

WHC Nomination Documentation

File Name: 910.pdf

UNESCO Region: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEANS

SITE NAME: Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 4th December 1999

STATE PARTY: SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

CRITERIA: C (iii) (iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 23rd Session of the World Heritage Committee

The Committee inscribed the site on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv):

Criterion (iii): Brimstone Hill is an outstanding British fortress, built by slave labour to exact standards during a peak period of European colonial expansion in the Caribbean.

Criterion (iv): Because of its strategic layout and construction, Brimstone Hill Fortress is an exceptional and well preserved example of 17th and 18th century British military architecture.

Several delegates emphasized the importance of this fortification in relation to the slave trade and the need of its remembrance. It was also observed that this inscription contributes to a better representation of the Caribbean on the World Heritage List.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park is an exceptional and well-preserved example of 17th- and 18th-century military architecture in a Caribbean context. Designed by the British and built by African slave labour, the Brimstone Hill Fortress is testimony to European colonial expansion, the African slave trade, and the emergence of new societies in the Caribbean.

1.b State, Province or Region: Parish of St Thomas, St Christopher (St Kitts)

1.d Exact location: 17° 20' N, 62° 50' W

NOMINATION OF
THE BRIMSTONE HILL FORTRESS NATIONAL PARK
FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST
OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES

June, 1998

1. Identification of the Property

- a) Saint Christopher and Nevis
- b) Parish of St. Thomas, island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts)
- c) Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park
- d) Lat. 17 degrees 20'49" N; Long. 62 degrees 50'14" W
Two maps included, as follows:
 - i) map of the Caribbean, showing the island of St. Kitts
 - ii) map of St. Kitts, showing Brimstone Hill.
- e) Included are:
 - i) plan of Brimstone Hill showing boundary of the National Park
 - ii) extract of map of St. Kitts, showing Brimstone Hill and surrounding land use zones
- f) 38 acres (15.37 hectares)

The draft National Physical Development Plan for St. Kitts, March 1998 (undertaken with technical assistance from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Development Programme) declares: "A multi-purpose Brimstone Hill National Park strategy has been included as a component of the National Physical Development Plan. This includes:

- Protection and enhancement of Brimstone Hill National Park in order to ensure that it continues to be an invaluable contribution to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape,
- Establishment of a one mile buffer zone around Brimstone Hill
- Preparation and implementation of a detailed National Park development plan
- Ensure through design and development control that land use development on the adjoining areas is compatible with the park development objective."

The following factors should be borne in mind:

- St. Kitts is a very small island and there is a high demand for land
- The Island Main Road and other infrastructures (e.g. electricity, water, telephone) circumnavigate the island along the coast. Brimstone Hill is located along the coast, a mile from the second largest town
- Limited housing and roads have been proximal to the coastward side of Brimstone Hill for over two centuries.

Despite these factors, as the accompanying physical development map makes clear, the proposed land use within a two-mile radius of Brimstone Hill defines a relatively limited area for further (low density) development, the major area being reserved for agriculture and forests.

2. Justification for inscription

- a) The Brimstone Hill Fortress is of historical, cultural and architectural significance; and a monument to the ingenuity of the British military engineers who designed and supervised its construction, and to the skill, strength and endurance of the African slaves who built and maintained it.

The scale and magnificence of the Fortress is testimony to the actual and symbolic importance of St. Christopher during the 17th and 18th Centuries. The first Caribbean island to be permanently settled by both the English and the French (who shared the island between 1627 and 1713), St. Christopher, known as Liamuiga (Fertile Island) by the welcoming native Amerindians, proved successful and provided a model and a springboard for English and French colonialism in the Caribbean and elsewhere. From this island, which came to be known as the “Mother Colony”, other settlements were established and, for a brief time, administered.

African people had been brought in as slaves from the earlier years of European settlement. The fundamental impacts on world history of the trade, forced relocation and bondage of African people, have been documented (perhaps not completely). The plantation system, based upon sugar production and slavery, which came to characterise Caribbean (or “West Indian”) society – the effects of which are still evident today – had its beginnings in St. Christopher and the other early colonies. Some syncretic cultural forms expressed in other areas of the world, combining elements of Africa, Europe and (to a lesser extent) Native America, have been traced to origins in St. Christopher. (Refer, for example, to the work of Philip Baker et al on the origins of English- and French-Creole languages.)

The islands of the Caribbean were the producers of great wealth for much of Europe, and well worth defending.

The coincidence of the siege of Brimstone Hill by 8000 French invaders in January 1782 and the naval battle of Basseterre Bay between the naval fleets of Admirals Hood and Degraze bought time for the British naval victory of the Saints in April of that year. The latter was of long-term historical importance in establishing British naval superiority.

After the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 restored the island and its Fortress to the British, an intense period of reconstruction and development, indicative of the value of this rich sugar island, was embarked upon. Because of its formidable defences it became known as the “Gibraltar of the West Indies”. The 4th West India Regiment, one of eight such composed of African soldiers (in an era of slavery) and British officers, was garrisoned there in the 1790s.

The Fortress in general is of singular importance as being the remains of a large, complete military community of the 18th Century and Napoleonic periods, unaltered by later developments. As such, it is a veritable time capsule of international significance.

Brimstone Hill Fortress, then, is indicative of the signal role of the island to the early development of colonialism; it is a memorial to slavery, but also a monument, in the “New World” to the work of two geographically separated and culturally distinct peoples of the “Old World”; and it provides a window through which international history and cross-cultural influences may be understood.

The prominent Citadel, known as Fort George, is the earliest surviving example from the British Service of a new style of fortification known as the Polygonal System – and one of the earliest and finest examples of this style anywhere.

Brimstone Hill is nearly 800 feet high with steep and precipitous slopes.. These slopes had to be tamed by the disciplines of engineering and architecture and at the risk and probable loss of human lives. Level sites for bastions had to be prepared, retaining walls at different levels had to be built on sheer surfaces; and through the whole complex, a roadway and pathway had to be laid out. The system of water collection, distribution and storage (capable of at least 250,000 gallons) is itself a marvel of engineering.

The walls of the structures are predominantly of stone, laboriously and skillfully fashioned from the hard volcanic rock of which the hill is composed. The mortar to cement the stones was produced on site from the limestone which covers much of the middle and lower slopes. The Fortress is virtually a man-made outgrowth of the natural hill.

Further, Brimstone Hill speaks to the geological origins of most of the Caribbean islands. It emerged as a result of underlying volcanic activity some 6000 years ago, and sulphur-derived gases (from which the Hill got its name) periodically escape via underwater vents just off the nearby coast. As the surrounding land had been cleared for sugar cultivation three and a half centuries ago, many endemic plants and a few animals survived on this ecological enclave. Rare native birds can be seen at Brimstone Hill, as well as the more numerous African vervet monkeys, introduced to the island in the early 17th Century.

The physical location of the Fortress presents attractive panoramic vistas of forested mountains, cultivated fields, the small historical town of Sandy Point, and neighbouring Dutch, English and French islands across the Caribbean Sea. It is a perfect setting for enjoying the beauties of nature, and for reflecting upon the turbulent history of these Caribbean islands.

- b) Fort Charles, situated on the coast about a mile from Brimstone Hill was built between 1678-89 as a refuge fortress or deodand. Covering some two acres of relatively level land, it protected the important commercial town of Sandy Point. It was superceded in importance by the Brimstone Hill Fortress, but in this century was a home for lepers for several decades until recently. It has now been identified as an important heritage site, worthy of restoration and interpretation, although not necessarily of “outstanding universal value”.

The Citadelle in Haiti, like Brimstone Hill Fortress, is built on a steep-sided hill. It was built by the forced labour of Haitian Africans under the harsh rule of Henri Christophe (who is reputed to have lived in St.Kitts for a short time—hence his name - and may have been influenced by the view of the Citadel at the Brimstone Hill Fortress) An outstanding site, the state of its conservation has been affected somewhat by the unstable political and economic situation in Haiti in the recent past.

La Fortaleza in Puerto Rico is much older than Brimstone Hill Fortress, and is of important historical significance. Laid out on fairly even land, it does not present the diversity of panoramic vistas as Brimstone Hill, but is an impressive fortification. The substantial resources of the U.S. Park Service provide for highly professional conservation and management.

- c) After the Fortress was abandoned by the British military in 1853, wooden buildings were auctioned and masonry structures vandalized for the cut stone. Vegetation took over. During the first half of this century, sporadic attempts were made to clear selected areas of vegetative growth. The Society for the Restoration of Brimstone Hill, after it was established in 1965, first set out to clear selected walls of the destructive vegetation (with the use of hand tools), and to stabilize, (with technical assistance from the Government), some of the main structures and ruins. With technical assistance obtained from Britain and the United States, reconstruction projects were undertaken, but only when there arose important needs, such as for the provision of toilets, a canteen and a Visitors' Centre. In such cases, expert guidance were contracted, and archival research applied so as to ensure authenticity. Some concessions have been made by the use of modern materials, usually combined with traditional materials. Thus, portland cement is combined with lime mortar in recommended proportions. The tradition of stone masonry survives, and is indeed promoted by work at the Fortress. While the timber used in restoration, maintenance and reconstruction is different to that used originally (not easily available today), care is taken that authentic dimensions and wood working details are employed.
- d) The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park is worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List of cultural properties of outstanding universal value, because, in our view:
- Adapting classical 17th and 18th Century European fortification design to the construction of an extensive and self-contained military complex upon the steep slopes and top of a jagged 800 foot arid hill, is a marvellous feat of engineering.

In some of its architectural features, notably its Citadel, are expressed elements of various stages of fortress design.

It is an embodiment of European imperialism, the enslavement of Africans, and the emergence of a distinctive Caribbean culture.

It is indicative of the competition for power and wealth at a crucial stage in world history.

It provides a medium by and through which the geology, ecology and history of the Caribbean can be understood.

As managed – in accordance with established criteria – by a competent local organization on behalf of the people of a young nation, the majority of whom are descended from former slaves, it is a symbol of the endurance of a colonized African people, and of the integrity of Caribbean culture. Thus can it be an inspiration to other young nations in a post- colonial era.

3. Description

- a) The Hill is a visually impressive upthrust of volcanic rock, 752 feet high, with a cladding of limestone along much of its slope. Much of its surface is covered with scrub, with bare patches of rock in some places. Thick slabs of limestone dominate its seaward slope, but the more sheltered areas and ravines are thickly covered by larger trees and dense undergrowth. The top is crowned by twin peaks.

A roughly circular boundary at the base of the Hill is partly described by the access road, unpaved road, and a walking path.

The structures occur at the upper third of the Hill at different levels. They consist of a series of discontinuous masonry walls, at various levels, four defensive bastions pointing in different directions, a miscellany of barracks, magazines, water catchments, cisterns and ruins, and a polygonal citadel on the northern of the twin summits.

The various parts of the Fortress are connected by branches of the main military road which enter in a zig-zag fashion on the northern side.

- b) The military use of Brimstone Hill began in 1690, with the British mounting of cannon on its North-West side to drive out the French who had captured the coastal defence of Fort Charles, just below the Hill. The firing from these cannon hastened the French surrender.

This event focussed attention on the military potential of the Hill. In the ensuing decades, a refuge fortress formed of a discontinuous bastion trace was built on its upper slopes. This was a place of retreat in the event of invasion of the island. It was used for this purpose on the occasion of the invasion of the French in 1706.

When besieged by the French in 1782, the fortress was ill-adapted to resist, having been originally designed to secure the Hill against mainly infantry assault. However, it held out for a month, and the garrison was awarded the honours of war on its surrender.

After the return of St. Kitts to Britain in 1783, the defences were reconstructed to produce a powerful fortress able to withstand a regular siege, and with gun positions specifically built to project counter-bombardment fire at siege batteries. A prominent feature of the fortress was its citadel, started in 1789. The fortress gained so many barracks and other garrison buildings and structures, that it presented the appearance of a hilltop town, and was a complete military community. The fortress saw action again in 1806 when it drove off an attempted attack by the French Navy against shipping moored at Sandy Point.

In 1853, as a consequence of British defence cuts, the fortress was ordered to be abandoned, and the site gradually returned to nature.

Following a programme of selective brush cutting by the Government from 1900-29, the Historic Sites Committee took over the site and undertook similar work, managing also to remount some cannon. From 1965 a more active regime of preservation became possible through the management by the Society for the Restoration of Brimstone Hill, which leased the site from the Government.. The Prince of Wales Bastion was repaired and restored in 1972. Between 1974-80, the Artillery Officers Quarters, Kitchen, and the Infantry Officers Quarters were stabilized. Subsequently, the Citadel was substantially restored, and a Museum established there in 1982. Also completed in that year was a reconstructed stone building to house a Canteen. Other buildings have been stabilized and repaired, such as the Magazine Bastion, Orillon Bastion, and retaining wall to the Parade. In 1988-90 the Warrant Officers Quarters and the Commissariat Building were rebuilt

Within recent years a ticket booth, designed to resemble a sentry box, has been built, directional and informational signs placed, and visitor facilities improved.

- c) The Brimstone Hill Fortress comprises a complex of structures in a clearly defined area, under one management. Some of these structures are listed in groups. This list, with general assessments of the state of conservation, appear under d) below.
- d) Barrier Redoubt. The defence walls and small casemated guardroom/powder magazine within are fairly intact. Not fully restored, but in stable state of preservation.

North-West Work, including Magazine Bastion.. Structures fairly intact. One section of defence wall repaired in 1996. Water catchment and cistern adjoining the casemated magazine are in current use.

South-East Work consists of the Orillon Bastion and the curtain walls extending from it. A prominent feature is the bomb-proof Ordnance Storehouse which had been restored. The cistern, in need of repairs, maintained in stable state. Ruins of workshops, and foundation of hospital. Outside the wall, a small cemetery with tombstones. Ruins of numerous other structures nearby kept free of vegetation.

Curtain Wall between the NW and SE Works. A continuous wall, fairly well preserved, beneath which is the site of an archaeological digs investigating and documenting the presence and work of African slaves.

Prince of Wales Bastion. An impressive and substantial masonry structure, well preserved. Within the walls are: a cistern in current use, a magazine ,a guardroom with underground storeroom. Restored in 1971-72, the guardroom was adapted in 1997 as a small Conference Centre.

Infantry Officers Quarters. The impressive colonnaded basement walls stabilized in the 1970s. These and the 13 casemates within maintained in stable state, to be restored in the future. Upper storey, originally of timber, destroyed by hurricane in 1844 and replaced by

three smaller stone structures, themselves removed by vandals after the fortress was abandoned. One of these reconstructed in 1982 and houses a Canteen and toilets.

Grand Water Catchment. A system consisting of a paved catchment of over 16,000 square feet, three underground cisterns, and an open tank. Capable of storing, when restored, 90,000 gallons of water altogether. System not now in use.

Artillery Officers Quarters. Some ruined walls remain. Ruins stabilized and nearby kitchen restored by 1980.

Commissariat Yard. Main features are Warrant Officers Quarters and kitchen, and Storehouse, both reconstructed during 1988-90 and adapted respectively as a look-in display of furnished quarters and a Visitors Centre comprising Orientation Room (with illustrated panels and video theatre) and Gift Shop. Nearby cistern, restored in 1990, supplements water supply.

North-East Work. A system of defensive walls, with several structures behind. It is proposed to reconstruct (perhaps partially) the No. 4 Barrack to be used as a sheltered area for picnickers. In this connection, archival research is being undertaken, and some preliminary archaeological investigations have taken place.

Fort George. Substantial masonry structure, the “centre-piece” of the Fortress. Two associated Places of Arms altogether referred to as The Citadel. Rooms arranged around a central courtyard. Seven of these rooms restored in the 1970s, and six of them accommodate a Museum. Large cistern beneath the stone floor of one of the rooms has capacity of 30,000 gallons and is the main source of water for the National Park. Extensive crack along the roof on one side resulted from severe earth tremors in 1974. No noticeable widening of this crack, but it needs to be thoroughly examined professionally and corrective measures implemented.

The Museum has a collection of over 1700 objects, about half of which were previously arranged in five restored rooms at Fort George. Another room and adjoining casemate serves as office/workroom and climate-controlled storeroom respectively. Museum display is presently being redesigned.

Fort Adjutants Quarters. Kitchen reconstructed in 1997 in order to accommodate (and conceal) a stand-by diesel electricity generator.

Lime Kiln. Near the base of the hill. Fairly well preserved, and maintained in stable condition

Miscellaneous and numerous ruined structures within the walls and on the slopes. Some covered in vegetation.

- e) Informational and directional signs are located at strategic positions. One, at the ticket booth, is in four languages (English, French, Spanish, German).

An information brochure is given to each visitor. This presents a guide to and a brief history of the Fortress. By November of this year, it will be available in four languages. A series of illustrated interpretation panels will be in place at strategic locations by the end of this year.

At the Visitors Centre there are illustrated panels introducing the history and development of the Fortress. A 9-minute video presentation in English or French (with Spanish and German by November, 1998) completes the orientation.

The Museum at the Citadel presents the geology and ecology of the Hill, the history and development of the Fortress, and their relationship to Caribbean history.

The Gift Shop includes in its inventory more than 100 reproductions of historical maps and paintings of the Caribbean, and numerous promotional items such as books, postcards, videos and other Brimstone Hill memorabilia.

The two-tiered admission fee structure encourages residents/citizens to visit often. School children in organized groups are admitted free of charge.

Upon request, Park staff provide interpretation and guided tours. A pool of foreign-language interpreters engaged by the Society, provide, from time to time, guided tours and interpretation to French- Spanish- German- Dutch- and Italian-speaking visitors.

Senior staff, from time to time, present lectures to taxi drivers, tour operators and the general public. Visiting experts such as archaeologists, present public lectures about their work at Brimstone Hill.

An educational package to be used in our schools is being prepared.

Special commemorative events, which involve the participation of high Government officials, are held every 3-4 years.

Promotional colour brochures are widely circulated, through the agency of our Tourism Ministry, in North America and Europe.

Every opportunity is taken to present and interpret the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park to visiting travel writers and television producers

The Ministry of Tourism promotes Brimstone Hill as a matter of course, and there exists a good and long-standing working relationship with that Ministry, as well as with the Ministry of Education.

4. Management

- a) Government of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis
- b) Brimstone Hill and its Fortress is a National Park within the terms of the National Conservation and Environment Act, 1987 which gives the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society (successor to the Society for the Restoration of Brimstone Hill) “the power to make and enforce Regulations for (its) management and administration”, and to collect and retain admission fees for its management and restoration.

The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society is a voluntary organization, registered as a non-profit Company. The Council of Management, made up of elected representatives of the members and two Government nominees, makes all policy decisions.

- c) In addition to the comprehensive terms of the Conservation Act, which includes provisions for enforcement, the Society has instituted Regulations against littering, defacement, removal of any living or non-living thing, etc. There is periodic monitoring by senior Park staff, assisted by two full-time security personnel. At peak visitations, security is reinforced by regular police.
- d) The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society.

- e) At the General office, Basseterre:

Cecil A. Jacobs, C.B.E.

Larry Armony

P.O. Box 588

Basseterre

St. Kitts

President of the Society

General Manager

(Telephone: 869 465 2609; Fax: 869 466 7784)

On site: the Park Manager

(Telephone: 869 465 6771)

- f) Draft Management and Development Plan 1997-1999 (Enclosed).

Most proposals for 1997 and 1998 have been approved, and many of these have been implemented.

- g) In the early years of the Society, funding was derived from membership subscriptions, private donations, and subventions from Government.

During the 1970s, and 80s grants were obtained from the British Development Division (mainly), the Canadian Development Agency, the Organization of American States, and private donors. The United Nations Development Programme, British Development, the Canadian Development Agency, Mukti Fund, and the French Mission assisted in the early through mid-1990s.

From the mid-1990s most project funds have been generated by admission fees (which were doubled in 1994). For the major restoration and reconstruction projects which have been proposed, external sources of funding will be sought.

The Government continues to provide free electricity supply, duty concessions on imported materials and supplies, maintenance of the road to the Fortress, as well as technical assistance.

- h) Expertise is obtained variously, depending on the needs, from:

Government of St. Kitts and Nevis

Professionals (engineers, etc) contracted locally

Consultants from the wider Caribbean, often through the agency of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC), and the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA).

Other professionals from North America (in archaeology, museology), Venezuela (in curatorship), and the United Kingdom (in archival research, and post-medieval fortifications).

Some of our senior staff participate in short, hands-on workshops.

- i) There are adequate toilet facilities at the present time, with provisions for the physically disabled. There is a Canteen (or snackette), as well as public card and coin-operated telephones.

Visitation for the past 3-year period (as at April 30 of each year) are summarized as follows:

	<u>1995-6</u>	<u>1996-7</u>	<u>1997-8</u>
Paying at the Gate	41,503	38,218	44,043
Organized Tours (mainly cruise ship)	11,234	9,449	19,843
Local groups	<u>1,987</u>	<u>1,487</u>	<u>2,971</u>
Totals	54,724	49,154	66,857

Of visitors paying at the gate, approximately 87% are non-resident, and 13% are resident

- j) The following are annexed:

Copy of Memorandum of the Society, outlining its objectives

Draft Management and Development Plan 1997-1999.

k)	1 General Manager	overall administration
	1 Park Manager	on site management
	1 Park Supervisor	manages grounds/maintenance
	1 Park Co-ordinator	part-time; some administrative functions
	1 Secretary	
	1 Museum Assistant.	
	1 Shop Assistant	
	2 Park Attendants	serve at the ticket booth and assist at Visitors Centre (including Gift Shop) and Museum.
	6 Grounds/Maintenance Staff	maintain grounds and structures
	1 Office cleaner	

In addition, a security agency is contracted to provide two full-time personnel.

5 Factors Affecting the Site

- a) No development pressures at present. Once Government approves the Draft National Physical Development Plan, this position should be assured.
- b) Dirt and grime over time, affect all external walls. Some sections (particularly limestone blocks), are eroded by wind and rain.
- c) The more immediate pressure is from fire, which originate in the surrounding cane fields and grassland. This threat should diminish once these areas are developed for livestock farming as proposed.

Earthquake and volcanic eruption are potential dangers in these Caribbean islands. As regards hurricanes, Brimstone Hill and its structures have weathered these well in this Century, and precautions are always taken. Heavy and prolonged rainfall can produce rock and land slides, but little can be done to improve upon the engineering works of the designers and builders of the Fortress. Disaster preparedness is co-ordinated with the Museums Association of the Caribbean, as well as national and regional agencies.

- d) Within recent years, it has become apparent that intense periods of visitation can produce pressures, not only on the infrastructures, but also on the aesthetic enjoyment of some visitors, and on the integrity of the Fortress as a historical monument. The Society and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment are in discussion to find ways to ameliorate the potential problems. It has already been decided that at the base of the Hill and next to the access road, a waiting station with parking area, shelter, toilets, and eventually a Visitors Centre and Canteen, will be established. Meanwhile, management has instituted a monitoring programme to determine the carrying capacity of the National Park.

- e) There are no inhabitants within the site. There are settlements within a two-mile radius, mainly along the Island Main Road, but the inhabitants pose no threat to the integrity of the National Park.
- f) There are no other significant factors affecting the site.

6. Monitoring

- a) Condition of masonry joints and vegetative growth within such joints
 - Erosion of walls, particularly limestone
 - Seepage of organic bonding agents (employed in the construction of the Fortress) through to ceilings
 - Cracks in masonry structures
 - Peeling and blistered paint on woodwork
- b) Periodic tours are undertaken by General Manager. At meetings of Senior Staff, the state of conservation is among the issues discussed ,and strategies determined.
- c) Walls have been, and are continually being cleared of vegetation, and repointed; ceilings scraped of peeling limestone rendering and restored; woodwork repainted; etc.

7. Documentation

- a) 4 8x11 photographic prints; 36 4x6 photographic prints, all labelled.
1 9-minute video (as is presented at Visitors Centre)
- b) 1 copy of extract from Memorandum of the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society.

1 copy of extract from National Conservation and Environment Protection Act, No. 5 of 1987.

1 copy of Draft Management and Development Plan, 1997-1999.

1 map of the Caribbean; 1 map of St. Kitts; 1 plan of Brimstone Hill Fortress;
1 extract from map annexed to Draft National Physical Development Plan of St. Kitts with attached key, showing proposed (and current) land use for the area around Brimstone Hill.
- c) George H. King, I.S.O. 'Brimstone Hill, the Gibraltar of the West Indies' (undated)
D. L. Matheson, C.B.E. 'The Brimstone Hill Fortress' (undated)
Frederik C. Gjessing, Arch., A.I.A. 'Feasibility Study for the Development of Brimstone Hill (1983).

Victor TC. Smith, B.A. 'The Brimstone Hill Fortress; A report on its history, with Proposals for continued restoration' (1989).
 'Fire and Brimstone: The Story of the Brimstone Hill Fortress, St. Kitts, West Indies, 1690-1853' (1992).
 'Brimstone Hill Fortress' (parts one and two published in the journal 'Post-Medieval Archaeology', 1994, 1995).

(Note: Victor Smith, a past president of the Society, has written other published papers).

Rhonda De Athe 'Wildlife Description and Nature Program Proposals for Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts' (1990).

Gerald F. Schroedl, PhD, 'A Report on the July 1997 Archaeological Investigations At the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park' (1998)

(Note: Dr. Schroedl and his colleagues have written several papers based on archaeological investigations at Brimstone Hill).

- d) The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society
 P. O. Box 588
 Taylor's Range
 Basseterre
 St. Kitts

8. Signature on behalf of the State Party



- International Boundary
- Road
- Railway
- International/Main Airport
- Capital City
- Important Town
- Other Town
- BELIZE Caricom Member

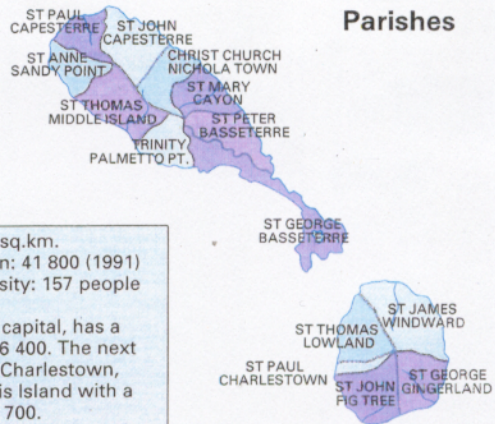
0 100 200 300 400 500 kilometres

St Christopher and Nevis

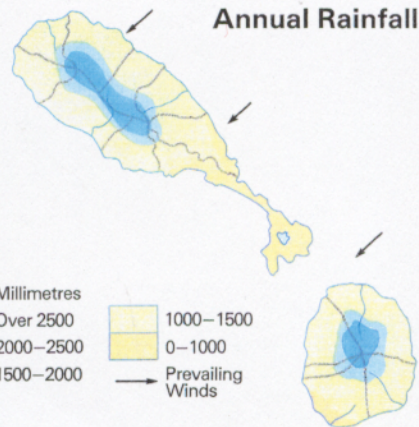


Total area: 267 sq.km.
 Total population: 41 800 (1991)
 Population density: 157 people per sq.km.
 Basseterre, the capital, has a population of 16 400. The next largest town is Charlestown, located on Nevis Island with a population of 1 700.

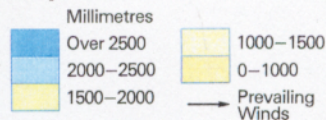
Parishes



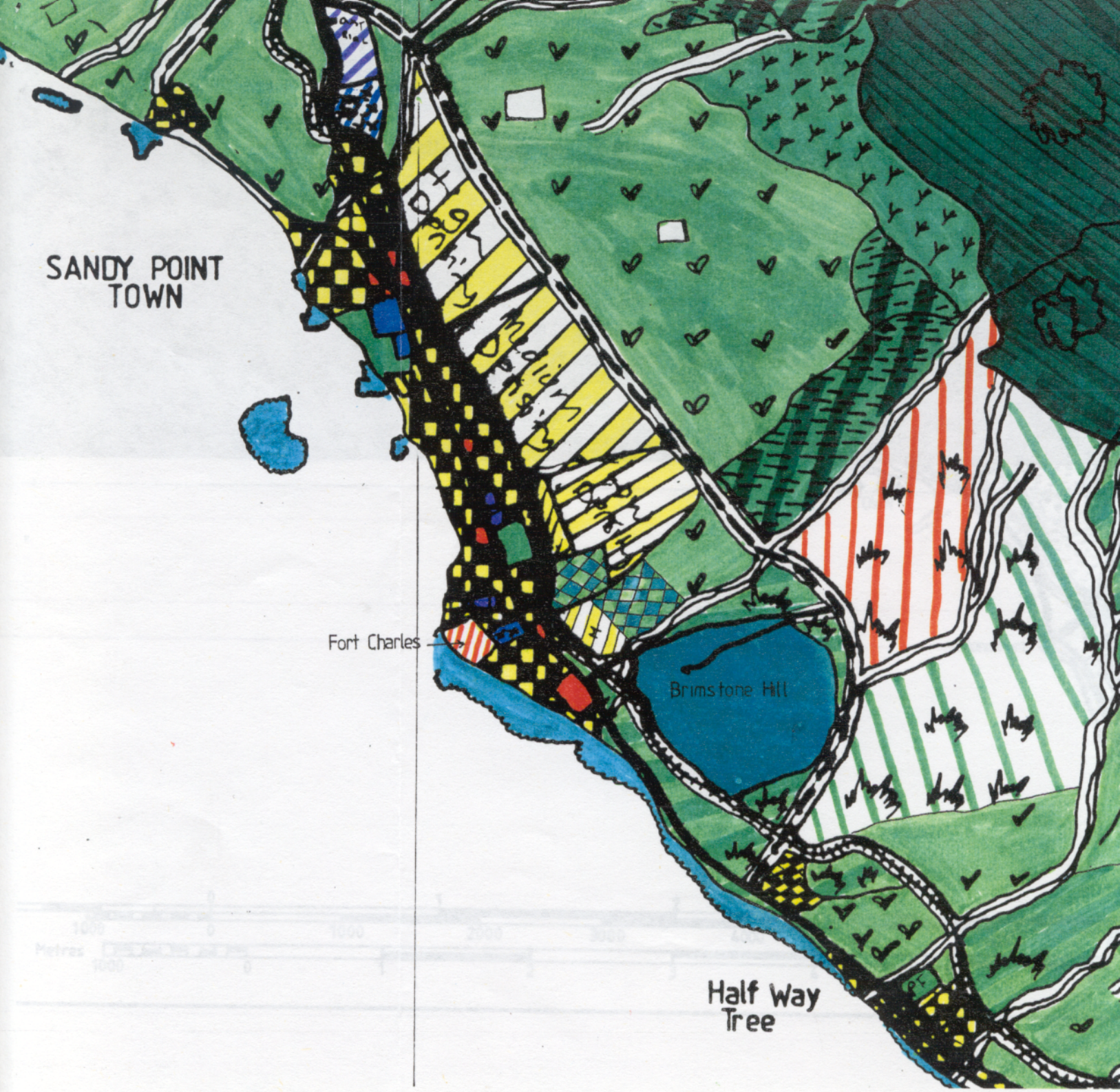
Annual Rainfall



Key



0 5 10 15 kilometres



SANDY POINT TOWN

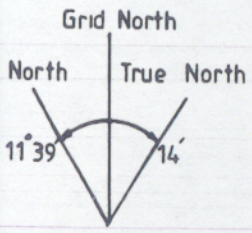
Fort Charles

Brimstone Hill

Half Way Tree

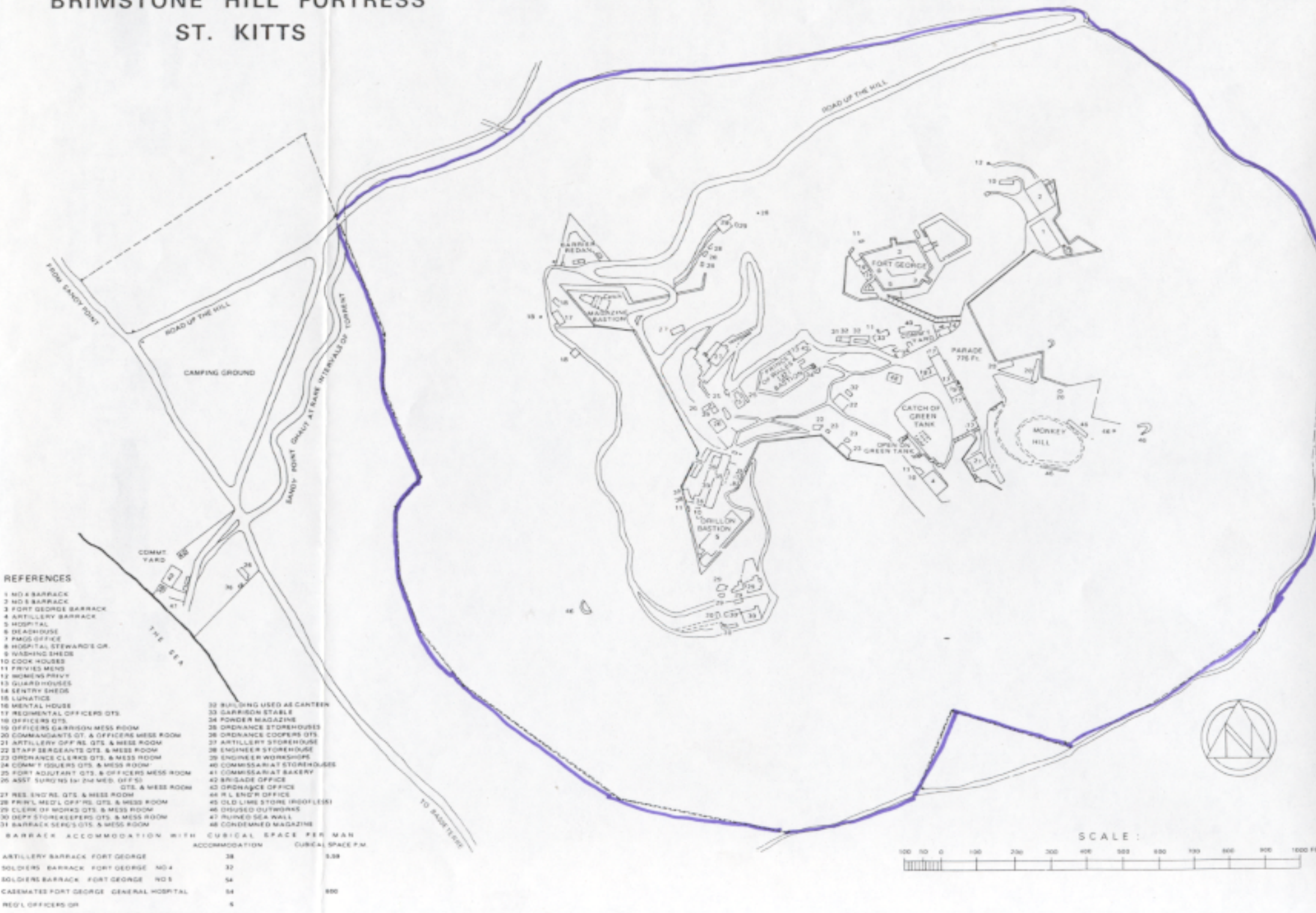
NORTH POINT

LEGEND					
	SSMC Railway		Coral Reef		Proposed Industrial Site
	Proposed Road		Forest Reserve		Proposed Livestock Farming
	Ghats		Proposed Cemetery		Proposed Low Density Tourism
	Existing Builtup Area		Woodland		
	Proposed High Density Housing		Non Sugar Farming [Crops]		
	Proposed Medium Density Housing		Playing Field		
	Proposed Low Density Housing		Industrial Activity		
	Livestock Farming		Institution		
	Sugar Cane		Commercial Activity		
	Scrub				



Grid North
North True North
11°39'

BRIMSTONE HILL FORTRESS ST. KITTS



REFERENCES

- 1 NO 4 BARRACK
- 2 NO 8 BARRACK
- 3 FORT GEORGE BARRACK
- 4 ARTILLERY BARRACK
- 5 HOSPITAL
- 6 DEADHOUSE
- 7 PMOS OFFICE
- 8 HOSPITAL STEWARD'S QR.
- 9 WASHING SHEDS
- 10 COOK HOUSES
- 11 PRIVIES MEN'S
- 12 WOMEN'S PRIVY
- 13 GUARD HOUSES
- 14 ENTRY SHEDS
- 15 LUNATICS
- 16 MENTAL HOUSE
- 17 REGIMENTAL OFFICERS QTS
- 18 OFFICERS QTS
- 19 OFFICERS GARRISON MESS ROOM
- 20 COMMANDANTS QTS & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 21 ARTILLERY OFFICERS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 22 STAFF SERGEANTS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 23 ORDNANCE CLERKS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 24 COMBAT ISSUERS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 25 FORT ADJUTANT QTS & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 26 ASST. SURGONS IN CHARGE MED. OFF'G
- 27 REG. ENDRS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 28 PRIN'L MED'L OFF'RS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 29 CLERK OF WORKS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 30 DEPT. STOREKEEPERS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 31 BARRACK SERGS QTS & MESS ROOM
- 32 BUILDING USED AS CANTEN
- 33 GARRISON STABLE
- 34 POWDER MAGAZINE
- 35 ORDNANCE STOREHOUSES
- 36 ORDNANCE COOPERS QTS
- 37 ARTILLERY STOREHOUSE
- 38 ENGINEER STOREHOUSE
- 39 ENGINEER WORKSHOPS
- 40 COMMISSARIAT STOREHOUSES
- 41 COMMISSARIAT BAKERY
- 42 BRIGADE OFFICE
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- 44 R.L. ENDR OFFICE
- 45 OLD LIME STORE (ROOFLESS)
- 46 DISUSED OUTWORKS
- 47 RUINED SEA WALL
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N.B. BLACK DOTS SHOW GUN MARKING BOUNDARIES









SAINT CHRISTOPHER (ST. KITTS)
NATIONAL PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

VOLUME 1
THE BACKGROUND/SURVEY DOCUMENT
(DRAFT)

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With Technical Assistance from:
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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FOREWORD

The spatial planning process requires the ability to collect data and to analyze the existing situation in the context of its social, economic and political, as well as its physical circumstance. In addition, it requires the ability to forecast any likely changes that are apparent from prevailing trends; understand the extent to which these changes will affect other aspects of the environment; judge their desirability; decide upon the best strategy to guide and control change; and, assess performance of the chosen strategy.

This Background/Survey document consists of a compilation of the following:

- A critical, up-to-date and comprehensive information base.
- The analyses which permit a full understanding of the conditions and relationships that exist between various components so as to guide the formulation of plans and policies.
- Clarification and diagnosis of key problems and constraints with respect to physical planning and other sectors.
- Forecasts of likely future changes with respect to population, households and land requirements.
- A variety of planning tools and strategies to guide and control changes.
- Physical planning concerns and core issues that are critical for the successful implementation of the National Physical Development Plan.

The document is supplemented by the following Volumes:

- Volume 11: Policy options, strategies and proposals: The Plan Document.
- Volume 111: Summary Document: Reflects the salient features of the Plan Document.
- Volume 1V: Project Concepts: Represent a compilation of private/public sector investment opportunities and community level actions arising from the plan formulation exercise.

The project team views participation/consultation as a mechanism which is vital in the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies for environmentally sound and sustainable development. This meant an interactive, consultative and participatory approach as far as possible during the plan preparation process. It facilitated the integration of national, sectoral and local initiatives in the identification and design of physical development policies, strategies and programmes.

Finally, it is to be noted that spatial planning is an on-going process, and as such must not be considered rigid or inflexible. This National Physical Development Plan sets the framework for guiding physical development rather than try to impose rigid development patterns. Therefore, options decided upon early in the study can change based on the outcome of other parts of the process. There should be continuous processes that include the identification and design of strategies, plans, priorities, projects and programmes which all require monitoring and evaluation.

Yours truly

.....
Elizabeth Mwakosya,
UNCHS/UNDP Physical Planner,
United Nations Volunteer Specialist.

- Any consideration of the natural environment must take into account the importance of agriculture in the development of the island. A balance has to be aimed for, between rural development and the conservation of the natural environment, by minimizing the adverse effects of agriculture on the environment. Farming should only occur in these areas most suited for cultivation.
- The encroachment of urban development into farmlands and the natural environment should be brought under check. A policy of urban containment and/or concentration should be pursued. A policy of urban containment requires a greater degree of development control with due regard to the infrastructural and community needs.
- The essential difference between rural and urban activities in land use terms is that, while rural activities depend on the land upon which they occur, urban activities for the most part are not dependent on the land upon which they occur. Obviously, certain urban activities do demand specific site requirements, such as availability of flat land, accessibility and location. In general terms rural activities are linked up with site considerations such as soils, slope and water. Thus, the ordering of the urban environment allows much more freedom of scope than does the rural environment.
- The importance of EIA in physical development planning is critical to the conservation and protection of fragile ecosystems. EIAs should be prepared for major projects, and for developments proposed in ecologically sensitive areas. Site design requirements for protecting environmental values should also be incorporated. New legislation aimed at creating or making EIA's mandatory has been drafted by the OECS Natural Resource Management Unit (OECS/NRMU) and the German Technical Cooperation Project (GTZ), and approved by Heads of Government, but remains to be customized and enacted in St. Kitts and Nevis.

3.3 CONSERVATION

3.3.1 Background

The establishment, protection and management of natural areas is primarily based on the National Conservation and Environmental Protection Act (NCEPA, 1987). However, lack of management regulations along with the lack of performance on the part of the National Conservation Commission (as required by NCEPA), has constrained demarcation and management measures required to ensure protection and conservation of areas of outstanding natural beauty, important habitats and unique geological significance.

However, it is worthwhile to mention that despite these draw backs, valuable work has been undertaken by the Brimstone Hill Fortress Park Society and the St. Christopher Heritage Society towards preserving some of these sites.

The Government is aware of a number of problems related to environmental protection/conservation and is considering additional measures to upgrade policies in accordance with the identified needs. This section briefly brings up problems and existing policies in the areas of the protection of coastal resources, natural resources, landscape and built environment.

3.3.2 Heritage Sites

Resources in need of conservation measures in St. Kitts include buildings and areas of historic and/or architectural interest as well as Arawak and possibly Arawak/Carib sites of archeological value. Of historic and architectural interest are many old Parish Churches, Estate Houses, Sugar Mills and the Brimstone Hill Fortress (Figure 3.16). It is necessary to consider conservation aspects in planning of physical developments in these old centres. All structures and sites worthy of conservation need to be identified, listed, statutorily protected and conserved through the introduction of proper maintenance and management policies. So far, some of the most valuable buildings/sites have been protected, surveys have been undertaken and lists drawn-up covering certain areas or categories. Part of the information on Heritage was obtained during the Physical Survey organized by the Planning Unit (1996).

The Tourism Master Plan (1993), breaks down heritage sites into four categories described as follows:-

- Table 3.17 lists sites or complexes of exceptional historical and/or architectural value (Category I). The sites in this category are presently, or potentially, essential to the tourism activity, and must be preserved and treated with great sensitivity.
- Table 3.18 identifies sites of considerable historical and/or architectural merit, with high potential for enhancing the tourism product (Category II). These sites should be protected, but could be renovated for an adaptive use (library, hotel, cultural center, or shopping complex), consistent with their use in tourism. The table includes descriptions of the estate buildings listed. The category contains the major plantation inns and important historical church, Government, and commercial buildings in current use.
- Table 3.19 (Category III) lists windmills (mills) and chimneys; which represent two different technological eras in the history of plantation sugar production. These stone structures dot the country side of St. Kitts and should be protected, stabilized and maintained. In addition to chimneys and mills, this category includes other important landmarks.
- Table 3.20 (Category IV) lists other cultural and historical sites with limited importance and/or integrity, that should be preserved, with appropriate development the sites in this category could be used to enhance the tourism program.

Furthermore, the Tourism Master Plan recommends that all Category I sites should be designated as "protected areas" by the National Conservation Commission in accordance with the National Conservation and Environmental Act. (No.5, 1987); and that protected area designation should also be considered for all Category II sites. It further states that the sites located at Bloody Point, Palmetto Point, and Black Rocks are priorities in terms of conservation and research for scientific and educational purposes and as tourist attractions; and that archeological sites on the South-east Peninsula should be protected and incorporated into the development and tourism planning for that region.

TABLE 3.17
CATEGORY I
SITES FOR NATIONAL CULTURAL/HISTORICAL PATRIMONY - ST. KITTS

HISTORICAL SITES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brimstone Hill Fortress Charles Fort Spooner's Cotton Ginnery St. Kitts Sugar Factory and Compound Railroad Track and Stations Chateau de la Montagne (De Poincy) St. Thomas Anglican Church Sir Thomas Warner's Tomb Government House Georgian House Treasury Building St. George Anglican Church Wingfield Manor Estate Upper Mansion Palmetto Point Church (Needs further research) Springfield Cemetery Estridge Estate Independence Square
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palmetto Point Town and Fort Stone Fort Ghaut Petroglyphs Wingfield Petroglyphs Canoe Bay Homestead I and II Ballast Bay Great Salt Pond Black Rocks
HISTORICAL DISTRICTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basseterre Sandy point Old Road Cayon Dieppe Bay

Source: St. Kitts and Nevis Tourism Master Plan (1993) and Physical Survey (April - May 1996).

- **Lack of Parks and Open Spaces**

There is a lack of parks and open spaces. In this respect, there is a need for identifying sites for parks/open spaces in all new housing developments. All subdivisions of over twenty (20) lots should reserve a minimum of 5% of the total site for recreational purposes. For multi-family residential development, a recreational space should be generated at a rate of 100 sq.ft. per apartment unit and 300 sq. ft. for semi-detached units.

- **Need for a Parks and Protected Areas Plan**

The country needs a comprehensive and integrated parks and protected areas plan, which evaluates all designated protected areas, and adding other areas which are not protected. Outstanding sites which are not designated as parks/botanical gardens or protected areas include:

- The Upper mansion rainforest and spring at Whitehall.
- The Whitegate area.
- East Basseterre (corner of Frigate Bay and Valu Mart Bypass road).

The National Physical Development Plan recommends the following management categories for protected areas:

- **National Parks:** To protect outstanding natural and scenic areas of national or international importance and provide recreational, scientific and educational activities. These are relatively large areas containing a diversity of ecosystems.
- **Natural Land Marks:** To protect natural features of a unique character. These are generally small areas rather than complete ecosystems and provide recreational activities
- **Cultural Landmarks (including archaeological and Historical Sites) and Recreation Areas:** To protect cultural features of a unique character and to provide public access for educational and recreational uses related to the feature.
- **Forest Reserves, Wildlife Reserves and marine Conservation Areas:** To protect upland forests littoral mangrove, wildlife habitats, productive fish habitats, salt ponds, dunes, beaches, seagrass beds and coral reefs which possess special aesthetic and/or ecological qualities.
- **Multiple Use Management Areas:** To manage large areas (e.g. watersheds) which are suitable for sustained production of water, wood products, wildlife, forage and for soil conservation, outdoor recreation and education. Use of these areas would be primarily oriented to the support of economic activities, but special zones may be established within them for nature protection.

CHAPTER 2

CONCEPTUAL NATIONAL PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The National Physical Development Plan outlines strategic proposals for the development of St. Kitts over the next twenty (20) years. It therefore, provides a long term development perspective to guide and coordinate more discrete Programmes and projects. The Plan has been prepared with the objective of consciously promoting spatial dimension or locational aspects as an inherent part of the overall development plan.

This chapter comprehensively summarizes most of the strategic proposals and locational aspects of the proposed developmental objectives, policies and measures. These guidelines will need to be elaborated in the context of local level detailed community/land use planning.

2.1. STRATEGIC PROPOSALS

The key elements of the strategic proposals are:

- Settlement planning and control (settlement organisation).
- Industrial development.
- Tourism development.
- Institutional development.
- Environmental protection.
- Agricultural development.
- Forest development.

2.1.1 Settlement Planning and Control Areas.

The proposed national settlement system consists of a hierarchical and interactive system of centers, with a range of community facilities and services consistent with the catchment populations and functions of the centers.

The proposed settlement hierarchy comprises four levels:

- National Capital - Basseterre.
- Districts Centers - Sandy Point, Cayon, Saddlers.
- Primary Centers - St. Peters, St. Pauls, Old Road/Verchild's, Dieppe Bay, Tabernacle and Molineux.
- Minor Centers - New Guinea, Phillips, Needsmust, Kittstoddarts, Christ Church, Bourryeau Village, Camps, Lavington, Belle Vue, Keys, Harris, West Farm, Trinity, Buckley's Estate, Shadwell Estate, Godwin Ghaut, Stonefort, Ottleys, Lodge, Mattingley, Lamberts, Middle Island, Halfway Tree, Conaree, Mansion, Boyds, Challengers, Parsons and Newton Ground.

- Each resort should be required to develop its beach area to allow for adequate public access and usage, with beach facilities and infrastructure for public use being an integral component plan.
- Each resort should be required to provide a public easement to the beach.
- Construction of public facilities (Police Station, Fire Department, Commercial areas etc.) should keep pace with resort construction so that services will be available as resorts open for business.
- Hucksters should be concentrated in a carefully designed facility in one of the Town Centers or at facilities provided by resorts. They should not be allowed to pester tourists on the beach.

As per recommendations of the Tourism Master Plan (1993) the following are proposed:

BASSETERRE:

- Preservation of the town's historical character.
- Establishment of a national museum.

BOYD'S/CHALLENGER'S:

- Preservation of the following important pre-historic - archaeological sites:
 - Palmetto Point - the site of a 17th Century battery and town, abandoned 1850.
 - Stonefort Ghaut - One of the first clearly documented settlements of the Antillean Caribs and the home of Chief Tegreman, the first identifiable Kittitian.
 - Bloody Point.
 - Stonefort Estate.
- Development of an Amerindian historical park in the Stonefort area - with a small museum, interpretation centre, recreation areas for picnicking, public performance and community activities.

OLD ROAD/MIDDLE ISLAND:

- Preservation of Old Road's Historical Character. (It was the first British Settlement in the Caribbean).
- Identification of the older buildings for restoration and adaptive uses.
- Restoration of the Wingfield Manor Estate yard.

SANDY POINT/FIG TREE:

- **Brimstone Hill National Park:** Already a major attraction and recreational site. The National Physical Development Plan reinstates the continued protection of Brimstone Hill

National Park area as a major environmental conservation area. The Plan fully recognizes the importance of environmental conservation policies designed to preserve valuable natural and man-made resources for economic, social, cultural and ecologically reasons. A multi-facet Brimstone Hill National Park conservation strategy has been included as a component of the National Physical Development Plan. This Include:

- Protection and enhancement of Brimstone Hill National Park in order to ensure that it continue to be an invaluable contributor to the aesthetic quality of the landscape, and to facilitate its effective use as a significant recreational resource in general and major resource of the tourist industry in particular.
 - Establishment of a one mile buffer zone around Brimstone Hill. This would help to reduce the land use and environmental conflicts posed by inconsistent uses such as polluting industries, quarrying operations and high density residential development.
 - Preparation and implementation of a detailed National Park development plan.
 - Ensure through design and development control that land use development on the adjoining areas is suitable for the National Park environment/compatible with the park development objective.
- Incorporation of Commissariat Yard into Brimstone Hill National Park - Commissariat Yard (Located south of Brimstone Hill) is a potential historical/archeological site in respect of African Slaves.
 - Development of Fort Charles as a tourist/cultural centre - visitor/interpretation and activities centre for the National Park. The National Physical Development Plan recommends development of activities such as cultural presentations, music festivals and other special events at the site.
 - Protection of historical sites/buildings.
 - Development of the greathouse and the reservoir at Farm Estate as a small hotel.
 - Identification and promotion of the sulphur vent located below Brimstone Hill, next to the island main road.

DIEPPE BAY:

- Restoration of Caines' Estate as a tourist attraction.
- Restoration of other important ruins in the town.
- Development of Gibbon's Pasture as a recreational area.

BLACK ROCKS/BELLE VUE:

- Development of Belle Vue Estate as a tourist attraction.
- Development of the archeological site (with pre-historical and historical components) as an interpretation centre for early settlement histories.

- Molineux
- Cayon - Cunningham Housing extension, Methodist Church area.
- Lodge
- Conaree
- Basseterre - College Street, Westbourne Ghaut.

Telecommunication

Cable and Wireless will continue its programme of developing a state of the art telecommunication system for St. Kitts. Government is participating in an OECS Telecommunications Regulatory Reform and Tariff Policy and Review of Telecommunications Concessions Project. The primary objective of this project is to help OECS participating countries diversify their economies and stimulate generation of employment. The project would consist of three main components.

- Improving formulation of the telecommunications sector policy.
- Modernisation of the telecommunications regulatory framework to help the countries establish a harmonised telecommunication regulatory framework and regulatory body consistent with international best practice and national policy objectives.
- The review of current concessions for the provision of Telecommunications services.

Transportation

Transport is one of the key factors which largely determine the level of efficiency at which a country is functioning. Currently such transport problems as congestion on the roads, inadequate public transport services/facilities and insufficient pedestrian facilities make a significant negative impact on the economy. These problems could become in the near future even more severe due to the projected changes in those exogeneous factors which affect urban transport, including growth of car ownership.

To cope with the present and future transport needs in the country, the National Physical Development Plan has adopted the following strategic proposals:

Road Network Development:

- Development of new traffic corridors and improvement of critical areas of the existing corridors to channel through traffic around the congested areas as follows:
 - **West Basseterre - Airport highway:** to by-pass the central Basseterre area and to facilitate access to the Airport.
 - **Trinity - Conyers highway:** To by-pass Challengers/Old Road/Verchids/Middle Island area and to create an adequate south arterial route for the island as a whole.
 - **New Guinea - Sandy Point by-pass road:** To reduce traffic congestion in Sandy Point.
 - **East St. Pauls by-pass road:** To reduce traffic congestion in St. Pauls.
 - **Tabernacle - Belle Vue road:** To improve settlement integration.
 - **Verchids - Molineux arterial road:** To facilitate cross-country link and to serve agricultural extensions and tourism.

CHAPTER 3

POLICY GUIDELINES

The primary goal of the plan is to improve the quality of life by securing social and economic benefits for the national community from the rational development of St. Kitts.

3.1. POPULATION

Objective:

- To achieve the levels of growth and composition of the population which will facilitate national economic development and a socially vibrant community.

Policy:

- Provide an adequate range of socio-economic opportunities which will act to stem previous emigration patterns and encourage growth of the national population.

3.2 DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Objective:

To establish a system of settlement which promotes balanced development amongst districts, an efficient system of settlements, optimum use of natural resources and conservation of the dominant scale and character of the natural environment.

Policies:

- Continue to develop and manage human settlements in ways which minimize their impacts on the natural environment and make efficient use of their natural and other resources.
- Encourage and develop sustainable economies in human settlements which will provide for a strong environmentally sound economic base for healthy and safe employment and sufficient income of all people.
- Direct human settlement development to areas which bear no risk of natural hazards.
- Protect critical areas, including fragile eco-systems, shorelines and erosion-prone areas from the negative impacts of human settlements.
- Take adequate and appropriate steps to protect freshwater resources from negative impacts by human settlements, ensuring, inter alia, that waste-water discharged into streams and oceans are properly treated.
- Protect and maintain historic values and cultural heritage, including traditional settlement patterns from negative impacts.

- development of land come under the jurisdiction of a central co-ordinating authority. In this manner, all proposed development is channeled through one body.
- Establish Land Registry and amend pertinent legislation.
 - Continue to implement, establish an Integrated Geographic Information System, so as to enable planners to respond appropriately in solving planning problems.
 - Conduct a cadastre survey all over the island so as to depict land ownership and exact acreages for different land uses.

Sources of Finance:

- Further develop existing housing financing facilities and enhance other financial institutions in order to match them better with the affordability consideration.

Improving Construction Standards, Maintenance and Rehabilitation:

- Review and approve St. Kitts/Nevis Building Code/Guidelines prepared by OECS/UNDP.
- Institute effective incentives for production and appropriate use of local materials and methods.
- Encourage the private sector to develop and apply environmentally sound construction technologies and materials.

3.13 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Many people in the world are living with ongoing, disproportionate degradation of their immediate and surrounding environments which threatens the survival of our planet. The environment is especially put at risk by indiscriminate industrial development and by lack of awareness and acceptance of personal responsibility. Therefore, it is important for Government to implement the following recommended policies:

Public Education:

- Establish procedures to facilitate/promote community-based action of conservation, rehabilitation and re-habilitation of neighbourhoods, ensuring that their concerns are properly taken into account.

Conservation and Rehabilitation of Historical and Cultural Heritage:

- Educate/promote awareness among developers on the value of historic/cultural sites.
- Encourage and support local cultural institutions and associations.
- Create public awareness regarding importance of historic sites in national development.
- Establish an effective authority to manage and maintain historic and natural heritage sites.
- Provide adequate legal support for and enforcement of conservation and re-habilitation policies.

Brimstone Hill (St Kitts/Nevis)

No 910

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park
<i>Location</i>	Parish of St Thomas, St Christopher (St Kitts)
<i>State Party</i>	Saint Christopher and Nevis
<i>Date</i>	29 June 1998

Justification by State Party

The Brimstone Hill Fortress is of historical, cultural, and architectural significance - a monument to the ingenuity of the British military engineers who designed it and supervised its construction and to the skill, strength, and endurance of the African slaves who built and maintained it.

The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park is worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List for the following reasons:

- Adapting classical 17th and 18th century European fortification design to the construction of an extensive and self-contained military complex on the steep slopes and the top of a jagged arid hill some 230m high is a marvellous feat of engineering.
- In some of its architectural features, notably the Citadel, are expressed elements of different stages of fortress design.
- It is an embodiment of European imperialism, the enslavement of Africans, and the emergence of a distinctive Caribbean culture.
- It is indicative of the competition for power and wealth at a crucial stage in world history.
- It provides a medium by and through which the geology, ecology, and history of the Caribbean can be understood.
- As managed, in accordance with established criteria, by a competent local organization on behalf of the people of a young nation, the majority of whose citizens are descended from former slaves, it is a symbol of the endurance of a colonized African people and of the integrity of Caribbean culture, and as such it can be an inspiration to other young nations in a post-colonial era.

[**Note** The State Party does not make any proposals in the nomination dossier concerning the criteria under which it considers the property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List.]

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 *monument*.

History and Description

History

Known as Liamuiga (Fertile Island) to the native Amerindians, St Kitts was the first Caribbean island to be permanently settled by both the English (in 1623) and the French (1625), who shared it between 1627 and 1713, when it came under sole English control through the Treaty of Utrecht, at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. Known as the "Mother Island," it provided the model and the springboard for English and French colonization in the Caribbean.

African slaves were brought in from the earliest years of European settlement, and it was on St Kitts and the other early colonies that the plantation system, based on sugar production and slavery, had its roots. Some syncretic forms that combine elements of the cultures of Europe, Africa, and - to a lesser extent - Native America, can be traced to St Kitts.

The military use of Brimstone Hill began in 1690, when the British mounted cannon on the north-west side to drive the French from Fort Charles, just below the hill. It became a place of refuge in the event of invasion, as, for example, when the French invaded in 1706.

In 1782 the Fortress was besieged by the French, to whom it was surrendered after holding out for a month. However, in the same year the British won a resounding naval victory over the French at the Battle of the Saints, thereby establishing British naval superiority. The Treaty of Versailles in 1783 (which granted independence to the thirteen colonies in North America) restored the island to the British and a period of intensive reconstruction and investment began. Because of its reconstructed and very formidable defences, St Kitts became known as the "Gibraltar of the Caribbean." It successfully drove off an attack by the French navy in 1806. From this time onwards the British navy was able to ensure the security of its island colonies in the Caribbean.

The fortress was abandoned as a result of British defence cuts in 1853. The wooden buildings were auctioned and dismantled and masonry buildings were plundered for their cut stone; natural vegetation progressively took over.

Description

Brimstone Hill is an twin-peaked upthrust of volcanic rock 230m high, clad with limestone over much of its surface. It is covered with scrub, with patches of bare rock in places; the more sheltered areas and ravines are covered with large trees and dense undergrowth.

Unlike the Spanish Caribbean fortresses, Brimstone Hill was not constructed to protect a harbour or important town. Its role was to protect that part of the coast of the island settled by the English against attack from the sea, and also to provide a place of refuge in case of invasion, until the Royal Navy could secure the surrounding waters and force the

surrender of the invading land army. As such it is strategically distinct from the Spanish fortresses.

The structures are on different levels on the upper third of the hill. They consist of a series of discontinuous masonry walls, four defensive bastions, a citadel on the northern of the twin summits, and a series of barracks, magazines, water catchments, cisterns, and other military buildings, now in a ruinous state. The various components are linked by branches of the military road, which enters the complex from the north.

The principal structural material was dressed stone (basalt) blocks, with a rubble core. Unlike the Spanish forts, those built by the British were not faced with stucco. However, the local limestone was used as a decorative element for quoining and facing round doorways and embrasures.

On entering the Fortress, the first structure is the *Barrier Redoubt*, with defensive walls and a small casemate that served as a guardroom and powder magazine. Next comes the *North-West Work*, which incorporates the stout Magazine Bastion with its associated water catchment and cistern.

This is linked by a curtain wall to the *South-East Work*, the main feature of which is the Orillon Bastion, the counterpart to the Magazine Bastion. A prominent feature here is the bombproof Ordnance Storehouse. The hospital was located within this bastion, but only its foundations survive. Outside the wall there is a small cemetery with tombstones.

Behind the defensive line formed by the North-West and South-East Works and at a higher level is the massive *Prince of Wales Bastion*. Within its walls are situated a cistern, a magazine, and a guardroom (now adapted for use as a small conference centre) with underground storeroom. This has been restored with great care and accuracy.

There is an impressive row of colonnaded basements of the *Infantry Officers' Quarters* nearby. The wooden upper storeys were destroyed by a hurricane in 1844 and replaced by smaller stone structures, only one of which survives, in reconstructed form. These face the *Grand Water Catchment System*, consisting of a paved catchment area covering more than 150m², three underground water cisterns, and an open tank, capable of storing over 400,000 litres of water.

No more than some ruined walls of the *Artillery Officers' Quarters* survive, but the kitchen has been restored. In the Commissariat Yard the *Warrant Officers' Quarters* and the *Commissariat Storehouse* have been reconstructed and are now used as an interpretation centre and gift shop.

The system of walls known as the *North-East Work* has several barrack blocks behind it, but they are still unrestored. Archaeological excavations have taken place with a view to eventual reconstruction.

The heart of the Fortress is *Fort George*, the massive masonry structure on one of the twin peaks that dominate the complex, still in an excellent state of repair. It is the earliest surviving British example of the type of fortification known as the "Polygonal System," and one of the finest examples known anywhere in the world. Together with two associated parade grounds, this is usually known as the Citadel. A series of rooms is grouped around a central courtyard; seven of these have been restored and now house the museum. There is a large cistern below the floor of one of the rooms which is still in use as the main source of water for the National Park.

There are many other ruined structures within the walls and on the slopes outside.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The 15.37ha of the Brimstone Hill Fortress is a National Park as defined in the National Conservation and Environment Act 1987.

Management

The property is owned by the Federation of St Christopher and Nevis.

It is covered by the 1998 draft National Physical Development and Planning Act for St Kitts, undertaken with technical assistance from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Development Programme. The Act specifies the following conditions regarding the Park:

- Provision of protection and enhancement of the National Park in order to ensure that it continues to make an invaluable contribution to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape;
- Establishment of a 1-mile (1.6km) buffer zone around Brimstone Hill;
- Preparation and implementation of a detailed National Park management plan;
- Ensuring by design and development control that land-use development on the adjoining areas is compatible with the Park development objectives.

The 1987 Act assigns to the Brimstone Hill National Park Society "the power to make and enforce regulations for [its] management and administration." The Society is a voluntary organization, registered as a non-profit-making company. Policy decisions are taken by its Council of Management, which is composed of representatives elected by its members with two Government nominees.

In the 1960s, after its foundation as the Society for the Restoration of Brimstone Hill, the Society's income was derived from membership subscriptions, private donations, and government subventions. In the two succeeding decades it received grants from the Canadian Development Agency, the Organization of American States, and in particular from the British Development Division. In the mid 1990s assistance was also obtained from the UNDP, the Mukti Fund, and the French Mission, and since that time most project funds have been generated by admission fees (which were doubled in 1994). The Government continues to provide free electricity, duty concessions on imported materials and supplies, and maintenance of the road to the Fortress.

The headquarters of the Society is in Basseterre, where the President and General Manager are located. Technical assistance comes from the Government, local professionals, and experts from overseas (North America, Venezuela, and the United Kingdom). There is a Park Manager on site, with a staff of fourteen. Senior Park staff carry out periodic monitoring, assisted by two full-time security personnel.

A draft Management Plan for 1997-99 includes a phased programme of restoration and stabilization, ground clearance, reconstruction and new construction, infrastructural development, interpretation, archaeological investigation, museum development, furnishing, promotion, operations, entertainment, personnel, revision of membership structure, and approaches to Government. This is accompanied by a detailed budget.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

There was a programme of selective brush cutting by the Government between 1900 and 1929, but the rehabilitation of the monument began in 1965, when the Society for the Restoration of Brimstone Hill was set up and leased the site from the Government. Work concentrated first on the clearance of vegetation from selected walls and the stabilization of some of the main structures. With technical assistance from the UK and the USA, reconstruction projects were initiated when these were needed for the provision of visitor and staff facilities.

Authenticity

As an historic military defensive ensemble the Fortress possesses a high level of authenticity. Stabilization, restoration, and reconstruction projects carried out since 1965 have involved the discreet use of modern materials, usually in combination with traditional materials. Portland cement has been used for the preparation of mortars, but mixed with lime in recommended proportions. New stone has been used in reconstructions, but worked using traditional techniques. Where wood has been used for reconstructions, it has not always proved possible to obtain the original timbers, but care has been taken to apply authentic dimensions and wood-working techniques.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Brimstone Hill in February 1999.

Qualities

Brimstone Hill Fortress is an outstanding example of 17th and 18th century European military engineering in a Caribbean context and on a commanding natural site.

Comparative analysis

Brimstone Hill was among the fortified sites in the Caribbean region studied by the Expert Meeting on this subject organized by Colcultura and UNESCO and held at Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in July/August 1996. Its special multi-ethnic background (Amerindian, English, French, African) was identified as an outstanding quality, along with the fact that it was the first English colony established in the Caribbean. It was one of five major fortresses that were singled out for special mention: the others were Shirley Heights (Antigua, 1786-93), The Garrison, Bridgetown (Barbados, 1650-1750), The Cabrits (Dominica, 1770-1815), and Fort Rodney, Pigeon Island (St Lucia, 1778-1824). All were built by the British, but all except The Garrison (which is less completely preserved than

Brimstone Hill) are significantly later in date than Brimstone Hill. The Cabrits and Fort Rodney served a strategic purpose analogous with that of Brimstone Hill, serving as both fortresses and refuge points.

ICOMOS recommendations for future action

As visitor numbers grow, two problems will have to be faced by the Park management. First, there will inevitably be greater wear-and-tear on the monuments themselves, which will increase the level of maintenance required. Secondly, it will become necessary to make alternative provision for access and parking. At the present time cars are parked on the Parade Ground. This necessitates passing through the narrow gateway and driving up the equally narrow roadway, neither of which can be widened without an adverse impact on the authenticity of the property. Consideration must be given to the eventual provision of a shuttle service for visitors, thereby reducing the threat to the site.

These provisions should be incorporated into the draft Management Plan for the National Park. It is essential also that the National Development and Planning Act should be approved and implemented without further delay, so as to provide the legislative framework for all future activities at Brimstone Hill.

According to the land-use plan accompanying the nomination, land to the east of and behind Brimstone Hill, at present forested and used for pasture, is zoned for low-density tourist facilities (restaurants, small houses, etc). ICOMOS feels that this proposal should be reconsidered, since its present condition contributes significantly to the picturesque background of the monument.

Brief description

Brimstone Hill is an outstanding example of the application of the principles of 17th and 18th century military architecture in a Caribbean context. It is of especial interest since it represents an exclusively British solution, the choice of prominent natural features as the sites of fortresses that served both as defensive works and places of refuge.

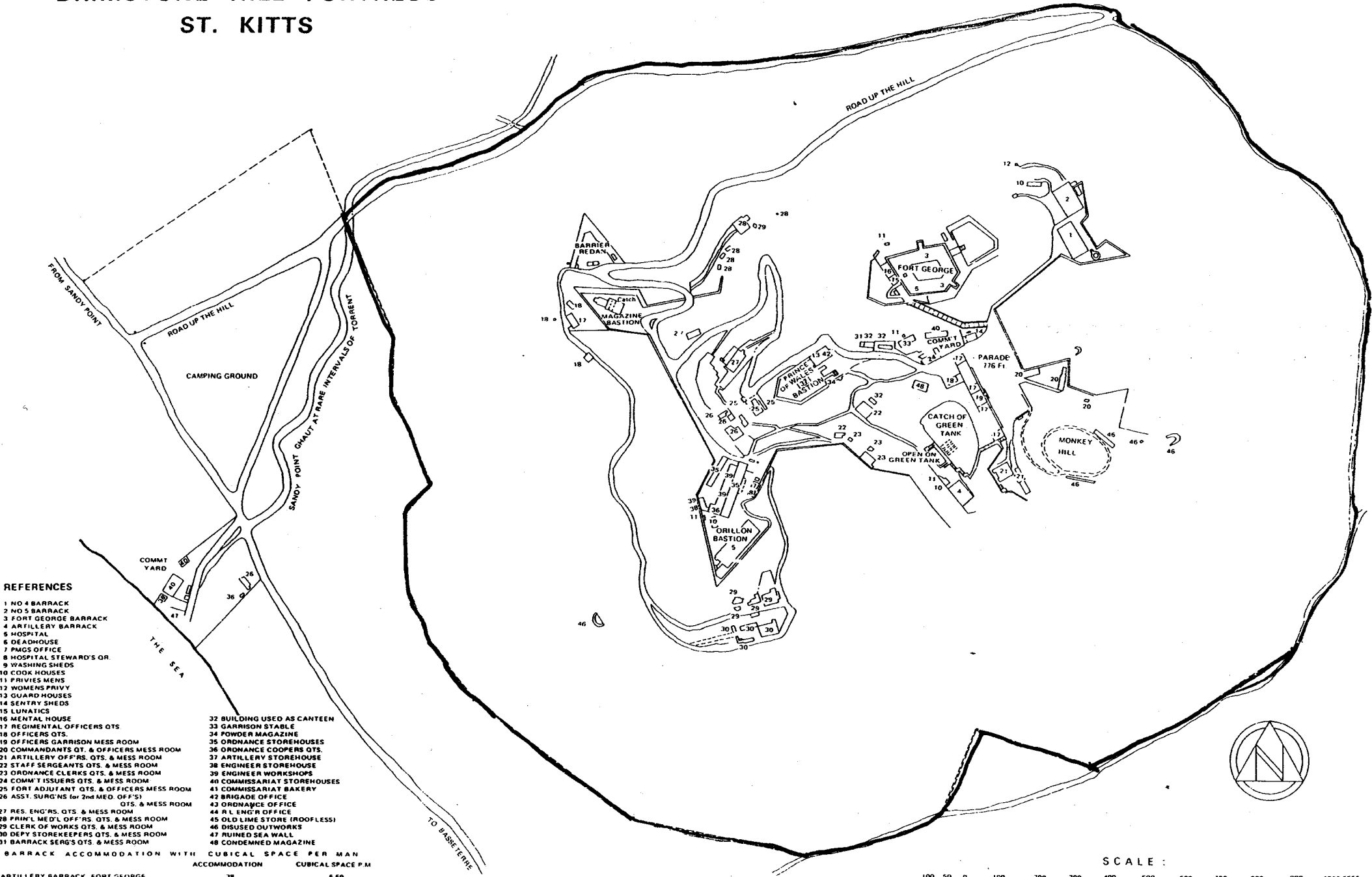
Recommendation

The Bureau recommended that this nomination should be referred back to the State Party, requesting information on the progress of the draft National Development and Planning Act. This information had not been received when this evaluation was prepared for printing. In the event of this information being supplied and found acceptable, ICOMOS recommends that the property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria iii and iv*:

Criterion iii Brimstone Hill is an outstanding British fortress, built by slave labour to exact standards during a peak period of European colonial expansion in the Caribbean.

Criterion iv Because of its strategic layout and construction, Brimstone Hill Fortress is an exceptional and well preserved example of 17th and 18th century British military architecture.

BRIMSTONE HILL FORTRESS ST. KITTS



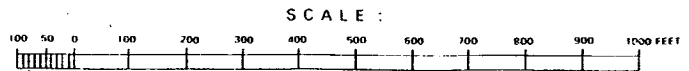
REFERENCES

- 1 NO 4 BARRACK
- 2 NO 5 BARRACK
- 3 FORT GEORGE BARRACK
- 4 ARTILLERY BARRACK
- 5 HOSPITAL
- 6 DEADHOUSE
- 7 PMGS OFFICE
- 8 HOSPITAL STEWARD'S QR
- 9 WASHING SHEDS
- 10 COOK HOUSES
- 11 PRIVIES MENS
- 12 WOMENS PRIVY
- 13 GUARD HOUSES
- 14 SENTRY SHEDS
- 15 LUNATICS
- 16 MENTAL HOUSE
- 17 REGIMENTAL OFFICERS QTS
- 18 OFFICERS QTS.
- 19 OFFICERS GARRISON MESS ROOM
- 20 COMMANDANTS QT. & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 21 ARTILLERY OFF'RS. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 22 STAFF SERGEANTS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 23 ORDNANCE CLERKS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 24 COMM'T ISSUERS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 25 FORT ADJUTANT QTS. & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 26 ASST. SURG'NS (for 2nd MED. OF F'S) QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 27 RES. ENGR'S. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 28 PRIN'L MED'L OFF'RS. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 29 CLERK OF WORKS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 30 DEPY STOREKEEPERS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 31 BARRACK SERG'S QTS. & MESS ROOM

- 32 BUILDING USED AS CANTEEN
- 33 GARRISON STABLE
- 34 POWDER MAGAZINE
- 35 ORDNANCE STOREHOUSES
- 36 ORDNANCE COOPERS QTS.
- 37 ARTILLERY STOREHOUSE
- 38 ENGINEER STOREHOUSE
- 39 ENGINEER WORKSHOPS
- 40 COMMISSARIAT STOREHOUSES
- 41 COMMISSARIAT BAKERY
- 42 BRIGADE OFFICE
- 43 ORDNANCE OFFICE
- 44 A.L. ENGR OFFICE
- 45 OLD LIME STORE (ROOFLESS)
- 46 DISUSED OUTWORKS
- 47 RUINED SEA WALL
- 48 CONDEMNED MAGAZINE

BARRACK ACCOMMODATION WITH	ACCOMMODATION	CUBICAL SPACE PER MAN
ARTILLERY BARRACK FORT GEORGE	38	5.59
SOLDIERS BARRACK FORT GEORGE NO 4	32	
SOLDIERS BARRACK FORT GEORGE NO 5	54	
CASEMATES FORT GEORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL	54	800
REG'L OFFICERS QR	6	

N.B. BLACK DOTS SHEW GUNS MARKING BOUNDARIES



Parc national de la forteresse de Brimstone Hill / Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park :
Plan indiquant la zone proposée pour inscription / Map showing nominated property

Brimstone Hill (Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis)

No 910

Identification

<i>Bien proposé</i>	Parc national de la forteresse de Brimstone Hill
<i>Lieu</i>	Paroisse de Saint-Thomas, Saint-Christopher (Saint-Kitts)
<i>État partie</i>	Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis
<i>Date</i>	29 juin 1998

Justification émanant de l'État partie

La forteresse de Brimstone Hill est d'une grande valeur historique, culturelle et architecturale : c'est un monument dédié à l'ingéniosité des ingénieurs militaires britanniques qui l'ont conçue et ont supervisé sa construction et à l'habileté, la force et l'endurance des esclaves africains qui l'ont construite et entretenue.

Le parc national de la forteresse de Brimstone Hill mérite d'être inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial pour les raisons suivantes :

- Cette adaptation des fortifications classiques européennes des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles à la construction d'un vaste complexe militaire autonome sur les pentes abruptes et le sommet escarpé d'une colline aride, à quelques 230 m d'altitude, est une merveille d'ingénierie.
- Dans certaines de ses caractéristiques architecturales, notamment la citadelle, s'expriment des éléments des diverses étapes de la conception de la forteresse.
- Elle symbolise l'impérialisme européen, l'esclavage des Africains et l'émergence d'une culture propre aux Caraïbes.
- Elle illustre la compétition pour le pouvoir et la richesse à une période cruciale de l'histoire du monde.
- Elle fournit un outil permettant de comprendre la géologie, l'écologie et l'histoire des Caraïbes.
- Gérée, conformément aux critères établis, par un organisme local au nom du peuple d'une jeune nation, dont la majorité des citoyens descendent d'anciens esclaves, elle est le symbole de l'endurance des peuples africains colonisés et de

l'intégrité de la culture caraïbe, et en tant que telle peut être une source d'inspiration pour d'autres jeunes nations elles aussi dans leur ère post-coloniale.

[**Remarque** L'État partie n'avance aucune hypothèse dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription quant aux critères en vertu desquels il considère que le bien devrait être inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.]

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'un *monument*.

Histoire et description

Histoire

Saint-Kitts, que les natifs amérindiens avaient baptisée Liamuiga (île fertile), fut la première île des Caraïbes à avoir été occupée sans interruption tant par les Anglais (en 1623) que par les Français (1625), qui se la partagèrent entre 1627 et 1713, époque à laquelle elle passa sous seul contrôle anglais grâce au traité d'Utrecht, qui mirent fin à la guerre de Succession d'Espagne. Connue sous le nom de « l'île Mère », elle fut à la fois le modèle et le tremplin de la colonisation anglaise et française aux Caraïbes.

Des esclaves africains furent amenés dès les premières années de la colonisation européenne, et ce fut sur Saint-Kitts et les autres premières colonies que le système des plantations, basé sur la production sucrière et l'esclavage, s'enracina. La piste de certaines formes syncrétiques qui combinent des éléments des cultures européennes, africaines et, dans une moindre mesure, amérindiennes, peut être remontée jusqu'à Saint-Kitts.

L'usage militaire de Brimstone Hill commença en 1690, quand les Britanniques montèrent un canon du côté nord-ouest pour éloigner les Français de Fort Charles, au pied de la colline. Le site devint un lieu de refuge lors des invasions, par exemple par les Français en 1706.

En 1782, la forteresse, après un mois de siège, se rendit aux Français. Cependant, cette même année, les Britanniques remportèrent une victoire navale retentissante lors de la bataille des Saints, établissant ainsi leur supériorité navale. En 1783, le traité de Versailles (qui accordait l'indépendance aux treize colonies d'Amérique du Nord) rendit l'île aux Britanniques ; s'ensuivit une période de reconstruction intensive et d'investissement. Grâce à la reconstruction de ses formidables ouvrages défensifs, Saint-Kitts fut surnommée « la Gibraltar des Antilles ». Elle résista vaillamment à une attaque de la marine française en 1806. Par la suite, la marine britannique put assurer la sécurité des colonies insulaires aux Caraïbes.

La forteresse fut abandonnée en conséquence de diminutions des dépenses militaires britanniques en 1853. Les édifices de bois furent vendus aux enchères et démantelés, tandis que les pierres taillées des bâtisses de maçonnerie furent pillées. Progressivement, la végétation reprit le dessus.

Description

Brimstone Hill est un soulèvement de roche volcanique de 230 m de haut, doté de deux pics, et recouvert de craie sur la majeure partie de sa surface. Elle est couverte de broussailles, avec parfois des zones de roche nue ; les endroits plus abrités et les ravins sont couverts de grands arbres et de sous-bois denses.

À la différence des forteresses espagnoles des Caraïbes, Brimstone Hill n'a pas été construite pour protéger un port ou une ville importante. De fait, son rôle consistait à protéger la partie de la côte de l'île colonisée par les Anglais contre les attaques venues de la mer et à servir de refuge en cas d'invasion jusqu'à ce que la Marine Royale puisse reconquérir les eaux environnantes et forcer les envahisseurs à se rendre. À ce titre, elle se distingue très nettement des forteresses espagnoles.

Les structures se trouvent à des niveaux différents, sur le tiers supérieur de la colline. Elles se composent d'une série de murs de maçonnerie discontinus, de quatre bastions défensifs, d'une citadelle sur le pic le plus au nord, et d'une série de baraquements, entrepôts, installations de captage de l'eau, citernes et autres bâtiments militaires, dont il ne reste plus aujourd'hui que des ruines. Ces divers éléments sont reliés par des embranchements de la route militaire, qui pénètre dans le complexe du côté nord.

Le principal matériau de construction est la pierre taillée (basalte), qui forme le parement d'une maçonnerie en blocaille. Se distinguant encore une fois des forts espagnols, ceux construits par les Britanniques n'étaient pas revêtus d'enduit. Toutefois, la craie locale servait d'élément décoratif pour les angles et le revêtement des encadrements de porte et des embrasures.

La première structure qui se dresse à l'entrée de la forteresse est la *redoute d'arrêt*, avec ses murailles fortifiées et une petite casemate qui faisait office de poste de garde et de poudrière. Ensuite vient l'*ouvrage défensif du nord-ouest*, qui comprend le massif bastion entrepôt, avec son installation de captage de l'eau et sa citerne.

Celui-ci est relié par un mur-rideau à l'*ouvrage du sud-est*, dont la principale caractéristique est le bastion à orillons, qui fait pendant au bastion entrepôt. Autre trait particulier : l'entrepôt fortifié d'artillerie. L'hôpital se dressait également dans ce bastion, mais seules ses fondations subsistent. À l'extérieur de l'enceinte se trouve un petit cimetière, avec des pierres tombales.

Derrière la ligne défensive formée par les ouvrages défensifs du nord-ouest et du sud-est, un peu plus haut, se dresse l'imposant *bastion du Prince de Galles*. Ses murs renferment une citerne, un entrepôt et un poste de garde (qui fait aujourd'hui office de petit centre de

conférence), avec une réserve au sous-sol. Ces bâtiments ont été restaurés avec un soin minutieux et une grande exactitude.

Tout près s'élèvent les *quartiers des officiers d'infanterie* et leurs impressionnants soubassements à colonnades. Les étages supérieurs, faits de bois, ont été détruits par un ouragan en 1844, et remplacés par des structures de pierre plus petites, dont une seule subsiste, sous sa forme reconstruite. Ces bâtiments font face au *grand système de captage de l'eau*, qui se compose d'une surface de captage pavée de plus de 150 m², de trois citernes souterraines et d'un réservoir à ciel ouvert, capables de stocker plus de 400 000 litres d'eau.

Il reste à peine quelques vestiges des murs des *quartiers des officiers d'artillerie*, mais la cuisine a été restaurée. Dans la *cour de l'intendance*, les *quartiers des adjudants* et l'*entrepôt d'intendance* ont été reconstruits et sont utilisés aujourd'hui comme centre d'accueil et magasin de souvenirs.

Derrière les systèmes de murailles connus sous le nom d'*ouvrage défensif du nord-est* se dressent plusieurs blocs de baraquement, mais ils n'ont pas encore été restaurés. Des fouilles archéologiques ont eu lieu en vue d'une éventuelle reconstruction.

Au cœur de la forteresse se dresse le *Fort George*, une massive structure de maçonnerie érigée sur l'un des deux pics qui surplombent le complexe. Toujours en excellent état, c'est le plus ancien exemple britannique subsistant du type de fortifications connu sous le nom de « système polygonal », et l'un des plus beaux dans le monde. On l'appelle généralement la citadelle, dénomination qui recouvre également les deux terrains de manœuvre associés. Une série de pièces se regroupe autour d'une cour centrale : sept d'entre elles ont été restaurées et abritent maintenant le musée. Sous le sol de l'une d'entre elles se trouve une grande citerne, qui reste à ce jour la principale source d'eau du parc national.

On compte encore beaucoup d'autres structures en ruines dans l'enceinte des murailles et sur les versants à l'extérieur.

Gestion et protection

Statut juridique

Les 15,37 hectares de la forteresse de Brimstone Hill constituent un parc national aux termes de la loi de 1987 sur la Conservation nationale et l'Environnement.

Gestion

Le bien appartient à la Fédération de Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis.

Il est protégé par le projet de loi de 1998 sur le Développement physique national et la planification de Saint-Kitts, entrepris avec l'assistance technique du Centre des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains et du Programme des Nations Unies pour le

Développement. La loi, en ce qui concerne le parc, contient les dispositions suivantes :

- Établissement d'une protection et d'une mise en valeur du parc national afin d'assurer qu'il continue à apporter son incommensurable contribution aux qualités esthétiques du paysage ;
- Établissement d'une zone tampon de 1,6 km autour de Brimstone Hill ;
- Élaboration et mise en œuvre d'un plan détaillé de gestion du Parc national ;
- Assurance, par la conception et le contrôle du développement, que le développement de l'occupation des sols dans les zones adjacentes est compatible avec les objectifs de développement du parc.

La loi de 1987 confère à la Société du Parc National de Brimstone Hill « le pouvoir d'élaborer et de faire appliquer des réglementations concernant [sa] gestion et [son] administration. » La Société en question est un organisme bénévole à but non lucratif. Les décisions concernant sa politique relèvent de son Conseil de Gestion, composé de représentants élus par ses membres, à l'exception de deux représentants désignés par le Gouvernement.

Dans les années soixante, après sa fondation en tant que Société pour la restauration de Brimstone Hill, la Société tirait ses revenus des cotisations des membres, des dons privés et des subventions gouvernementales. Dans les deux décennies qui suivirent, elle reçut des fonds de l'Agence canadienne de Développement, de l'Organisation des États américains et, en particulier, de la Division britannique pour le Développement. Vers le milieu des années quatre-vingt-dix, une aide fut également obtenue du PNUD, du Fonds Mukti et de la Mission française, et depuis cette époque, le financement des projets a principalement été assuré par les droits d'entrée (qui ont doublé en 1994). Le Gouvernement continue de fournir l'électricité gratuite, des minorations des droits de douane sur les matériaux et les fournitures importés, ainsi que l'entretien de la route qui mène à la forteresse.

Le siège de la Société se trouve à Basseterre, où sont établis le président et le directeur général. L'assistance technique provient du Gouvernement, des professionnels locaux et des experts étrangers (Amérique du Nord, Venezuela et Royaume-Uni). On compte également un directeur du parc sur le site, sous les ordres duquel travaillent quatorze employés. Les responsables effectuent un suivi régulier, assistés de deux gardiens à plein temps.

Le projet de plan de gestion pour 1997-1999 inclut un programme échelonné de restauration et de stabilisation, de nivellement du sol, de reconstruction et de nouvelle construction, de développement des infrastructures, d'interprétation, de recherches archéologiques, de développement du musée, d'ameublement, de promotion, d'exploitation, de loisirs, de personnel, de

révision de la structure d'adhésion, et de propositions au Gouvernement. Il s'accompagne d'un budget détaillé.

Conservation et authenticité

Historique de la conservation

Le Gouvernement a mis en œuvre un programme de débroussaillage sélectif entre 1900 et 1929, mais ce n'est qu'en 1965 que la réhabilitation du monument a commencé, avec la création de la Société pour la Restauration de Brimstone Hill, qui a pris le site sous concession auprès du Gouvernement. Les travaux se sont tout d'abord concentrés sur l'élimination de la végétation de certains murs et la stabilisation des structures principales. Avec l'assistance technique du Royaume-Uni et des États-Unis, des projets de reconstruction ont vu le jour afin de permettre la mise en place d'installations destinées aux visiteurs et au personnel.

Authenticité

En tant qu'ensemble historique militaire et défensif, la forteresse possède un degré élevé d'authenticité. Cependant, les projets de stabilisation, de restauration et de reconstruction mis en œuvre depuis 1965 ont impliqué l'utilisation discrète de matériaux modernes, habituellement combinés à des matériaux traditionnels. Ainsi, du ciment Portland a été utilisé pour la préparation des mortiers, mélangé toutefois à de la chaux dans les proportions recommandées. De la pierre neuve a été utilisée pour la reconstruction, mais elle a été travaillée à l'aide des techniques traditionnelles. Quand les travaux de reconstruction ont dû faire appel à du bois, il n'a pas toujours été possible d'obtenir les bois originaux, mais une grande attention a été apportée à l'application des dimensions et des techniques de travail authentiques.

Évaluation

Action de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue à Brimstone Hill en février 1999.

Caractéristiques

La forteresse de Brimstone Hill est un exemple exceptionnel de l'ingénierie militaire européenne des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles dans le contexte des Caraïbes et dans un site naturel en hauteur.

Analyse comparative

Brimstone Hill faisait partie des sites fortifiés des Caraïbes étudiés par la réunion d'experts organisée à ce sujet par Colcultura et l'UNESCO, qui s'est tenue à Cartagena de Indias (Colombie) en juillet / août 1996. Ses antécédents multiethniques particuliers (amérindiens, anglais, français, africains) ont été identifiés comme une caractéristique exceptionnelle, de même que son statut de première colonie anglaise aux

Caraïbes. C'est l'une des cinq forteresses majeures qui ont fait l'objet d'une mention spéciale, les autres étant Shirley Heights (Antigua, 1786-93), The Garrison, Bridgetown (La Barbade, 1650-1750), The Cabrits (Dominique, 1770-1815) et Fort Rodney, Pigeon Island (Sainte-Lucie, 1778-1824). Toutes ont été construites par les Britanniques, mais hormis The Garrison (moins complètement préservée que Brimstone Hill), elles sont nettement plus tardives que Brimstone Hill. The Cabrits et Fort Rodney desservaient un objectif stratégique analogue à celui de Brimstone Hill, puisqu'elles faisaient à la fois office de forteresse et de lieu de refuge.

Recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour des actions futures

Au fur et à mesure que les visiteurs se feront plus nombreux, la direction du parc devra faire face à deux problèmes. En premier lieu, l'accroissement de la dégradation des monuments eux-mêmes, qui s'accompagnera d'une augmentation parallèle de l'entretien nécessaire. En second lieu, la nécessité d'accès et d'espaces de parking supplémentaires. Actuellement, les voitures stationnent sur le terrain de manœuvre, ce qui implique de passer par un portail étroit et de conduire le long d'une route tout aussi étroite ; il est bien évidemment impossible de les élargir sans que cela n'ait un impact négatif sur l'authenticité du bien. Il convient donc d'envisager l'éventuelle prestation d'un service de navettes pour les visiteurs, qui réduirait ainsi la menace pesant sur le site.

Ces dispositions devraient être incorporées dans le projet de Plan de gestion du parc national. Il est également essentiel que la loi sur le Développement national et la planification soit approuvée et mise en œuvre sans plus attendre, afin d'apporter un cadre législatif à toutes les activités futures à Brimstone Hill.

Selon le plan d'occupation des sols qui accompagne la proposition d'inscription, les terrains à l'est de Brimstone Hill et derrière celle-ci, actuellement boisés et utilisés comme pâturages, devraient devenir une zone touristique à faible densité (restaurants, petites maisons, etc.). L'ICOMOS estime que cette proposition devrait être reconsidérée, son état actuel contribuant grandement à l'environnement pittoresque du monument.

Brève description

Brimstone Hill est un exemple remarquable de l'application des principes de l'architecture militaire des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles dans le contexte des Caraïbes. Elle est d'un intérêt tout particulier en ce qu'elle représente une solution exclusivement britannique, le choix de saillies naturelles comme site de forteresses servant à la fois d'ouvrages défensifs et de refuges.

Recommandation

Le Bureau a recommandé que cette proposition d'inscription soit *renvoyée* à l'État partie, en demandant

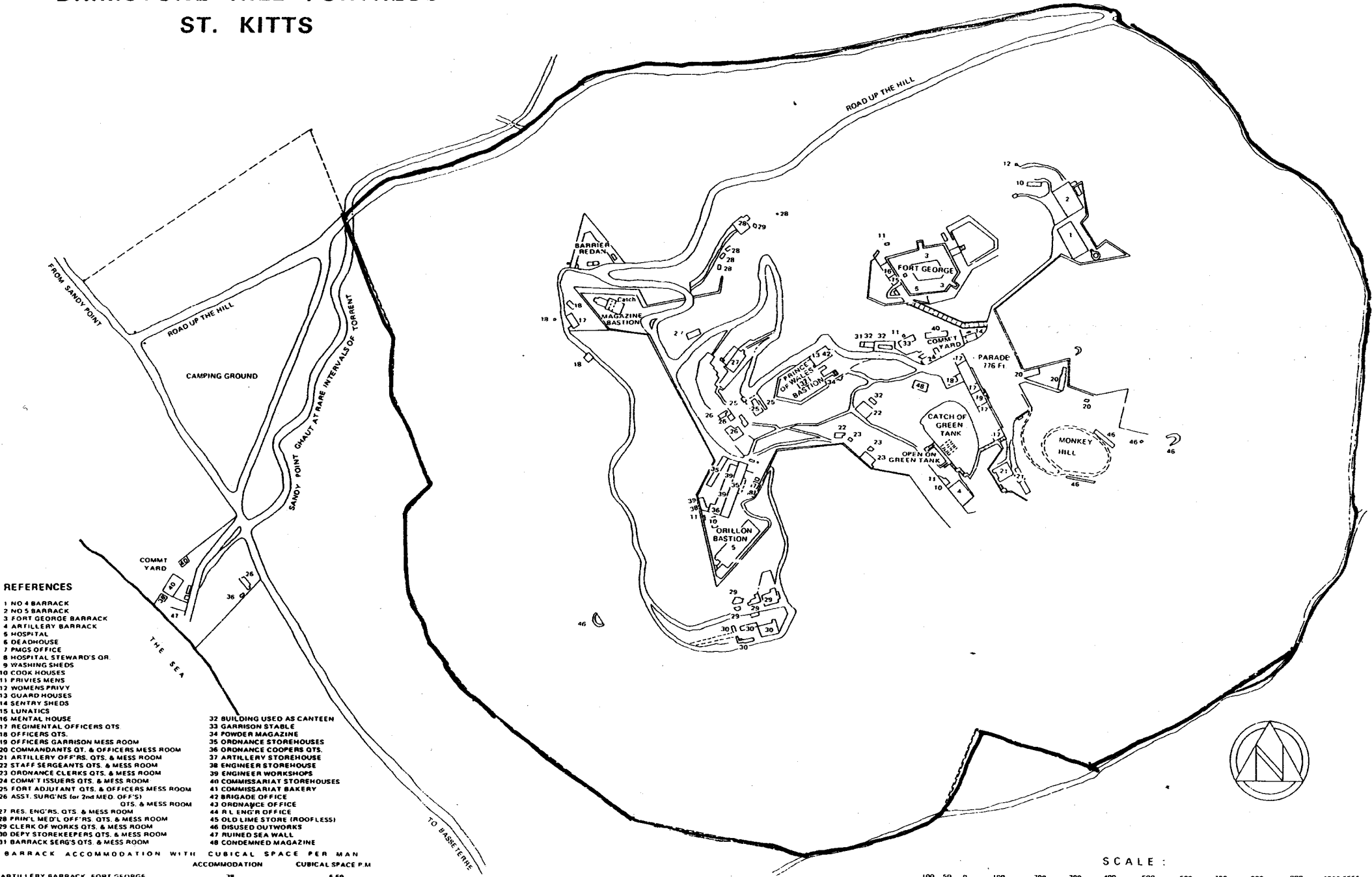
des informations sur les progrès du projet de loi sur le Développement national et la planification. Ces informations ne sont pas arrivées au moment où cette évaluation est envoyée à l'impression. Dans le cas où ces informations seraient fournies, et si elles étaient acceptables, l'ICOMOS recommanderait que ce bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères iii et iv*.

Critère iii Brimstone Hill est une forteresse britannique exceptionnelle, construite par des esclaves selon des normes précises, à l'apogée de l'expansion coloniale européenne aux Caraïbes.

Critère iv Du fait de ses disposition et construction stratégiques, la forteresse de Brimstone Hill est un exemple exceptionnel et bien préservé de l'architecture militaire britannique des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles.

ICOMOS, septembre 1999

BRIMSTONE HILL FORTRESS ST. KITTS



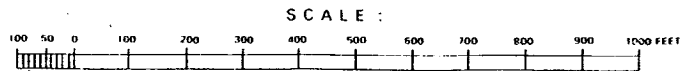
REFERENCES

- 1 NO 4 BARRACK
- 2 NO 5 BARRACK
- 3 FORT GEORGE BARRACK
- 4 ARTILLERY BARRACK
- 5 HOSPITAL
- 6 DEADHOUSE
- 7 PMGS OFFICE
- 8 HOSPITAL STEWARD'S QR
- 9 WASHING SHEDS
- 10 COOK HOUSES
- 11 PRIVIES MENS
- 12 WOMENS PRIVY
- 13 GUARD HOUSES
- 14 SENTRY SHEDS
- 15 LUNATICS
- 16 MENTAL HOUSE
- 17 REGIMENTAL OFFICERS QTS
- 18 OFFICERS QTS.
- 19 OFFICERS GARRISON MESS ROOM
- 20 COMMANDANTS QT. & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 21 ARTILLERY OFF'RS. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 22 STAFF SERJEANTS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 23 ORDNANCE CLERKS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 24 COMM'T ISSUERS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 25 FORT ADJUTANT QTS. & OFFICERS MESS ROOM
- 26 ASST. SURG'NS (for 2nd MED. OF F'S) QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 27 RES. ENGR'S. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 28 PRIN'L MED'L OFF'RS. QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 29 CLERK OF WORKS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 30 DEPY STOREKEEPERS QTS. & MESS ROOM
- 31 BARRACK SERG'S QTS. & MESS ROOM

- 32 BUILDING USED AS CANTEEN
- 33 GARRISON STABLE
- 34 POWDER MAGAZINE
- 35 ORDNANCE STOREHOUSES
- 36 ORDNANCE COOPERS QTS.
- 37 ARTILLERY STOREHOUSE
- 38 ENGINEER STOREHOUSE
- 39 ENGINEER WORKSHOPS
- 40 COMMISSARIAT STOREHOUSES
- 41 COMMISSARIAT BAKERY
- 42 BRIGADE OFFICE
- 43 ORDNANCE OFFICE
- 44 A.L. ENGR OFFICE
- 45 OLD LIME STORE (ROOFLESS)
- 46 DISUSED OUTWORKS
- 47 RUINED SEA WALL
- 48 CONDEMNED MAGAZINE

BARRACK ACCOMMODATION WITH	ACCOMMODATION	CUBICAL SPACE PER MAN
ARTILLERY BARRACK FORT GEORGE	38	5.59
SOLDIERS BARRACK FORT GEORGE NO 4	32	
SOLDIERS BARRACK FORT GEORGE NO 5	54	
CASEMATES FORT GEORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL	54	800
REG'L OFFICERS QR	6	

N.B. BLACK DOTS SHEW GUNS MARKING BOUNDARIES



Parc national de la forteresse de Brimstone Hill / Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park :
Plan indiquant la zone proposée pour inscription / Map showing nominated property