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property

The national Council for Arts and Culture is responsible for overseeing the regular monitoring and maintenance work on the site. NCAC caretakers do the daily monitoring of the sites. In case of peculiar problems, the caretakers report to the Head of the Museum and Monuments section of NCAC.

Every three months, the Head of the Museums and Monuments section of the NCAC performs a physical inspection of the sites. This condition assessment is done with one representative of the local stakeholders and, if possible, with one local guide.

A brief report is established after each visit. Once a year, the assessment reports are summarised by the Head of the Museum and Monuments section into a yearly report.

c. Results of Previous Reporting Exercises

See Management Plan and following reports :

- *B. Ceesay, T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island and other related sites, Final Report*, CRATerre-EAG, World Monument Fund, NCAC, Grenoble, France, September 2000
- *T. Joffroy, Mission to Gambia*, Gaïa project, Iccrom-CRATerre-EAG, France, May 1996
- *T. Joffroy, Mission to Gambia*, Unesco, CRATerre-EAG, France, July 1997
- *T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island, In situ training programme*, Unesco, NCAC, CRATerre-EAG, Grenoble, France, December 1997

7. Documentation

a. Photographs, Slides and, Where Available, Film/Video

A selection of 35 photographs can be found in appendix 1. More illustrations are also available in the attached management plan.

b. Copies of Property Management Plans and Extracts of Other Plans Relevant to the Property

See Management Plan

c. Bibliography

B. Ceesay, A. Meagher, R. Tobin, A. Samuel, Historic sites of the Gambia, an official guide to the Monuments and sites of the Gambia, NCAC, Banjul, The Gambia, 1998

B. Ceesay, T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, Preparatory assistance for the preparation of the nomination file, Africa 2009, NCAC, Grenoble, France, September 2000

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C. Descamps: Report on mission to The Gambia. (Restricted report to the government of the Gambia-unpublished) , November 1977

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M. Tomkinson, La Gambie en images, Vilo Paris and Michael Tomkinson publishing, Hammamet, Tunisia, 1989

d. Address where Inventory, Records and Archives Are Held.

Inventory, Records and Archives are kept at the:

- Museums and Monuments Department, National Council for arts and culture, Banjul, The Gambia.

Most of the available archives have been duplicated and copies are kept at:

- CRATerre-School of architecture, Grenoble, France.

Some of the archives presented in the Management Plan originate from the National archives and Military archives in Paris, France, and in the United Kingdom:

- Service historique de l'armée de terre, Paris, France.
- Service historique de la Marine, Château de Vincennes, Paris, France
- The national archive network for the United Kingdom, accessible on the internet : (<http://www.pro.gov.uk/catalogues/a2a.htm>)

8. Signature on behalf of the State Party.

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9. Selection of slides for the nomination file



SLIDES 1 to 14 (James Island)

1	James Island, seen from the western side, and the tourist boat, bringing visitors from Banjul once a day. The river is more than 6 km wide at this point. Albreda and Juffureh are located 2 km. Away on the left-hand side, on the North bank.	1997
2	James Island, seen from the eastern side. The fort covers half of the island, the rest of the surface is occupied by ruins and baobab trees. The Island covers approximately 0.3-hectare.	2000
3	James Island, seen from the southern side.	1997
4	James Fort, seen from the western bastion.	1997
5	Model of the fort as it was before destruction. Model based on the Justly Watson plans of 1755.	1997
6	Inside court of the Fort.	2000
7	Fort seen from the south.	2000
8	These immense baobab trees have naturally grown on the island. They now cover both ends of this tiny island (North and South).	2000
9	Wall detail on the southern side.	1997
10	Tourists visiting the fort.	1997
11	Wall remains of the armurers room, on the northern end.	1997
12	Eastern bastion before conservation in 1997.	1996
13	Eastern bastion after the 1997 conservation campaign. Only a few walls have been consolidated to ensure safety to visitors and prevent further destruction.	1997
14	Replica of a slave hut built on the northern side, where visitors land on the island.	1997

SLIDES 15 to 27 (Albreda-Juffureh)

15	Typical street scene in Albreda-Juffureh.	2001
16	Fishermen preparing their boats in the morning, Albreda.	2001
17	Sand beach, mangroves and rice fields on the eastern side of the village.	2001
18	Farmland, on the outskirts of the village.	2001
19	The Maurel frères building, transformed into a slave trade museum in 1996.	1997
20	Tourists visiting the slave trade exhibition inside Maurel frères building.	1997
21	CFAO building seen from the river.	1997
22	Tourists listening to their guide in Albreda. CFAO building sits in the background.	1996
23	Close view of the ruins of CFAO building. The ruins have been consolidated in July 2000.	1997
24	The Portuguese chapel built in the late 15 th Century in Albreda.	2000
25	The Portuguese chapel in Albreda.	2000
26	San Domingo ruins, standing a kilometer East from Albreda.	2001
27	Detail of a lope hole in the san Domingo ruins.	2001



SLIDES 28 to 29 (Six-gun battery, Banjul)

28	The six-gun battery, installed in 1821 in Bathurst (Banjul) to control the river mouth.	2001
29	The six gun battery, Banjul.	2001

SLIDES 30 to 35 (Fort Bullen, Barra)

30	Fort Bullen, seen from the river mouth. The fort was constructed on the North bank opposite the six-gun battery, in 1827, to ensure full control of the river mouth.	2000
31	Fort Bullen, seen from Barra town.	1997
32	Southern side of the fort. The peripheral wall and bastions are still in very good conditions.	1997
33	Eastern wall of Fort Bullen. Banjul town can be seen at the back, on the other side of river Gambia.	2000
34	Inside court of the Fort with remains of buildings and the navigation light.	2001
35	The 4 km wide river mouth, seen from Fort Bullen.	2001

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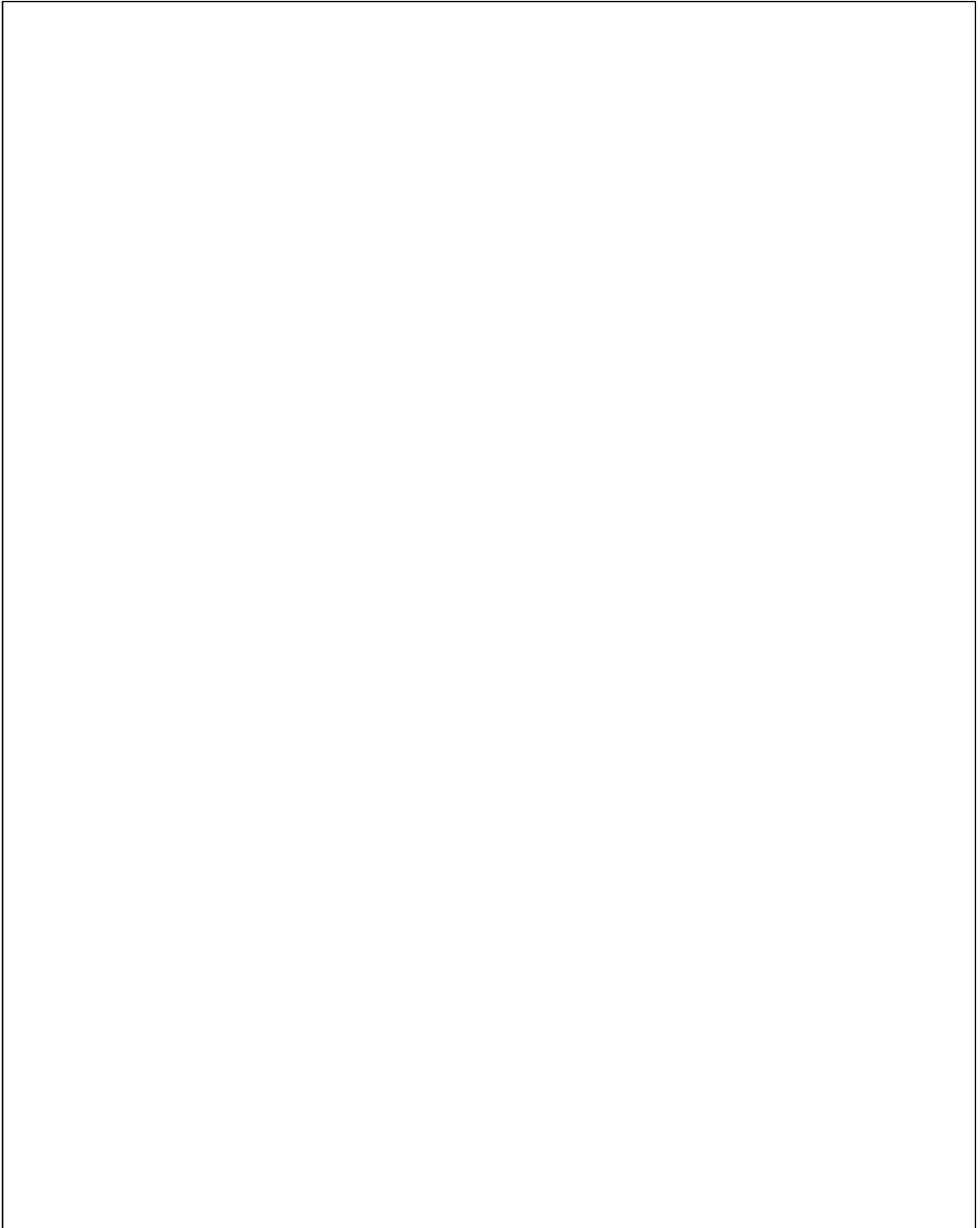
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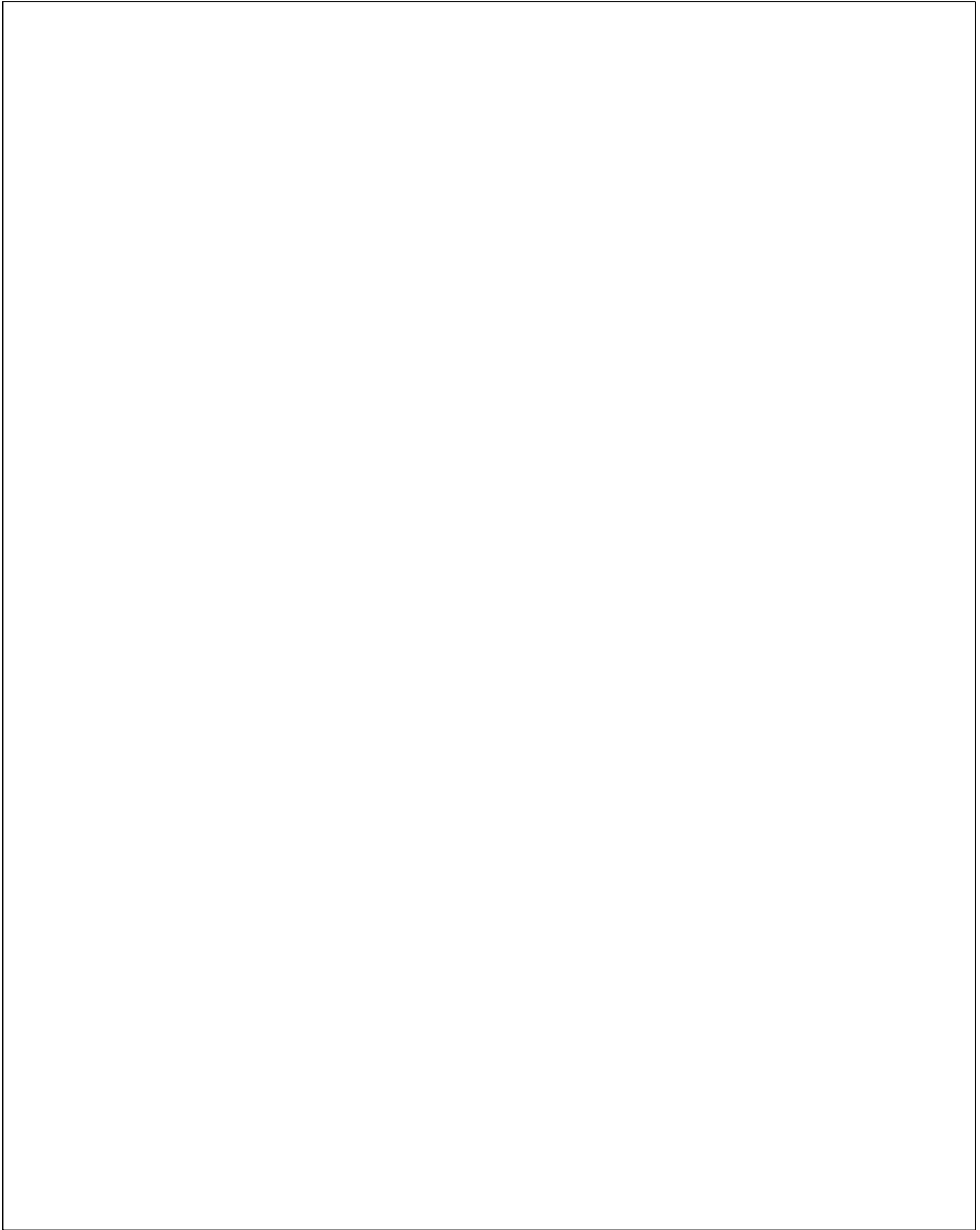
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Appendix 1

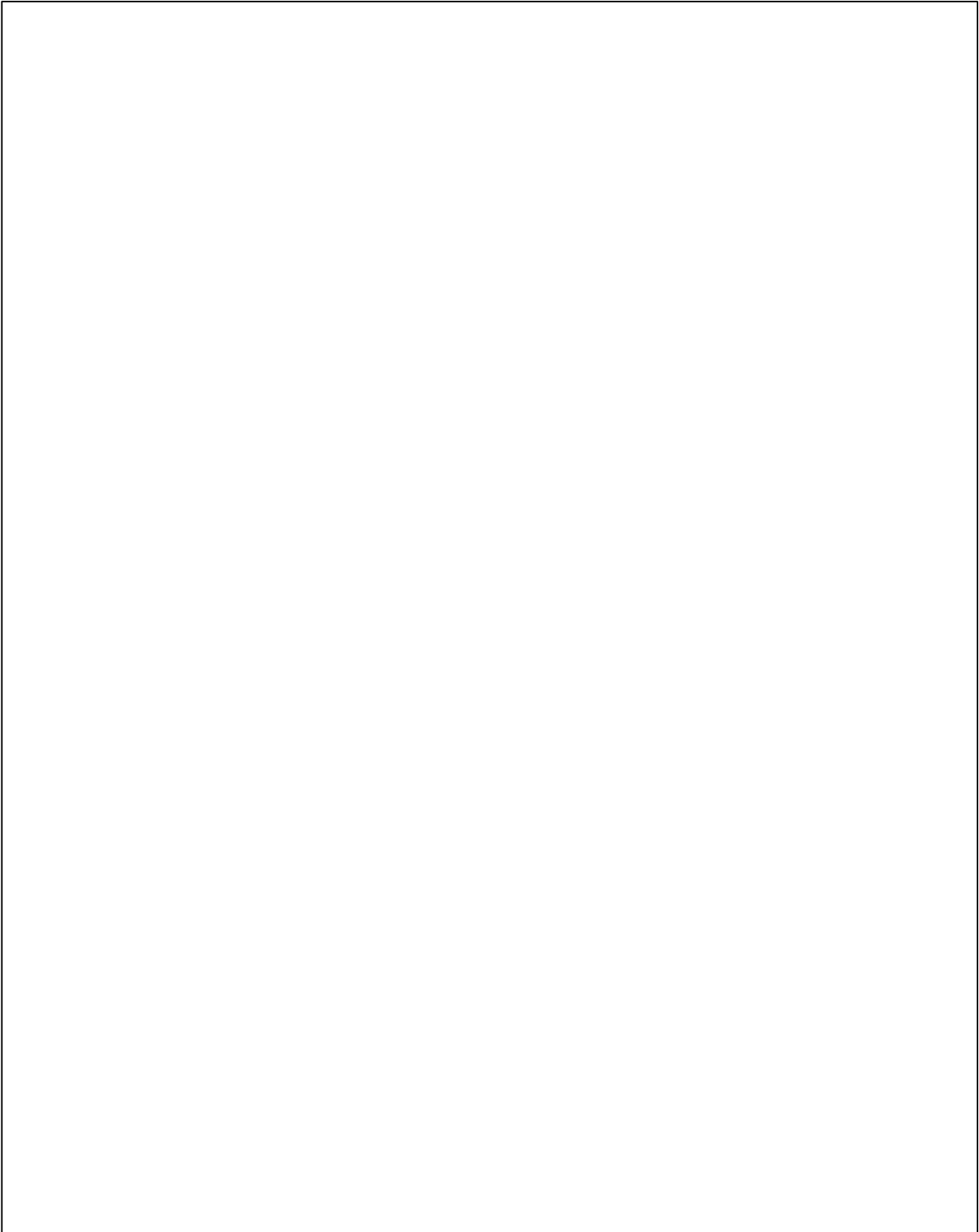
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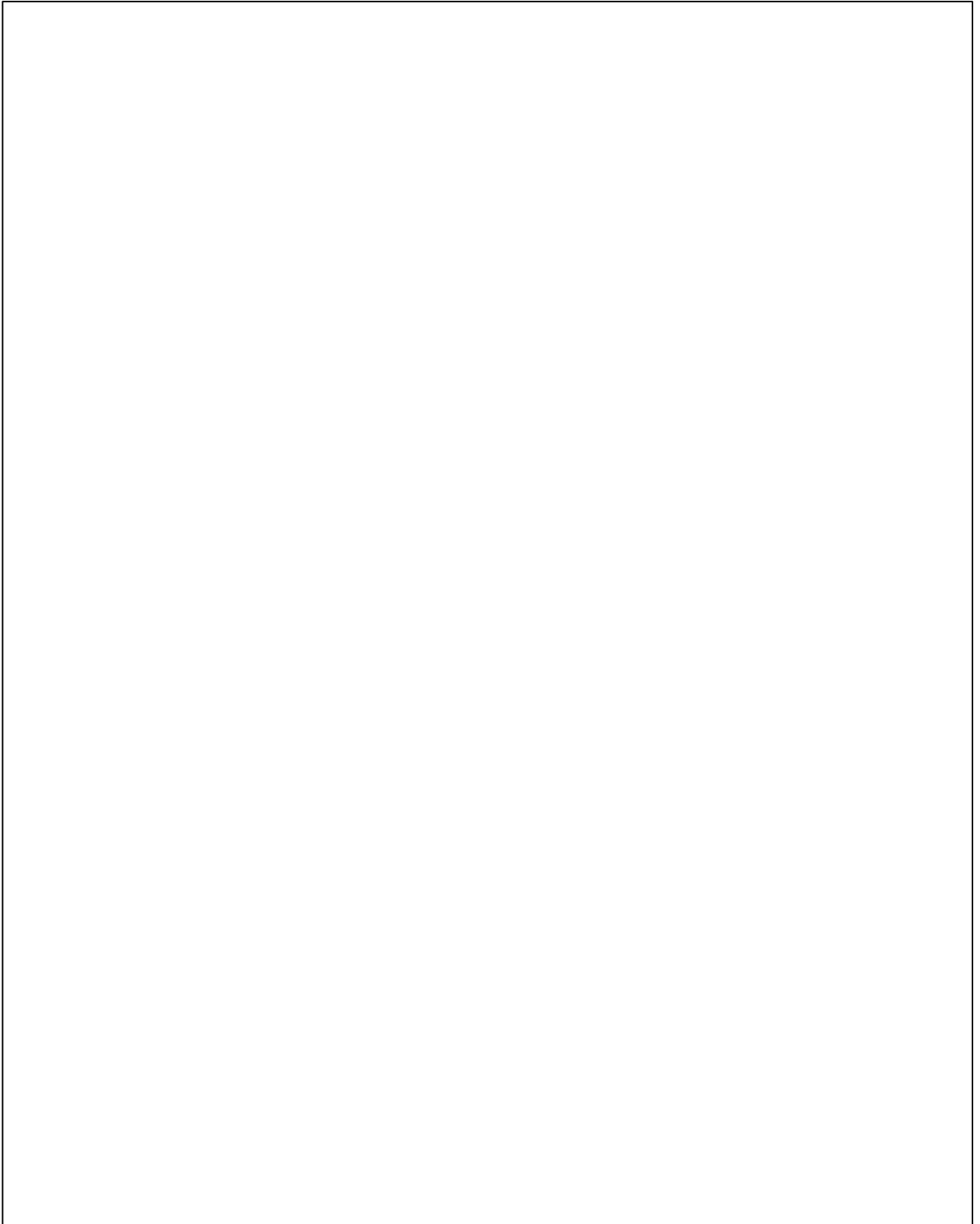


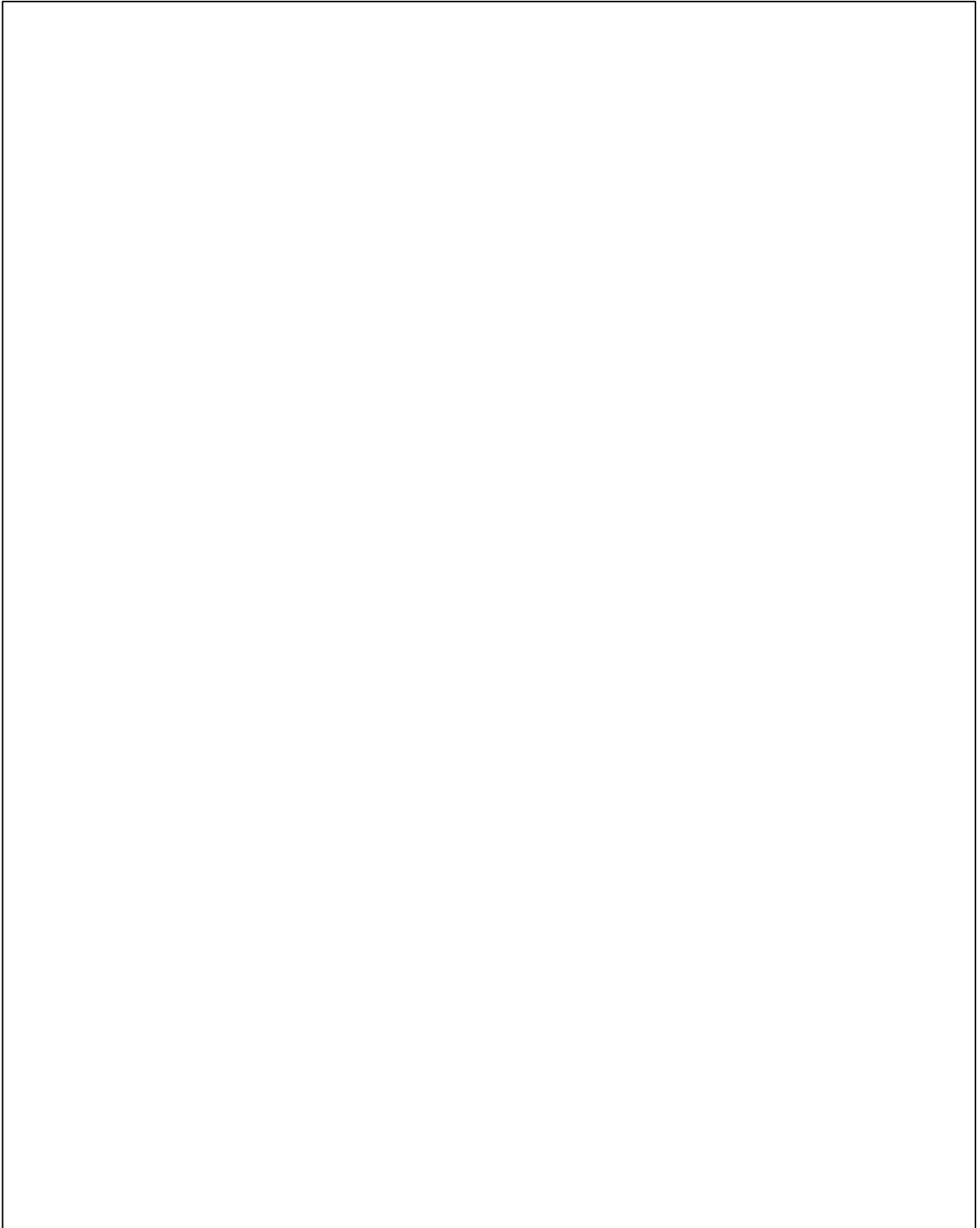


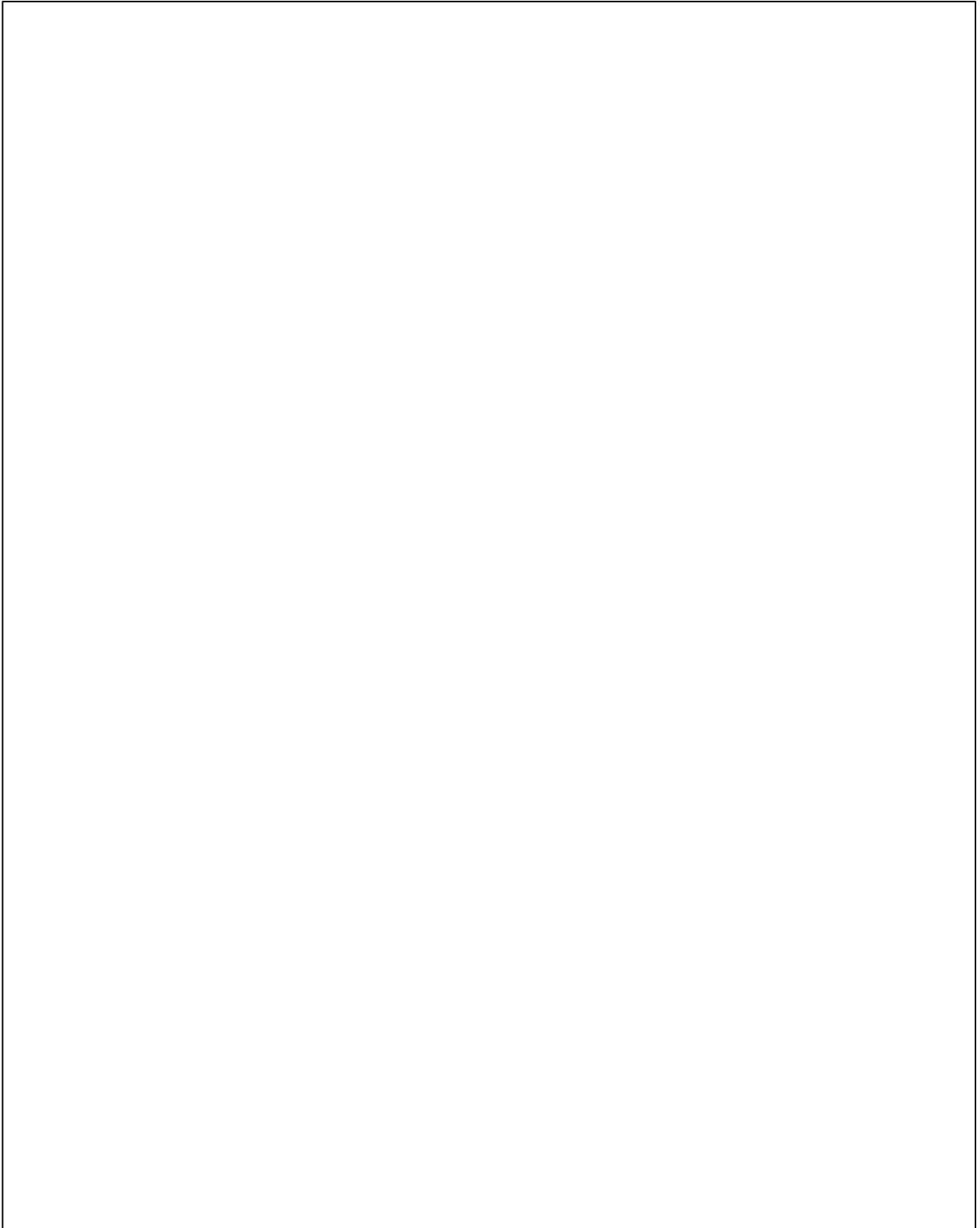
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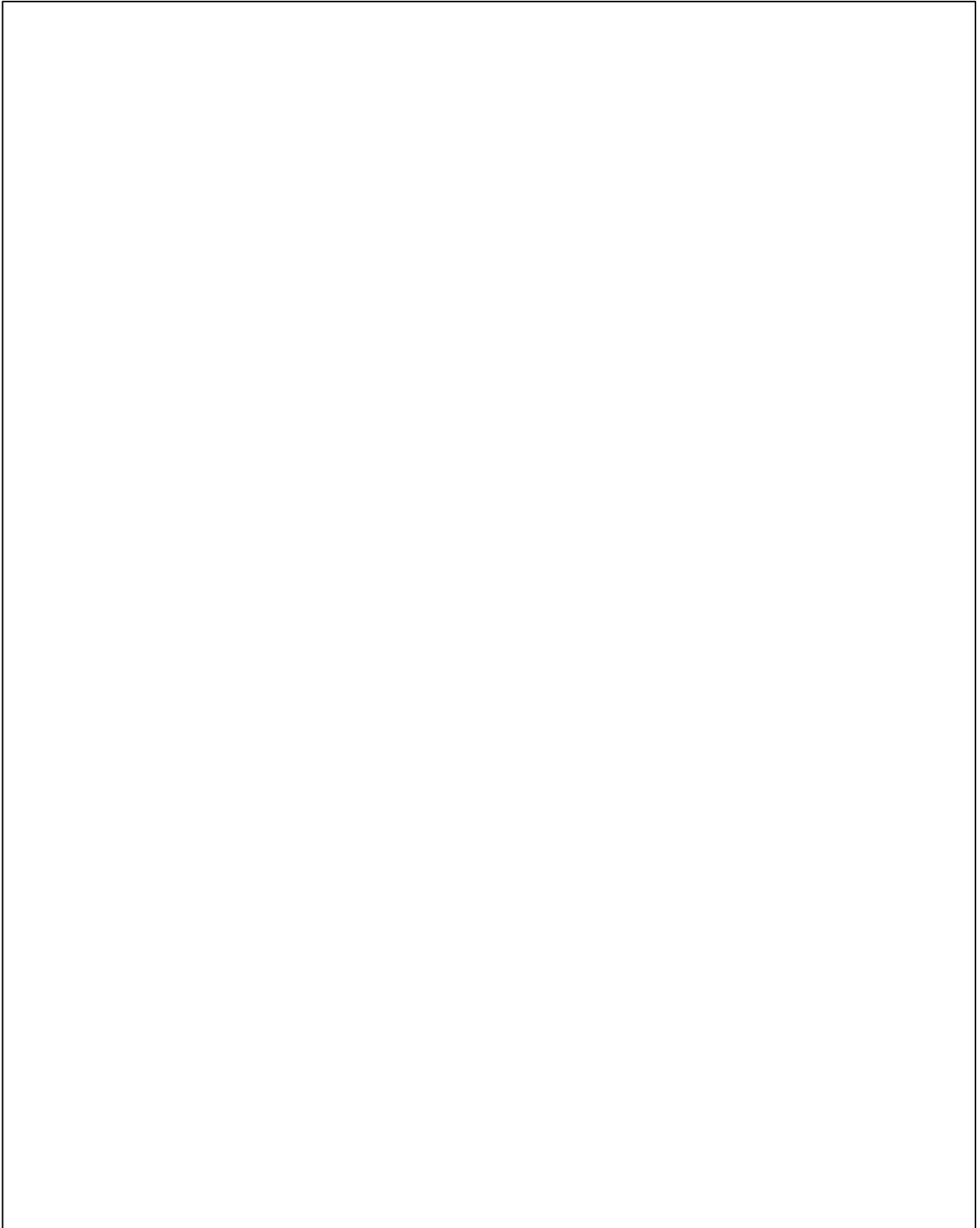
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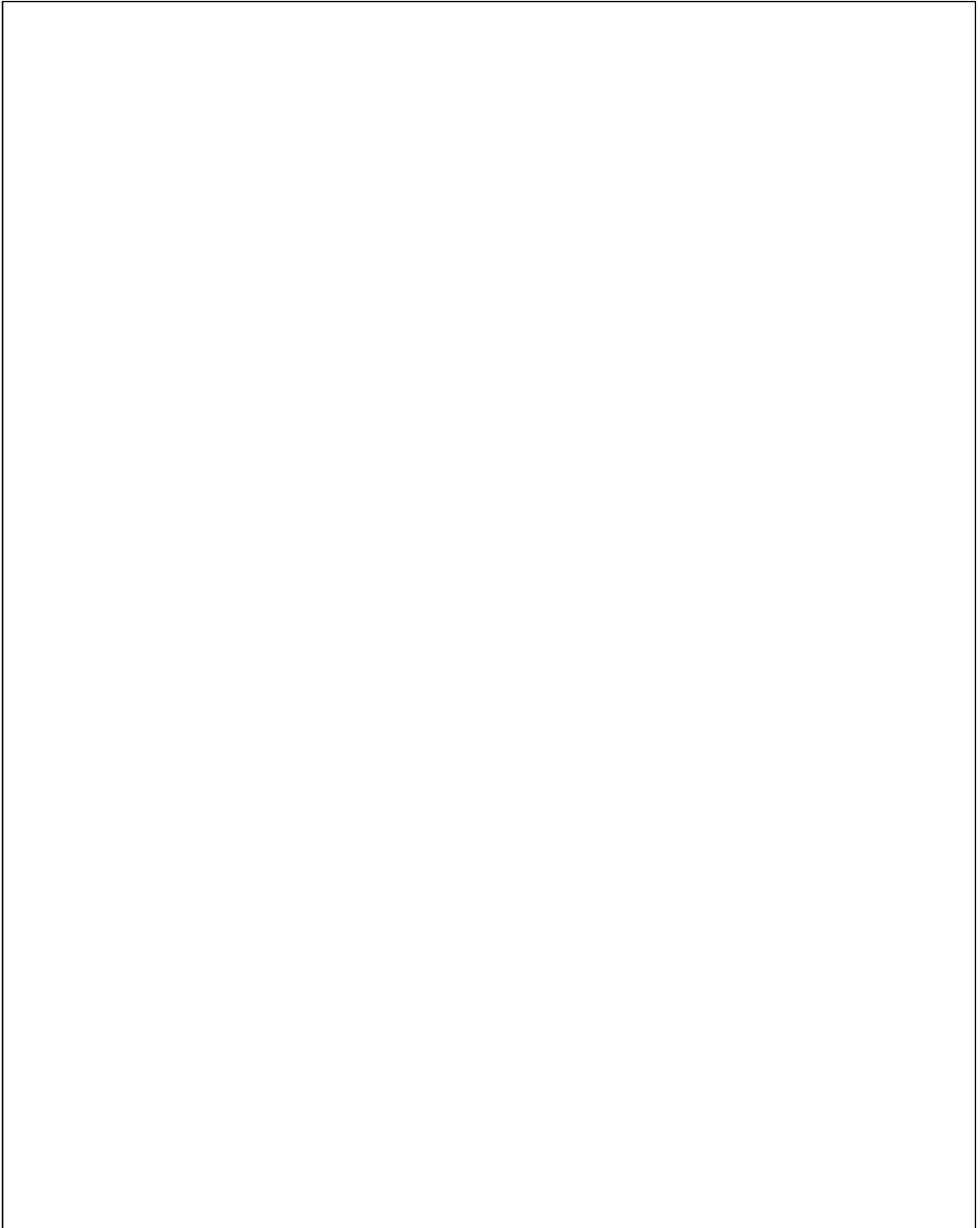














Ministry for Culture and Tourism
National Council for Arts and Culture

James Island

and its related sites

THE GAMBIA

Management Plan
2001-2005

Ministry for Culture and Tourism
National Council for Arts and Culture

James Island and its related sites

THE GAMBIA Management Plan 2001-2005

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CRATerre-EAG
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in the framework of



Map showing the river Gambia, from the mouth of the river to James Fort by Mr Capellis, Vessel lieutenant, 1779. © Service historique de l'armée de terre, Paris, France.

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It is hoped that this first collaborative achievement is just a start and that the spirit of co-operation will continue, for the benefit of the conservation of this outstanding heritage in particular, and Gambians and the World at large.

Contributors

This management plan is the result of the joined effort of numerous organisations and people who contributed in many different ways to collect information, analyse it, identify the key issues and finally develop the 5 year plan. The main participants to this work have been:

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SUMMARY

This management plan for James Island and its related sites has been prepared at the occasion of the preparation of the nomination file of this Gambian Property to the World Heritage List.

The aim of this plan, is to guarantee the proper conservation of the property and to ensure that its cultural significance can be retained on the long term, to the benefit of Gambians and humanity in general.

This plan has been prepared within a participatory process in order to ensure that conservation activities would contribute to the desired sustainable development of the area. This has been achieved through the organisation of a series of meetings involving as many stakeholders as possible. This participatory process, relatively new to most of the stakeholder, took a certain amount of time to gain acceptance. Nevertheless, the new attitude developed by NCAC for this planning exercise has allowed the re-interpretation of some of the key issues at the site incorporating the concerns of all stakeholders who participated. The continuation of this participatory approach has been agreed upon. It is envisaged that the efficiency of the method will gradually improve, and in the long term, should ensure that major sustainable developments would occur.

The resulting 5-year plan should serve as a tool to ensure or facilitate:

- the coherency of activities developed at the site
- the best use of the available resources
- optimal contribution by all parties in reaching the objectives of the plan
- proper partnership
- proper understanding by custodian staff
- proper understanding by stakeholders
- continuity in case of changes in management.

James Island and its related sites are a unique evidence of the violent history of the Afro-European encounter along the river Gambia which extended over five centuries (15th to 19th) and forms part and parcel of the national identity of The Gambia. At the same time, the Island represents an excellent gateway for discovering the heart of Africa, especially for the Africans of the Diaspora in the search of their roots. All these inter-related sites have to be preserved and their extraordinary significance revealed to more visitors and pilgrims. In the meantime, all related activities should be integrated into the local socio-cultural environment and also contribute to the establishment of an overall sustainable development process in the area.

Three main objectives have been agreed upon for this 5-year plan. They are to :

1. Stabilise the state of conservation of the sites
2. Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience
3. Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

Map of the river Gambia, drawn for the French Consulate of Bathurst in 1863
© Service historique de la Marine, Château de Vincennes, Paris, France

I. The sites

1. The sites and their location

James Island and its associated sites are located at the mouth of the river Gambia that has its source in the Fouta Jallon, the mountains of Northern Guinea. The river Gambia is navigable for a long distance (250 miles upstream for ocean –going vessels), and therefore, was (and is still) a major gateway for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the inland.

The sites considered are :

- James Fort, located on James Island, 30 km away from the river mouth.
- The ruin of the first Portuguese settlement at San Domingo, located on the north bank, close to James Island.
- The ruins of the French settlement at Albreda, located 1 km west of San Domingo
- The Mandingo village of Juffureh, next to Albreda on its northern side
- The six gun battery at the northern extremity of Banjul, located at the southern side of the mouth of the river
- Fort Bullen, located at Barra point, on the northern side of the mouth of the river.

2. Statement of significance

James Island and Related Sites is the most important ensemble of historic structures found in The Gambia and is of significance at both the regional and global level. Together, these sites illustrate all the main periods and facets of the Afro-European encounter along the River Gambia, a continuum that stretched from pre-slavery times to the independence period. The site is significant for its relation to the slave trade and its abolition, to the beginning of the colonial era in Africa, and to the Second World War and beyond.

Even though its location has changed, the Niuminka village of Juffureh was already in existence before the first European settlements and was often mentioned in European writings of the period. Juffureh bears testimony to the relations between the European traders and the local Kingdoms of Niumi and Badibou. It was the King of Niumi who originally gave land (James Island, San Domingo, and part of Albreda) to the first European settlers in the area. The European settlements occupied the sites closer to the river to allow faster access to James Island and visiting ships, while the African settlements were somewhat more inland. The relationship between Juffureh and these new settlements illustrates the changing relationships over time between the local and European communities.

The ruin at San Domingo presents the earliest period of the European involvement in the area, the arrival of the first Portuguese in 1456. This ruined building along with a well and cemetery comprise some of the first evidence of European settlement in the region. This site are not only important for the currently known physical structures, but also for the potential

for continued archaeological research which could shed more light on this important period in history. Albrede possesses several remains of the French *comptoir* that date to the early period of French involvement in the area. This town also contains the remains of one of the earliest Portuguese chapels in West Africa.

James Island (1456) with the remains of its bombarded fort is a perfect witness to the intense inter-European rivalry for trading interests. When seeking a sea route to India, merchants and explorers began to exploit the West African coast, to purchase goods like gold and spices. Not finding these commodities further north in Senegal, the traders did locate them along the River Gambia, which became one of the first exchange zone between Europe and Africa. More significantly, however, the island was important as a holding ground for slaves before their transshipment to Europe and the Americas. This aspect will be discussed more below. The fort changed hands numerous times between the Portuguese, French, British, and Dutch and the fabric of the fort suffered with each change of ownership. The current ruined state of the site bears physical testimony to these clashes, and its isolated position in the river has conserved its setting up to the present day.

The Six-Gun Battery (1816) and Fort Bullen (1826), located on both sides of the mouth of the River Gambia, came much later than James Island and were built with the specific intent of thwarting the slave trade once it had become illegal in the British Empire after the passing of the Abolition Act in 1807. These two structures are particularly significant because they are the only known defensive structures in the region to have been built specifically to stop slaving interests. The other fortifications of the region (including James Island), were constructed as a means of enhancing and controlling the trade in slaves (and commodities) rather than in stopping it. These two military positions allowed the British to take full control of the River Gambia, eventually paving the way for the establishment of the colonial government, a period well illustrated by many colonial buildings in Banjul and the Governor's Rest House at Fort Bullen. Finally Fort Bullen shows evidence of its reuse during the second World War (1939-1945) as a strategic observatory and artillery post. This later period illustrates yet another European rivalry that had spread to the African continent.

To return to the issue of slavery, the significance of this abhorrent commerce in human beings cannot be underestimated for its negative effects on Africa and many other parts of the world. As one of the largest points of transshipment for slaves in the region, James Island and Related Sites can be seen as being of particular importance for both its tangible remains and intangible values related to the slave trade. This association with the slave trade was strongly enhanced following the publication of Alex Haley's book, *Roots*, in 1975 and the accompanying television series in 1976. Since that time, James Island and Juffureh (the presumed village of Haley's ancestor) have increasingly become a place of pilgrimage for Africans in the Diaspora. For the ancestors of many of these Africans, James Island probably provided the last view of a continent they were never to see again. Because it is almost impossible for most Africans in the Diaspora to trace the specific path of their ancestors, Haley's work has given focus to their relationship with the African Continent. In this regard, James Island and Related sites is a unique memorial to the Atlantic Slave Trade..

Maps, Gambia in (west) Africa

3. History of the mouth of river Gambia

The Gambia, like most parts of West Africa, was probably already inhabited 1.6 million years ago. The Carthaginians first documented the existence of the river, from which the country takes its name, in the 5th century BC. However, the most direct prehistoric evidence come from more recent times, viz., the stone circles on the north bank of the river and the shell mounds sites of the estuary which illustrate widespread habitation from around 750 AD.

Associated with the stone circles complex are burial mounds locally called *mbanar* which are reminiscent of burials known in the empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai which came to prominence in the western Sudan until the late fifteenth century. From various *tarikhs* handed down by Islamic religious scholars we have also learnt that the territories now recognised as The Gambia fell under the rule of two major kingdoms; the Kingdom of *Kaabu* (ca 1200-1867), an off shoot of eastern migrations from the Mali Empire, and the *Jollof* Kingdom (ca 1300-1500) to the north and west. The decline of both kingdoms is linked to increased European presence on the continent and a change of focus from the Saharan-bound trade to the Atlantic.

By the 14th and 15th centuries Kaabu became an empire in its own right following the decline of Mali and the subsequent rise of Songhai to the east. Through alliances, intermarriages and internal migrations Kaabu asserted its independence and came to dominate the whole of the Senegambia. Its cultural influence was much more important than its political control, as it gradually became the cultural nucleus for the Mandinka of the Senegambia and Guinea-Bissau.

Kaabu played a big role in Atlantic-oriented trade before any Europeans arrived. The event, which had the most marked impact on the western Mandinka, was the arrival of the Portuguese between 1446 and 1456 when they reached the Senegambia. Using the Gambia River to access the interior, the coastal areas became the main frontier of acculturation. However Kaabu maintained its traditional religion, barring the road to Islam till the 1800s.

By 1456, the Portuguese had established contact with the indigenous population, the Niuminkas. Thus began a period of trade and cross-cultural relations which over the next five hundred years substantially changed the face of The Gambia, albeit through the exploitation of the local resources.

For a long time, the River Gambia was considered a more valuable trading place than Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or Côte d'Ivoire. It was closer to both Europe and America and moreover allowed seafarers a way to avoid the "no wind black point". Moreover there was ample opportunity to trade. Also because of its natural harbours, ships could safely anchor in the river, which is one of the most navigable in the region, and had a specific potential for reaching the very vast hinterland. By that time, rumours of mountains of gold had already been popularised by Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324/25. Numerous merchants and explorers came to purchase gold, ivory, hides, cloth and slaves in exchange for European products such as jewellery (beads), guns and spirits.

James Island was used as a resting ground for fishermen long before the arrival of the Europeans on the Senegambian coast. The local people called it *Johe* (Wollof) or *sandymunko Joyo* (Mandinka) the latter probably a corruption of San Domingo Island. Oral history recounts that abundant fish could be found in its environs.

Its hereditary rulers were and still are *Niuminkas*. It was from them that, together with a piece of land in Juffureh, the Island was acquired by a company of servants of the Duke of Courland (now Latvia) who started building the first fort in 1651. The Courlanders were soon overcome by the British who seized the island on the pretext that it was a Dutch colony. They renamed it James Island, after James, Duke of York. This set a trend in the historical development of the Island, which was largely influenced by relations between the powers in Europe. Between 1661 when the British took over the fort from the Courlanders and 1779 when it was destroyed for the last time by the French, the fort was destroyed and rebuilt seven times and shifted hands as many times between the British, French, Dutch, and also pirates and mutineers.

The ease and frequency at which the island was blockaded and overrun reflects the vulnerability of the location and the indispensable need for links with the people living on land. Hence the profusion of European settlements in the adjacent area of Juffureh, Albreda, San Domingo and Sika. The river being salty at this point, and the cisterns incapable of catching enough rain even for the small population of under fifty which usually inhabited the Fort, the Island was totally dependent on the mainland for its water supply and firewood.

By 1815, James Island was abandoned as a base because of its irreparable state and the fact that control over the river was exercised from Bathurst.

San Domingo is the earliest Portuguese settlement in the area. It was established by Luso-African traders who acted as host-brokers and middlemen for the Europeans. The settlement was said to have had a well, cemetery and church. San Domingo was indispensable to the community of James Island. Apart from providing freshwater, it was there that the European traders met their African counterparts. Sometimes the sick and jaded on the island were sent there for recuperation. The sites present the ruins of a two-storey building with loopholes at basement level, suggesting a defensive function.

In 1681, **Albreda**, which was probably another Portuguese settlement, was rented to French traders by the King of Niumi. It became the location of the French *comptoir* in The Gambia and a strategic place to control the inhabitants of James Fort. Albreda, together with San Domingo, served as the main trading outlets of the Kingdom of Niumi and the westernmost terminus of the long distance trade routes from the interior. At the demand of the English, Albreda was abandoned by the French in 1857, but it is clear that the French came back, as there are some remains of two main French trading Company buildings in Albreda : Maurel Frères and CFAO.

Juffureh is popularly recognised as the legendary home of Kunta Kinte, Alex Haley's ancestor who is dramatised in his seminal work, 'Roots'. But in fact, Juffureh, San Domingo, and Albreda were twin towns, which share the same ancestry and still exist side by side. Juffureh is frequently mentioned in the early European accounts as where the European officials could meet the King of Niimi and where European traders met their African counterparts.

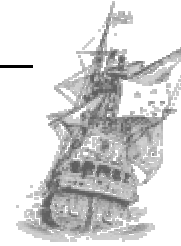
Fort Bullen at Barra and **The Six-Gun Battery** in Banjul, are the only structures known in West Africa to have been constructed by Europeans for deterring the trade in slaves. Even though the British Government had proscribed the slave trade, unscrupulous traders were still operating. The River Gambia had been recognised by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 as a British possession, and the 1807 Abolition Act, therefore, made slave traffic illegal on the River. The acquisition of Bathurst (now Banjul, the capital) from the ruler of Kombo, and soon after, the construction of a battery of six 24-point canon, two field pieces at its shores, and a barracks to house 80 soldiers, was mainly aimed at addressing this situation. The idea was that the battery could afford sufficient fire power to stop any ships trying to run out of the river mouth and that their capture would then be effected by naval vessels on patrol. Within months of setting up base in Banjul, five slave ships were seized by the new arrivals.

However, it soon became apparent that the Battery's fire power could not traverse the entire width of the river mouth which is about 8 miles wide at this point. Ships could easily escape by moving closer to the north bank of the river. Fort Bullen was therefore constructed in 1827 on the north bank, opposite the Six-gun Battery, to cover this escape route. The Fort was constructed under the supervision of Commodore Charles Bullen who was sent by the British government to consolidate the work of suppressing the slave trade in The Gambia. With gun batteries on both sides of the river mouth, the British finally had full control over all trade on the River Gambia.

The six gun battery and Fort Bullen were abandoned in 1870. During the Second World War, Fort Bullen was re-used as an observatory and artillery base by the British army as a mean to protect against a possible attack from the French Vichy Government which was controlling Senegal. This precaution proved to be unnecessary. After World War II, the fort was again abandoned.

*Map showing the route from Port Saint-Louis (France) to the African coast made in 1723 for the
"Compagnie des Indes". © Service historique de l'armée de terre, Paris, France.*

Known key dates in the
History of *James Island* and its *Related Sites*



- 1456 A Portuguese sailor named Andrew in Cadamosto's crew dies and is buried on the Island, which is named Saint Andrew, after him.
- 1651 The King of Niumi allocates a piece of land in Juffureh and James Island to the Duke of Courland and the first fort is built as a base to establish an empire.
- 1661 The fort is seized by the Royal Adventurers of England and the island is renamed James Island after the Duke of York.
- 1681 The French settle at Albreda.
- 1689 The English lead a successful expedition against the French settlement at Albreda.
- 1690 Two bastions of the fort are unserviceable.
- 1692 The two bastions are rebuilt.
- 1695 The French seize the fort and blow up some of the walls and bastions.
- 1698 The fort is reconstructed.
- 1702 The fort is bombarded by the French.
- 1703 Parts of the fort is destroyed by fire and the fort is repaired.
- 1704 The French again seize the fort and destroyed some of the walls.
- 1708 The Royal Adventurers of England garrison mutinies.
- 1709 The island is abandoned.
- 1714 The fort undergoes reconstruction, finishing in 1717
- 1719 Pirates seize the island and carry off all the goods and slaves.
- 1720 During about 9 years, there are raids and counter raids between French and English.
- 1721 Reconstruction of the fort by the English.
- 1725 The powder magazine explodes with major damage to the fort.
- 1726 Re-construction with improvements, including a spur annex.
- 1745 Albreda is destroyed by the French and not rebuilt till 1748
- 1748 After the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, Albreda is rebuilt.
- 1750 Spur annex is demolished and the French at Albreda establish a monopoly.
- 1752 The Royal African Company takes over the fort.
- 1757 After warding off some French Privateers, Albreda is set ablaze by the British
- 1763 In spite of the Treaty of Paris handing over the region to the British, the French re-occupy Albreda.
- 1764 Repeated friction between the English at James Island and the French at Albreda
- 1765 Creation of the province of Senegambia. The period is marked by a series of clashes between the English and the French who get the support of the people of Niumi.
- 1768 Unsuccessful attack on James Island by 500 Niumi men.
- 1771 The French East India Company is bankrupt and the English successfully keep the French off the upper river, leading to the poor state of Albreda.
- 1778 The French declare war on England and capture Gorée and St Louis.
- 1779 James island is seized by the French without firing a shot and the fort is destroyed.
- 1808 The slave trade is outlawed by England.
- 1814 A treaty allows the French to resettle in Albreda.
- 1816 The English acquire Banjul Island and the town of Bathurst is built.
James Island is abandoned.
- 1826 Fort Bullen is constructed at Barra Point to provide fuller control over all trade on the River Gambia and the slave trade on the River is brought to a stop.

II James Island

1. Description of the site

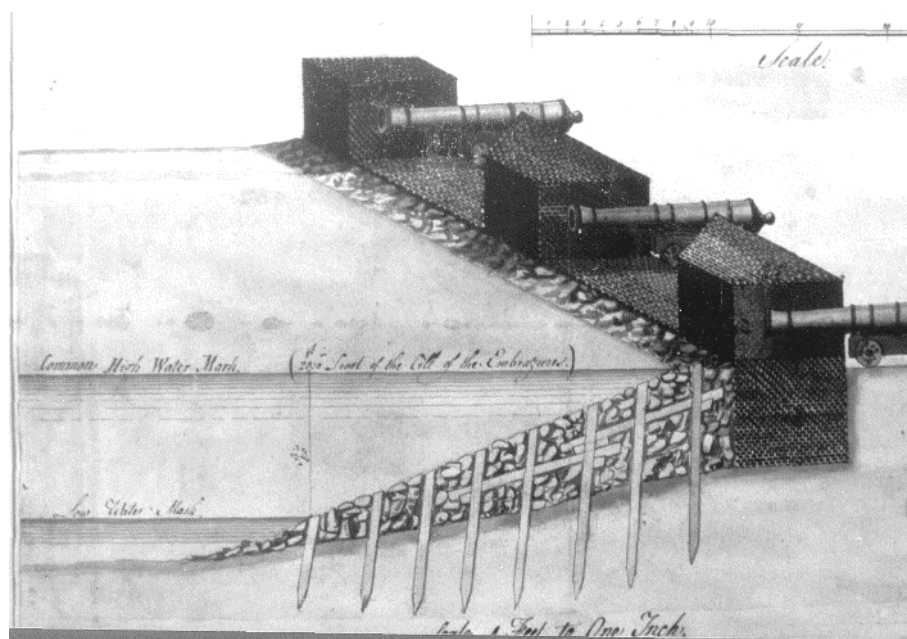
James Island is situated on the Gambia River, 30 km away from the river mouth. Its location at equitable distance between the North and South banks made it a strategic place to control the waterway. The fort is situated in the middle of this very small island which covers an area of approximately 0.3 hectare.

The fort is roughly square in plan with bastions at each corner. The bastions are polygonal in shape with the end chamfered, probably to fit in the limited available space above the water line. The bastions rise about 5 meters above the ground level, and between them are curtain walls of the same height. Against the North eastern curtain wall, on the waterside, a large water cistern divided in two equal compartments was built to collect rainwater.

The Fort is made of stones extracted from the main land and from Dog Island, situated 17 km downstream, on the north bank. Imported stones, broken tiles and burnt bricks brought as ballast can also easily be identified in different parts of the fort. All these materials are bonded with mortar made of river sand, shells and lime. Lime was obtained from the heating of oyster shells in basic kilns fed with firewood. This type of lime is still produced nowadays on the south bank.

Openings in the masonry work were bridged with rhun palm lintels. All roofs have collapsed, but most probably, they were flat, using timber (or palm tree) beams and covered with lime mortar. The magazine, under the Eastern bastion, is the only remaining covered space. It is roofed with a stone vault.

Because the Island was just big enough to hold the fort, it had to be artificially extended to provide more space for its occupants. This was done through erecting a series of poles all around the Island and backfilling so as to get platforms on which activities could be developed and buildings constructed. This backfilling has almost completely disappeared today.



*artificial backfilling system built at the edges of the island to extend its surface area.
This backfilling has almost completely disappeared today.*

Mémoire sur un établissement dans la
N. E. Rivière de Gambie. may 1779. à bord de l'Epervier.

La destruction de fort James, dans la rivière de Gambie, est un service rendu à l'humanité. Comment des hommes qui n'y sont pas nés peuvent ils habiter sur une île de sable qui a 46 toises de long & 38. de large, dont presque toute la surface est couverte de fortifications, de Magazins & de cages, où après que les hommes sont logés très à l'étroit, à peine reste-t-il un peu de place pour nourrir quelques animaux domestiques au milieu d'un fleuve d'eau salée au dessus duquel ils ne sont élevés que de 2. pieds à la pleine mer.

“The destruction of Fort James on the river Gambia is a service rendered to humankind. I cannot imagine how men who were not born there could live on this small sandy Island which is 46 fathom¹ long and 38 wide. It is in the middle of a salty river, just two feet above sea level, fully covered with fortifications, stores, cages, and after having found narrow spaces for men, there is hardly room to feed some few domestic animals.”

Extract from some notes taken on board of the Epervier,
a French galleon, in May 1779

© Service historique de l'armée de terre, Paris, France.

¹ 1 fathom = 1.829 metre

Survey of James Island and Fort by Justly Watson, in 1755.

Plan of James Island, belonging of the “Royal African Company” in 1769.

Plan of James Island drawn by Lieu. James Fiddes, engineer, in 1783.

*elevations of James Island, 4 years after its destruction,
drawn by Lieu. James Fiddes, engineer, in 1783.*

- 1 south bastion
- 2 passage
- 3 west bastion
- 4 apartments
- 5 area
- 6 square tower
- 7 courtyard
- 8 governor's room
- 9 council room
- 10 long room
- 11 entrance
- 12 east bastion
- 13 magazine
- 14 cistern
- 15 north bastion
- 16 capstan
- 17 boat house
- 18 landing place
- 19 north circular battery
- 20 barracks
- 21 store house for pitch,
tar and cooperage
- 22 seven gun battery
- 23 artificer
- 24 west circular battery
- 25 granary
- 26 smith shop
- 27 west landing place
- 28 gateway
- 29 end store house
- 30 middle store house
- 31 ,long store house
- 32 store house
- 33 governor's kitchen
- 34 wood house
- 35 kitchen
- 36 slave yard for
women
- 37 slave yard for men
- 38 men slave house
- 39 women slave house
- 40 castle slave huts
- 41 old landing place

View of the site as it is today.
© A. Misse, CRATerre-EAG, 2000

All original structures are in ruins. They comprise :

- the fort itself,
- the slave house (north of eastern point)
- the governor's kitchen (south of eastern point)
- the blacksmith shop (south)
- a store (south of western point)

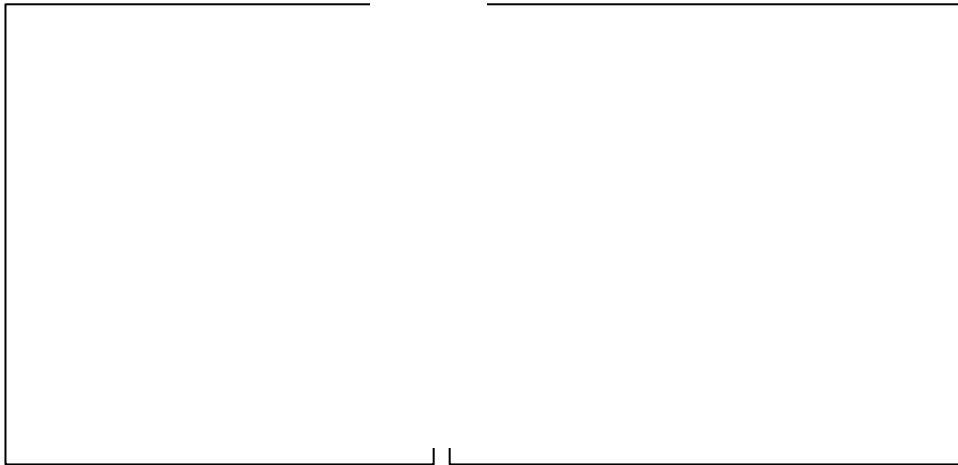
There are some few recent additions to the site :

- The jetty, made of rhun palm trunks
- A navigation light
- A toilet block
- A replica of a slave hut (built to protect a model of the island).
- A round concrete table with benches
- Flag poles

There are also several cannons mounted on concrete, and at low tide, some remains of the poles that were used to contain the backfill of the Island extensions are visible.

Access to the site

Access to the site is by boat, either from Albreda/Juffureh or directly from Banjul. Boats coming from Banjul rely on fishermen's boats from Juffureh/Albreda to transfer their passengers onto the Island. The jetty allows access at any tide. However during the rainy season, the tide is so high that the jetty proves a bit too low on the island side.



Boat conveying tourists from Banjul (left) and local fisherman's boat (right) transferring people onto the island

Natural aspects

The Island is now covered with immense baobab trees that have naturally grown since the Island was abandoned. These baobabs house a colony of pelicans. The surroundings of the Island are still very rich in various species of fish.

2. Use and management of the site

2.1. Ownership and protection

Juridical status : The site is legally protected and vested in the custody of the National Council for Arts and Culture who controls it and is responsible for its conservation. The island was gazetted as a National Monument vide Legal Notice N°20 of 1995, which protects:

*“The whole of **James island** and the coastal strip of land, measuring 250 metres from the high-water mark, stretching between Lamin point and Sika point and including all historic structures situated in the villages of Albreda and Juffureh in the North Bank Division, as indicated in the diagram below, but excluding land that is used for agricultural or residential purposes as at 16th March, 1995.”*

2.2. Staff

There is one NCAC personnel (Mustapha Jabang) attached to the site who serves as Caretaker, Attendant and Revenue Collector. He receives salary as well as fuel allowance from the NCAC to cover his boat trips. In addition to his official duties, the Attendant owns 2 canoes, which he uses to transport visitors coming by land as well as ferrying tour groups from the big boats to the island.

The caretaker benefited from the training programmes organised in 1997 and 2000 and is well placed to execute routine work such as site cleaning, tree surgery, maintenance of security chains, descriptive panels and visitor paths. The caretaker works under the direct supervision of the Principal Cultural Officer who assigns him task after each inspection visit, which happens on average once in every two months. He also guides visitors on request, which is not frequent because guides from established tour companies accompany most visitors.

For more information on NCAC’s management structure, see chapter VI.9, page 91-92

2.3. Stakeholders and users

- Tourism: Tour groups visit the island as part of the Roots package.
- Pilgrimage: Africans in the Diaspora visit the site on pilgrimage to their ancestral homes
- Education : School groups and researchers as historical evidence.
- Local fisherman use the island for resting during their fishing expeditions. They also fish around the island, which area is known as very fertile fishing grounds.

The main stakeholders and users of the sites are :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1.N.C.A.C. | 8.Ground Tour Operators Association |
| 2.Department of State for Tourism and Culture | 9.Local Government Authority/Area Council |
| 3.National Tourist Office | 10.Commissioner, North Bank Division |
| 4. Albreda-Juffureh-Village Development Group (VDG) | 11.Schools |
| 5.Fishermen | 12.The Police |
| 6.Farmers | |
| 7. Juffureh-Albreda Youth Society (JAYS) | |

2.4. Financial situation

The site generates income through the fees paid by visitors. Because of Alex Haley's book "Roots", James Island and Juffureh have become a symbol of African ancestry for the black American community. The village is presented as a historic link between the slave trade era and people of African descent living in the Diaspora. As such, the site attracts thousands of American and other visitors every year.

	Tour operators	Individual visitors	total
1998	13618	5002	18620
1999	11251	2660	13911

Entry fees

Tourists pay 20 D (USD 1.5) - Locals pay 2 D - Children - free

Revenue collected from the site in the form of ticket and brochure sales are paid to the Revenue Collector at the National Museum on a monthly basis. These are then put together with other NCAC income and banked in a general NCAC account. Expenditure from this account is dictated by need, but mostly predicated on a yearly programme of action submitted to Council for approval at the beginning of each financial year.

Established Tour Operators who bring in group-visits enter into agreement with the NCAC by which their visitor numbers are recorded in a flyer and the company is invoiced at the end of each month. Individual visitors pay the mandatory fee before being allowed visiting.

Recurrent expenditure on monuments and sites in general is provided for by the NCAC in its regular yearly budget. Such expenditure is usually relate to the purchase of equipment such as rakes, cutlasses, wheel barrows, etc... for routine maintenance work. In the case of James Island, yearly purchase of rhun palm and nails and workmanship fees for the maintenance of the access jetty is always included.

Conservation of the site

3.1. Threats

Current problems at the site

There are no major problems at the site. However, some fishermen occasionally block the access with their nets. Tour Guides are also in the habit of suggesting to their clients that they can engage in treasure hunting, i.e. scavenge for beads on the beach besides the jetty.

Conservation problems

- Erosion of the river's bank by the waves
- The salty environment
- Drainage
- Plants and tree growth
- Human activities
- Erosion of the structures

Erosion of the Island

The island was artificially extended in the past to hold some additional structures (western bastion, slave huts). These extensions were made with small retaining walls and a soil filling. The protection of the walls was achieved by shore defences made of piled stones held together by posts (trunk of rhun palm and mangrove trees). It is obvious that these shore defences needed periodic maintenance. It is therefore not surprising that with the destruction of the walls the fillings were gradually eroded.

Section drawing showing the artificial extension system (by Justly Watson, in 1755)

It must be noted that it is not the Island itself that is getting eroded, but the artificial extensions that were maintained by the rhun palm posts. Recent observations and monitoring show clearly that the erosion is still going on, but at a very slow pace.

Erosion of the structures

Like the island, the structures built just at the limit of the high tide are at times beaten by the waves, especially during storms. In some cases, the base of the walls is undermined due to the repeated lapping of the lime mortar by the waves. This also occurs at a slow pace and most of the dangerous parts have already been treated.

Water intrusion and plant and tree growth

Degradation at the top of the walls is mainly caused by plant and rain water intrusion, especially trees growing in or outside the walls. This represents a threat to their stability, in spite of the recent programmes, which involved a lot tree surgery. However, in some cases, it is obvious that the vegetation is helping to hold the structure together and as such is serving to conserve them. This is the case where they hold debris from the bastions together. The grass, although unsightly, has a favourable binding effect on the structures. It also appears that the new colony of mangrove trees stabilises the erosion of the island by holding together stones around the shoreline. Another specie of low plants, which develops in salty environments also, seems to have a retaining effect on the soil around the shoreline.

Effects of the salty environment

The salty environment has destroyed some types of stones and burnt bricks used in the construction of the structures. The strong salty winds attack the bricks and lime mortar particularly causing them to decay and turn to points of weakness in the fabric.

Capillarity action

Bad drainage resulting in the accumulation of water in some places has caused moisture to infiltrate the walls and weaken the lime mortar.

3.2. Conservation history

1651 – 1779 : During service

During its 128 years of active service, the fort was partially or fully destroyed and rebuilt at least seven times. However, the basic shape and structure of the fort remained the same, and only the auxiliary buildings (stores, workshops, huts...) were often modified depending on the nature of trade and the movements of the banks.

The eventful conservation history of the fort could be summarised as follows¹ :

1651 : Construction of the fort
1659 : Partial destruction and reconstruction
1690 : 2 bastions unserviceable
1692 : Reconstruction
1695 : Walls and bastions blown up
1698 – 1699 : Reconstruction
1702 : Damage from bombardment
1703 : Serious fire
1704 : Partial destruction of the walls
1709 – 1713 : Island abandoned
1714 – 1717 : Reconstruction
1719 : Dismantling by pirates
1721 : Reconstruction
1725 : Explosion of the powder magazine
1726 : Reconstruction with improvements, including a spur shaped stone annex
before 1750 : Spur annex demolished
1779 : Final destruction by the French

1779 – 1965 : After destruction

James Island remained abandoned for nearly 200 years, during which time no major attempt was made to preserve it. The natural environment : plants, wind, rains, river current and salinity have gradually eroded the ruins and the island itself.

The island received care only in the 1940s when H.E. Wanless prepared a survey of the Island and most probably did the minimum of works that were required to render visits possible. There are no records of works that could have been carried out later on. But the Island has been the subject of numerous expert studies with various assessments of deterioration process and proposals for redressing them.²

¹ Galloway

² *W.L.K. Obuobisa*, Inspector of Monuments, Ghana: **Report on visit to James Island in the Gambia** for the preparation of a scheme and cost of renovation, restoration, and preservation of James Fort for rehabilitation; 13-20 march, 1967. (Restricted report for the government of The Gambia-unpublished)
Cyr Descamps: **Report on mission to The Gambia** from 2-5 November, 1977. (Restricted report to the government of the Gambia-unpublished) The aim was of the mission was to give advice on an archaeological research project presented by the Gambia Research Group concerning James Island.
A.D.C. Hyland: **Conservation of Historic Monuments, The Gambia**. (Restricted Technical Report, serial number FMR/CLT/CH/82/146, UNESCO, Paris, 1982.

1965 – 1996 : After independence

With independence in 1965, Gambians and international specialists began to show interest in preserving the site and carrying out archaeological explorations. In the 1970s and 1980s, several reports were written to recommend possible conservation/restoration actions. But all these projects remained on paper and nothing concrete was ever done to implement the suggestions made.

The **Cyr Descamps report** which got the benefit of the Obuobisa report summarised the situation thus : (...)*It is not a question of choosing between the school of thought which advocates the renovation of ruins (implying reconstruction) or the school which advocates retaining them as they are, all reconstruction being considered falsification. It is necessary to take into account the specific problem which is posed. Without taking into consideration the harshness of a tropical climate, it is evident that the collapse of what remains of the bastions and walls is unavoidable if one does not proceed to rebuild them. Consequently, as long as they are being reconstructed, why not try to return the fort to its 18th century glory, which is known precisely to the Justly Watson plan (...)*

The **Hyland report** of 1982 also recommended the partial reconstruction of the fort as a conservation measure as well as to increase the comprehension of the ruins for visitors. However the imminent collapse of the structures envisaged by all these studies appeared to be unfounded. In fact a comparison of the Justly Watson survey (1755) and previous survey of 1708, show minimal changes in terms of erosion of the structures by sea or collapse of fabric for that matter.

What is common to all these reports is the need to stabilise the ruins, recognition of the threat posed by plant growth on the fabric of the fort as well as the need to reinforce the sea defences to minimise erosion by the sea. All of these were addressed in the work carried out in collaboration with CRATerre in 1996 and 2000. These interventions were adequately documented, before, during and after they were made.

A voluntary Caretaker took care of the Island until 1974 when he was given permanent employment. His main duty was to clean the island and collect revenue from visitors

1996 : Roots festival

Since 1996 the Gambia Government through its Department of State for Tourism and Culture has instituted a yearly event called the International Roots Homecoming Festival. Considered to be a “heritage week”, the festival's main aim is to attract visitors from African Diaspora. The festival usually devotes a whole day to a spiritual pilgrimage to James Island and the Albreda-Juffureh area, which was popularised by Alex Haley's “Roots”. To this group of visitors in search of their roots, the site has a symbolic and emotional significance.

In preparation for the Festival, some efforts to make James Island and Fort Bullen more visitor-friendly were made. Hitherto, James Island was dirty, full of overgrown baobabs, with decay advanced by the presence of invasive roots in the fabric of the structure. The site was also lacking in interpretative materials. The works executed at that time included :

- Tree surgery
- Erection of a replica slave hut (Re-thatched and re-plastered in 1998 and 2000)
- Placement of the first interpretative materials on the island
- Upgrading of toilet facilities
- Overall clean up of the island
- Construction of a scale model of the island and fort
- Repairs to the jetty

It is to be noted that there is regular effort to preserve the jetty access to the Island which is made of rhun palm tree trunks.

1997 : World Heritage Centre programme

In 1997, the WHC funded a programme aimed at reducing the risk of degradation and building capacities within and around NCAC³. During the programme, conservation and site improvement works were developed. The programme lasted for 25 days and involved 55 participants from Albreda-Juffureh and Banjul who took part in one or more aspects of the work.

In terms of conservation, the following was achieved:

- Experimentation with different sea defence techniques (steel bars, wooden pegs, stone piling, planting)
- Wall capping
- Consolidation of the ruins to make them sound and secure (wall repairs, reinforcement and buttressing)
- Restoration of the slave hut
- Repairs to the jetty
- Tree surgery

In terms of site improvement, different activities were developed to improve on the visitor's safety and reduce the risk of degradation caused by the presence of visitors. These included :

- General cleaning of the site
- Creation of new visitor/foot paths
- Installation of chains and signs to direct visitors.
- Partial reconstruction of destroyed walls.

In addition, a set of equipment and tools was purchased to help NCAC in implementing regular maintenance and conservation activities. These equipment were shared between Albreda, Barra and Banjul to be used on all sites.

The results of the works done in 1997 with UNESCO funds proved very satisfactory at James Island. In July 2000, the walls showed very little signs of erosion and the capping was still providing good protection against rains and possible plant growth.

³ for more details, see following report : *T. Joffroy, S. Moriset, James Island, In situ training programme*, Unesco, NCAC, CRATerre-EAG, Grenoble, France, December 1997

Works done in 1997 with the World Heritage Centre

Works done in 1997 with the World Heritage Centre

Works done with WMW funds in July 2000⁴

The programme took place at 5 sites (James Island, CFAO building, Albreda chapel, San Domingo ruins and Fort Bullen) and involved 26 craftsmen from The Gambia, including 6 members of staff of the National Council for Arts and Culture. Of this team, 12 had previously participated in similar works during the training organised in 1997. The objective was to carry out several sample conservation works on each site in order to improve the know-how of the local craftsmen. Therefore the implementation phase emphasised quality rather than quantity with the idea that the trained team should be able to handle most of the conservation works on their own in the future.

The main threat remained the erosion of the island's shores by the waves. Therefore, the sea defence technique was improved by using heavier stones and longer lasting wooden poles. The second major part of the work on the island concerned the wall reinforcement to secure loose parts and prevent further destruction.

Duration/participants : 15 people worked for 5 days on the island.

The following results were achieved:

- General clearing of the site
- Cleaning of all foot paths (removal of grass and stones)
- Drainage of the eastern part of the building
- Sea defence reinforcement
- Stone piling
- Demolition of the water tank and bathroom
- Wall reinforcement, restoration and buttressing
- Restoration of the slave hut (plaster, thatch)
- Creation of a landing area in front of the jetty
- Tree surgery
- Repainting of all signboards and chains

⁴ for more details, see following report : *B. Ceesay, S. Moriset, T. Joffroy, James Island and related sites, The Gambia*, World Monument Fund, NCAC, CRATerre-EAG, Grenoble, France, September 2000

Works done in 2000 with the World Monument Fund

Works done in 2000 with the World Monument Fund

3.3. Current conservation practices

James Island is served by one permanent Attendant, an NCAC employee who doubles up as Guide, Revenue Collector and Conservation Assistant/Caretaker. His duties are to receive visitors, sell tickets and assist with the conservation of the site. His conservation role consist in keeping the place clean, remove grass and plants growing on the ruins, avoid destruction by visitors and monitor the evolution of the site. The Attendant is directly answerable to the Principal Cultural Officer of the Museums and Monuments Division who serves as his supervisor with responsibility for assigning him tasks for the general maintenance and upkeep of the site. The PCO MMD visits the site on average, once in every two months for among other things, inspection purposes. But these visits are irregular and unstructured.

It is to be noted that apart from the regular clearing of the sites after the rains, most of the physical conservation work on these sites were realised through UNESCO and other donor funded programmes realised with the assistance of CRATerre-EAG.

3.4. Promotion and « site presentation »

Many promotion and site presentation activities have been implemented in the year 2000 to improve the visitor's experience and promote the site. They include:

- Preparation of new signboards
- Printing of 6 different postcards on James island (2000 copies printed for each)
- Design and printing of a presentation flyer (4000 copies)

The objective of the postcards and the flyer are to both advertise the sites and raise funds for the their regular maintenance. The main selling points at the moment are the National Museum in Banjul, the slave trade museum in Albreda and the tourist boat going to James Island. 60% of what is realised from the sales will be used for reprints whereas the benefits will be used for conservation activities.

3.5. Authenticity

The ruins of the fort are a visible reminder of the intensity of European rivalry as they manifest the effectiveness of the bombardments carried out on the structures. Fortunately, the fort has never been rebuilt, even partially, since its destruction by the French in 1779.

The minor consolidation and cleaning works done in 1998 and 2000 have not altered the ruined aspect of the fort and the authenticity can therefore be considered as very strong. Only limited consolidation works (see p.31;32;34), meant to avoid collapsing of wall parts have been done in 1998 and 2000. They are almost invisible and they used the same materials as the original fabric (local stones, river sand and oyster shell lime).

In relation to location and settings, James Island can be said to have a very high authenticity as its location in the middle of a river ensures that it is totally undisturbed.

3. Values

Historical value : The remains of the fort and the visibly destroyed fabric are perfect witness of the island's history and, moreover, of the history of Senegambia and its exchange with Europe.

Social value : The island is a landmark for all people concerned with the Slave Trade (Alex Haley's book : Roots), especially the local community and Africans in the Diaspora. For some visitors, a visit to James island is a pilgrimage to their roots.

Use and economic values: Near the rocky outcrop, the river is rich in fishes, and so is an attractive place for fishermen. The island has a great potential for tourism, which is currently under-used. See visitor statistics -Appendix....?

Educational value : As historical evidence, a lot can be learnt from the Island and it already forms part of the history and social studies syllabus in Gambian schools.

4. Swot analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a very important historical value - It is gazetted as a national monument and therefore protected by the NCAC Act, 1989. - It is world known through the Alex Haley book "Roots". - The site is isolated and therefore has a very large natural buffer zone (the river) - The site is very authentic and very impressive - The fabric of the site is rather strong - There is sufficient land besides the buffer zone (northern side) that could be used for developments - The site is a major tourist destination in the country and is generating income through the entry fees - The experience is reinforced by the need to come by boat 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a great potential for larger scale tourism - The local population is ready to invest in activities related to tourism - It has high educational potential for school kids and students - There is a strong will in the local community to have the site better promoted - There is a strong will in the local community to participate in conservation projects, backed by a strong political will - There are possibilities of investments coming to the area within the Kerewan Area Council decentralisation programme
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is not very well promoted as a cultural tourism excursion - The entry fee is minimal - Access is only by sea, allowing no flexibility - The visit can be quite short if not properly guided - There are no explanatory site displays 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The heavy tropical rains and the specific conservation problems attached to it (growth of plants, mosses, trees, etc, causes the slow decay of exposed fabric. - There is lot of wind and a salty environment that encourages mortar decay - As the sea defence were destroyed, the artificial extensions to the island are being slowly eroded. - Tour operators are "promoting" treasure hunting on the site

Note : all issues are ranked in order of importance in each category.

III San Domingo, Juffureh, Albreda

1. Description

1.1. Albreda

Albreda is the only village in the area where a jetty sufficiently long allows for small boats and crafts to dock at all times. It is situated in the middle of a large agricultural land that can be divided into two main components. On the coastal zone, there are scenic rice fields bordered on one side by a small beach and the mangrove trees and on the village side by immense trees of different species. The land on the other side of the village is devoted to mango trees, cassava, groundnut and vegetable farming.

Albreda is a typical contemporary Mandingo village with large remaining patterns of the local traditional settlements. If there has been a tendency to utilise modern building materials, the ancient ones are still much in use. Moreover, the traditional urban network and the convivial verandas where one meets neighbours and visitors have been maintained. Also, there are still many communal open air meeting places (Bantaba) within the village.

There are not many remains of the European settlements, apart from the chapel, some few remaining free standing walls and foundations, and the picturesque CFAO building on the waterfront.

Map of the area showing the main places of interest and the visitors' tour

*Top to bottom, left : Group of tourist in front of CFAO building, waterfront, old mosque, fishermen
right : baobab trees, Portuguese chapel and farm fields*

The Chapel

This chapel, known to have been built by the Portuguese in the late XVth century is in ruins but more than 50% of its walls are still standing, including the full back elevation with a metal cross on its top (the cross was a signification added during the preparations for the 1996 Roots Festival). The large walls are built of sand and lateritic stones laid in a lime mortar. Just besides the chapel (30m on the west) is a free standing wall, which is contemporaneous with the church.

Plan and sections of the Portuguese Chapel as surveyed in 2000

the Portuguese Chapel before and after the conservation campaign organised in 2000

CFAO building

The CFAO⁵ building in Albreda stands at the water's edge near the wharf. It is a two-storey building with an adjacent single storey warehouse. The ground floor, accessible through an opened arcaded veranda served as a shop and store for goods, and the top floor served as a residence for the trading company's agents.

The building stands at the waters edge and at high tide, the South wall is lapped by the waves. The building may have been erected several meters away from the river, but on the other hand, to render access from the boats to the warehouse easier, there may have been a platform fixed by a series of poles, similar to what had been done for James Island. This two storey structure is made of brick and stone masonry. A concrete slab has replaced the second floor, originally made of wood and supported by rhon palm beams over I- shaped iron bars. The building covers an area of 216 m².

Most of the walls are exposed without plaster; this is historically very interesting as it shows the fabric. It testifies to more than 500 years of various additions, demolitions and changes. The result is a mix of local boulders, chalk blocks, stones and fired clay bricks. CFAO bought this building in 1902. Though the architect is not known, a 1847 plan of Albreda shows a stone building in the same location.

*Archive photographs showing the building before its gradual destruction.
Black and white photographs – unknown date⁶, coloured photograph – 1989⁷*

⁵ CFAO : stands for « Compagnie Française d'Afrique Occidentale »

⁶ extracted from : *J. Soullou, Rives coloniales, architectures de Saint Louis à Douala*, éditions Parenthèses, Marseilles, France 1993

⁷ extracted from : *M. Tomkinson, La Gambie en images*, Vilo Paris and Michael Tomkinson publishing, Hammamet, Tunisia, 1989

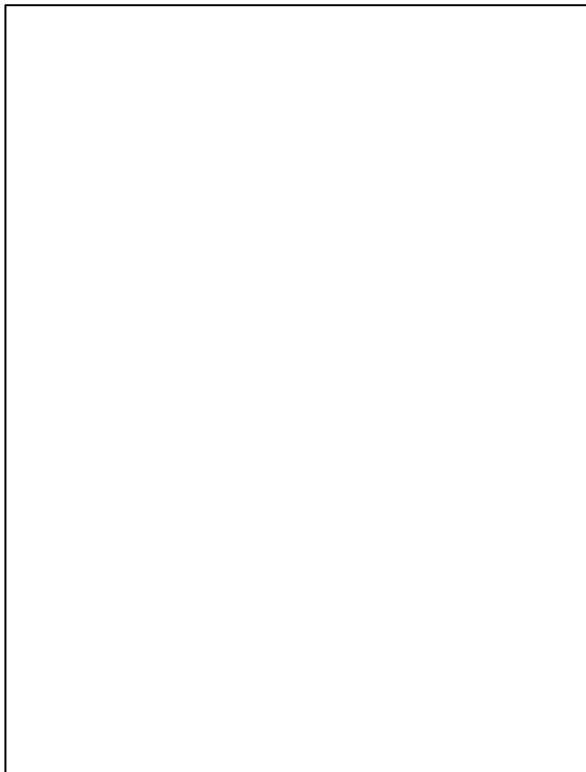
*Plan, elevations and
section of CFAO building
drawn in 1996
Note that the roof shape
is wrong.*

1.2. Juffureh

Juffureh is next to Albreda, on the North-East, and therefore is not along the river. Like Albreda, it is a typical developing Mandinka village with a mixture of round and rectangular earth structures (adobe) roofed with thatch or nowadays rather corrugated iron sheets.

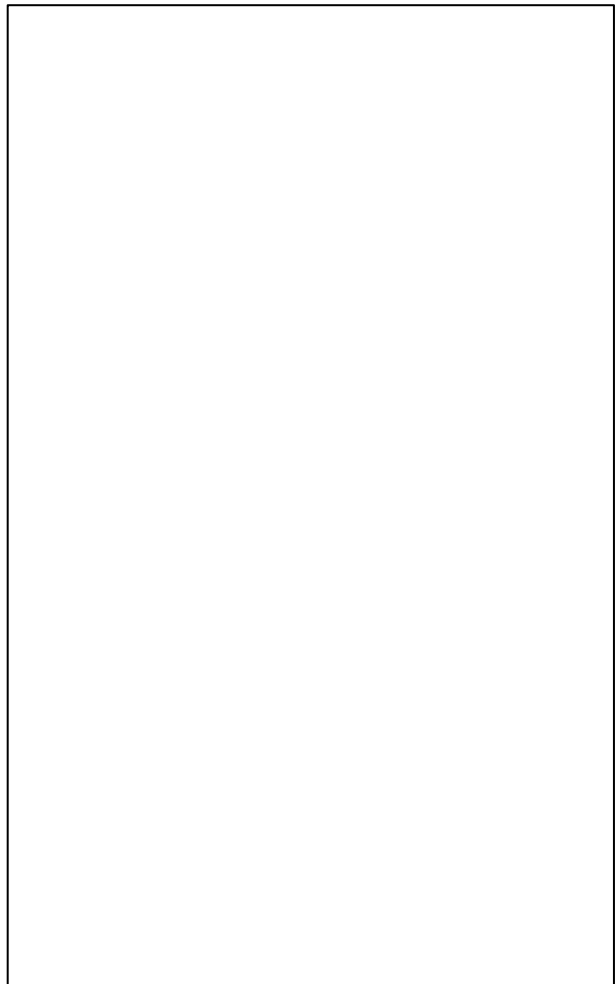
The specific importance of Juffureh comes from its identification by Alex Haley as the village of his ancestor who was taken to the Americas, as well as the presence of the Kinteh family who would be the descendants of the members of the family who had not been taken into slavery. The compound of the Kinteh Family is a pilgrimage destination.

It now has a large open hall (Bantaba) where Binta Kinteh, the current matriarch of the family, receives pilgrims and visitors.



Binta Kinteh

back cover of
Alex Haley's book "ROOTS"



A visit to Juffureh also comprises a stop at the Alkalo's Bantaba (reception hall of the Chief of the village) and to the only remaining ancient warehouse, the Maurel Frères building.

Maurel Frères Building.

The Maurel Frères Building was rehabilitated in 1996 and was transformed into a small museum on the Atlantic Slave Trade and the Senegambia. Exhibits range through explanatory panels in a sequence that denotes the evolution, process and results of the triangular trade, concluding with the contemporary African Diaspora. Old illustrations, photographs, slave trading implements, registers of freed slaves, guns and ammunitions are illustrating the overall.

Beside it, stands the “Home At Last” guesthouse, built several years ago. A Bantaba, consisting of a large round hut standing on posts, has been built in front of the building for the convenience of museum visitors. It serves as a resting and refreshing spot for the visitors. All these structures are situated on NCAC property that still has potential for new developments.

Plan and elevation of Maurel frères building (slave trade museum) ; survey done in July 2000

1.3. San Domingo

San Domingo stands 1000 metres East of Albreda and about 70 metres South of the main road. The Portuguese established it in the late 15th century and at that time had gardens, a cemetery, a church and a well. Today, only the ruins of a 8.5 x 8.5 m storey house, identified as remains of the Portuguese settlement can be seen. Of this house, only two walls remain. The building materials are sand and lateritic stones put together with lime mortar. Loopholes at the ground floor level suggest that the occupants were had a preoccupation with security and defence.

Of this first settlement, no sign can be seen above ground level, but it is very likely that archaeological investigation would reveal traces of it between the actual ruins and the river (according to the village elders).

Plan and sections of the San Domingo ruins ; survey done in 2000

2. Use and Management

2.1. Ownership and protection

All the buildings described in the previous chapters in San Domingo, Juffureh and Albreda are gazetted as National Monuments since 1995. In the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995, it is stated that :

*“The whole of James island and the coastal strip of land, measuring 250 metres from the high-water mark, stretching between Lamin point and Sika point and **including all historic structures situated in the villages of Albreda and Juffureh** in the North Bank Division, as indicated in the diagram below, but excluding land that is used for agricultural or residential purposes as at 16th March, 1995.”*

Map showing the limits of the gazetted area

2.2. Staff

The maintenance and upkeep of the protected area as well as historic structures found in this area is the responsibility of two permanent and one semi-permanent staff employed by the NCAC, and to a lesser extent, the Area Council which runs a guest house in the museum premises at Juffureh. Because of the guesthouse, the Area Council pays half the salary of the semi-permanent Caretaker. The other two staff are one Caretaker whose responsibility is for security and cleaning, and one Museum Attendant who sells tickets and generally cares for the museum

The caretakers are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the San Domingo ruins and the CFAO Building whereas the Museum Attendant has exclusive charge of the museum, and is only assisted in cleaning by the Caretakers. The Bantaba on the other hand has been divested to the community through JAYS for the selling of drinks to visitors. It is presently maintained in collaboration with the drink vendors who assist in cleaning and landscaping.

The 'Home Atlas' guesthouse was also divested to the Kerewan Area Council who renovated the building and has posted two permanent and one temporary staff for its maintenance.

For more information on NCAC's management structure, see chapter VI.9, page 91-92

2.3. Stakeholders and users

The main stakeholders and users of the sites are :

- 1.N.C.A.C.
- 2.Department of State for Tourism and Culture
- 3.National Tourist Office
- 4.Local Government Authority/Area Council
- 5.Commissioner,North Bank Division
- 6.Residents of Barra/VDG
- 7.Fishing Industry
- 8.Ground Operators Association
- 9.Schools
- 10.Police
- 11.Youth Organisation ?

2.4. Financial situation

The revenue generated from this area mainly comes from ticket sales for visiting the museum and sales of postcards, brochures and books. Tickets for visiting the museum are linked with the visit to James Island and cost D25.00 for Non-Gambians visitors, mainly tourists, who essentially form the clientele. Students and schools children pay a minimal fee if unaccompanied, and visit free of charge if they give advance notice.

The total annual revenue realised from the Albreda –Juffureh complex including James Island ranges between US\$17,000 and US\$20,000.(1999&2000 figures). But it is noteworthy that these figures are very much dependent on the vagaries of the tourist season which is at present witnessing a downward trend.

3. Conservation

3.1. Conservation history

1996 : Roots festival

The Maurel Frères building was restored by the NCAC with funds from the Government of Gambia, in preparation for the first international homecoming Roots Festival. A permanent exhibition was set-up in the building to illustrate the history of slavery in the Senegambia.

Rest house

To enhance the tourism infrastructure at Albrede, some other structures were also set up. This includes the construction of Bantaba - a round opened structure (approximately 12 metre diameter) just opposite the museum. It allows visitors to rest in the shade after the visit of the museum and serves also for meetings and other events. In the same yard, a rest house, which can accommodate 15 visitors, has been completed on the southern side of the Maurel Frères building.

The Chapel - July 2000

Eight people worked for 4 days on the chapel. The only work done on this structure consisted of refilling 2 major holes on the North wall to prevent further destruction.

San Domingo (Stone house) - July 2000

8 people worked for 4 days at San Domingo. This site had never been treated. Because of its major significance, it was decided to eliminate all imminent threats, repair some significant parts of the structure and make it more visible.

In detail, the following works have been done in July 2000 :

- Cutting of 2 big trees and removal of all the bushes within the ruins
- Reconstruction of two windows/openings (loopholes)
- Cleaning of the site
- Fixing of 3 new signboards to direct visitors to San Domingo. One is located in Juffureh near the Museum, the second at the road junction, and the third adjacent to the ruins, to give a brief history of the place.

CFAO building - December 1997

Reinforcement of the base in 1997 (UNESCO programme)

CFAO building - July 2000

8 people worked for 4 days on the building ruins in July 2000. It was observed that several parts of wall had already collapsed since 1997. For this reason, the National Council for Arts and Culture fenced off the building in January 2000 to ward off danger to the visiting public.

As the evolution of the decay was difficult to observe, the main action consisted of cleaning the entire site and reinforcing the parts which were in danger of collapsing. A few areas with loose masonry were removed for security reasons and some others rebuilt to increase the durability of the remains.

In detail, the following works have been done in July 2000 :

Wall reinforcement

- Jacking up of 2 collapsed beams and reconstruction of destroyed wall underneath.
- Filling of holes and reinforcement of walls in different places inside the main room.
- Reinforcement of corner wall on the water side (south east).
- Capping on the west wall.
- Re-building of collapsed brick wall at the second floor.

Cleaning

- Removal of loose parts at the second floor, and removal of a hanging beam from the second floor.
- Cleaning of the inside of the building to reveal the floor level.
- Cleaning of the backyard and main room.
- Proper stacking of recyclable materials (fired bricks, boulders, white stones) for future works.

Drainage

- Drainage of the site : main room and backyard

Sea defence

- Arrangement of stones and rubble on the water side to protect the building foundations on that end

CFAO building - current state

The quality of the walls is rather poor and susceptible to fast erosion. The building is in a state of ruin, and small parts regularly collapse. In July 2000, only 50% of the walls were still standing. There is no longer a roof on the building and the staircase has also disappeared. The concrete slab of the upper floor is not very stable and half of it is already missing.

3.2. Current conservation practices

Responsibility for the upkeep of the historic structures such as the CFAO building and the ruins of San Domingo devolve on all NCAC staff

It is to be noted that apart from the regular clearing of the sites after the rains, most of the physical conservation work on these sites were realised through UNESCO and other donor funded programmes realised with the assistance of CRATerre.

3.3. Threats

CFAO Building

The building suffers from the continuous natural degradation of its shore defence (boulders and posts) that is aggravated by the use of this shore defence as a quarry for boulder by the villagers. Without this protection, the building is continuously eroded at its base and part of the eastern walls have collapsed. Other walls also suffer from the lack of drainage and the plants growing on the debris.

Finally, the salty atmosphere is also responsible for the decay of some building materials. This problem, along with the strong winds has affected the second floor of the building which has almost totally disappeared.

The chapel

The remains of the chapel are rather strong and the only possible threat could be human activities. The chapel sits next to the fish market, which is a very busy place in the morning. There is a risk that vehicles may bump into the ruins.

San Domingo ruins

The recent works have eliminated all major risk of destruction of the remnant walls by plants and trees. But the situation is only temporarily stabilised.

Conservation works done in December 1997 and July 2000 on CFAO building

Works done in July 2000 on San Domingo ruins and the chapel

4. Values

Apart from its significance as one of the first places to be settled by Europeans on the West African coast, in their efforts to tap the trade of the interior for both slaves and local goods. This part of the north bank was also the scene of some of the most intense inter-European rivalries. It saw the death of many soldiers, mariners and adventurers and probably provided for the abducted slaves a last view of a homeland they were never to set foot on again.

4.1. San Domingo

Historical value : San Domingo contains the remains of the first Portuguese settlement. Loopholes are visible within the ruins, witness of the defensive requirements of this structure.

Scientific (Archaeological) value : there are very few visible remains, but the area has great potential for archaeological research with cemetery, wells and other building remains.

Use (economical) value : some of the adjacent land is used for agricultural purposes.

Educational/Touristic value: Even though very few remains are visible, the site has an educational and touristic potential (as part of the rest of the overall complex).

4.2. Juffureh- Albreda

Birth place of Kunta Kinteh, ancestor of the Haley Family

The Gambia - particularly James Island, Albreda and Juffureh - the birth place of Kunta Kinteh, has become very symbolic and extremely emotional to the Afro-American population. One of them, Alex Haley, was able to trace his roots to Juffureh, where he made contact with direct descendants of his own forefather, Kunta Kinteh. From his research, Haley wrote the best-seller 'Roots' which then became a successful TV series. This book and the series were read and watched avidly throughout the world - and gave birth to a rallying cry for members of the European and American Diaspora to make a pilgrimage to the Gambia. This pilgrimage has answered a need for people to discover their own family beginnings and experience the rich and diverse African culture at the same time.

Historical value : there are remains of the early French settlement and from the colonial period.

Social value : the presence of the historical remains has a great impact on the social life of the two villages (including tourism activities).

Use value : the area is inhabited and some of the land is used for agricultural purposes. The jetty is used by fishermen. A warehouse was built to collect groundnut for export, but it is not used anymore.

Scientific (Archaeological) value : the area has potential for archaeological research as this is the place where the village has been existing for several centuries which is confirmed by midden sites.

Touristic and educational values : there are many interesting places to visit.

Economical value : being the point of departure to James Island, and considering that there is still a lot of land that can be developed, there is a potential for the establishment of visitors facilities.

5. SWOT analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a very important historical value - It is gazetted as a national monument and therefore protected by the 19th December Act establishing NCAC. - It is world known through the Alex Haley book “Roots”. - There are several interesting historical structures and a very interesting cultural landscape on the river side. - There is a village life - There is a museum - There is a craft market - There are a decent restaurant and several (3) modest guests houses - There is sufficient land that could be used for developments - The site is a major tourist destination in the country and is generating income through the entry fees (at the museum) 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a great potential for larger scale tourism - The local population is ready to invest in activities related to tourism - It has high educational potential for school kids and students - There is a strong will among the local community to have the site better promoted - There is a strong will among the local community to participate in conservation projects and to develop/invest in activities related to tourism - There are possibilities of investments within the Kerewan Area Council decentralisation programme
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is not very well promoted as a cultural tourism excursion - The entry fee at the museum is limited - Access is by the sea that doesn't allow for much flexibility, Access by road from Banjul is quite long - There is a huge ware house (not used) at the jetty which destroys the experience of the visitor coming by boat - The village structures are not very interesting in terms of being representative of the local traditional architecture - Children and adults molesting tourists is developing - The existing tourist accommodation are of low standard and are not promoted 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social problems may arise if the local population is not sufficiently benefiting from the use of the site as a tourist attraction - The heavy tropical rains and the specific conservation problems attached to it (growth of plants, mosses, trees,....., slow decay of exposed fabric. - There is lot of wind and a salty environment that entails mortar decay - The structure at San Domingo is threatened by huge trees growing - The sea defence of CFAO building has been destructed therefore the building is prone to erosion by waves - Some human activities (digging ground for trash and for building) are disturbing the archaeological remains

Note : all issues are ranked in order of importance in each category.

IV Six Gun Battery, Banjul

1. Description

The six gun battery was completed in 1821⁸ in the newly constructed town of Bathurst, which was founded in 1816 on Saint Mary Island. The idea was that the Battery could afford sufficient firepower to stop any ships trying to run out of the river mouth and that naval vessels on patrol would then effect their capture. However, the Battery's firepower could not traverse the entire width of the river mouth, which is about 8 miles wide at this point.

The battery consists of six 24 pounder guns. The six guns are installed on inclined rails fixed at an average of 1m height. They are protected by a large parapet wall made of stones laid in lime mortar and plastered with lime sand mortar. Their layout allows to cover a angle of about 30°.

Plan of the Island Saint Mary (Bathurst) drawn by f. Castille in 1820

⁸ The 6 gun battery, government house, barracks, officers quarters, a jail and hospital were completed in 1821 according to Gray, "History of The Gambia" p-307.

Access to the site

The six-gun battery is located within Banjul, in the State house compound, at the edge of the river. The canons are visible behind the fence when passing the entrance of the State House but they can not be approached without obtaining a special permission from the government.

The State House seen from the River Gambia and different views of the 6 gun battery

*Plan showing the location of the 6 gun battery in the State House, and the limits of the plot;
survey done in July 1999*

2. Use and management

2.1. Ownership and protection

The site is presently the subject of National Monument proclamation. The President's Office, the major stakeholder has supported proclamation, which is now awaiting gazetting at the Attorney General's Chambers. Once proclaimed National Monument the site comes under the purview of the NCAC. But the site will certainly have to be co-managed with the Office of the President.

2.2. Stakeholders and users

- President' Office : The site is located within their premises and maintained by them
- Banjul Citizens : The site is part of the heritage of Banjul. Many adults have fond memories of the site which was adjoined to a playground next to the beach. School children will find it invaluable in their social studies and history lessons.
- Tour Operators : The site could certainly form part of the city tour sold to tourists.
- NCAC : As the national custodians of the country's heritage, the NCAC has a professional interest in the conservation of the site.

2.3. Staff

The grounds staff of the Office of the President does the general cleaning and maintenance of the site. However, it appears that nothing has been done for quite some time on both the parapet wall and the guns.

2.4. Financial situation

The site does not realise any revenue for the NCAC or for the President's Office. The cost of maintaining the site is borne by the Office of the president in its recurrent budget.

3. Conservation

3.1. conservation history

There is reason to believe that the guns, like most important historic structures in the Gambia were maintained by the Public Works Department prior to the enclosure of the site by the State House perimeter fence. There has been virtually no intervention with the structures since they were put up. The guns and their emplacements remain the same except that the guns are now not functional.

3.2. current conservation practices

The site is maintained by the grounds staff of the Office of the President as part of the residence of the Presidency. The gardeners who maintain it are responsible for regular trimming of the grass and weeding of the lawns and intrusive plant growth, as well as the cleaning trash and debris. They also afford the gun emplacement occasional whitewashing and the guns themselves, occasional black oil paint. These activities are executed on a very irregular basis.

4. Values

Historical value : the site is the witness of the will of the English to control the trade in the mouth of the river Gambia.

As a witness of the history, the site also has an educational and **touristic value**.

5. SWOT analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a very important historical value - The site is impressive - All the guns are there and in a good state of conservation - It is gazetted as a national monument and therefore protected by the 19th December Act establishing NCAC. - Being within the presidential compound, it is well protected - The size of the site is limited and is made of non-fragile structures and artefacts. Therefore it can easily be maintained - There is a large piece of land in front of the battery 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is located within the old centre of Banjul and could easily be part of the city tours. - It has high educational potential for school kids and students
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is not accessible to the public - It is not well known, even by the local population - Its size is very limited and visits can be very short - It is surrounded by both a compound grid and a high compound wall. Therefore there is no sea view, when the main purpose of this battery was to bombard boats. - A mosque has been constructed on the edge of the parapet wall. That reduces the authenticity of the site and has an impact on the visitors experience - There is no regular maintenance in place 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The heavy tropical rains - Extension of the mosque - Conflicts at the gate

Note : all issues are ranked in order of importance in each category.

V Fort Bullen

1. Description

The fort and its surrounding environments

Fort Bullen sits at the end of Barra point, on the North bank of the river, opposite Banjul. The fort is built close to the end of the point, and is protected from the sea by a stone and boulders wall. Around the fort, on the east and northern sides is a vast piece of empty land on which cows and sheep graze. This neglected land currently now plays the role of a buffer zone. A few large old trees provide shade on this open land. The site is constantly freshened by the wind blowing from the sea. This land belongs to NCAC. Its large size could allow for tourism developments at the peripheries (mainly at the northern part) without impeding on the visual appreciation of the fort.

*Fort Bullen seen
From the river*

Map of Barra Town, Fort Bullen is situated at the Western end of the river mouth

Access to the site

The site is very close to the Banjul/Barra ferry landing. There is a gravel (laterite) road from the ferry landing that passes between several mechanics workshops, a groundnut depot, and the Fisheries Department project site. The access road goes through the buffer zone. Currently cars have access to the fort itself and sometimes vehicles are driven beyond the fort (towards the sea).

Description of the fort

The fort is a 45 x 30 m rectangle in plan with four circular bastions in the corners. In between the bastions are curtain walls enclosing the fort. The courtyard is accessible through 2 doors, one on the sea side, in the middle of the Western wall, and the second one on the southern side of the Eastern wall. Compared to James Fort, Fort Bullen is relatively low with an average wall height of approximately 3.5 m.

Within the fort are remains of buildings, which were built in the courtyard or stood against the curtain walls. On the northern side is a free standing 3 x 4,5 m stone building with two rooms. One of the rooms has been covered with a concrete slab during WW II to serve as an ammunition store. The slab is sagging and access is forbidden inside for security reasons. The second room has been covered with a single pitch roof in July 2000, and is to house a permanent exhibition.

The remains of some walls of another room are found against the Western wall next to the entrance. A concrete stage was constructed in 1996 inside the fort against the eastern wall for use during cultural events.

Below the Southeast bastion is a vaulted room. It is approximately 12 m² in size and on the back wall are listings of ammunition previously stocked in the room. A similar room also exists under the Northwest bastion but it is much smaller in size and has been filled up with rubble. Near the entrance to the Southeast bastion is the only tree of the courtyard. It is a huge fig tree, which provides shade above the entrance and covers part of the bastion. The 4 bastions can be accessed with stone and brick staircases, which are all in good condition.

Against the North wall, there are remains of a raised walkway connecting the 2 bastions. The walkway is built on top of brick arches. From the original 6 arches, 2 were restored in July 2000, one of them is half collapsed and 3 others have totally disappeared.

Finally, a navigation light also sits on the western end of the courtyard. The light sits on a 15-m high metal structure fixed on a concrete slab. It is rather discrete since the wire fence, which encircled it, was removed in July 2000.

The courtyard also had a concrete bunker built during the Second World War. But for aesthetic and security reasons, it was also demolished during the July 2000 conservation programme.

Around the fort are four canons lying about on the ground. The one in front of the Northwest bastion dates from the II world war. The other three, one lying in front of the new rest house, and two lying in front of the entrance are the original canons of the fort. According to the Alkalo of Barra, the old canons lying on the ground were on the bastions until the second World war when they were dismantled by the British to make way for the reinforcement of the bastions and the installation of new and more modern guns.

Eastern and Northern elevations and plan of Fort Bullen ; survey done in 1992 by the NCAC

Plan and section of Fort Bullen, 1832

Other Structures on site

The Old Rest House : This was the residence of the Travelling Commissioner of the colonial administration at the beginning of the century. The walls are made of mud and the house is covered with a large double-pitched roof covering a narrow veranda on the four sides. The caretakers presently occupy it even though it is in a bad state. The caretakers have put up small structures behind it to serve as toilet and bath.

The Wooden Rest House : This structure was erected in the fifties near the southeast bastion. It is a 3 bedroom prefabricated wooden house raised on top of concrete columns. The first floor serves as accommodation while the space below allows for parking and storage. The building structure is still sound but the external wooden cover has started to decay. The building is no longer occupied, accelerating the decay process of the structure.

In 1996, a third rest house with an adjacent toilet block was built on the northern side of the fort. The house has been rented out for some years but it has since been returned to the NCAC.

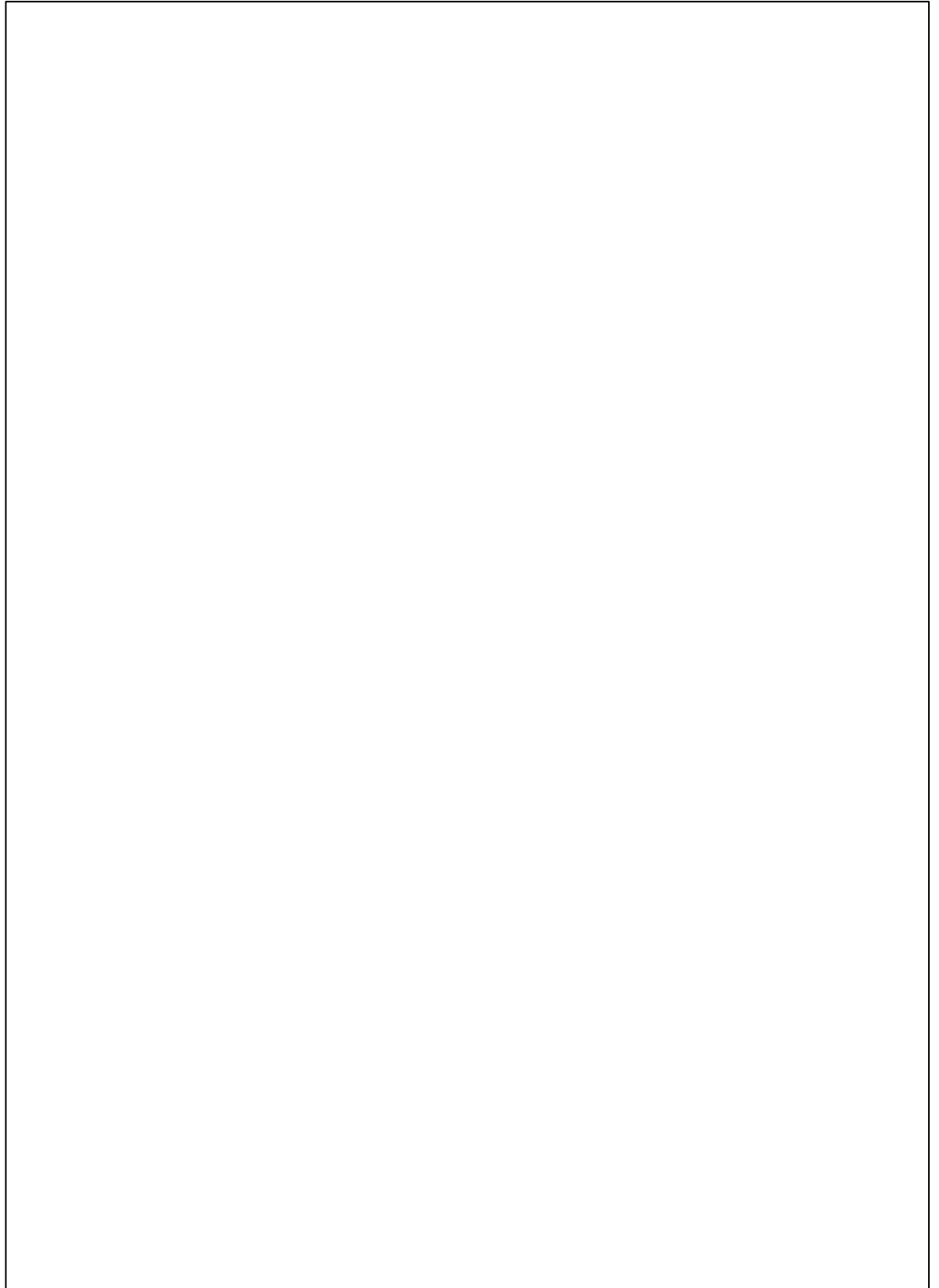
Visitor's facilities and experience

The fort is an impressive structure and the view from the bastions is a superb experience. However the site lacks basic facilities like a decent toilet, exhibition space or a tourist shop. Some of those visitors who can catch a glimpse of the courtyard before entering are generally reluctant to come in and pay the entry fee because there is nothing to see inside the fort. This is why one of the empty rooms within the fort was covered and equipped to hold an exhibition.

2. Use and management

2.1. Ownership and protection

Fort Bullen is gazetted as National Monuments since 1995. Exact site boundaries are shown in the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995, shown below:



2.2. Staff

Two caretakers and one attendant are mainly responsible for the site. They are employees of the NCAC and work under the authority of the MMD . Of the 2 caretakers, one is a mason who participated in the 1997 and 2000 training programmes, and can execute minor restoration work. The caretakers' main responsibility is to ensure the cleanliness and security of the site as well as undertake any conservation work that may be assigned by the Principal cultural Officer of the MMD. The trained mason/caretaker is sometimes re-deployed to assist in conservation works at other sites. The attendant plays the role of guide and revenue collector.

2.3. Stakeholders and users

Tourism : tour groups and individuals visit the site

Education : many school children also visit

The caretakers live in the old rest house.

Gambia Ports Authority : a navigation light is standing within the fort

Local people are coming for picnics.

The site is occasionally used for organising different types of event, by public or private institutions/persons.

Some taxi and bus drivers come to the well behind the rest house to wash their cars.

2.4. Financial situation

As with the other sites, Fort Bullen generates income through the fees paid by visitors. Revenue collected from the site in the form of ticket is paid to the Revenue Collector at the National Museum on a monthly basis. The visitor's statistics for 1999 and 2000 are the following :

	Tour operators	Individual visitors	Educational groups	total
1999	1459	563	478	2500
2000	1849	939	231	3019

Entry fee

Tourists pay 10 D (USD 0.8)

Locals pay 2 D

Entry for children is free

Like James Island monies raised from the site are paid to the Revenue Collector at the National Museum and are banked in the NCAC general account. Allocations for the maintenance and upkeep of the site is done on a yearly basis, except for emergencies which are handled as soon as they arise.

3. Conservation of the site

3.1. Threats

Conservation problems

The sea defence is gradually getting destroyed and the backfill is also going. There is plant growth, but it is currently well handled by the caretakers. The walls are beaten by the salty wind and there is a slow but gradual decay of the walls. The reinforced concrete slabs that were built during WW II are decaying and there is an immediate danger of collapse. (These structures should not be visited anymore). Other parts of the fort are decayed or broken but there are no signs of specific decay (apart from the salty environment.)

The wooden rest house is now quite a dangerous building in the sense that most of the columns of the ground floor are cracked and close to collapse. It has been recommended not to allow visitors in this building. On the other hand, many building materials located on the top part are in a good state.

At the old rest house, the iron sheet roof is leaking. This leaking has caused damage to the ceiling. Part of the veranda is destroyed (back part) and some of the walls are out of plumb indicating that they are starting to lean out. There is no immediate danger, but the structure needs to be re-roofed. The floor of the veranda is damaged. Some of the doors and windows are also damaged. There is no toilet nor kitchen nor bath. So that iron sheet structures have been erected behind the main structure.

Other problems at the site

- ?? The old caretaker doesn't want to move from the old rest house so that the caretakers have to stay in just a room.
- ?? There are two lunatics. One has been there for 18 years and is not a problem, but the one who has arrived recently, collects and piles things (including rubbish) that sometimes affect the site.
- ?? Many people are using the site as a toilet and / or for bathing.
- ?? Rubbish (plastic bags,...) are all over the buffer zone.
- ?? There are many pigs and other animals on the site.
- ?? The access road is often waterlogged during rainy season.
- ?? The access road is through chaotic mechanics workshops.

3.2. Conservation history

It is most probable that the site remained untouched until the second World War. At that time the sea defence was repaired, and this could have been the sole conservation effort as the rest of the works concerned either additions to the site (see description), or modifications to suit to the new equipment (canons) that was installed. Until the seventies, the fort was almost abandoned even though the local authorities monitored its state. In 1980, the fort was entirely cleaned by NCAC and opened to the public. The Old rest house was transformed into an accommodation for the caretakers.

1996 Roots festival

Some work was done in 1996 in order to host the festival. Two World War II structures were removed. The structures removed were a dilapidated communication room on the northeast bastion and a structure holding a disused navigation light on the southwest bastion. Some works were organised to make the site more visitor friendly :

- Parapets were equipped with barriers
- The northeast and southwest bastions were covered with a protective screed
- Access to the NW bastion was repaired
- The stage was also repaired
- A few interpretative panels were installed
- Erection of a new rest house with toilet facilities for visitors

In 1997, Fort Bullen did not benefit from UNESCO 1997 conservation training.

Works done in 2000 with the World Monument Fund

Works done with WMW funds in July 2000

Removal of WWII Magazine : This magazine was situated in the southwest corner of the fort and was in an advanced state of dereliction. For a number of reasons, it was desirable to remove these remains. Firstly, the magazine was an unsightly addition to the fort having being somewhat hastily constructed using cement blocks filled with concrete. Secondly, a section of the original officers quarters building was also converted during WWII into a magazine, so a representation of this type can still be seen.

The fort itself is in a rather good state of conservation except for the sea defence wall which is almost totally destroyed. Therefore, most of the energy was concentrated on the rebuilding of this wall. About 20 m of wall was rebuilt by the end of July. This task proved to be rather difficult because heaps of rubbles had to be removed before reconstruction could commence.

The site was also cleared of several structures inconsistent with its fabric. This entailed the demolition of a 20 m² bunker from World War II, the demolition of a 6m high water tank built on a concrete stand, and the removal of a 25 m long steel fence encircling the navigation light inside the fort. A general cleaning was also organised to remove all sorts of debris and rubble, which had been abandoned on the grounds of the fort. All the materials stemming from the demolition work served to in-fill the back of the sea defence wall. To prevent further dumping of materials on the site, two barriers were made to prevent vehicles from entering the site.

Two collapsed arches supporting the walkway along the walls of the fort have also been re-built and the ammunition store has been whitewashed. Finally, one room was re-roofed and provided with a door and windows, and is to serve as site museum. It is planned to house an exhibition on the history of the fort and contemporary life in Barra.

The following results were achieved:

Sea defence

- Cleaning of the collapsed parts of the sea defence wall to allow reconstruction.
- Reconstruction of 20 m of sea defence wall.
- Filling of cavities in the remaining parts of the sea defence wall on the sea side.
- Filling of holes behind sea defence wall.
- Construction of a 30 cm high masonry bench on top of the new sea defence wall
- Covering of rubble with black soil and planting of trees to reinforce the ground.

Clearing/demolition

- Demolition of WW2 concrete bunker inside the fort.
- Demolition of disused water tank in front of the fort.
- Removal of the wire fence protecting the navigation light inside the fort.
- Construction of concrete and steel barriers to prevent cars passing around the fort.
- General cleaning of the fort and its surroundings

Re-construction/maintenance

- Cleaning of the collapsed arches and reconstruction of 2 arches supporting walkway.
- Whitewashing of the magazine room.

Exhibition room

- Increase of wall height on existing room inside the fort to place a roof on top.
- Opening blocked window on the eastern side of room.
- Construction of the roof.
- Carpentry work in the new exhibition room (windows and doors).

Duration/participants : 17 people worked for 10 days on the fort.

3.3. Current conservation practices

Two caretakers who are mainly responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the site manage it. This includes occasional tree surgery and more generally, the clearing of debris. Like the Albreda- Juffureh complex, these staff are accountable to the PCO MMD who assigns tasks and supervises them. The PCO MMD visits the site on average once in every two months, though irregularly. The staff is under the authority of the MMD of NCAC.

4. Values

Historical value	the fort has been built in order to get full control of the mouth of the river Gambia (complementarily to the six gun Battery at Banjul). The fort has also been used during the Second World War.
Social value	the island is a landmark for the local community
Touristic and educational value	even though the site is has not been much enhanced, a visit there is worth. There is potential for improvements
Economical value	if enhanced and promoted, the site could be more visited. Also, considering that there is some land that can be developed, there is a potential for the establishment of visitors facilities

5. SWOT analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site has a very important historical value - It is gazetted as a national monument and therefore protected by the 19th December Act establishing NCAC. - There is a very large buffer zone - The site has a kind of wild aspect, that of the coastal zone beaten by wind. - The fabric of the site is rather strong - The environment (buffer zone) is interesting. There is a good view on the sea, the river Gambia and on Banjul, situated on the other side of the mouth of the river. - There is sufficient land besides the buffer zone (northern side) that could be used for developments - The site is guarded and there is a guide - The access from Banjul is easy and the ferry is an interesting experience 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is very close to the ferry port and very easily accessible. - It has high educational potential for school kids and students - The land that could be developed has a nice beach - There is a strong will of the local community to have that site better promoted - There is strong will of the local community and of its representatives to participate in conservation - There are possibilities of investments within the Kerewan Area Council decentralisation programme
<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is not very known - It is not properly advertised - There are several buildings that are obtrusive to the visitors experience, both outside and inside the fort. (including the navigation light, and moreover its protective fence) - Apart from the fort itself, there is not much to see and the visit is rather short - There are no complementary displays that would improve the visitor's experience - The entry fee is therefore limited and do not cover the expenses for the personnel in charge - The access road is not in a very good state and is muddy during rains - The seaside of the site is used as a toilet and bathroom by people from Barra - There are lunatics leaving on the site. One of them is piling items at several spots. 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The heavy tropical rains and the specific conservation problems attached to it (growth of plants, mosses, trees,....., slow decay of exposed fabric. - The sea defence is almost fully destructed and the piece of land between the sea and the fort is getting eroded. - There are not many visitors and investments in that area have proved to be non productive (Artisans tried to install some craft shops unsuccessfully) - If nothing is done on the site, people may feel that they could squat part of the land.

Note : all issues are ranked in order of importance in each category.

VI Management Plan for 2001-5

1. To maximise the use of this major “group of sites”

James Island and its related sites are a unique evidence of the often violent history of the Afro-European encounter along the river Gambia which lasted over five centuries (XV-XIX), and therefore are part and parcel of the national identity of The Gambia. At the same time, these sites represent an excellent gateway for discovering the “Heart of Africa”, more specifically for the Africans of the Diaspora in the search of their Roots.

All these inter-related sites have to be preserved and their extraordinary significance revealed to visitors and pilgrims. Given these considerations, all the activities outlined should be integrated in the local socio-cultural environment and also make a positive contribution on the overall sustainable development process for the area.

The sites in combination could be marketed as a heritage trail, which can either start or end in Banjul. Already a ‘Roots Tour’ exists which basically takes visitors from Banjul to James Island, Albreda and Juffureh. In Juffureh the main attraction is the home of Binta Kinteh, the matriarch of the family from which Alex Haley traced his descent; and the slavery museum, set up by the NCAC. As it is, this tour is heavily criticised for spending too little time in the vicinity and giving the local population minimal opportunity to gain from the visitor’s presence. A restored and interpreted CFAO Building and the stabilised ruins of San Domingo will constitute additional attraction in the area. A new route which will allow visitors to enjoy the natural landscape, flora and fauna around the beach, going through the rice fields and having a Birdseye view of the villages, guided by the Local Tour Guides will certainly enhance the visit.

Visitors coming by land always have the opportunity to visit Fort Bullen at Barra, after crossing by ferry from Banjul. The logical route is for them to visit James Island and the Albreda Juffureh complex as illustration of the European presence and activities, especially the trade in slaves. This will be followed by a visit to Fort Bullen and crossing back to Banjul to see the Six-Gun Battery at State house, before retiring for the day.

Hence the importance of marketing these sites as a package, especially to Tour Operators.

2. Guiding principles for the use, conservation and management of the sites

All activities will be ultimately aimed at:

1. Identifying and implementing changes that would benefit the sites, retain their authenticity and ensure their sustainable conservation.
2. Improving the visitors' experience through development and display of interpretative material both on-site and through museums.
3. Reinforcing the promotional efforts (Roots festival, leaflets, postcards, posters, books, stamps, ..., contacts with tour operators and guidebook publishers).
4. Developing partnership with all stakeholders and establish a good communication to maintain and develop the partnerships.
5. Adopting partnership and transparency in the management and monitoring of activities to encourage all willing parties to confidently contribute to positive changes.
6. Building capacity within the local population on customer care and ensure that the local population will play an active role in existing and new tourism related activities (employment).
7. Ensuring that a proper part of the revenues generated through tourism activities would be re-invested in the area to benefit the community
8. Building capacity within the local population to manage small-scale development projects.
9. Giving priority to investments that ensure an increase of revenues that can be ploughed back into enhancing the sites (with priority given to the regular cleaning and maintenance) and improvement of the life of the local communities.
10. Establishing management committees that will be responsible for identifying and monitoring the implementation of projects that will benefit all interested parties
11. Monitoring and evaluating results at regular intervals in order to measure the efficiency of the plan, revise and adapt it according to changes and opportunities.

3. Objectives of the 5 years plan

Three main objectives have been unanimously agreed upon. These are :

- 1. To stabilise the state of conservation of the sites**
- 2. To increase awareness and improve visitors experience**
- 3. To use the sites to generate development within the local communities**

4. Strategies and indicators

4.1. At the national level :

Strategies



Indicators of success



Stabilise the state of conservation of the sites

?? prepare regular maintenance schedules for the sites	- existing
?? Increase entry fees according to inflation and site improvements	- maintenance schemes
?? Set-up a rule for the regular use of at least 25 % of the revenues (entry fees) for conservation activities	- sales at the sites
?? explore new revenue generation possibilities (posters, books,...)	- budget allocated to the maintenance
?? build on the revolving fund dedicated to continued publications	- reports
?? identify and train personnel for conservation and maintenance, both inside and outside NCAC	- authenticity of the sites retained
?? follow up and train personnel on the job	
?? monitor the sites every three months	
?? document all conservation works	
?? prepare yearly conservation reports	
?? ensure that new developments do not affect the sites authenticity	

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

?? build on the "Roots festival"	?? nb of entries
?? distribute the new James Island leaflet at the international level	?? nb of guides trained
?? ensure wide dissemination (sale) of postcards and leaflets and their continuous reprint	?? level of harassment at the sites (number of complaints)
?? explore new promotional possibilities	?? questionnaire answers
?? identify training needs for visitors management, both at the village and tour operators levels	?? evolution of proposed packages
?? prepare training programmes and train tourists' guides	
?? prepare educational packages (IEC) to educate the school children to prevent harassment problems	
?? assist school teachers to implement these educational packages	
?? survey visitors' satisfaction at regular intervals	
?? propose the inclusions of other sites of interest in the visits and design a special visitor's trail including all the sites.	
?? regularly meet tour operators to discuss results of investigations	
?? liase with possible investors	

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

?? adopt and strengthen management committees at Barra and Juffureh/Albreda	?? Regular meetings of the management committee
?? train local guides to take over tourist groups in their localities	?? number of villagers working for the tourism industry
?? dress the guides with proper uniforms and name tags as a mark of recognition	?? successful implementation of small-scale projects
?? involve local population in yearly maintenance campaigns	
?? identify and provide assistance for small scale development projects identification, planing and implementation	
?? identify possible input of the Community Development Skills Training Programme	
?? identify local tourism capacities/needs	
?? facilitate investments in the creation of activities to increase visitor's stays and provide job opportunities at the local level	
?? revise history books and provide them to teachers.	

4.2. James Island, Albreda, Juffureh and San Domingo

Strategies



Indicators of success



Stabilise the state of conservation of the sites

?? maintain the sea defence of the island and CFAO building	?? general state of the sites
?? maintain all structures/ruins clean of grass and plant growth	?? implementation of maintenance schedules
?? maintain exhibition and presentation material	?? funds allocated to the maintenance reports
?? prepare and implement a regular maintenance schedule	
?? inspect the sites every three months	
?? experiment on the idea : “buy a bag to save James Island” (bags of sand bought by visitors for a symbolic gesture towards the conservation of the island and as a souvenir for the visit)	
?? increase entry fees according to improvements	
?? identify, prepare programmes, implement and document all conservation works that might be required	
?? prepare yearly reports	

Increase awareness and improve visitors’ experience

?? keep the village clean and tidy	?? duration of stay in the village
?? include San Domingo in the tourists visits	?? questionnaire answers
?? create a nature trail within the coastal zone between CFAO building and the museum (Maurel Fr.building)	?? Nb of visitors
?? prepare an information sheet for visitors (simplified plan, local customs, tips,...)	?? harassment complaints
?? adopt transparency in rates / fees	
?? prevent harassment problems and adopt a welcoming attitude	
?? provide specific training to recognised existing guides	
?? provide name tags and uniforms for the guides	
?? carry out visitor’s satisfaction surveys at regular intervals	
?? improve existing tourist facilities	
?? construct new tourist facilities	

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

?? Adopt and strengthen the management committee, with at least a meeting every three months	?? Establishment of the management committee
?? assist the management committee to identify, prepare, and implement useful development projects.	?? Regularity of meetings
?? involve local population in the maintenance programmes	?? number of jobs offered by the tourism industry
?? integrate local guides into the national tourist guides scheme	?? number of crafts man and women that can leave on the tourist market
?? transfer responsibilities to trained local guides	?? job opportunities for the maintenance
?? turn the tourist market into a craft village	
?? diversify the products sold at the craft village,	
?? identify and re-value traditional crafts (tie-dye, baskets, blacksmith products,...), with emphasis on women creations	
?? identify and implement training on crafts manufacturing	
?? facilitate the creation of activities and /or visitors facilities for night stops that can provide job opportunities	
?? create activities and/or visitors’ facilities	

4.3. Fort Bullen, Barra

Strategies



Indicators of success



Stabilise the state of conservation of the sites

?? continue and finish the repair of the sea defence wall	?? cleanliness of the site
?? maintain grass above the sea defence	?? state of conservation of the sea defence wall
?? set up a monthly site cleaning programme	?? restoration works implemented
?? prepare a regular maintenance scheme	
?? inspect the site every three months	
?? increase fees according to site improvements and inflation	
?? restore the old rest house	
?? restore the 2 nd World War bastion (southern side)	
?? document all conservation works	
?? take note of developments and prepare yearly reports	

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

?? include systematically Fort Bullen and other sites of interest in Barra in promotional packages and activities	?? number of visitors
?? place a visible signboard near the "police junction" to direct visitors to the fort	?? duration of the visit
?? negotiate the possibility of having a sign board on the Ferry and at Banjul port	?? revenues generated on site
?? set-up a small exhibition in the recently rehabilitated room	
?? improve on the existing facilities (toilets,...)	
?? ensure growth of local trees and local grass around the site (fence)	
?? improve on the access road (drainage, levelling, cleanliness)	
?? define and demarcate a clear parking area, keeping vehicles sufficiently far from the fort so as to keep the interesting view to the fort from access road and access path	
?? demolish the "new rest house" (double storey)	
?? demolish the recently built rest house (north side)	
?? identify new activities to entertain the visitors (tours in town)	
?? launch the activities that are found suitable and sustainable	

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

?? formalise and activate the management committee, with at least a meeting every three months	?? Number of town visits
?? use Fort Bullen as part of the "Roots Festival"	?? number of jobs created
?? identify local guides and interested artisans (VDC)	?? proposals for developments and possibly their implementation
?? identify all sites of interest within and around Barra point	?? frequency of meetings
?? develop proper information about them (map, history, current practices,...) ^o	
?? train local guides for leading tourists around Barra	
?? create a local guides association	
?? integrate local guides into the national tourist guides scheme	
?? allow few crafts shops to be built on the eastern side of the site	
?? identify crafts product linked with the local culture	
?? facilitate and encourage the sale of these products	
?? study the possibility of developments on the site that would respect its significance and authenticity (large buffer zone).	
?? study the possibility of developing tourist facilities in town	
?? implement suitable and sustainable projects	

4.4. Six-Gun Battery, Banjul

Strategies



Indicators of success



Stabilise the state of conservation of the sites

?? conserve (preventive conservation) the guns and their stands	?? state of the guns
?? restore the parapet wall	?? state of the parapet wall
?? establish regular inspection, cleaning and maintenance schedule and define responsibilities for them	?? regular maintenance
?? explore funding possibilities (entry fee ?)	
?? document works	
?? prepare yearly reports	

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

?? work on visiting modalities	?? number of visitors
?? implement modalities	?? visitors satisfaction
?? place a signboard at the entrance to invite visitors	
?? inform the tour operators and guides to include the site in their tours	
?? study the possibility for setting up interpretation material	
?? provide the guides with proper information	
?? study the possibility to improve the view of and from the site. (fence wall, mosque)	
?? implement possible improvements	

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

?? organise visits for school children	?? number of school visits and of visitors
?? publicise the site as part of the Banjul attractions to lure more visitors	

5. Implementation and responsibilities

5.1. National level

Stabilise the state of conservation (NCAC)

Short term (2001)

- ?? prepare regular maintenance schedules for the sites
- ?? set-up a revolving fund specifically dedicated to publications
- ?? explore new revenue accruing possibilities (posters, booklets, books,...., video films)
- ?? Increase entry fees according to inflation rates

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? Increase entry fees according to inflation rates and improvements made at the sites
- ?? ensure that new developments will not affect the authenticity of the sites
- ?? explore new revenue generation possibilities (posters, booklets, books,...., video films)
- ?? monitor the sites every three months
- ?? document all conservation works
- ?? prepare yearly conservation reports
- ?? carry out regular maintenance and make reports (2) on the implementation of the maintenance schedules

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? identify and train personnel for conservation and maintenance, both inside and outside NCAC
- ?? follow up and train personnel on the job
- ?? Set-up a rule for the regular use of at least 25 % of the revenues (entry fees) for conservation activities

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

Short term (2001)

- ?? distribute the new James Island leaflet at the international level (NCAC, NTO)
- ?? identify training needs for visitors management, both at the village and tour operators levels (NTO, NCAC)
- ?? prepare training programmes (NTO, NCAC)

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? build on the "Roots festival" (MTC)
- ?? ensure wide dissemination (sale) of postcards and leaflets and their continuous reprint (NCAC)
- ?? explore new promotional possibilities (NCAC, NTO)
- ?? identify training needs for visitors management, both at the village and tour operators levels (NTO, NCAC)
- ?? regularly meet tour operators to discuss results of investigations (NTO, NCAC)
- ?? liaise with possible investors (NCAC, NTO)

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? train tourists' guides
- ?? prepare educational packages (IEC) to educate the school children to prevent harassment problems
- ?? assist school teachers to implement these educational packages
- ?? prepare surveys to measure visitors' satisfaction at regular intervals
- ?? propose the inclusions of other sites of interest in the visits

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

Short term (2001)

- ?? adopt and strengthen management committees at Barra and Juffureh/Albreda (NCAC)
- ?? train local guides to take over from Banjul guides in their localities (NTO, NCAC)

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? involve local population in yearly maintenance campaigns (NCAC)
- ?? identify local tourism capacities/needs within the ground tour operators (NTO)
- ?? identify and provide assistance for small scale development projects planning and implementation
- ?? facilitate investments that can lead to the creation of activities to increase the visitor's stay and provide job opportunities at the local level

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? integrate local guides into the new national tourist guides scheme (NTO)
- ?? identify possible input of the Community Development Skills Training Programme
- ?? revise history books

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? Skills training under the Community Development training programme
- ?? provide revised history books to teachers

5.2. James island, Albreda, Juffureh and San Domingo

Stabilise the state of conservation (NCAC)

Short term (2001)

- ?? prepare and implement a regular maintenance schedule
- ?? experiment on the idea : “buy a bag to save James Island”

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? maintain the sea defence of the island and CFAO building
- ?? maintain all structures and ruins clean of grass and plant growth
- ?? maintain exhibition and presentation material
- ?? inspect the sites every three months
- ?? increase entry fees according to improvements
- ?? identify, prepare programmes, and implement and document all conservation works that might be required
- ?? prepare yearly reports

Increase awareness and improve visitors’ experience

Short term (2001)

- ?? provide name tags and uniforms for the guides (JAYS)
- ?? keep the village clean and tidy (Co-ordinated by NCAC and the Directorate of Tourism, in collaboration with Red Cross, JAYS, Headmasters and Alkalo for the implementation)
- ?? include San Domingo in the tourists visits (Local Guides)
- ?? prepare an information sheet for visitors (simplified plan, local customs, tips,...)
- ?? carry out visitor’s satisfaction surveys at regular intervals

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? adopt transparency in rates, fees and prices (Guides, artisans, community)
- ?? prevent harassment problems and adopt a welcoming attitude (All partners, especially at the school level, with the headmasters and teachers)

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? create a nature trail within the coastal zone between the CFAO building and the museum (Maurel Fr. building)
- ?? provide specific training to recognised existing guides (NTO, NCAC)
- ?? improve existing tourist facilities

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? construct new tourist facilities

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

Short term (2001)

- ?? adopt and strengthen the management committee, with at least a meeting every three months (NCAC)
- ?? integrate local guides into the national tourist guides scheme (NTO, local guides)
- ?? transfer responsibilities to trained local guides (Tour operators)
- ?? turn the tourist market into a craft village (JAYS)

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? assist the management committee to identify, prepare, and implement useful development projects.
- ?? involve local population in the maintenance campaigns (NCAC)

Medium and long term (2002-5)

- ?? diversify the products sold at the craft village,
- ?? identify and re-valorise traditional crafts (tie-dye, baskets, blacksmith products,...), with emphasis on women creations
- ?? identify and implement training on crafts manufacturing
- ?? facilitate the creation of activities and /or visitors facilities for night stops that can provide job opportunities
- ?? create activities and/or visitors' facilities

5.3. Fort Bullen

Stabilise the state of conservation (NCAC)

Short term (2001)

?? continue to repair the sea defence wall

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? maintain grass above the sea defence
- ?? set up site cleaning programme every three months
- ?? prepare a regular maintenance scheme
- ?? inspect the site every three months
- ?? increase fees according to site improvements and inflation
- ?? document all conservation works
- ?? take note of developments and prepare yearly reports

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? finish the repair of the sea defence wall
- ?? restore the old rest house

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? restore the 2nd World War bastion (southern side)

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

Short term (2001)

- ?? include systematically Fort Bullen and other sites of interest in Barra in promotional packages and activities (NTO, Tour operators)
- ?? place a visible signboard near the "police junction" to direct visitors to the fort (NCAC, VDC, KAC)
- ?? set-up a small exhibition in the recently rehabilitated room (NCAC)

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? ensure growth of local trees and local grass around the site (fence) (NCAC, VDC)
- ?? identify new activities to entertain the visitors (tours in town, cultural events,...) (VDC, Committee)

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? negotiate the possibility of having a sign board on the Ferry and at Banjul port (NCAC)
- ?? improve on the existing facilities (toilets,...) (KAC, VDC, NCAC, Fisheries, GPMB)
- ?? improve on the access road (drainage, levelling, cleanliness) (Town authorities, PW)
- ?? define and demarcate a clear parking area, keeping vehicles sufficiently far from the fort to keep the interesting view to the fort from access road and access path (NCAC)
- ?? demolish the "new rest house" (double storey) (NCAC)

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? demolish the recently built rest house (north side)
- ?? launch the activities that are found suitable and sustainable

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

Short term (2001)

- ?? adopt and strengthen the management committee (NCAC)
- ?? identify all sites of interest within and around Barra point (NCAC, Committee)
- ?? identify local guides and interested artisans (VDC)

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? activate the management committee, with a meeting every three months (NCAC)
- ?? use Fort Bullen during the “Roots Festival” (MTC,NCAC)

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? develop proper information about the fort and town (map, history, current practices,...)(NCAC)
- ?? train local guides for leading tourists around Barra (NTO, NCAC)
- ?? create a local guides association (Committee)
- ?? integrate the local guides into the national tourist guides scheme (NTO)
- ?? identify craft products linked to the local culture (NCAC)
- ?? facilitate and encourage the sale of these products (NTO)
- ?? allow for few crafts shops to be built on the eastern side of the site (NCAC)
- ?? study the possibility of developments on the site that would respect its significance and authenticity (large buffer zone). (NCAC, Investors)
- ?? study the possibility of developing tourist facilities in town (Investors, Village Committee)

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? implement suitable and sustainable projects

5.4. Six-Gun Battery

Stabilise the state of conservation (NCAC)

Short term (2001)

- ?? conserve (preventive conservation) the guns and their stands
- ?? restore the parapet wall

Activities to be established on regular basis

- ?? establish regular inspection, cleaning and maintenance schedule and define responsibilities for them
- ?? document works
- ?? prepare yearly reports

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? explore funding possibilities (entry fee ?)

Increase awareness and improve visitors' experience

Short term (200)

- ?? work on visiting modalities (NCAC, NTO, President's Office)
- ?? implement these modalities (Presidents' Office)

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? place a signboard at the entrance to invite visitors (NCAC)
- ?? inform the tour operators and guides to include the site in their city tours (NTO)
- ?? study the possibility for setting up interpretation material (NCAC)
- ?? provide the guides with proper information (NCAC, NTO)
- ?? study the possibility to improve the view of and from the site. (fence wall, mosque) (NCAC, Presidents' Office)

Long term (2004-5)

- ?? implement possible improvements

Use the sites to generate development within the local communities

Medium term (2002-3)

- ?? organise visits for school children
- ?? publicise the site as part of the Banjul attractions to lure more visitors

6. Monitoring

Monitoring the implementation of the management plan

Monitoring is mainly aimed at regularly assessing the condition of sites. It allows for the record of changes and enables the understanding of processes of decay, successes and failures, conflicts, threats, as well as identifying opportunities. It is a process that basically facilitates decision-making.

In order to ensure proper integration of conservation and visitors related activities in the socio-cultural environment, and also that those activities would benefit to the local populations, it is intended to implement that exercise through the regular organisation of stakeholders meetings and regular inspections of sites.

When ?

This will be done by physical inspection of the site every four months, tentatively, around the 15th of the following months: February, June, October. A management committee meeting will be organised at the three sites on the same four months basis.

Procedure

Each group of stakeholders will present a brief report on the state of its activities related to the sites and their concerns. The NCAC will have the specific role of presenting the state of conservation of the sites. This would have been assessed prior to meetings.

The report of each group of stakeholders will be discussed and key issues identified. Based on this, short-term activities may be identified and re-defined. This will lead to the distribution of specific responsibilities and the establishment of working groups to address specific parts of the plan.

For example, during the last meeting (February 2001) in Juffureh, responsibility was given to the representative of the Red Cross (in collaboration with JAYS, the headmasters of the two schools and the Alkalo) to prepare a proposal for addressing (on the short and long term) the question of cleanliness of the two villages.

Physical monitoring of the sites

NCAC caretakers do the daily monitoring of the sites. In case of peculiar problems, the caretakers report to the Head of the Museum and Monuments section of NCAC. Every three months, the Head of the Museums and Monuments section of the NCAC will perform a physical inspection of the sites. This condition assessment should be done with one representative of the local stakeholders (a regular participant to the stakeholders meetings) and, if possible, with one local guide. A brief report will be established after each visit. Once a year, the assessment reports will be summarised by the Head of the Museum and Monuments section into a yearly report.

Monitoring activities

- prepare a "monitoring sheet" for each site
- inform stakeholders of dates for the meetings
- carry out physical inspection of the sites and record changes/make assessments
- stakeholders prepare a brief report on progress / changes
- provide condition statement to the Committees
- organise meetings
- prepare brief reports of meetings (summarised minutes)
- create a data base with all information gathered.

7. Regular evaluation and reports

The present plan has been developed to address key issues at the sites for the current specific period. It is foreseen that changes will occur and that capacities will be built and more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the situation will be shared by all stakeholders when planned activities are put into practice.

The aim of the plan is not to provide a solution forever, but to launch a process that will allow regular adaptation to new situations. It is therefore foreseen that the plan will have to be reviewed and readjusted with time.

It has already been made clear that the plan is only for 5 years. It is suggested that an intermediate evaluation involving outside observers be organised after the first two years of implementation. Another evaluation needs to be done by the end of the programme. Its aim will be to review the entire plan and redefine a plan for the following 5 years. This rhythm of 5 years could then be maintained. But, as the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List would impose a schedule on the NCAC to report every 6 years to the World Heritage Committee (see below), the planning exercise could cover a similar period to reduce the load of reporting work. Then, every six year plan could have an intermediate evaluation after 3 years.

In addition to the measurement of indicators, the evaluation of the plan should take the following points into consideration:

- changes occurred on the sites, in the country (technical, socio-political, economical)
- evolution of the key indicators
- efficiency of the management bodies set in place
- state of conservation of the sites
- lessons learned
- new opportunities
- etc...

Periodic report to the World Heritage Committee

In the event that the sites are listed on the World Heritage List, a regular report will have to be sent to the World Heritage Committee. The reports are examined on a six year periodic cycle. For Africa, the examination by the Committee will be done in 2007, 2013, etc...

The periodic report provides an assessment of the application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party and of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties on its territory. The Committee approved at its twenty-second session, held in December 1998, a format for the periodic reports which is accompanied by substantive explanatory notes. This format consists of two sections:

- Section I constitutes the State Party's report on the application of relevant articles of the World Heritage Convention, including those referring to: the identification of properties of cultural and/or natural value ; protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage ; international co-operation and fund raising ; and education, information and awareness building.
- Section II refers to the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties located on the State Party's territory.

The main objective of this section is to obtain an assessment of whether the World Heritage value(s) for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is (are) maintained over time.

In addition, States Parties are requested to provide up-dated information on the management, factors affecting the property and monitoring arrangements.

More details can be obtained on the World Heritage Centre Web site :

<http://www.unesco.org/whc>

8. Action plan for 2001

9. NCAC Management structure

National Council for Arts and Culture

The NCAC is a semi-autonomous institution set up by Act of Parliament in 1989 and charged with preservation, promotion and development of arts and culture in the Gambia. In order to facilitate this task the NCAC Act invests the NCAC with various powers and duties mainly in relation to the preservation of monuments and movable cultural property.

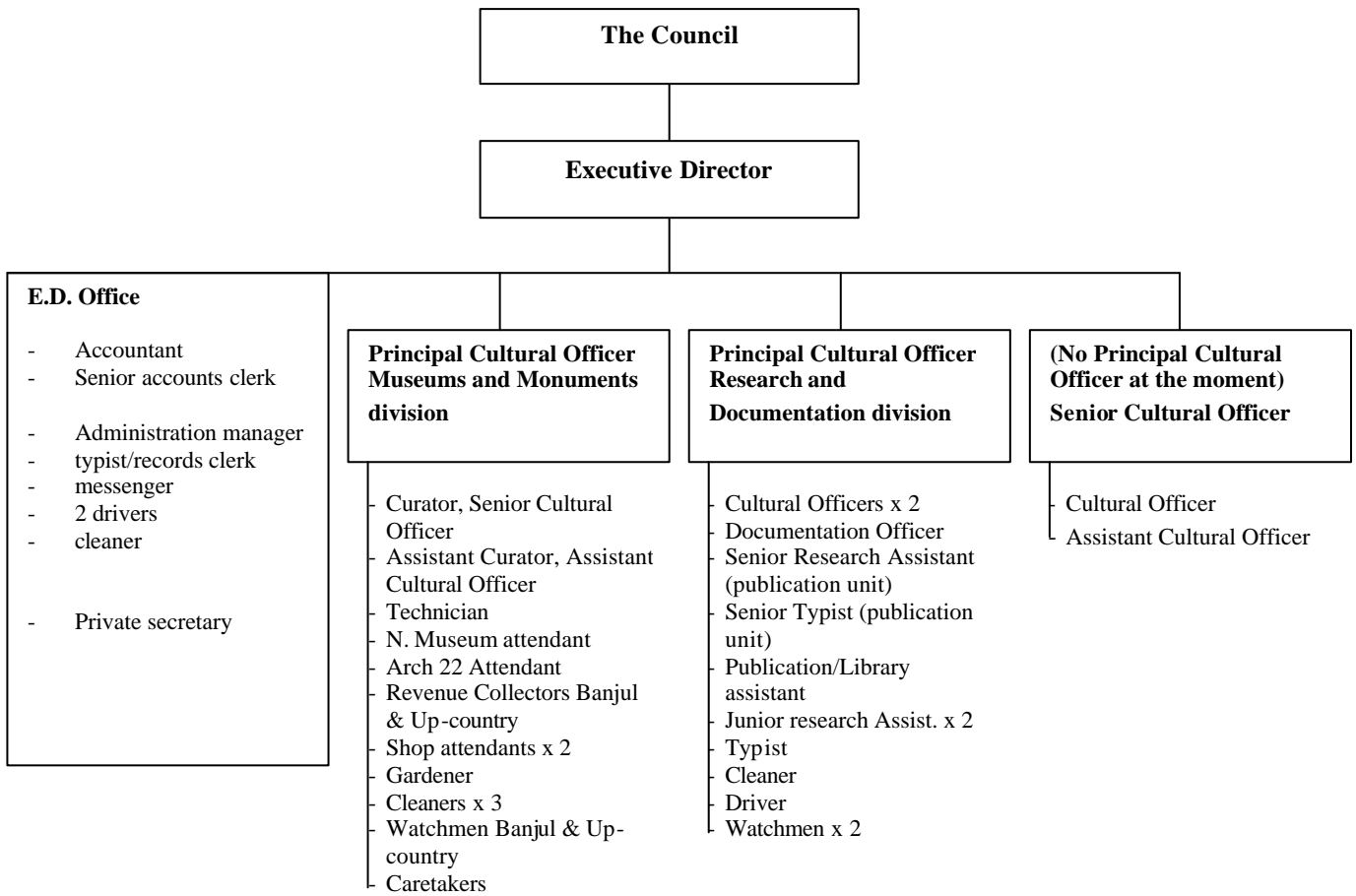
Under the act, the Council is a corporate body with seventeen members including a Chairman appointed by the minister responsible for the culture portfolio.

The Council executes its mandate through:

- **The office of the executive director**
The Executive Directors Office is the administrative and financial secretariat. Its functions are:
 - To co-ordinate and monitor the day to day activities of the NCAC
 - To provide the necessary backstopping to the technical divisions in execution of the activities
 - To serve as the public relations arms of the NCAC
- **The Museums and Monuments Division (MMD)**
The division is responsible for the material cultural heritage both movable and immovable. Its tasks are:
 - Management of Museums
 - Proclamation, inventorization, interpretation, protection, conservation and promotion of national monuments and sites of historical and cultural significance
 - Research of new archaeological sites
 - Organisation of exhibitions
 - Organisation of outreach programmes in relation to material and non-material heritage
- **The research and documentation division (RDD)**
The division is responsible for research? Its main functions are:
 - Collection, processing and dissemination of cultural information on all aspects of the material and non-material heritage of the Gambia;
 - Run a reference library
 - Publish research materials
- **The creative and performing arts division (CPAD)**
The CPAD's task are the promotion and development of the visual and plastic arts heritage, including all traditional artistic expressions.

The protection and development of sites and monuments including the sites that are the subject of this management plan therefore falls under the purview of the MMD. The MMD is staffed as indicated in the following organogram. It is to be noted that there is no strict specialisation or separation between staff of the museums and monuments sections. Responsibilities radiate from the Principal Cultural Officer downward according to the hierarchy.

NCAC's Administrative Chart



VII Appendixes

1. Name and addresses of contact people

Baba Ceesay, Principal Cultural Officer, Museums and Monuments division
National Council for Arts and Culture – The Gambia National Museum
PMB 151, Independance Drive
Banjul, The Gambia
Tel : 220 - 226 244 / 229 543
Fax : 220 - 227 461
e-mail : musmon@qanet.gm

Thierry Joffroy, Sebastien Moriset, architects
CRATerre-EAG
BP 2636
38 036 GRENOBLE Cedex 2
FRANCE
Tel. : 33 (0) 4 76 40 66 25
Fax : 33 (0) 4 76 22 72 56
e-mail : craterre -eag.grenoble@grenoble.archi.fr

2. Site description by WMF

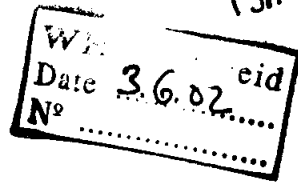
Extracted from : “Vanishing histories, 100 Endangered Sites from the World Monument Watch”, page 127, by Colin Amery, New York, 2001

3. Bibliography

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- W. Galloway*, **James island**, a background with historical notes on Juffureh, Albreda, **San Domingo and Dog island** OHAD, Banjul, 1978
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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE



General Secretariat
National Museum Premises
Independence Drive
Banjul

NCAC/WHC/VOL.2/(18)

29th May 2002

The Director
Unesco World Heritage Centre
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07SP
FRANCE

Dear Sir

**RE: NOMINATION OF JAMES ISLAND AND RELATED SITES (GAMBIA)
FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

Your letter ref: WHC/74/112 of 25th March, 2002 refers.

Enclosed is a scaled map of the protected coastal strip of land covering the Albreda, Juffureh and San Domingo area, that was considered missing from our nomination according to the letter under reference.

Please note that the area is protected for among other reasons its potential for archaeological research. Also, the area does not cover the entire land area of the villages of Juffureh and Albreda, but only parts of them. Within the area are three historic structures of relevance which have been adequately conserved and interpreted. These are the ruins of San Domingo, the remains of the Portuguese Chapel and the CFAO building. Development in this entire area is controlled both by legislation, the physical presence of our staff, and as well as being subject to physical planning control by the Local Government Authority. The area therefore constitutes the buffer zone for the historic structures within it.

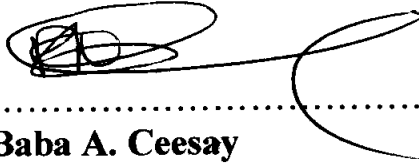
“A FUTURE FOR OUR PAST”

Tel: (220) 227461 / 229730 / 226244 / 374740 Fax: (220) 227461
Email: musmon@qanet.gm

We thank you for your attention and hope the map and the explanations put forward in this letter will further clarify matters of this nomination to the Committee.

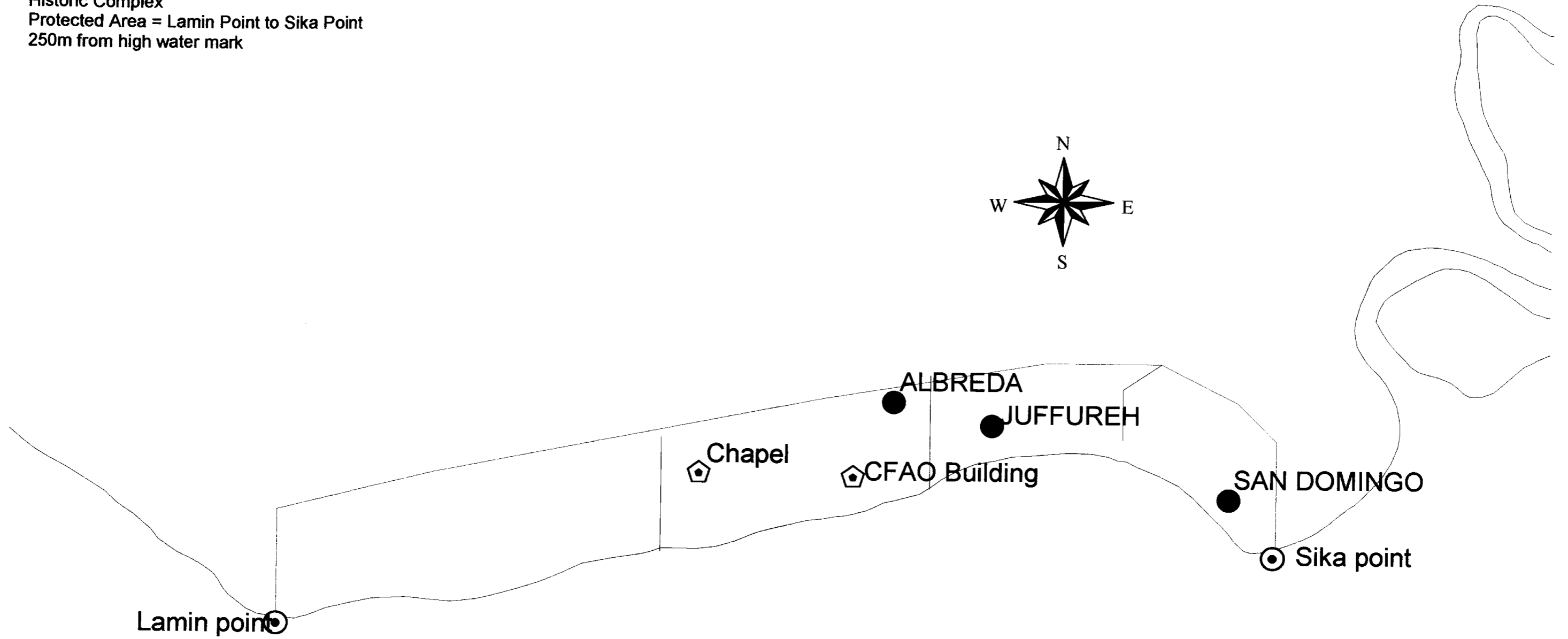
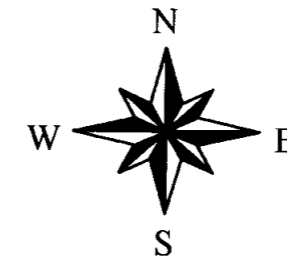
Please accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke that ends in a large, sweeping curve to the right.

.....
Baba A. Ceesay
FOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALBREDA-JUFFUREH-SAN DOMINGO
Historic Complex
Protected Area = Lamin Point to Sika Point
250m from high water mark



● FORT JAMES ISLAND

River Gambia

scale: 1:200

MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

WHC received
Date ..13./2./2002
№

James Island

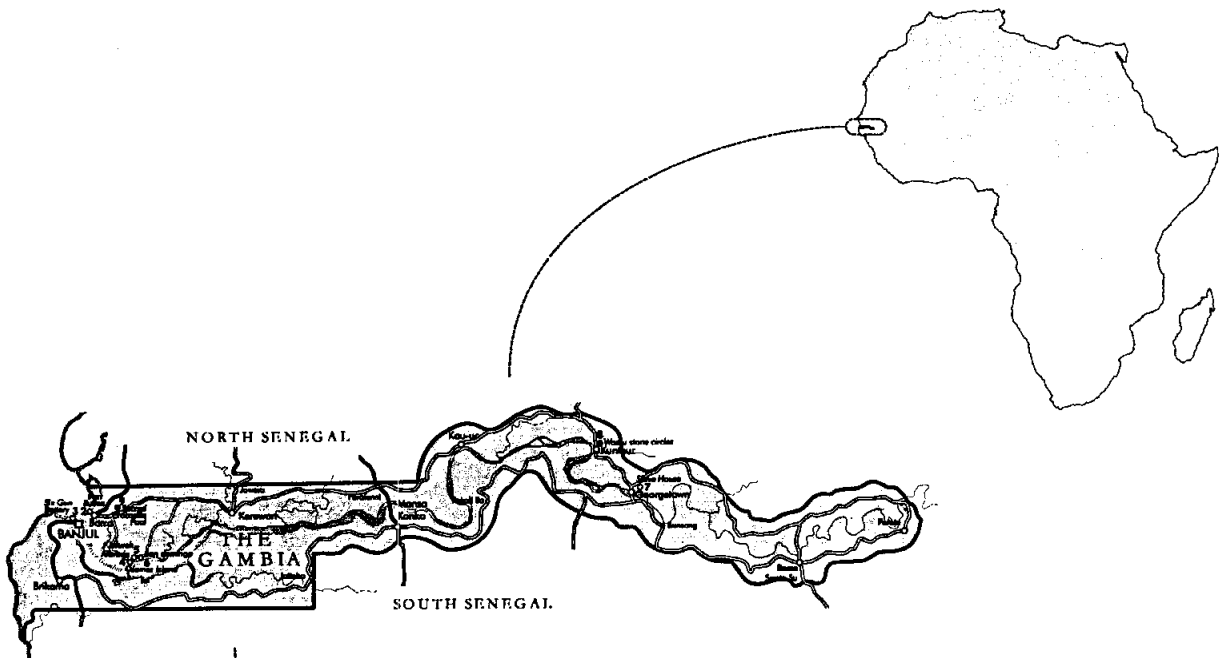
and its related sites

THE GAMBIA



MAPS AND PLANS

SHOWING LOCATION OF SITES AND BUFFER ZONES



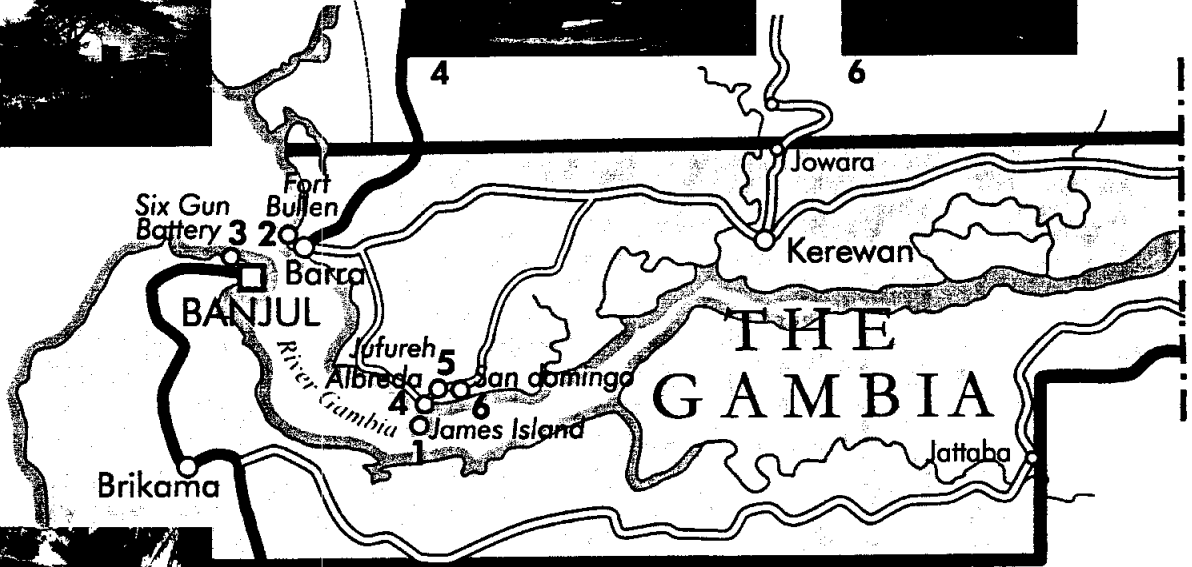
2



4



6



3



1



4



5

Sites considered for inscription, location and buffer zones.

All sites are located in The Gambia.

They comprise :

. **James Island and its fort** situated in the middle of the River Gambia, 13°19'North, 16°21'West.

The river is a natural buffer zone for this site.

. **Several sites situated close to James Island**, on the northern bank of the river, located 13°20'North, 16°23'West: These comprise :

The **ruins at San Domingo**

The **Maurel Frères** building at Juffureh

The **CFAO Building** and the ruin of the **Portuguese chapel** at Albreda.

These four historical structures are located within a buffer zone, the coastal strip of land gazetted through the legal notice N°20 of 13th June 1995 that guarantees its protection. This strip of land is 250m large, measured from the high-water mark and stretches between Lamin point and Sika point (12-km coastline).

. **Fort Bullen** is at Barra point, at the mouth of the river on the north bank, located 13°29'North, 16°33'West

The fort is within a large buffer zone (6.3 Ha) that covers a major part of Barra point.

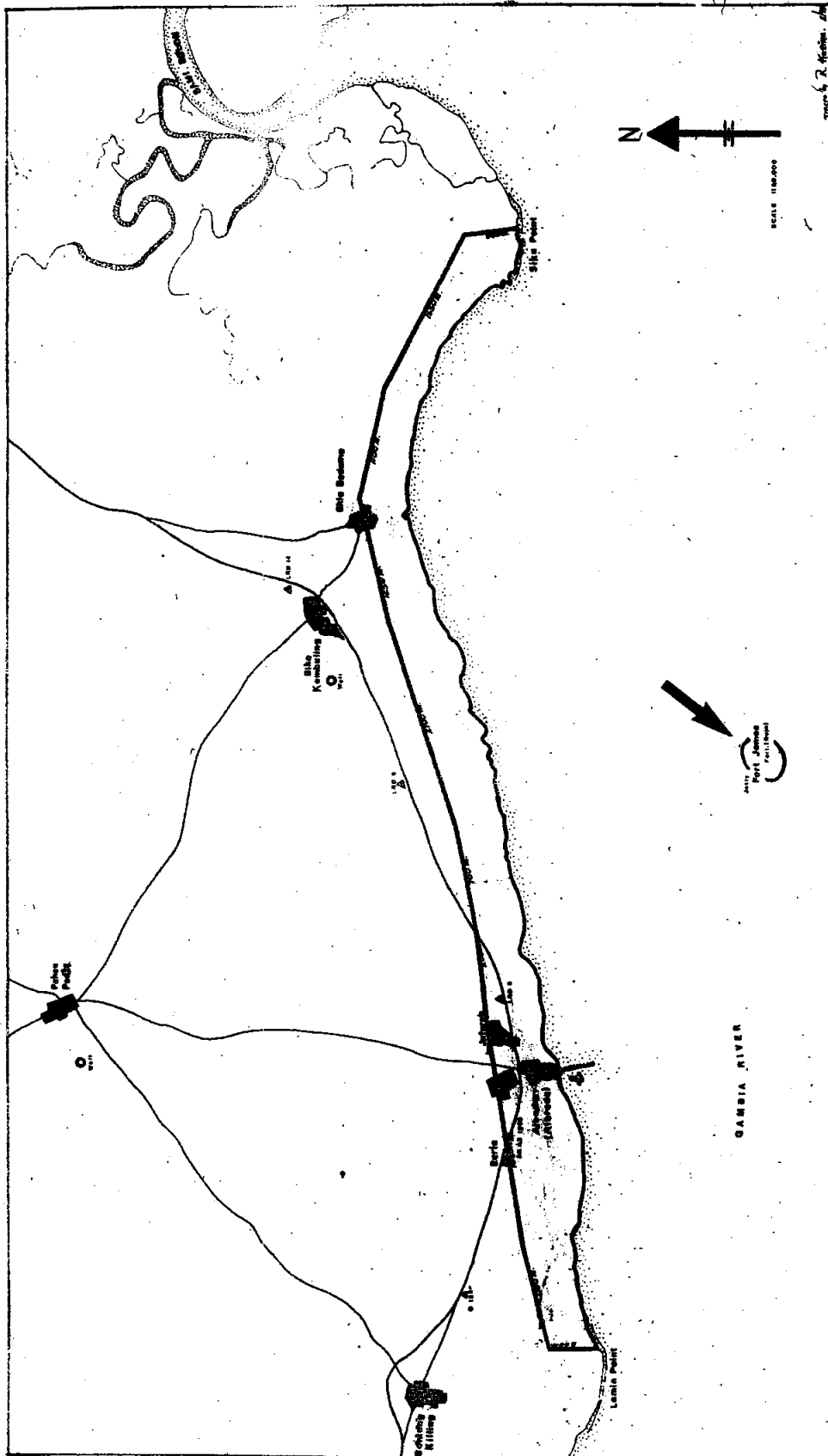
. The **Six-gun Battery** is in Banjul, at the mouth of the river on the southern bank of the river, located 13°28'North, 16°35'West.

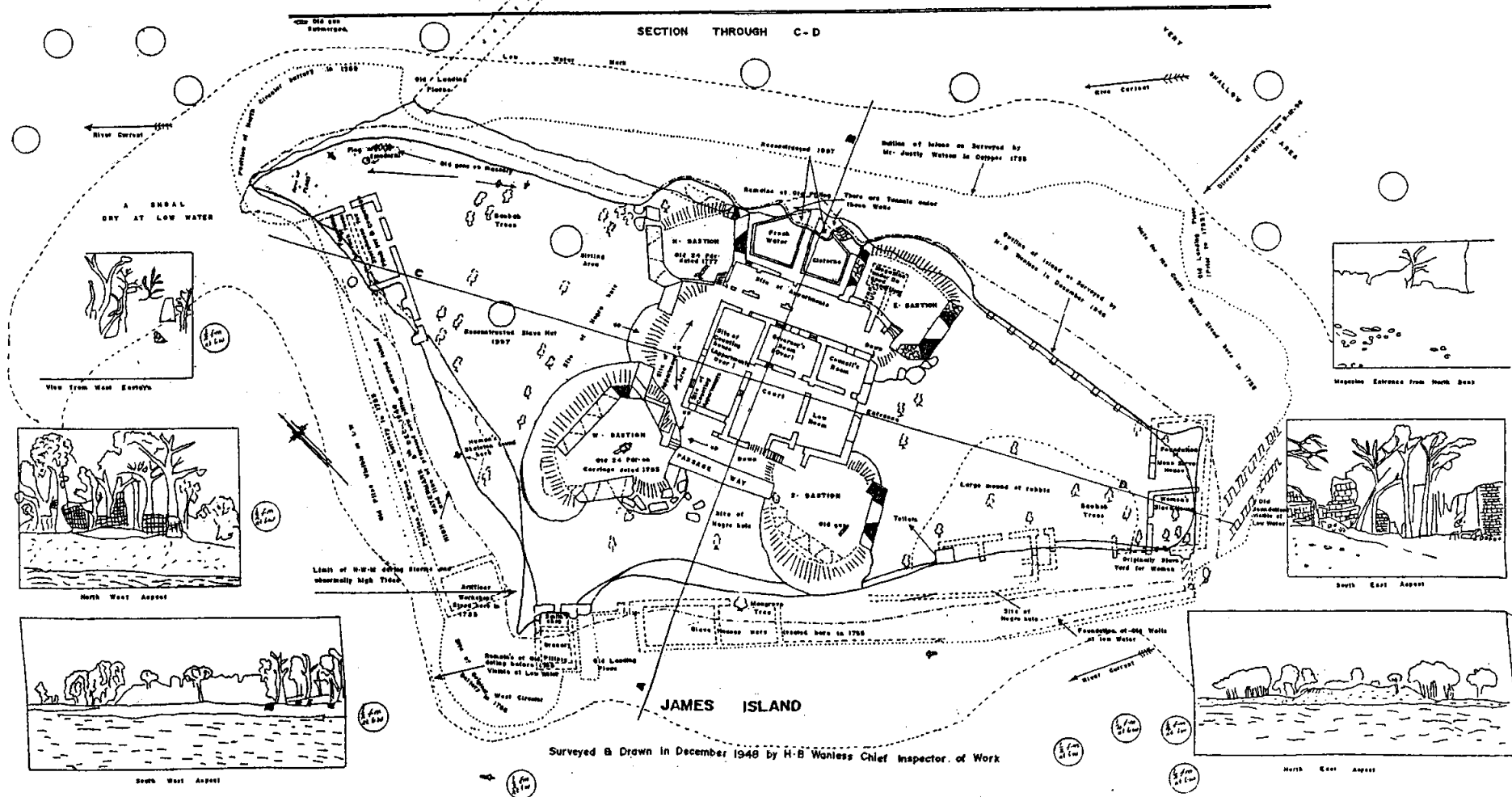
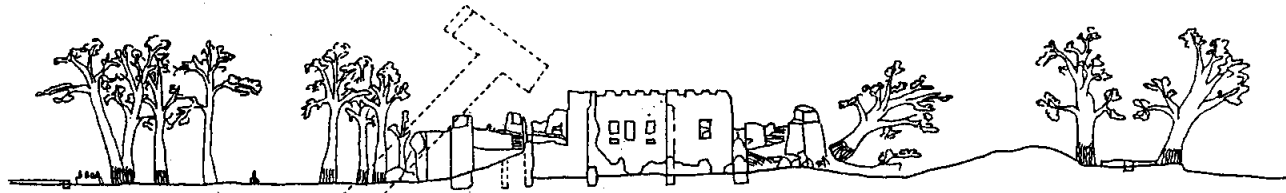
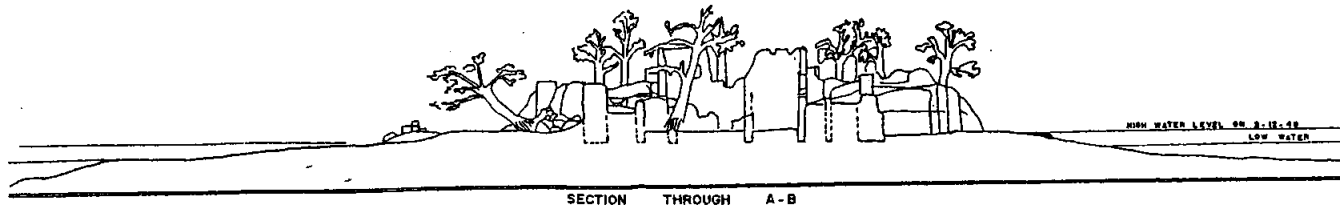
The six gun battery is located within the state house compound. It is within a 0.17 Ha buffer zone.

The villages of Albreda and Juffureh (where some sites are located) are not considered as part of the nomination. However, being within the buffer zone, any development in these villages must conform to the legal regulations governing the area, as stipulated in the NCAC Act, 1989. This means that there is at least a requirement of consultation/agreement with the National Council for Arts and Culture for such developments to take place.

The contribution of the villages to the general impression of the sites is however very important and must be retained and gradually improved. Any development opportunity will therefore be used to foster this aim.

James Island and its fort.



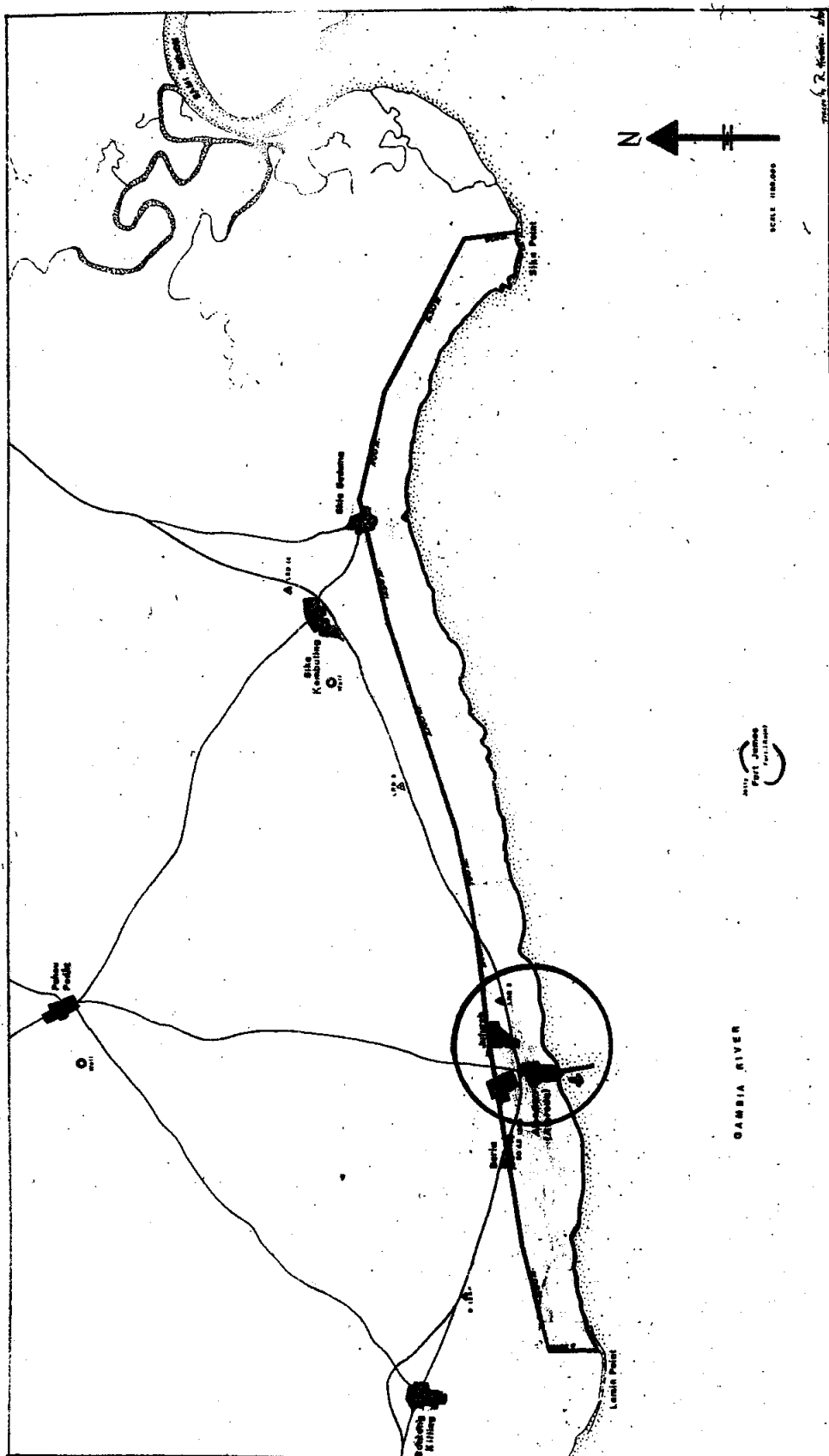


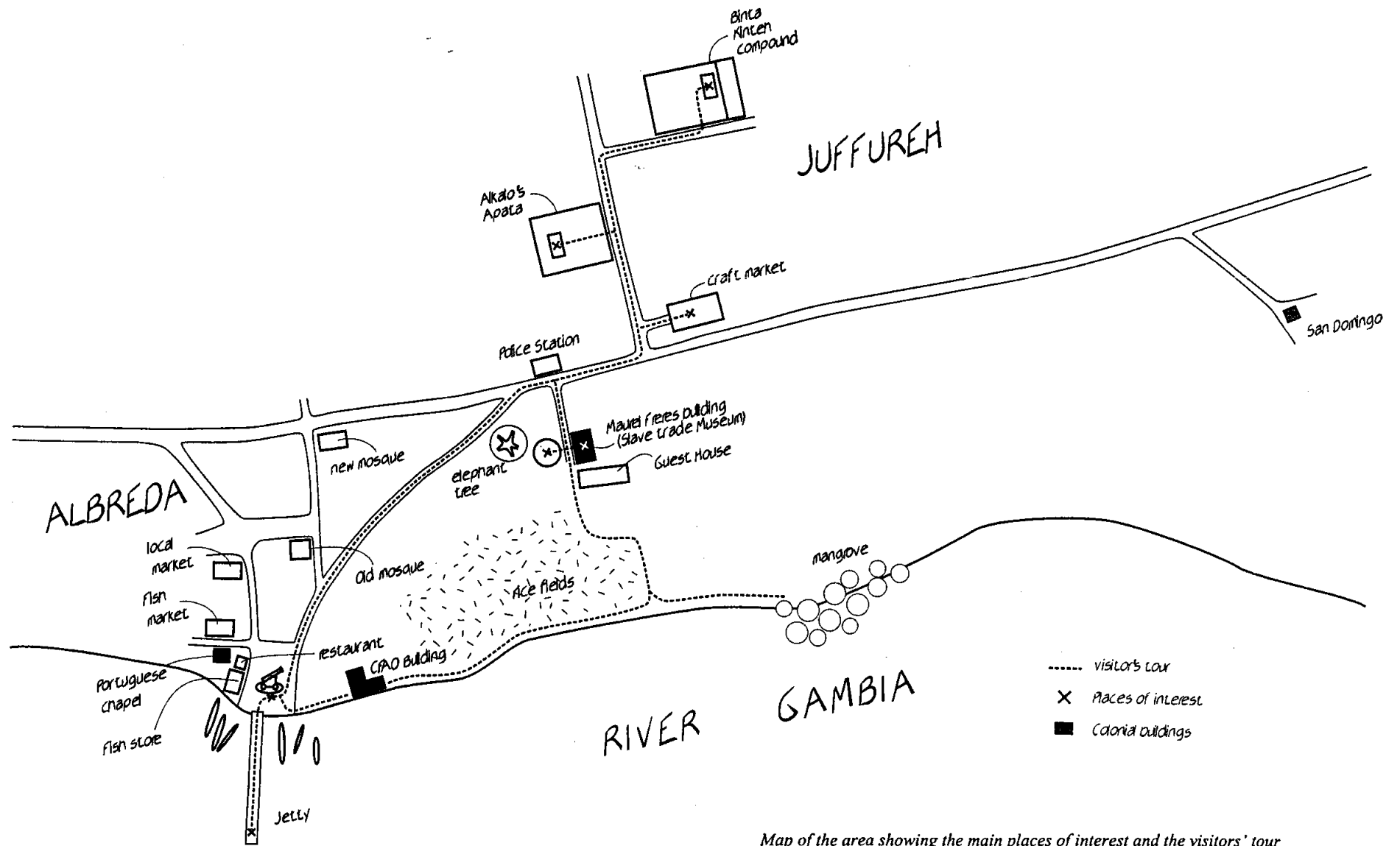
Sites situated on the northern bank of the river

The ruins at San Domingo

The Maurel Frères building at Juffureh

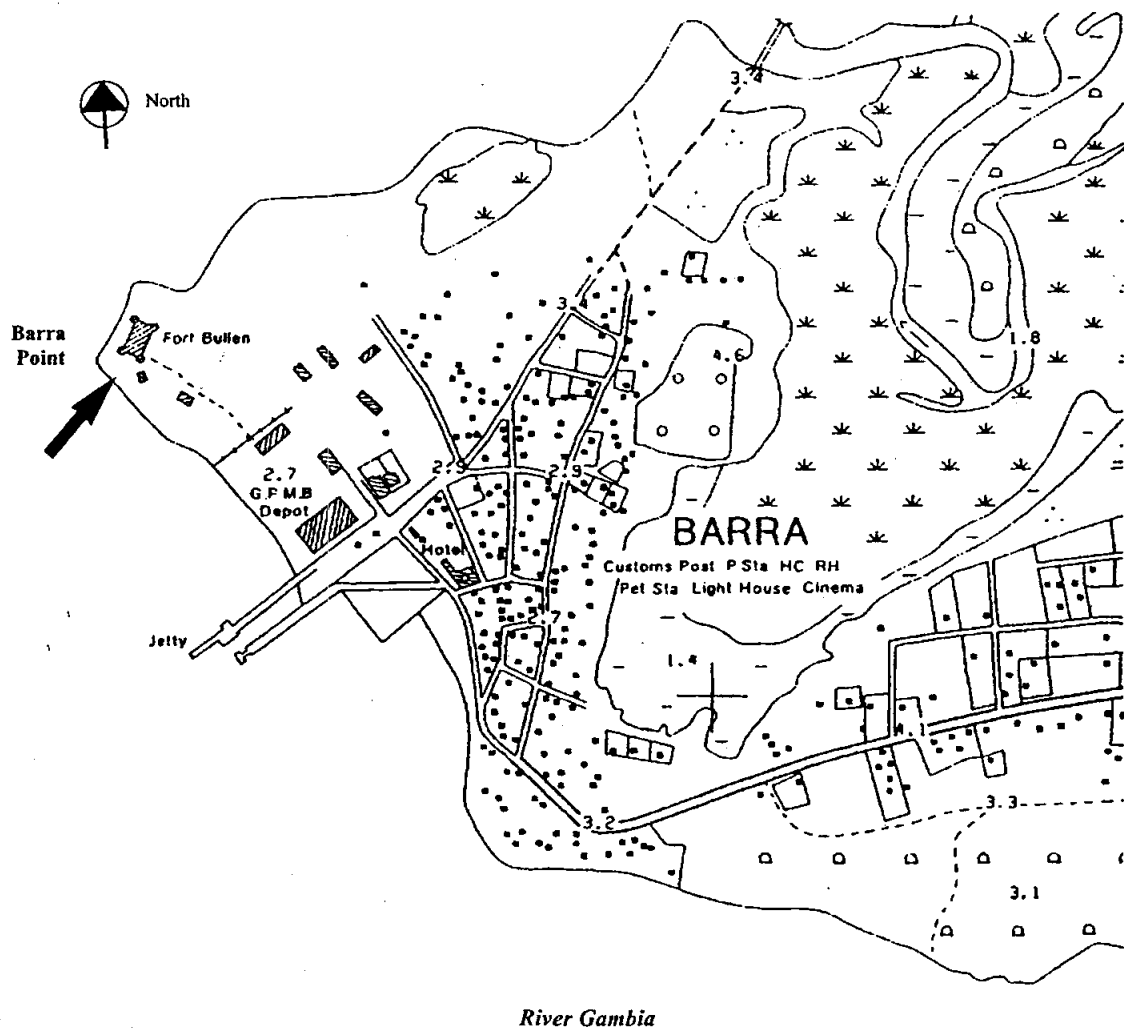
The CFAO Building and the ruin of the Portuguese chapel at Albreda.





Map of the area showing the main places of interest and the visitors' tour

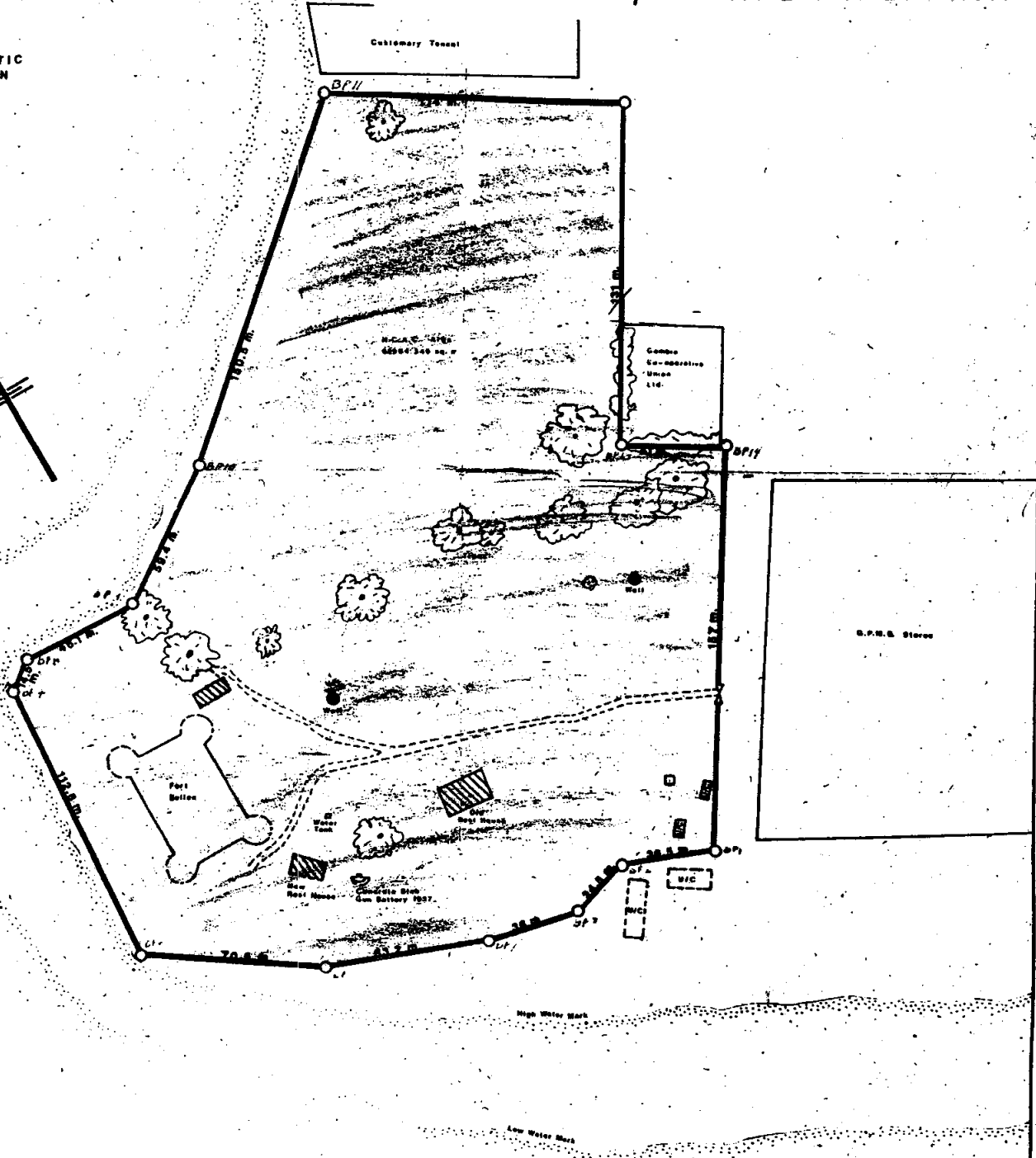
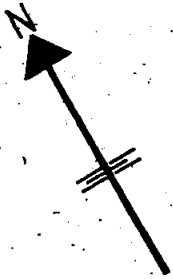
Fort Bullen



Map of Barra Town, Fort Bullen is situated at the Western end of the river mouth

PLAN SHOWING LAND AREA RESERVED
FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
ARTS & CULTURE AT BARRA, LOWER
NIUMI DISTRICT, NORTH BANK DIVISION

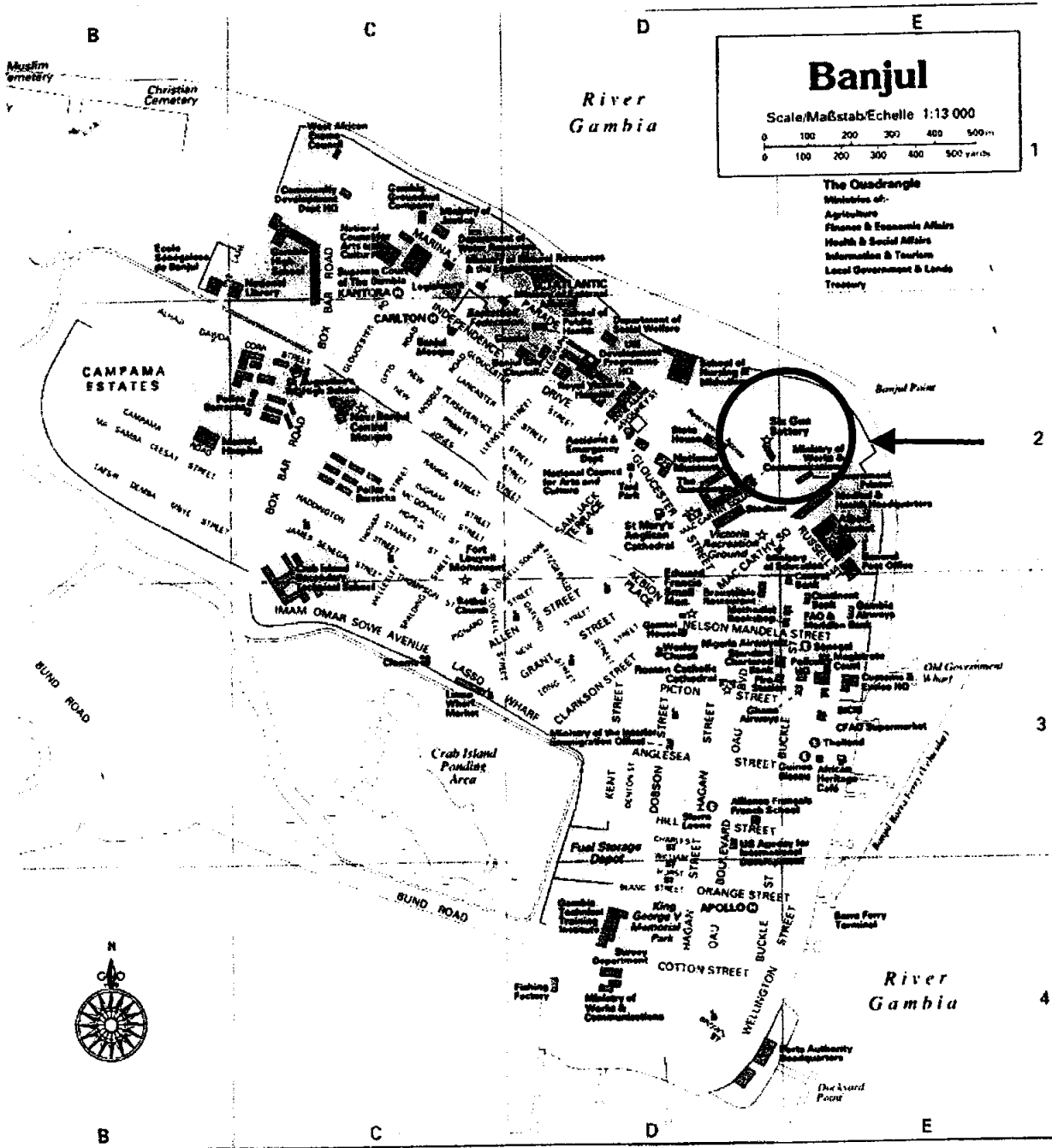
NORTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

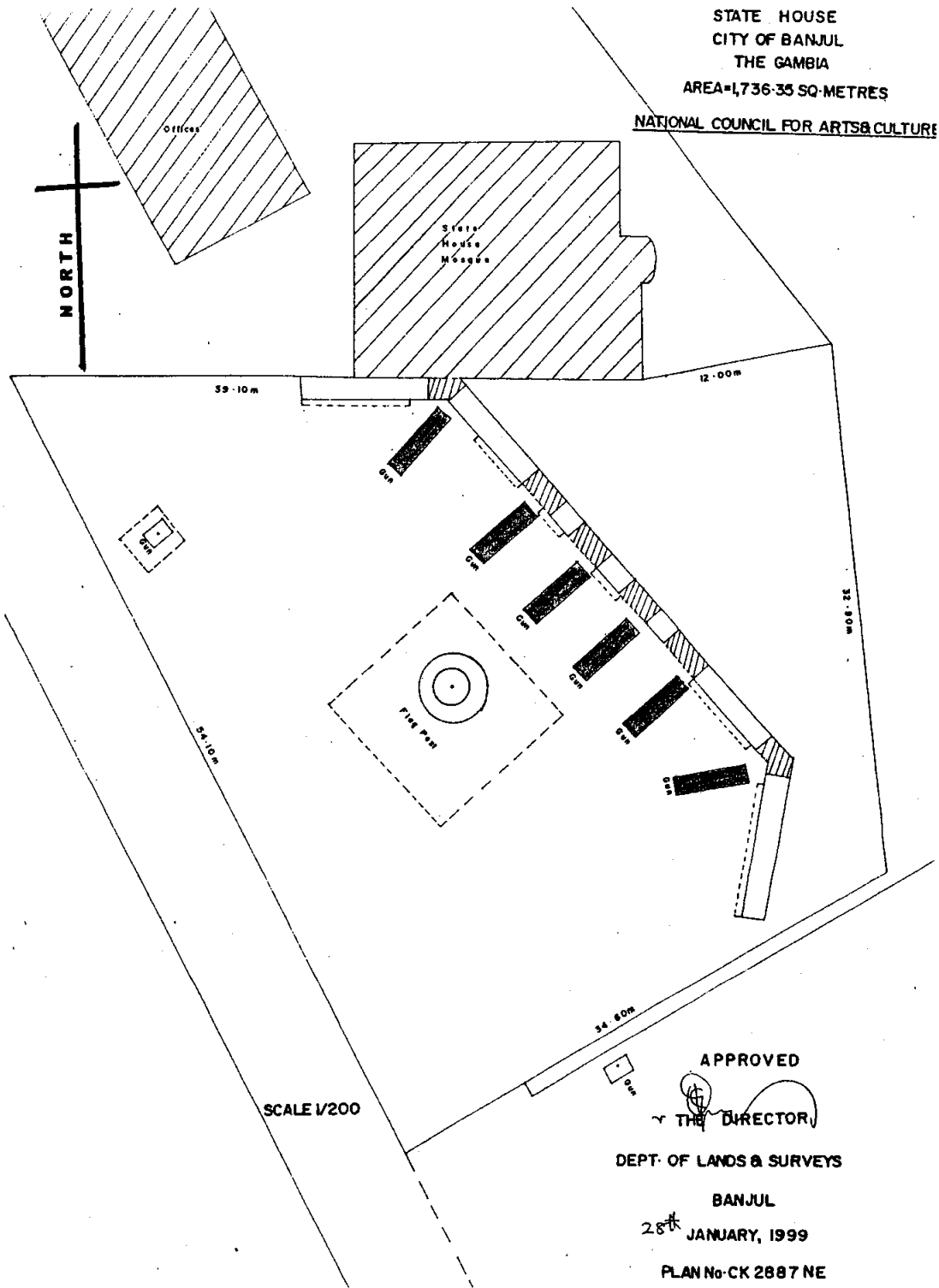


GAMBIA RIVER

Traced by R. K. G. H. 1953.

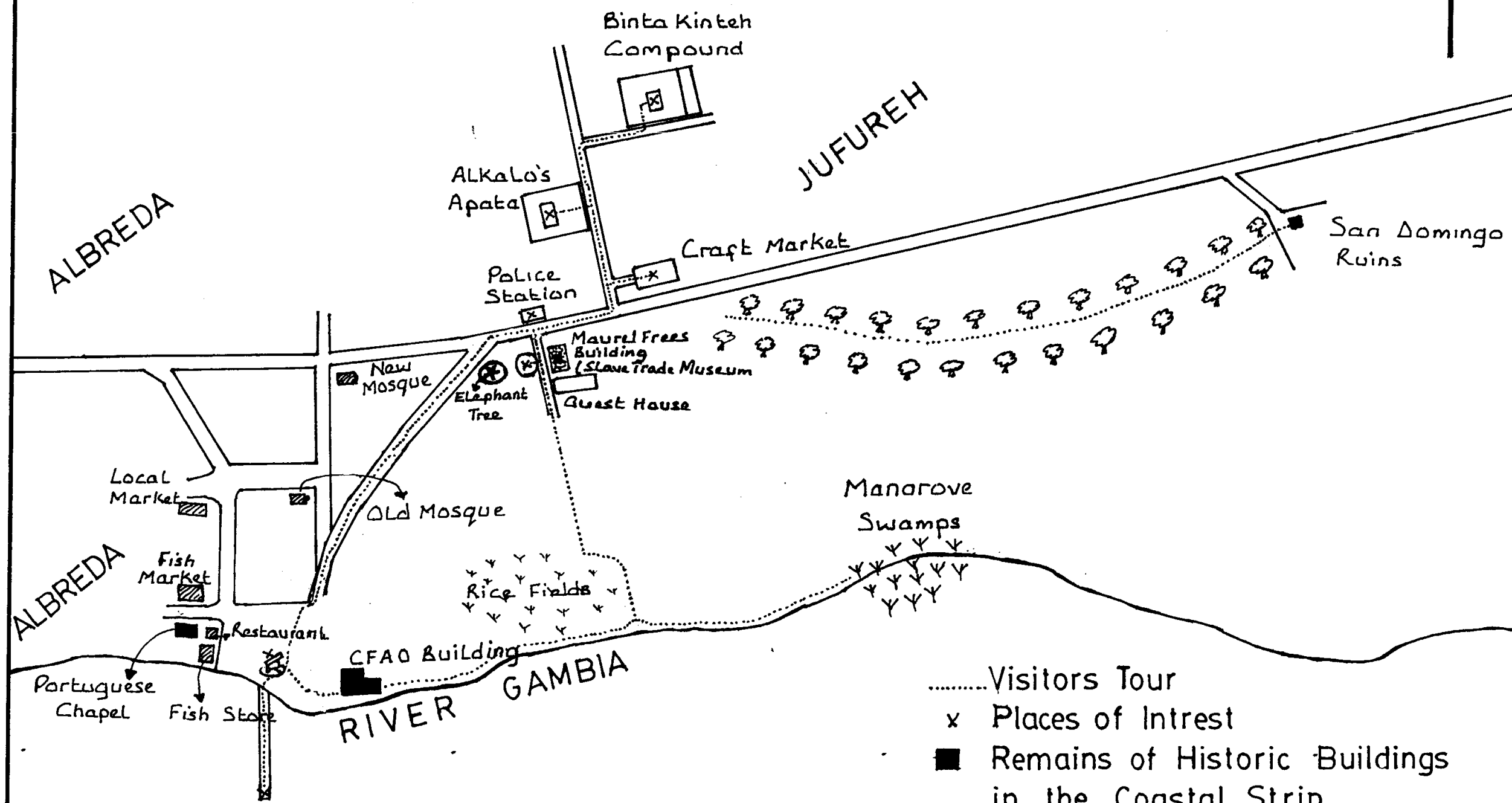
The Six-gun Battery





Plan showing the location of the 6 gun battery in the State House, and the limits of the plot; survey done in July 1999

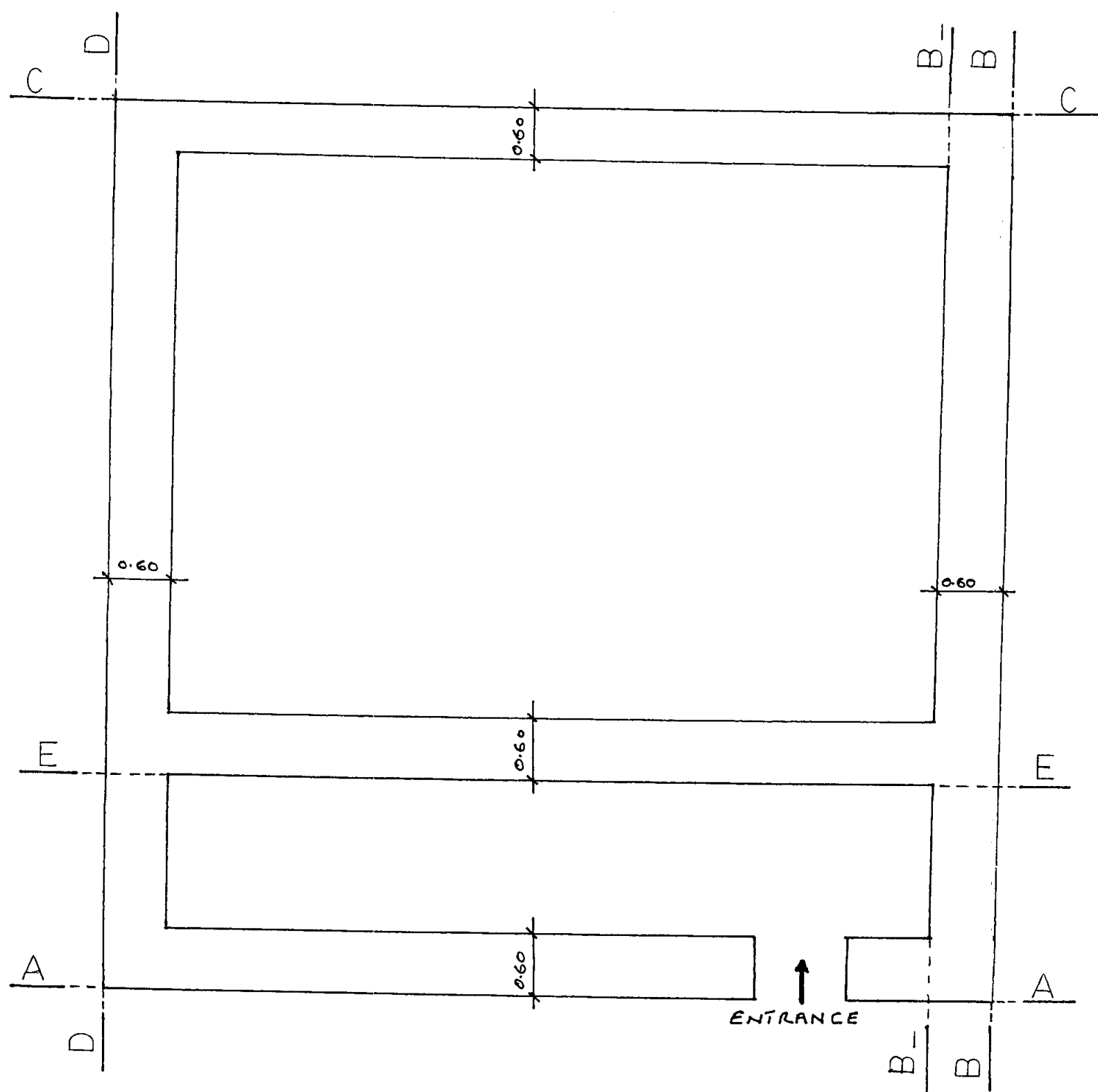
MAP SHOWING THE CORE ZONE OF
THE PROTECTED COASTAL STRIP



SCALE: 1/5000m

- Visitors Tour
- x Places of Interest
- Remains of Historic Buildings in the Coastal Strip
- 🌳 Juffureh Heritage Trail

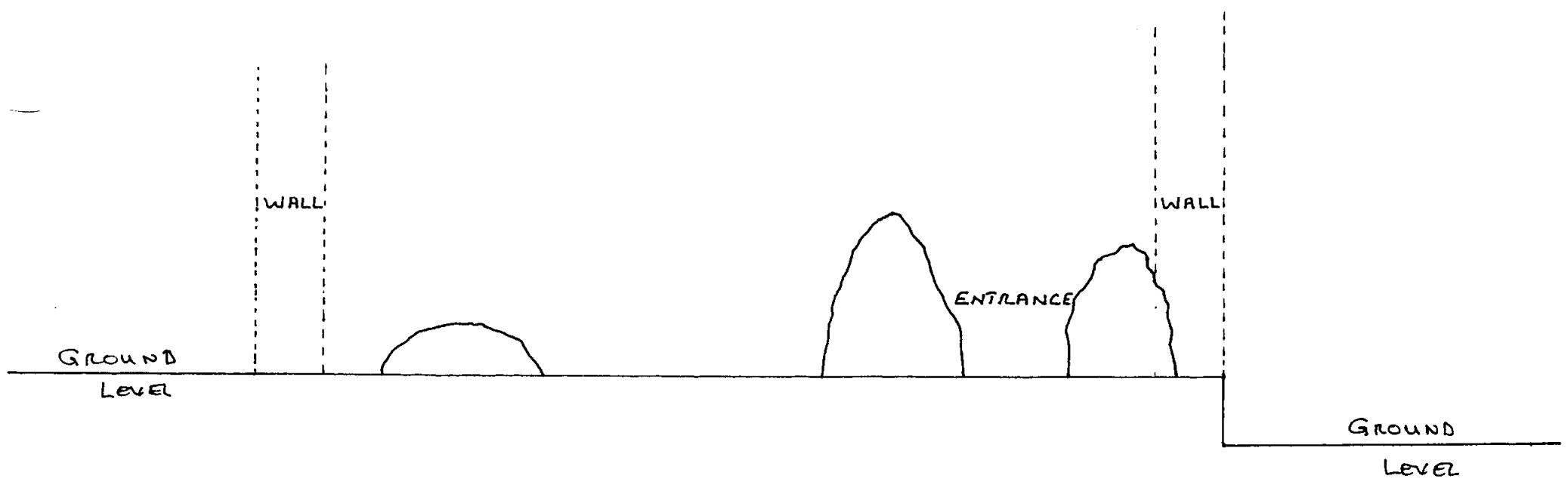
SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH



FLOOR PLAN / DIAGRAM

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

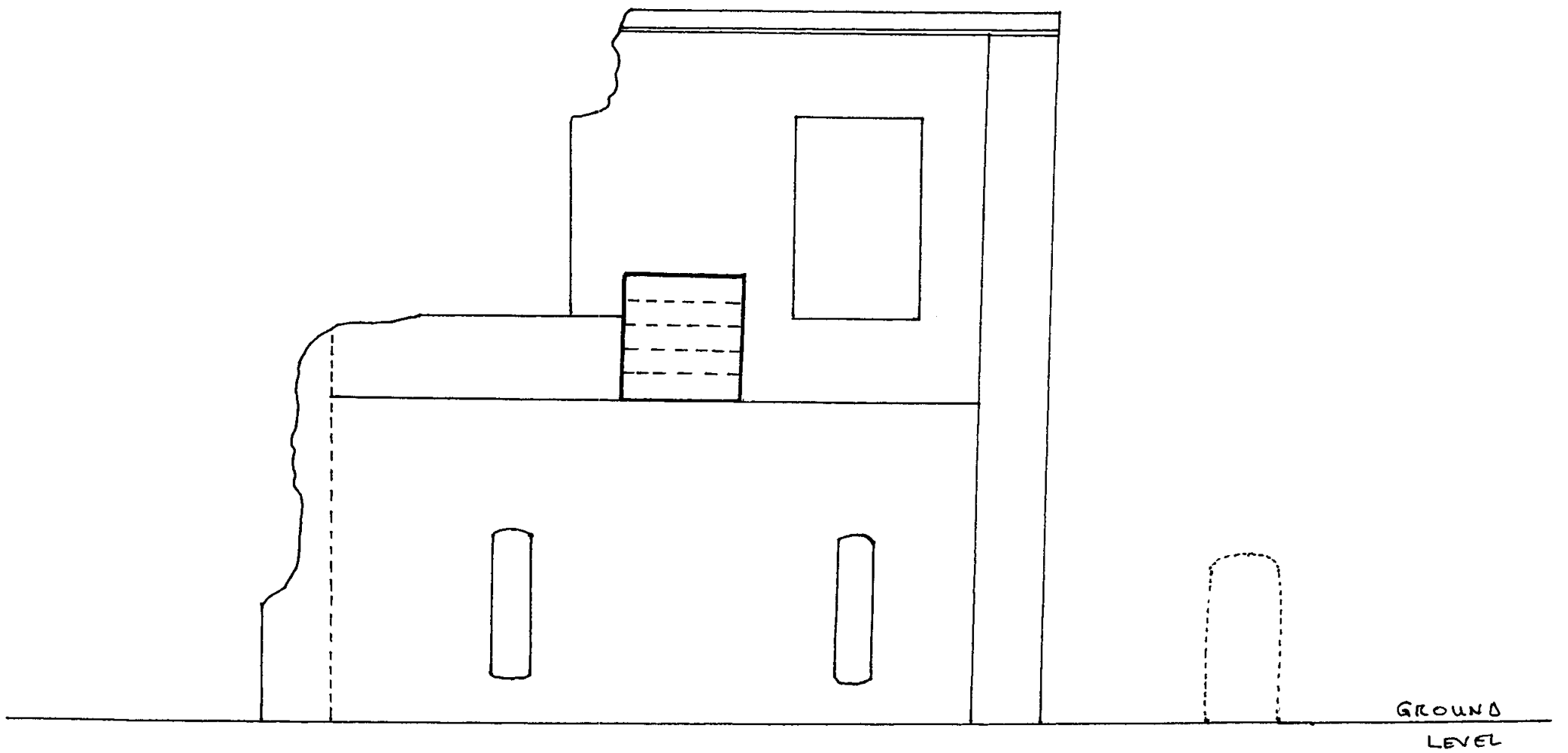
SAN DOMINGO RUINS , JUFFUREH



SECTION A - A

SCALE: 1/500Meters

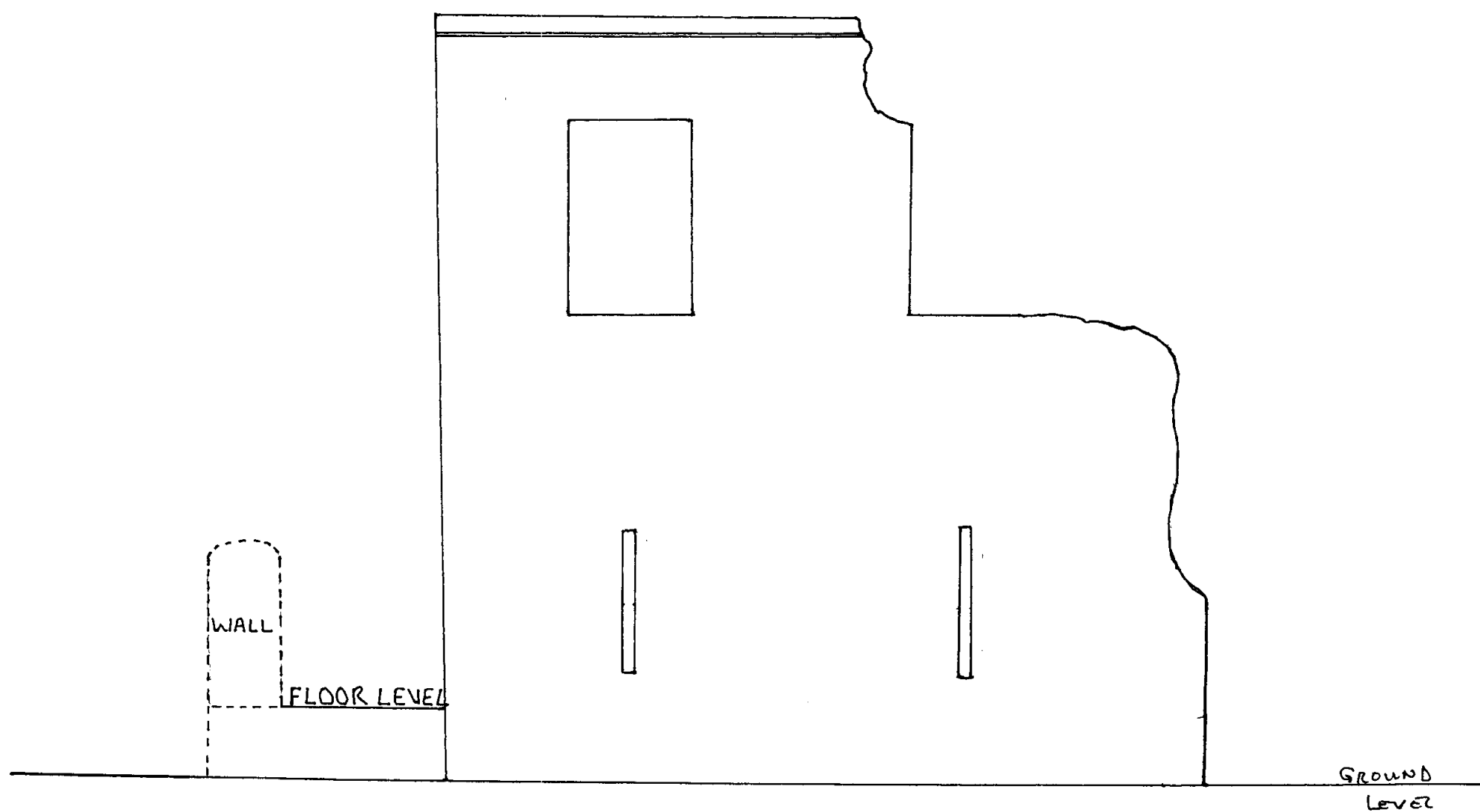
SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH



SECTION B_ B_

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH



SECTION B - B

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

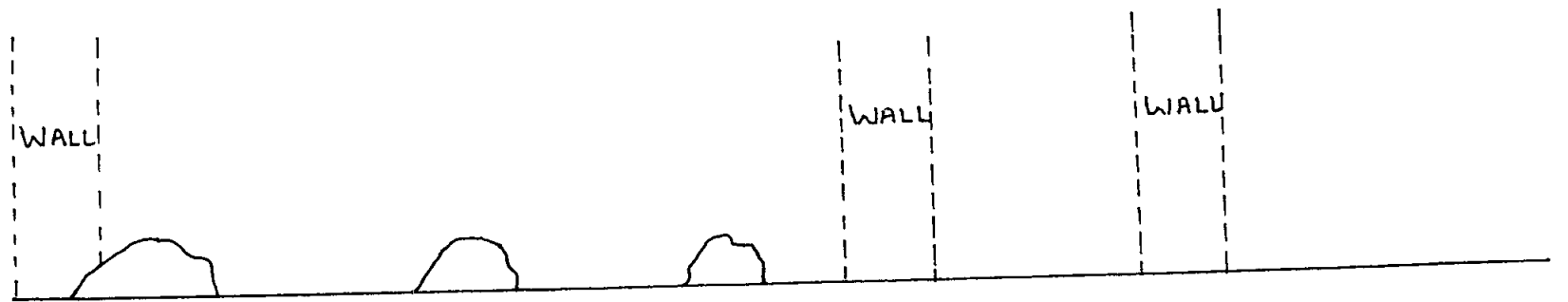
SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH



SECTION C - C

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH

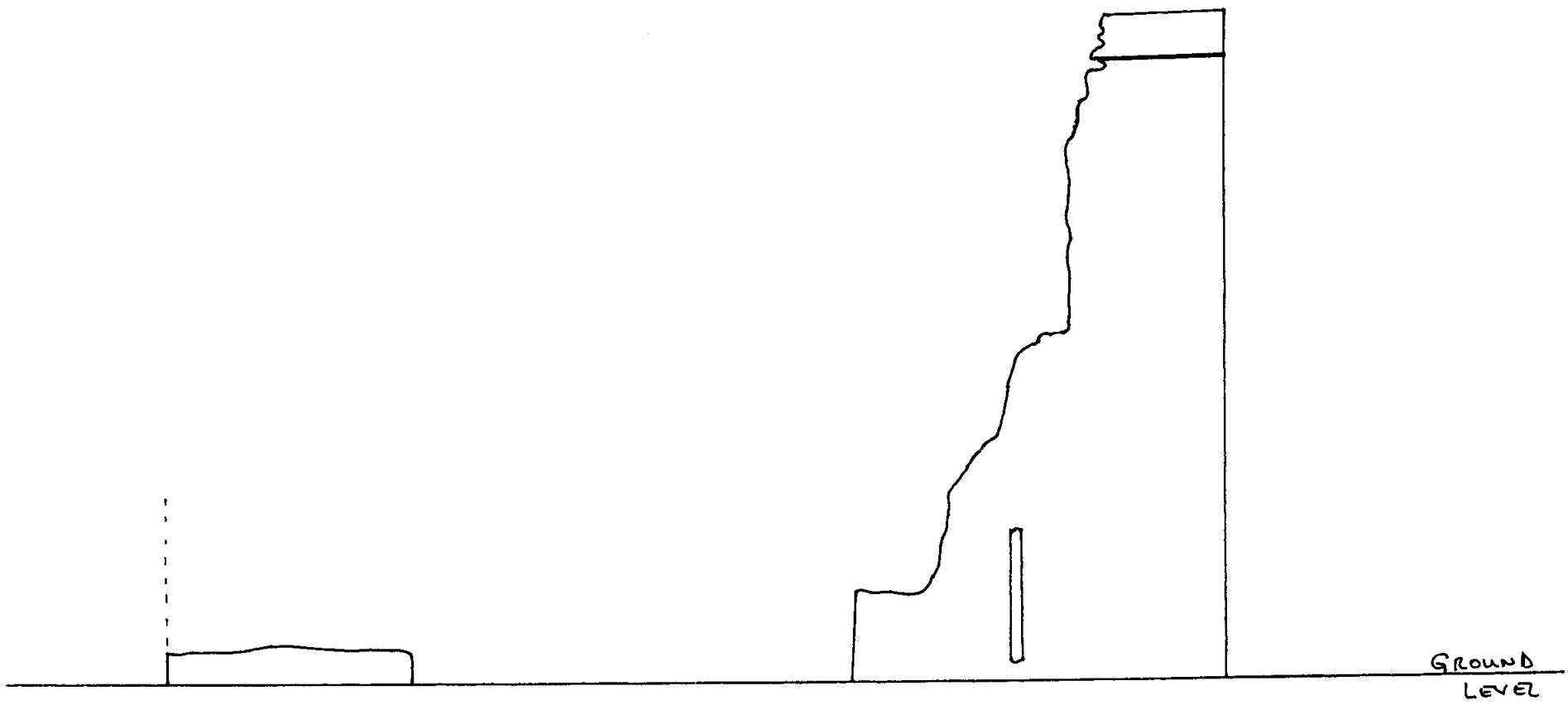


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SECTION D - D

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

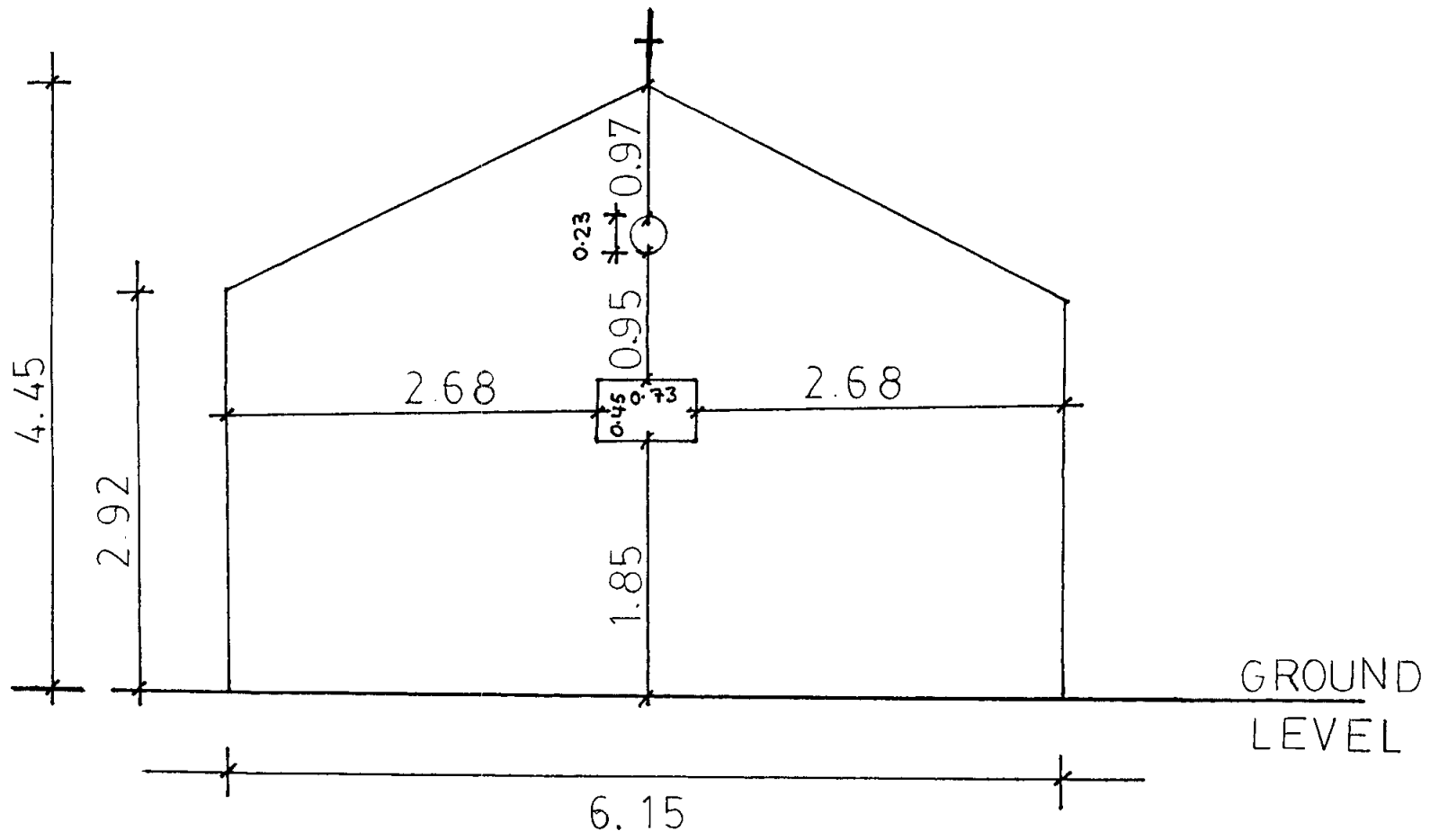
SAN DOMINGO RUINS, JUFFUREH



SECTION E - E

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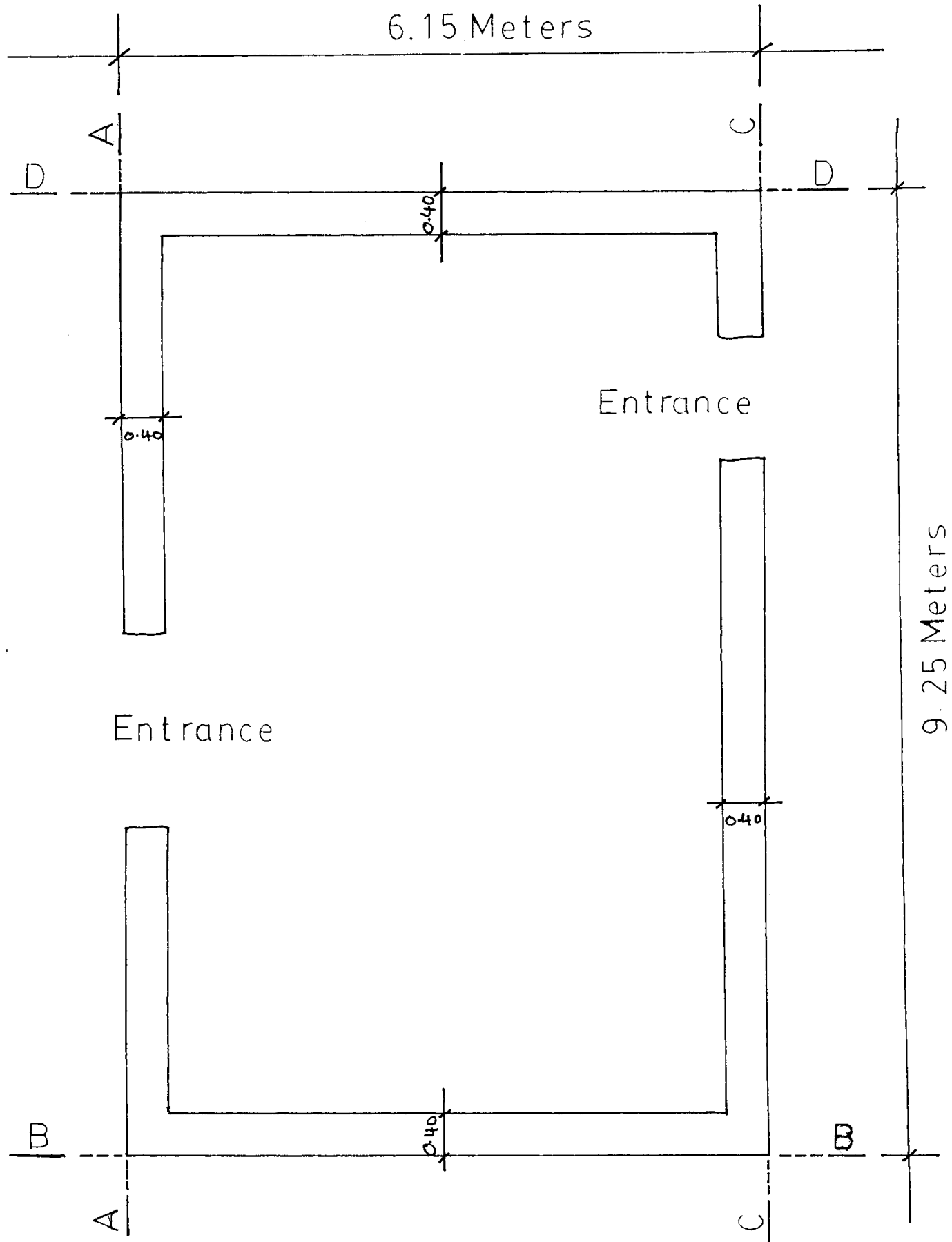
C H U R C H



SECTION D - D

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

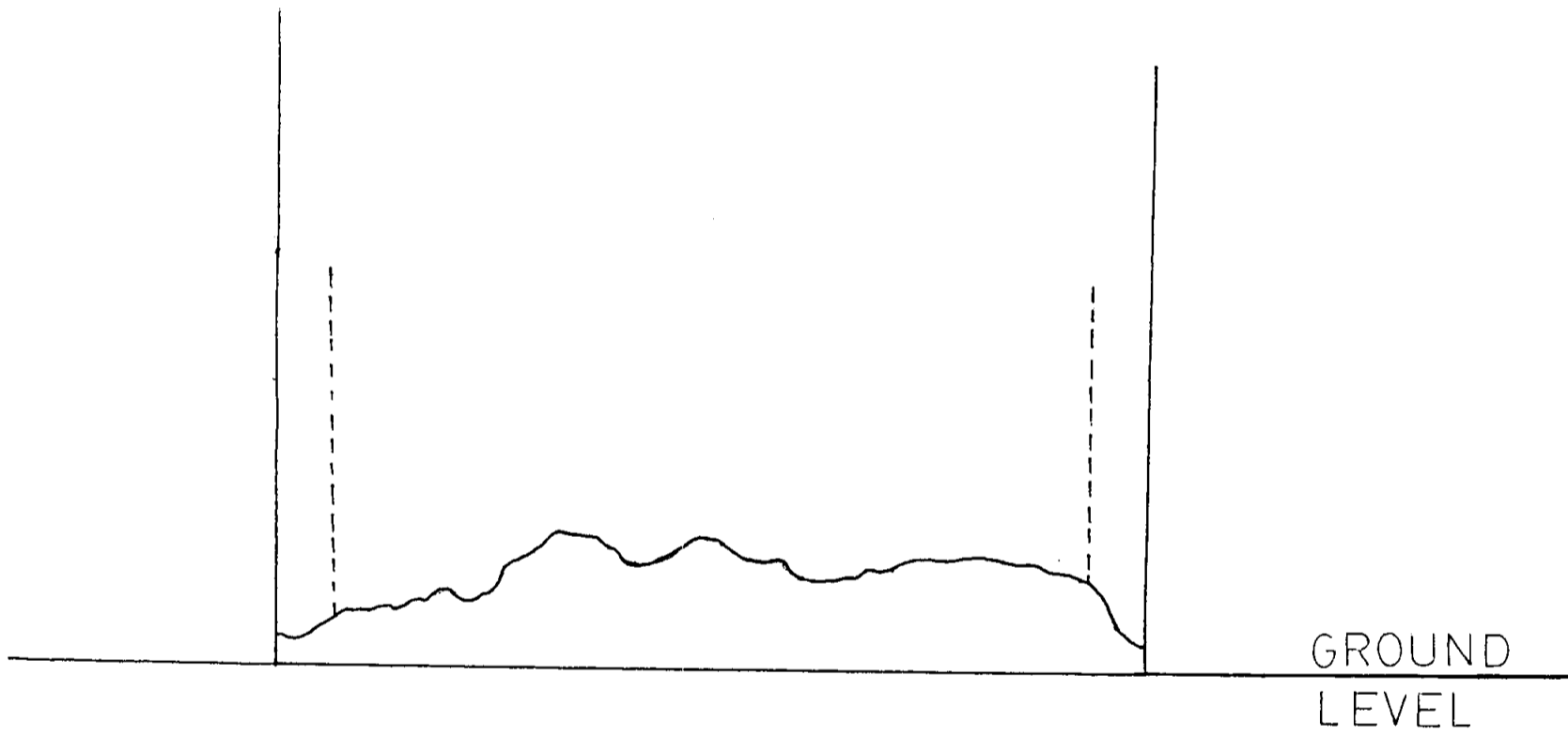
C H U R C H



FLOOR PLAN / DIAGRAM

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

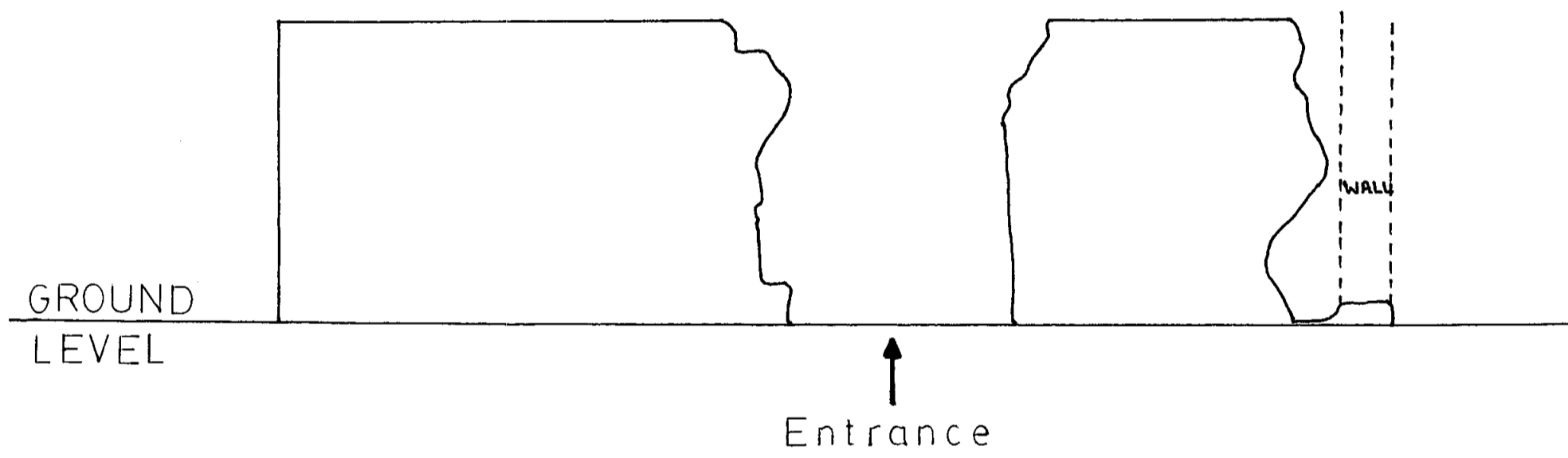
C H U R C H



SECTION B - B

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

C H U R C H



SECTION A - A

SCALE: 1/500 Meters

James Island (Gambia)

No 761 rev

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: The Gambia

Name of property: James Island and Related Sites

Location: James Island, Albreda, Juffureh, and San Domingo, are located in the Lower Niimi District, North Bank Division. Fort Bullen is located in the Upper Niimi District, North Bank Division. The Six-gun Battery is part of Banjul Municipality.

Date received: 3 October 1995; 31 January 2002.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a serial nomination consisting of a series of *sites*.

Brief description:

James Island and Related Sites present a testimony to the main periods and facets of the Afro-European encounter along the River Gambia, a continuum that stretched from pre-colonial and pre-slavery times to the period of independence. The site is particularly significant for its relation to the beginning and the abolition of the slave trade, as well as documenting the functions of the early access route to the inland of Africa.

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The nominated property consists of seven separate sites: the whole of *James Island*, the remains of a *Portuguese Chapel* and of a colonial *warehouse* in the village of Albreda, *The Maurel Frères Building* in the village of Juffureh, the remains of a small Portuguese settlement of *San Domingo*, as well as *Fort Bullen* and the *Six-gun Battery*, which are located in three different districts in The Gambia. Fort Bullen and the Battery are at the mouth of the Gambia River, while James Island and the other sites are some 30 km upstream. Albreda, Juffureh, and San Domingo are contained within a large buffer zone, which stretches 12 km along the coastline of the Gambia River, extending ca 500 m inland from the high-water line.

James Island is a small island (0.3 ha) in the Gambia River. Its location in the middle of the river made it a strategic place to control the waterway. The original structures comprise: the fort itself, the slave house, the governor's kitchen, the blacksmith shop, and a store. All of these are in ruins. The fort is situated in the middle of this low island, and is vulnerable to flooding by the tidal waters. It is roughly square in plan, with polygonal bastions at the four corners, chamfered at their apexes to reduce the overall spread of the building and to avoid

having to build on the shore below high-water mark. There were formerly curtain walls between the north and east bastions rising to the same height; a large stone cistern for collecting rainwater was built up against the outside face of the curtain wall. Traces of ancillary fortifications and service buildings survive at each end of the island, and on the southern shore.

Albreda, a Mandingo village on north bank of the river. Its wharf allows for visitors to cross to James Island. The village is in the middle of agricultural land, with rice fields, fruits and vegetables, as well as woods of mangrove and other trees. The village itself is part of the buffer zone, but it contains two buildings that are proposed for the inscription:

The Chapel, built by the Portuguese in the late 15th century, is in ruins, but more than 50% of its walls are still standing, including the full back elevation. The walls are built of sand and lateritic stones laid in a lime mortar. Just beside the chapel (30m on the west) is a free standing wall, which is contemporaneous with the church.

CFAO Building (Compagnie Française d'Afrique Occidentale), at the water's edge near the wharf, is a two-storey building with an adjacent single storey warehouse. The building is documented on the site in 1847. The ground floor, accessible through an open, arcaded veranda, served as a shop and store for goods. The top floor was used as a residence for agents of the trading company.

Juffureh, a typical Mandingo village, consists of traditional buildings, family compounds surrounded by woven fences, and small public open spaces. Today it is a 'pilgrimage' destination, having been identified by Alex Haley (the author of: *Roots*, 1975) as the village of his ancestors. One colonial building in the village is proposed for inscription:

The Maurel Frères Building was constructed around 1840 by the British and was later used as a warehouse by a Lebanese trader named Maurel. In 1996 it was transformed into a small museum on the Atlantic Slave Trade in the Senegambia.

San Domingo stands 1 km east of Albreda. It was a colonial settlement first established by the Portuguese in the late 15th century. It used to contain gardens, a church, a cemetery, and a well; today only ruins of a small house remain, built in lateritic stone and lime mortar. Close by there are remains of the former English settlement of Jillifree, apart from the ruins of a two-storey stone house. The sites of two or three further houses are marked by piles of stones and the cemetery is covered by undergrowth.

Six-Gun Battery was completed in 1821 in Bathurst (founded in 1816, now Banjul) on Saint Mary Island. The Battery consists of six 24-pounder guns, installed on rails, and protected by a large parapet made of stone and lime mortar.

Fort Bullen is at the end of Barra point, opposite to the city of Banjul, on the north bank of the river at the point where it meets the ocean. The fort is protected from the sea by a defensive wall made of stone and boulders. Around the fort, on the east and north sides, is a vast piece of open land, currently defined as buffer zone. A few large old trees provide shade here. The site is close to the Banjul-Barra ferry landing. The fort buildings include the *Old Rest*

House built in mud, residence of the Travelling Commissioner of the colonial administration at the beginning of the century.

History

The area of the Gambia River has long been inhabited, testified eg by the evidence of ancient stone circles and burial mounds (*mbaranar*) known in the empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai. The territory was under the rule of the Kingdom of Kaabu, an offshoot of the Mali Empire (ca. 1200-1867), and the Jollof Kingdom (ca 1300-1500). Kaabu played an important role in Atlantic-oriented trade before Europeans arrived, being in contact with the Phoenicians and Carthaginians, as well as the Arabs (from 1000 CE). The Portuguese reached the Senegambia between 1446 and 1456, when searching for the sea route to India. In 1482, they built the fort *São Jorge da Mina* (Elmina) on the Gold Coast (now Ghana). In the 16th century, English ships ventured into the Gambia region, and by the end of the century also the Dutch arrived here. Slaves became another trading item, especially in the 18th century, until slavery was abolished in Great Britain and the United States, in 1807, and in French colonies in 1848.

Using the Gambia River to access the interior, the coastal areas became the main frontier of acculturation. Kaabu maintained its traditional religion, barring the road to Islam until the 19th century. The Portuguese established contact with the indigenous population, the Niuminkas, beginning a period of trade and cross-cultural relations which, over the next five hundred years, substantially changed the face of The Gambia. Being one of the best navigable rivers in Africa, the River Gambia also had a specific advantage in reaching a vast hinterland. James Island and the associated settlements contain the surviving physical evidence of the principal European trading settlements from the 15th to 19th century, and of the European-African encounter.

James Island was used as a resting ground for fishermen long before the arrival of the Europeans. Its hereditary rulers were and still are Niuminkas, from whom it was acquired by a company of the Duke of Courland (now Latvia) who started building the first fort in 1651. It was taken over by the British, who named it James Island, after Duke of York. The fort was destroyed and rebuilt several times, when it changed hands between the British, French, Dutch, and also pirates and mutineers. By 1815, James Island was abandoned and has since remained in ruins.

San Domingo, east of the village of Juffureh, is the earliest Portuguese settlement in the area. It provided fresh water for James Island, and it was here that the European traders met their African counterparts. Albreda, probably another Portuguese settlement, was rented to French traders in 1681. It became the location of the French comptoir in The Gambia. Albreda and San Domingo served as the main trading outlets of the Kingdom of Niumi, and were the westernmost terminus of the long-distance trade routes from the interior. At the demand of the English, the site was abandoned by the French in 1857, but they came back, seen in the remains of two French trading company buildings, Maurel Frères and CFAO. Juffureh, is the village of the Mandingo trading counterparts and the location from where the British traded as business companies and ruled the area.

The Six-Gun Battery (1816) and Fort Bullen (1826), located on both sides of the mouth of the River Gambia, were built with the specific intent of thwarting the slave trade once it had become illegal in the British Empire after the passing of the Abolition Act in 1807. The sites were abandoned in 1870. During the Second World War, Fort Bullen was re-used as an observatory and artillery base by the British army as a means to protect against a possible attack from the French who controlled Senegal. After World War II, the fort was again abandoned.

Management regime

Legal provision:

All the nominated sites are property of the State.

James Island, Fort Bullen, as well as all significant historic buildings in San Domingo, Juffureh and Albreda are legally protected as National Monuments (1995), and vested in the custody of the National Council for Arts and Culture who controls it and is responsible for its conservation. The Six-gun battery is presently the subject of National Monument proclamation. The President's Office, the major stakeholder has supported proclamation, which is now awaiting gazetting at the Attorney General's Chambers. Once proclaimed National Monument, the site will come under the purview of the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC). It will be taken care of by the President's Office, on whose grounds it is situated.

As national monuments and historic sites, under the Legal Notice N°20 of 1995, the proposed sites are legally protected under the *National Council for Arts and Culture Act of 1989*.

Management structure:

The 1989 Act empowers the National Council for Arts and Culture to control the protected area, delegated to the Museums and Monuments Division of this Council.

The sites are subject to a 5-year management plan, which is the result of the joined effort of national and local organisations, supported by the Africa 2009 programme of UNESCO-ICCROM-CRATerre-EAG.

The sites are visited as part of the 'Roots package' organized by tourism agencies. Visitors include Africans in the Diaspora who come visit their ancestral homes. The sites are also used by school groups and researchers as historical evidence. Local fishermen use the island for resting during their fishing expeditions. The area is known as fertile fishing grounds.

Resources:

The revenue generated from this group of sites mainly comes from entry fees. The total annual revenue realised from the Albreda-Juffureh complex including James Island ranges between 17,000 US \$ and 20,000 US \$ (1999 and 2000 figures). But it is noteworthy that these figures are very much dependent on the vagaries of the tourist season, which is at present witnessing a downward trend.

There is one NCAC personnel attached to James Island, who serves as Caretaker, Attendant and Revenue Collector; Albreda-Juffureh has one caretaker, one museum attendant and a semi-permanent staff member for the guesthouse.

Bullen has two caretakers and one attendant for visitors. The Gun Battery (in Banjul) is taken care of by the President's Office. The caretakers work under the direct supervision of the Principal Cultural Officer who assigns him tasks after each inspection visit, which happens on average once in every two months.

Justification by the State Party (summary)

James Island and Related Sites are the most important ensemble of historic structures found in The Gambia and is of significance at both the regional and global level. Together, these sites illustrate all the main periods and facets of the Afro-European encounter along the River Gambia, a continuum that stretched from pre-slavery times to the independence period. The site is significant for its relation to the slave trade and its abolition, to the beginning of the colonial era in Africa, and to the Second World War and beyond.

Criterion iv: James Island and Related Sites are an outstanding illustration of the phases of the Afro-European encounter from the 15th Century up through the colonial era in Africa. The site shows many layers and facets of this long and turbulent history.

Criterion vi: James Island and Related Sites are directly and tangibly associated with the Atlantic slave trade, a chapter in the history of mankind that cannot be underestimated for its negative effects on Africa and many other parts of the world. As one of the largest points of transshipment of slaves in the region, the physical remains within this site embody the intangible values connected with this destructive period.

3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

Actions by ICOMOS

The nomination was first presented as '*James Island and the Albreda/Juffureh/San Domingo Historic Zone*' in 1995. An ICOMOS expert mission visited the site in February 1996. ICOMOS then recommended that further consideration of this nomination be deferred to await the outcome of a comparative study of pre-colonial and early colonial trading settlements in West Africa. A comparative study has now been accomplished, and the State Party has reformulated the nomination taking into account the comments. A second ICOMOS expert mission visited the site in July 2002.

Conservation

Conservation history:

The forts were abandoned in the 19th century, and have since remained in ruins. The villages have been inhabited and maintained in traditional manner, while the remains of the early European settlement buildings are ruined. An exception is the Maurel Frères building, which was rehabilitated as museum in 1996. The sites have been protected as national monuments since 1995. Within the Africa 2009 programme, CRATerre has organized on-site training in 1997, involving maintenance work of the ruins.

State of conservation:

All historic structures on the James Island are in a ruined state. The ruins have been stabilised, and protected by a capping. Due to the low land of the island, some structures are at times beaten by the waves during high tide and storms.

The villages of Albreda and Juffureh are well kept by the inhabitants in the traditional manner, though the roofs are gradually replaced from thatch to corrugated iron. Relatively few buildings are built in cement. The remaining walls of the ruined CFAO Building are poor and susceptible to erosion. The Maurel Frères building is in a good state of conservation, since it has been fully restored in 1996. The Portuguese chapel and San Domingo are in a state of ruins, but the ruins have been stabilised and the most endangered parts reinforced in July 2000.

The Six-Gun Battery is in a good state of conservation. Fort Bullen is in a relatively good state of conservation, though the wall that defends it from the seaside is continuously beaten by the waves, and parts of it have collapsed. Twenty metres of the damaged wall were rebuilt in July 2000, and it is foreseen to gradually rebuild the rest of the collapsed part. The State Party mentions as a specific problem the possibility of the extension of a mosque close to the Six-Gun Battery.

Management:

The nominated properties have a minimum management structure, including at least one trained caretaker per site, and the works are organized on the basis of an overall management plan. The financial resources required for the maintenance and conservation are relatively scarce, and come mainly from the entrance fees.

Risk analysis:

The ruins are subject to gradual erosion due to natural decay processes, flooding, the heavy tropical rains (growth of plants, mosses, trees, etc.). Strong winds and salty environment encourage mortar decay. The structure at San Domingo is threatened by the growing of huge trees. On the other hand, the traditional context is obviously fragile and easily subject to change.

Authenticity and integrity

The fort of James Island, a military stronghold, has been subject to various destructions, last at the end of the 18th century, and has remained in ruins ever since. Fort Bullen and the Six-Gun station were abandoned in the late 19th century, apart from short reuse during the Second World War. The settlements have retained their traditional character and materials, with relatively few interventions in cement, though the thatched roofs are gradually being changed into corrugated metal. The nominated structures can be seen as part of the traditionally evolving landscape, which has maintained its overall visual and structural integrity.

Comparative evaluation

The Portuguese arrived in Senegal and the Gambia in the 1450s, after first stopping in Arguin, now in Mauritania (a World Heritage site inscribed under natural criteria). In Arguin, they built their first trading post before moving into sub-Saharan Africa. Being the closest to Europe, Senegal and the Gambia were mapped by 1462, and one of the first European settlements was constructed on the banks of the Gambia River at San Domingo by that time. Currently there are very few remains from this settlement, but it predates the establishment of the trading posts, forts and castles of Ghana by 15 to 20 years.

In the Gambia, the Portuguese, found existing villages such as Juffureh and Albrede. Not finding commodities such as gold and spices further north in Senegal, the traders located themselves along the River Gambia, which became one of the first exchange zones between Europe and Africa. In addition to gold and spices, the Europeans sought ivory, wax, hides, ebony, coffee, indigo, cloth, beads, and eventually slaves. For these items, the Europeans gave salt, iron, brandy and other European goods.

The development of James Island differed greatly from the forts, castles, and trading posts found after rounding the coast of western Africa, in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Ghana in that the main focus of the James Island site was the control of the hinterland and its riches rather than control of the coast and the trade that passed along it. This led to the placing of the fort some 30 km inland from the mouth of the river, rather than right along the coast. The importance of the river and its control can even be seen in the very shape of the Gambia itself, a long and thin strip of land surrounded on all sides by Senegal except at the sea.

James Island fort, along with Gorée Island in Senegal, were two of the principle places for trans-shipments of slaves to both Europe and America. Although no accurate numbers exist for the numbers of people that became human cargo at James Island, it was, and remains in the minds of the African Diaspora, one of the most important places of memory from this difficult period of history. Furthermore, the Six-Gun Battery and Fort Bullen were constructed with the express intent of thwarting the slave trade once it had become illegal. The dual significance of this site makes it unique within West Africa in relation to the slave trade.

The Afro-European encounter had various facets, as documented in the Island of Gorée, the Ghana Forts and Castles (both inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion vi), as well as James Island and Related Sites. These sites, along with others in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Benin, etc., together serve to tell the story of the exchange between the different continents.

Outstanding universal value

General statement:

James Island and Related Sites form an exceptional testimony to the different facets and phases of the African-European encounter, from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The River Gambia was particularly important forming the first trade route to the inland of Africa. The site was already a contact point with Arabs and Phoenicians before the arrival of the Portuguese in the 15th century. The region forms a cultural landscape, where the nominated historic elements are retained in their cultural and natural context.

The nominated properties illustrate all the main periods and facets of the various stages of the African-European encounter from its earliest moments in the 15th Century through the independence period. The specific location of James Island and its Related Sites, at the mouth of the Gambia River, is a tangible reminder of the story of the development of the Gambia River as one of the most important waterways for trade of all kinds from the interior to the Coast and beyond. The specific, important role of the site in the slave trade, both in its propagation and its conclusion, makes James Island and its Related Sites an outstanding memory of this important, although painful, period of human history.

Evaluation of criteria:

Criterion iii: refers to the nominated property as it presents a series of elements (forts, trading facilities, villages, cultivated fields, places of memory and the River Gambia itself), which help the reading and interpretation of a historic landscape strongly associated with the Afro-European encounter. The significance of the ruined structures is in providing an exceptional testimony to a 'chapter' in the history of humanity from the 15th century to its conclusion in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Criterion iv: refers to a type of architecture or type of site, which illustrates a significant creative response to specific needs in society. In the case of James Island, the question is less of types of structures or a type of site. Rather, the significance of the site is in the way the identified elements give sense to a cultural landscape. Therefore, it would be more appropriate to apply the criterion iii than criterion iv.

Criterion vi: refers to the nominated region of the River Gambia as being directly and tangibly associated with the European exploration of the African coast and the inland. The site is also exceptional in documenting the beginning and the end of the slave trade, and has retained its memory related to the African Diaspora. The nominated property complements and enriches the previously inscribed properties of Gorée Island and the Ghana forts; therefore also the use of criterion vi would be consistent.

4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for the future

It is recommended that the management of the site take into consideration the aspects of the cultural landscape of which they are a part.

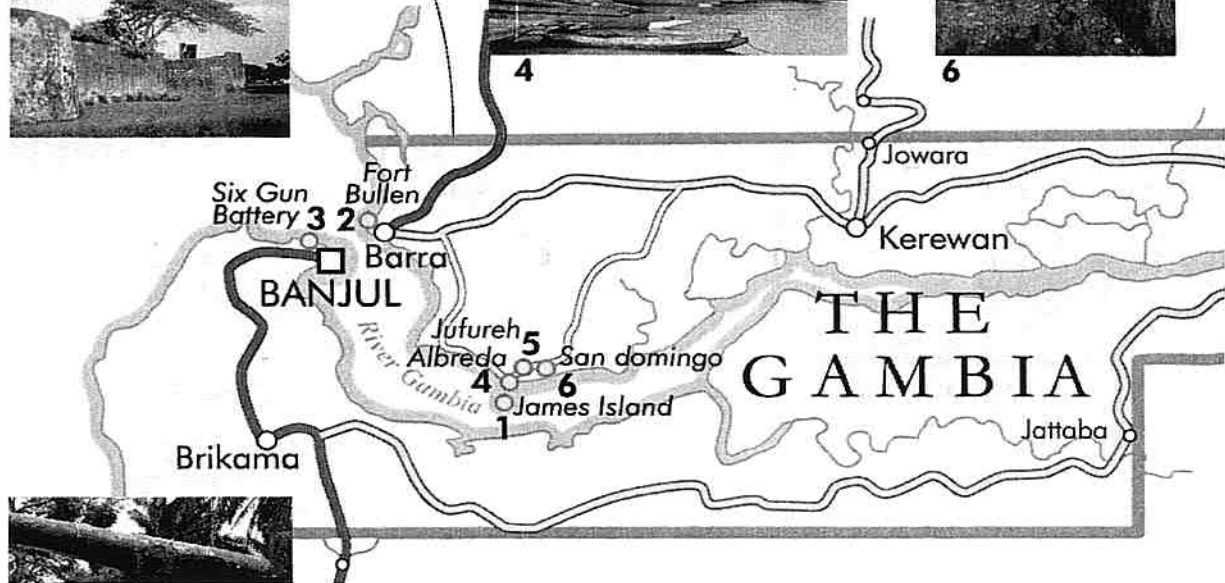
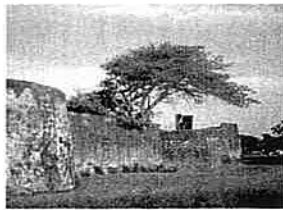
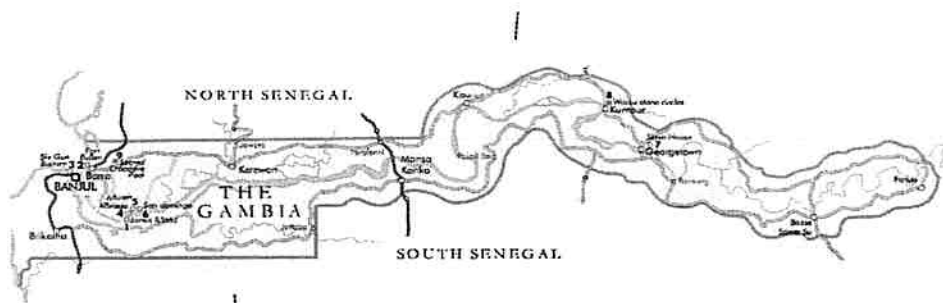
Recommendation with respect to inscription

That the nominated property be inscribed on the basis of ***criteria iii*** and ***vi***.

Criterion iii: James Island and related sites on the River Gambia provide an exceptional testimony to the different facets of the African-European encounter, from the 15th to 20th centuries. The river formed the first trade route to the inland of Africa, being also related with the slave trade.

Criterion vi: James Island and related sites, the villages and the batteries, were directly and tangibly associated with the beginning and the conclusion of the slave trade, retaining its memory related to the African Diaspora.

ICOMOS, March 2003



Map showing the location of the sites
Plan indiquant la localisation des biens

Île James (Gambie)

No 761 rev

1. IDENTIFICATION

État partie : Gambie

Bien proposé : Île James et sites associés

Lieu : Île James, Albréda, Juffureh et San Domingo, dans le bas quartier de Niumi, division de la rive nord. Fort Bullen, dans le haut quartier de Niumi, division de la rive nord. La batterie à six canons fait partie de la municipalité de Banjul.

Date de réception : 3 octobre 1995 ; 31 janvier 2002

Catégorie de bien :

En termes de catégories de biens culturels telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription en série composé d'un ensemble de sites.

Brève description :

L'île James et les sites associés témoignent des principales époques et facettes de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe le long du fleuve Gambie, un continuum qui s'étend de la période pré-coloniale et pré-esclavagiste à l'indépendance. Ce site est d'une importance toute particulière pour son association avec les débuts et l'abolition du commerce d'esclaves, mais aussi en tant que témoignage des fonctions de la première voie d'accès aux terres intérieures d'Afrique.

2. LE BIEN

Description

Le bien proposé pour inscription comprend sept sites distincts : la totalité de l'île James, les vestiges d'une chapelle portugaise et d'un entrepôt colonial dans le village d'Albréda, le bâtiment Maurel Frères dans le village de Juffureh, les vestiges d'un petit peuplement portugais de San Domingo, ainsi que Fort Bullen et la batterie à six canons, dans trois districts différents de la Gambie. Fort Bullen et la batterie se trouvent à l'embouchure du fleuve Gambie, tandis que l'île James et les autres sites sont à quelque 30 km en amont. Albréda, Juffureh et San Domingo sont situés dans une large zone tampon qui s'étend sur 12 km le long de la rive du fleuve Gambie, à quelque 500 m de la laisse de crue.

L'île James est une petite île (0,3 ha) sur le fleuve Gambie. Son emplacement, au centre du fleuve, en a fait

un lieu stratégique de contrôle de cette voie fluviale. Les structures d'origine comprennent le fort lui-même, la maison des esclaves, la cuisine du gouverneur, la forge et un magasin, tous en ruines. Le fort se situe au milieu de cette île peu élevée, et il est vulnérable aux inondations par les marées. De plan approximativement carré, avec des bastions polygonaux aux quatre coins, arrondis cependant pour réduire la superficie globale du bâtiment et ainsi éviter de devoir construire sur la côte en deçà de la ligne de crue. Il y avait jadis des courtines entre les bastions du nord et de l'est, s'élevant sur une même hauteur ; une grande citerne en pierre pour recueillir l'eau de pluie a été construite contre la façade extérieure de la courtine. Des traces de fortifications annexes et de bâtiments de service demeurent à chaque bout de l'île, et sur le rivage sud.

Albréda est un village mandingue qui se dresse sur la rive nord du fleuve. Son appontement permettait aux visiteurs de traverser le fleuve pour se rendre sur l'île James. Le village se dresse au milieu de terres agricoles, rizières, vergers et potagers, ainsi que de bois de mangroves et d'autres arbres. Le village lui-même appartient à la zone tampon mais comporte deux bâtiments proposés pour inscription :

La chapelle, construite par les Portugais à la fin du XV^e siècle, est en ruines, mais plus de 50 % de ses murs sont encore debout, notamment la totalité de l'élévation arrière. Les murs sont en sable et en pierres latéritiques fixées par un mortier de chaux. À côté de la chapelle (30 m vers l'ouest) se dresse un mur isolé contemporain de l'église.

Le bâtiment de la CFAO (Compagnie Française d'Afrique Occidentale), situé au bord de l'eau, près de l'appontement, est un édifice à deux étages doté d'un entrepôt de plain-pied adjacent. On possède des preuves de l'existence du bâtiment sur le site depuis 1847. Le rez-de-chaussée, accessible par une galerie ouverte à arcades, servait de boutique et de magasin pour les produits. L'étage hébergeait les agents de la compagnie commerciale.

Juffureh est un village mandingue typique doté de bâtiments traditionnels, de complexes familiaux entourés de barricades de bois, et de petits espaces publics à ciel ouvert. Aujourd'hui, c'est un lieu de pèlerinage, car Alex Haley (auteur de *Racines*, 1975) l'a identifié comme le village de ses ancêtres. Un bâtiment colonial du village est proposé pour inscription :

Le bâtiment Maurel Frères a été construit par les Britanniques vers 1840, avant d'être utilisé plus tard comme entrepôt par un commerçant libanais dénommé Maurel. En 1966, il a été transformé en petit musée du commerce atlantique des esclaves en Sénégal.

San Domingo se dresse à 1 km à l'est d'Albréda. Il fut tout d'abord un peuplement colonial, établi par les Portugais à la fin du XV^e siècle. Il comprenait des jardins, une église, un cimetière et un puits ; il n'en subsiste aujourd'hui que les ruines d'une petite maison bâtie en pierres latéritiques et en mortier de chaux. Il reste peu de choses de l'ancien peuplement anglais de Jillifree, situé à proximité, hormis les ruines d'une maison en pierres à deux étages. L'emplacement de deux ou trois autres maisons est marqué

par des piles de pierres et le cimetière a été envahi par la végétation.

La batterie à six canons a été achevée en 1821 à Bathurst (fondée en 1816, aujourd'hui dénommée Banjul) sur l'île Saint Mary. La batterie se compose de six pièces de 24 livres, installées sur des rails et protégées par un haut parapet de pierre et de mortier de chaux.

Fort Bullen se trouve à l'extrémité de la pointe de Barra, à l'opposé de la ville de Banjul, sur la rive nord du fleuve, là où il se jette dans l'océan. Le fort est protégé des assauts venus de la mer par un rempart de pierre et de blocs rocheux. Autour du fort, sur les côtés est et nord, se trouve un vaste terrain actuellement défini comme zone tampon. Quelques vénérables grands arbres y fournissent un ombrage. Le site est proche du débarcadère Banjul-Barra. Les bâtiments du fort comprennent l'ancienne *Old Rest House*, faite de terre, résidence du commissaire itinérant de l'administration coloniale au début du siècle.

Histoire

La région du fleuve Gambie est depuis longtemps habitée, comme en attestent par exemple les anciens cercles de pierre et monticules funéraires (*mbanar*) connus dans les empires du Ghana, du Mali et de Songhai. Le territoire était sous la férule du royaume de Kaabu, une émanation de l'empire du Mali (vers 1200-1867), et de l'empire Jollof (vers 1300-1500). Kaabu jouait un rôle important dans le commerce vers l'Atlantique avant l'arrivée des Européens, car il était en contact avec les Phéniciens et les Carthaginois, ainsi que les Arabes (à partir de 1000 apr. J.-C.). Les Portugais atteignirent la Sénégalie entre 1446 et 1456, alors qu'ils cherchaient la route maritime vers l'Inde. En 1482, ils construisirent le fort São Jorge da Mina (Elmina) sur la Côte d'Or (aujourd'hui le Ghana). Au XVI^e siècle, des navires britanniques s'aventurèrent dans la région de la Gambie, suivis à la fin du siècle par les Hollandais. Les esclaves devinrent un autre objet de négoce, le commerce du « bois d'ébène » battant son plein au XVIII^e siècle, jusqu'à l'abolition de l'esclavage en Grande-Bretagne et aux États-Unis en 1807, puis dans les colonies françaises en 1848.

Avec le fleuve Gambie permettant d'accéder à l'intérieur des terres, les zones côtières devinrent la principale frontière d'acculturation. Kaabu conserva sa religion traditionnelle, barrant la route à l'Islam jusqu'au XIX^e siècle. Les Portugais établirent le contact avec la population indigène, les Niuminkas, initiant une période de commerce et de relations interculturelles qui, au fil des cinq siècles suivants, modifièrent considérablement le visage de la Gambie. Le fleuve Gambie étant l'un des fleuves les plus aisément navigables d'Afrique, il présentait aussi l'avantage particulier de permettre d'accéder au vaste arrière-pays. L'île James et les peuplements associés abritent les témoignages physiques des principaux peuplements marchands européens du XV^e au XIX^e siècle et de la rencontre entre l'Europe et l'Afrique.

L'île James servait de lieu de repos aux pêcheurs longtemps avant l'arrivée des Européens. Ses souverains héréditaires étaient et sont toujours des Niuminkas,

auxquels elle fut rachetée par une compagnie du duché de Courlande (aujourd'hui Lettonie), qui commença la construction du premier fort en 1651. Elle fut reprise par les Britanniques, qui la baptisèrent île James, du nom du duc d'York. Le fort fut détruit et reconstruit à plusieurs reprises, passant de mains en mains entre les Britanniques, les Français, les Hollandais, mais aussi des pirates et des mutins. En 1815, l'île James fut abandonnée et est depuis demeurée en ruines.

San Domingo, à l'est du village de Juffureh, est le premier peuplement portugais de la région. Il fournissait l'île James en eau potable ; c'est aussi là que les marchands européens rencontraient leurs homologues africains. Albréda, probablement un autre peuplement portugais, fut loué aux marchands français en 1681. Il devint l'emplacement du comptoir français en Gambie. Albréda et San Domingo étaient les principaux comptoirs marchands du royaume de Niimi et le « destination finale », vers l'ouest, des longues routes marchandes venues de l'intérieur des terres. À la demande des Anglais, les Français abandonnèrent le site en 1857 mais revinrent, comme le montrent les vestiges des bâtiments de deux compagnies marchandes françaises, Maurel Frères et CFAO. Juffureh est le village des marchands mandingues, le lieu où les Britanniques faisaient leurs affaires et depuis lequel ils gouvernaient la région.

La batterie à six canons (1816) et le Fort Bullen (1826), situés des deux côtés de l'embouchure de la Gambie, furent construits dans l'intention d'éliminer le commerce des esclaves une fois celui-ci déclaré illégal dans l'empire britannique, après l'adoption de la loi d'abolition en 1807. Les sites furent abandonnés en 1870. Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'armée britannique réutilisa le fort Bullen comme observatoire et base d'artillerie pour se protéger contre une éventuelle attaque des Français, qui contrôlaient le Sénégal. Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le fort fut à nouveau abandonné.

Politique de gestion

Dispositions légales :

Tous les sites proposés pour inscription appartiennent à l'État.

L'île James, Fort Bullen, de même que tous les bâtiments historiques d'importance à San Domingo, Juffureh et Albréda, sont sous protection légale en tant que monuments nationaux (1995), et ont été confiés à la garde du Conseil national des arts et de la culture, qui les contrôle et veille à leur conservation. La batterie fait actuellement l'objet d'un édit de classement en tant que monument national. Le bureau du Président, le principal décideur en faveur de l'édit, attend maintenant la publication à la Chambre du procureur. Une fois proclamé monument national, le site passera sous la responsabilité du Conseil national des arts et de la culture (NCAC). Le bureau du Président, sur le territoire duquel il est situé, sera chargé d'en prendre soin.

En tant que monuments nationaux et sites historiques, en vertu de l'avis légal n°20 de 1995, les sites proposés pour

inscription sont également protégés en vertu de la loi *National Council for Arts and Culture Act*, de 1989.

Structure de la gestion :

La loi de 1989 donne au Conseil national des arts et de la culture un mandat de contrôle de la zone protégée, délégué à la Division des musées et des monuments de ce conseil.

Les sites sont assujettis à un plan de gestion quinquennal, fruit des efforts conjoints des organisations nationales et locales, appuyées par le programme Africa 2009 de l'UNESCO-ICCROM-CRATerre-EAG.

Les sites sont visités dans le cadre du « forfait Racines » proposé par les agences de tourisme. Parmi les touristes, on trouve des Africains de la diaspora venus retrouver le foyer de leurs ancêtres. Les sites servent aussi de documents historiques à des groupes scolaires et à des chercheurs. Les pêcheurs locaux utilisent l'île pour se reposer lors de leurs expéditions de pêche. La région est d'ailleurs connue comme une zone poissonneuse.

Ressources :

Les revenus que génère ce groupe de sites proviennent principalement des droits d'entrée. Le chiffre d'affaire annuel total réalisé par le complexe Albréda-Juffureh, île James comprise, se situe entre 17 000 et 20 000 USD (chiffres de 1999 et 2000). Mais il convient de noter que ces chiffres dépendent en grande part des caprices de la saison touristique, dont la tendance est actuellement à la baisse.

Il y a un employé NCAC rattaché à l'île James, qui sert de gardien, d'accompagnateur et de percepteur ; Albréda-Juffureh possède un gardien, un conservateur du musée et un employé semi-permanent pour la maison d'hôtes. Bullen compte deux gardiens et un accompagnateur pour les visiteurs. La batterie (à Banjul) est confiée aux bons soins du bureau du Président. Les gardiens travaillent sous la supervision directe du responsable culturel, qui leur assigne des tâches après chaque visite d'inspection, en moyenne une fois tous les deux mois.

Justification émanant de l'État partie (résumé)

L'île James et les sites associés constituent le plus important ensemble de structures historiques que l'on puisse trouver en Gambie, d'une importance considérable au niveau régional comme mondial. Ensemble, ces sites illustrent toutes les principales périodes et facettes de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe le long du fleuve Gambie, un continuum qui s'étend de la période pré-esclavagiste à l'indépendance. Le site est significatif pour sa relation au commerce des esclaves et à son abolition, au début de l'ère coloniale en Afrique, à la Seconde Guerre mondiale et ensuite.

Critère iv : L'île James et les sites associés sont une illustration remarquable des diverses phases de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, du XV^e siècle à l'époque coloniale en Afrique. Le site présente de nombreuses étapes et facettes de cette longue et turbulente histoire.

Critère vi : L'île James et les sites associés entretiennent un lien tangible et direct avec le commerce atlantique des esclaves, un chapitre dans l'histoire de l'humanité qui ne peut être sous-estimé pour ses répercussions négatives sur l'Afrique et bien d'autres régions du monde. Les vestiges physiques de ce site, jadis l'un des plus grands points de départ du commerce d'esclaves dans la région, illustrent les valeurs immatérielles associées à cette époque de destruction.

3. ÉVALUATION DE L'ICOMOS

Actions de l'ICOMOS

La proposition d'inscription a été pour la première fois présentée sous le titre *Île James et la zone historique d'Albréda/Juffureh/San Domingo* en 1995. Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'était rendue sur le site en février 1996. L'ICOMOS avait alors recommandé que « l'examen de cette proposition d'inscription soit différé dans l'attente des résultats d'une étude comparative sur les peuplements marchands pré-coloniaux et du début de la période coloniale en Afrique de l'Ouest. »

Une étude comparative a désormais été menée à bien, et l'État partie a reformulé sa proposition d'inscription, en tenant compte des observations suggérées. Une deuxième mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur le site en juillet 2002.

Conservation

Historique de la conservation :

Les forts ont été abandonnés au XIX^e siècle, et sont depuis demeurés en ruines. Les villages ont été habités et entretenus dans le respect de la tradition, tandis que les vestiges des premiers bâtiments européens sont en ruines, à l'exception du bâtiment Maurel Frères, réhabilité pour devenir un musée en 1996. Les sites sont protégés en qualité de monuments nationaux depuis 1995. Dans le cadre du programme Africa 2009, CRATerre a organisé une formation sur le site en 1997, avec un travail d'entretien des vestiges.

État de conservation :

Toutes les structures historiques de l'île James sont en ruines. Celles-ci ont été stabilisées et sont protégées par une toiture. Du fait du bas niveau de l'île, certaines structures sont parfois battues par les vagues en période de crue et d'orage.

Les villages d'Albréda et Juffureh sont bien entretenus par les habitants, dans le respect de la tradition, bien que les toits de chaume soient progressivement remplacés par de la tôle ondulée. Les bâtiments en ciment sont relativement rares. Les vestiges des murs du bâtiment de la CFAO sont dans un état médiocre et sont sensibles à l'érosion. Quant au bâtiment Maurel Frères, il est en bon état de conservation puisqu'il a été entièrement restauré en 1996. La chapelle portugaise et San Domingo sont en ruines, mais ces ruines ont été stabilisées et les parties les plus en danger renforcées en juillet 2000.

La batterie à six canons est en relativement bon état de conservation, de même que le fort Bullen, quoique la muraille qui défend celui-ci du côté de la mer soit continuellement battue par les vagues et que certaines parties se soient effondrées. Sur vingt mètres, le mur endommagé a été reconstruit en juillet 2000, et on prévoit une reconstruction progressive du reste de la partie effondrée. L'État partie mentionne comme un problème spécifique la possibilité d'agrandissement d'une mosquée proche de la batterie.

Gestion :

Les biens proposés pour inscription comportent une structure minimum de gestion, avec au moins un gardien qualifié par site, et les travaux sont organisés d'après un plan de gestion global. Les ressources financières nécessaires à la maintenance et à la conservation sont relativement rares, et viennent principalement des droits d'entrée.

Analyse des risques :

Les ruines sont soumises à une érosion graduelle, du fait de l'usure naturelle, des inondations, des violentes pluies tropicales (croissance de plantes, mousses, arbres, etc.) les vents forts et l'environnement salin favorisent la détérioration du mortier. La structure de San Domingo est menacée par la croissance d'arbres énormes. Par ailleurs, le contexte traditionnel est bien évidemment fragile et susceptible de se modifier facilement.

Authenticité et intégrité

Le fort de l'île James, place-forte militaire, a subi diverses destructions, la dernière à la fin du XVIII^e siècle, et il demeure en ruines depuis lors. Le Fort Bullen et la batterie à six canons ont été abandonnés à la fin du XIX^e siècle, hormis une brève période de remise en usage durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Les peuplements ont conservé leur caractère et leurs matériaux traditionnels, avec relativement peu d'interventions en ciment, quoique les toits de chaume aient progressivement été remplacés par de la tôle ondulée. Les structures proposées pour inscription peuvent être considérées comme partie intégrante d'un paysage à l'évolution traditionnelle, qui a conservé son intégrité visuelle et structurelle globale.

Évaluation comparative

Les Portugais sont arrivés au Sénégal et en Gambie dans les années 1450, après une première étape à Arguin, aujourd'hui en Mauritanie (site du Patrimoine mondial inscrit sur la base de critères naturels). À Arguin, ils ont construit leur premier comptoir marchand avant de partir vers l'Afrique sub-saharienne. Étant les plus proches de l'Europe, le Sénégal et la Gambie furent cartographiés dès 1462, et l'un des premiers peuplements européens fut érigé sur les rives du fleuve Gambie, à San Domingo, à cette époque. Actuellement, il ne reste que très peu de vestiges de ce peuplement, mais il est antérieur aux établissements des comptoirs marchands, forts et châteaux du Ghana de 15 à 20 ans.

En Gambie, les Portugais ont trouvé des villages comme Juffreh et Albréda. Ne trouvant pas de marchandises comme or et épices plus au nord au Sénégal, les négociants s'installèrent le long du fleuve Gambie, qui devint l'une des premières régions d'échange entre l'Europe et l'Afrique. Outre l'or et les épices, les Européens cherchaient de l'ivoire, de la cire, des peaux, de l'ébène, du café, de l'indigo, des étoffes, des perles et finalement des esclaves. En échange, les Européens donnaient du sel, du métal, du brandy et d'autres marchandises européennes.

Le développement de l'île James différait grandement des forts, châteaux et comptoirs marchands qui se trouvent sur la côte d'Afrique de l'Ouest, en Guinée, en Sierra Leone, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Ghana, en ceci que l'objectif principal du site de l'île James était le contrôle de l'intérieur des terres et de ses richesses plutôt que de la côte et du commerce qui y transitait. C'est pourquoi le fort fut placé à une trentaine de kilomètres de l'embouchure du fleuve plutôt que le long de la côte. L'importance du fleuve et de son contrôle sont visibles dans la forme même de la Gambie, bande de terre longue et étroite entourée de tous les côtés par le Sénégal, hormis du côté de la mer.

Le fort de l'île James et l'île de Gorée au Sénégal étaient deux des principaux lieux d'expédition des esclaves en Europe et en Amérique. Bien qu'il n'existe aucun chiffre précis du nombre de personnes devenues des marchandises humaines à l'île James, ce site était et demeure dans l'esprit de la diaspora africaine l'un des hauts lieux de souvenir de cette difficile période de l'Histoire. En outre, la batterie à six canons et Fort Bullen ont été construits dans l'intention expresse de juguler le commerce des esclaves une fois celui-ci devenu illégal. La dualité de ce site à cet égard le rend unique en Afrique de l'Ouest.

La rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe a pris divers visages, comme en témoignent l'île de Gorée, les forts et les châteaux du Ghana (deux sites inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base du critère vi) ainsi que l'île James et les sites associés. Ceux-ci, ainsi que d'autres en Sierra Leone, Guinée, Côte d'Ivoire, Bénin, etc., permettent ensemble de raconter l'histoire des échanges entre les différents continents.

Valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Déclaration générale :

L'île James et les sites associés constituent un témoignage exceptionnel des différentes facettes et phases de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, du XV^e au XIX^e siècle. Le fleuve Gambie a joué un rôle particulièrement important en ouvrant la première route commerciale vers l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Le site était déjà un point de contact avec les Arabes et les Phéniciens avant l'arrivée des Portugais au XV^e siècle. La région forme un paysage culturel où les éléments historiques proposés pour inscription demeurent dans leur contexte culturel et naturel.

Les biens proposés pour inscription illustrent toutes les grandes périodes et facettes des diverses phases de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, depuis ses débuts au XV^e siècle jusqu'à l'indépendance. L'emplacement

particulier de l'île James et de ses sites associés, à l'embouchure du Gambie, est un rappel tangible de l'histoire du développement du fleuve comme l'une des plus importantes voies fluviales marchandes depuis l'intérieur des terres jusqu'à la côte et au-delà. Le rôle particulier et primordial du site dans le commerce des esclaves, tant dans sa propagation que dans sa fin, fait de l'île James et de ses sites associés un lieu de mémoire exceptionnel de cette période douloureuse mais essentielle de l'histoire de l'humanité.

Évaluation des critères :

Critère iii : Le bien proposé pour inscription présente un ensemble d'éléments (forts, infrastructures marchandes, champs cultivés, lieux de mémoire et fleuve Gambie lui-même) qui facilitent la lecture et l'interprétation d'un paysage historique étroitement associé à la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe. L'importance des structures en ruines réside en ce qu'elles constituent un témoignage exceptionnel d'un « chapitre » de l'histoire de l'humanité du XVe siècle à sa conclusion aux XIXe et XXe siècles.

Critère iv : Dans le cas de l'île James, la question porte moins sur le type de structure ou de site que sur la signification du site en ce que les éléments identifiés donnent un sens au paysage culturel. Par conséquent, le critère iii serait plus approprié que le iv.

Critère vi : Ce critère fait référence à la région du fleuve Gambie proposée pour inscription comme directement et matériellement associée à l'exploration européenne de la côte africaine et de l'intérieur des terres. Le site est également exceptionnel car il offre un témoignage du début et de la fin du commerce des esclaves, et conserve des souvenirs liés à la diaspora africaine. Le bien proposé pour inscription complète et enrichit les biens déjà inscrits de l'île de Gorée et des forts du Ghana : l'usage du critère vi serait donc aussi cohérent.

4. RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ICOMOS

Recommandations pour le futur

L'ICOMOS recommande que la gestion du site prenne en compte les aspects du paysage culturel dans lequel il s'inscrit.

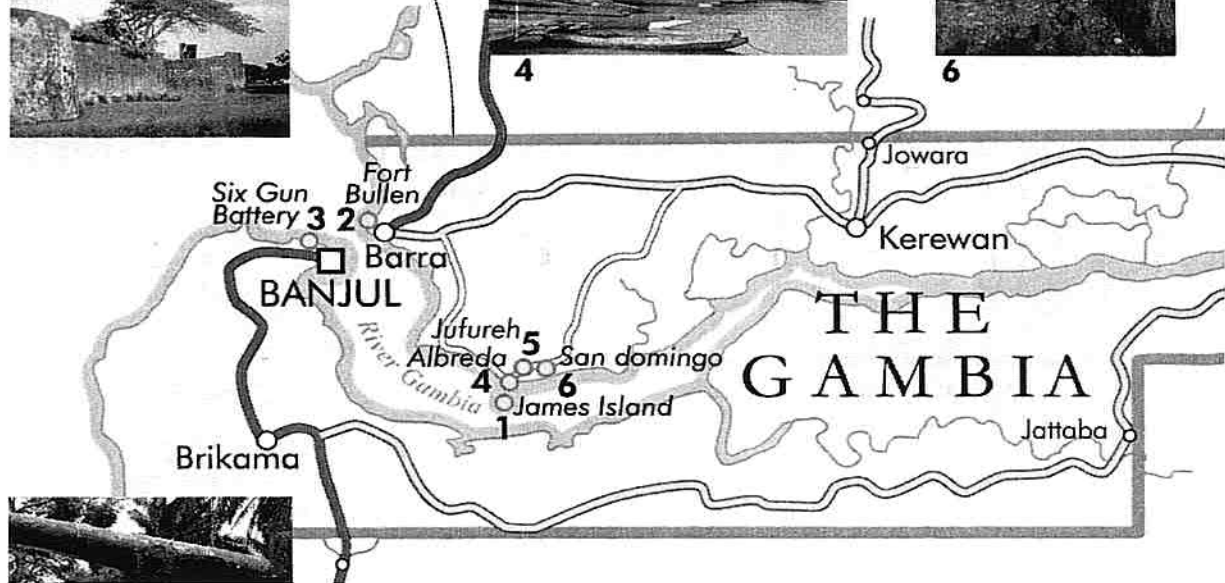
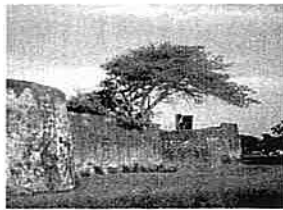
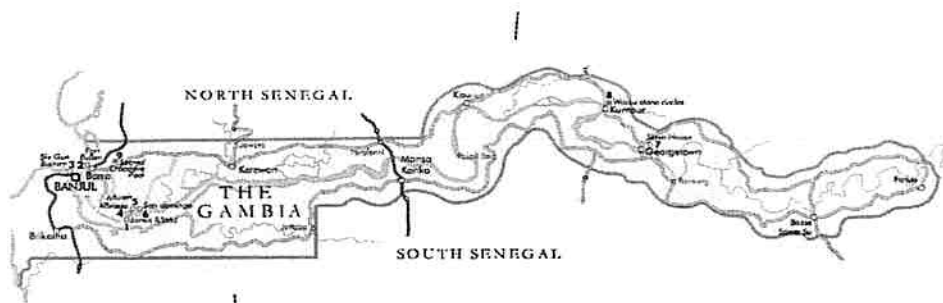
Recommandation concernant l'inscription

Que le bien proposé pour inscription soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères iii et vi* :

Critère iii : L'île James et les sites associés sur le fleuve Gambie apportent un témoignage exceptionnel sur les différentes facettes de la rencontre entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, du XVe au XXe siècle. Le fleuve constitua la première route commerciale vers l'intérieur des terres africaines, et joua également un rôle dans le commerce des esclaves.

Critère vi : L'île James et les sites associés, les villages et les batteries, ont été directement et manifestement associés au début et à la fin du commerce des esclaves, et conservent des souvenirs liés à la diaspora africaine.

ICOMOS, mars 2003



Map showing the location of the sites
Plan indiquant la localisation des biens