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Christopher Ohrstrom, President
Falmouth Heritage Renewal

Falmouth - A Vision for the Future

Historic Limekiln Burn at Good Hope Estate

For only the second time in over 100 years the 18th century limekiln at Good Hope Estate was fired to make quicklime, which is used in the process of making historic-grade lime putty. Falmouth Heritage Renewal had previously fired the kiln in 1999. The site was prepared and wood and limestone were packed in the kiln over a rainy three day period. On the day the kiln was lit the rain stopped, and Jimmy and Jeffery Price from Virginia Lime Works inspected the kiln and gave an okay to light the fire. After much smoke and delay due to damp wood, the fire caught and the kiln temperature started its climb to an optimum temperature of about 1000 degrees centigrade.

Mr. Christopher Ohrstrom, Chairman and Founder of Falmouth Heritage Renewal, engulfed in smoke, spoke from atop the kiln to a crowd of over 125 persons who had come to witness this historic event. Though humorous in its

setting, the message was one of welcome and commitment to continue the work of Falmouth Heritage Renewal in training young Jamaicans in the art of historic preservation and to save the historic buildings of Falmouth through timely intervention.

Persons at the burn were treated to a lunch of jerked chicken, potato salad, fresh vegetable salad and drinks prepared by Falmouth Heritage Renewal staff. Good Hope Country

House staff provided a great traditional vegetable soup. Good Hope County House is the most iconic example of the tropical Georgian style. It was built in 1755 atop a mountain to capture the cooling trade wind breezes. It is a classic Palladian Georgian villa with a Spanish walled piano nobile set atop a beautiful cut limestone base. Visit www.goodhopejamaica.com.

Throughout the night as the rain continued, Falmouth Heritage Renewal staff manned the kiln,

stoked the fire and monitored the kiln temperature. As the temperature of the limestone increased, its color changed from white to orange, and then took on a shimmering golden hue as it reached the proper temperature. Early the next morning, Jimmy Price declared the firing a success and the kiln was allowed to cool. The next day quicklime from the kiln was used to prepared lime-plaster and lime-putty as part of a field school class by the Prices.



Dr. Ed Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg and Jeffery Price of Virginia Lime Works watch on as an 18th century limekiln was fired at Good Hope Country House in order to make quicklime used in the process of preparing historic-grade lime putty.

A Message from our President

Exciting things are happening in Falmouth. At the end of July we fired the 18th century lime kiln at Good Hope during our first Preservation Field School. Both the firing and the field school were huge successes. Our students, drawn from numerous preservation, archeology and architecture programs at American and Jamaican Universities gave the program very favorable reviews. The field schools are set to continue and expand into the coming years with new alliances forming with institutions in Canada and the UK. Eastfield Village, the highly respected traditional trades learning center, will

be offering traditional trades workshops starting in 2007 at the Caribbean Preservation Institute in Falmouth. We have also had several of our Jamaican trainees recruited as apprentices to work in the United States for the prestigious firm of Virginia Lime Works on masonry restoration projects at St. Mary’s in Maryland and Montpelier, the home of James Madison in Virginia. Some of our other trainees will be traveling to New Orleans to assist in restoration efforts led by the National Trust. With your help all this is happening. We are not only achieving our goals but doing so with a level of compe-

tence and professionalism that is attracting a lot of attention. We hope you will continue to support us.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Ohrstrom
President | chrisohrstrom@yahoo.com

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Preservation Field School - Impressions from a UVa Student

As a recent participant in the Falmouth Field School, I can attest to Falmouth Heritage Renewal's incredible success in restoring and preserving the historic structures in this small corner of the world. As a dual master's degree student studying architectural history, historic preservation, and urban planning at the University of Virginia, I was immediately struck at how this organization eloquently brings these disciplines together.

In terms of architectural history, the Historic District of Falmouth contains arguably the most important collection of Georgian buildings in the western hemisphere. Staring out from the balcony of the building in which I stayed, I had a splendid view of the restored Baptist Manse (c. 1798), and beyond stood the courthouse as a beacon of restoration efforts yet to come. As an historic preservationist, the hands-on experience of working with his-



Slacking quicklime to create historic-grade lime mortar was one of the hands-on activities taught to students. The lime mortar will be used to repoint a late 18th century building. Jimmy Price of Virginia Lime Works is standing on the far right, and I am slacking the lime.

toric buildings and materials was invaluable. Measuring a building facilitates a much richer understanding of a building's evolution over time. Similarly, recreating and relearning traditional processes of building construction allows you to restore a building properly, and also provides a much deeper sense of how building technologies have both persisted and changed over the last two and a half centuries.

Pepper Watkins - FHR Documentation and Archive Committee

I left Falmouth, Jamaica on August 6, 2006 after a formative and transformative 3-week field school that will forever influence my thinking about the value and function of preservation to people and place.

Working in Jamaica shaped my thinking about the ability of preservation to make profound impacts in people's lives—particularly, for example, the men who work for Falmouth Heritage Renewal. FHR's work offers compelling proof—and a viable model—for the colossal benefits of deeply enfranchising a community in its own regeneration. Central as they were to my experience, though, those observations were a by-product of time passed in Falmouth. I spent most of my time in the field documenting several of the scores of 18th and early 19th century buildings.

As an urban planner, I see the positive effects of these preservation and restoration efforts on the local community. In contrast to the United States, where preservation efforts have been preserving communities and reviving decaying neighborhoods since the 1970s, Falmouth Heritage Renewal is the only preservation organization in Jamaica and its effect palpable. Local residents take pride in their renovated single family homes and public

buildings, and every person and child I met on the street either passively or fervently approved of the work being done.

These brief reflections hardly scratch the surface of the three weeks I spent in Falmouth. I can only conclude that this was one of the most valuable and important learning experiences of my graduate education.

By Eryn S. Brennan M.S. Architecture student at the University of Virginia

I mostly worked with teams documenting the Shingle House (see photos to right), a ca. 1790-1820 structure located on King Street that was so frighteningly derelict that our only access to the second floor was with ladders and digital cameras. The teams produced 4 drawings of the structure. The house comprises a fascinating layering of historical uses and alterations that revealed themselves only after field school leaders Dr. Louis Nelson and Dr. Ed Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg had several days to thoroughly survey the existing fabric, consider the drawings, and discuss with driven inessancy the evidence at hand. Being on the site from the beginning of the school, I had the good fortune to be with Louis and Ed to participate in the dialogue as the story emerged. What we discov-

ered was a building probably constructed to accommodate a second-tier merchant both as a place of business and as a residence. Reasoning through the building's strata with Ed and Louis was a tremendous lesson as a preservationist and historian, as we were forced to confront incongruous evidence, curios discoveries, and hidden clues that pointed to a common past.

With drawings for the Shingle House (and many others that have been documented) in hand, the challenge has shifted to archiving them. I am looking forward to working with Ed in his efforts to steward the library of drawings so they may be more readily accessed for study.

By Pepper Watkins FHR Documentation & Archive Committee member; M.S. Historic Preservation student at Columbia University

Reflections from Jeffery Price of Virginia Lime Works

Quote

“Falmouth Heritage Renewal’s Caribbean Preservation Institute is by far one of the most impressive I have seen to date. I understand fully the struggles that can come with setting up such a facility, but I truly appreciate the sacrifices you and your board have taken to set it up in a remote, although culturally rich area such as Falmouth.”

Jeffery B. Price
Virginia Lime Works

First off let me offer heartfelt thanks for the wonderful time and hospitality that we were shown in Jamaica. The food, accommodations, and camaraderie were second to none. Being my first of, I hope, many trips to Jamaica, I now fully appreciate the appeal of “island living.”

Falmouth Heritage Renewal’s Caribbean Preservation Institute is by far one of the most impressive I have seen to date. I understand fully the struggles that can come with setting up such a facility, but I truly appreciate the sacrifices you and your board have taken to set it up in a remote, although culturally rich, area such as Falmouth. Having said that, the enthusiasm shown by not some, but all of your trainees says a lot to the caliber of your operation.

A training center is only as good as its trainees and I have become less and less impressed by centers that have had funding thrown at them, but the students are merely “going through the motions”.



Virginia Lime Works
Makers of Traditional Lime Mortars
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ECOLOGICAL BUILDING
NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Caribbean Preservation Institute is certainly special, and I left feeling completely impressed by the spark that appeared in all of your trainee’s eyes. By far the professionalism which all of your students projected through the course of our stay is a beacon to the wonderful things you are accomplishing.

Virginia Lime Works and Price Masonry Contractors Inc. would

like to invite two of your students to visit and work with us on our recreation of the Seventeenth Century Chapel at St Mary’s City. This project, which is the birthplace of religious toleration in the

New World, will offer the students a unique opportunity into not only historic preservation, but also traditional building practices and techniques, as well as the mechanisms

of setting up a well planned and managed work site. The skills that your students will assuredly bring back with them will be a boon to the restoration and preservation masonry efforts of not only Falmouth Heritage Renewal, but also the Island of Jamaica.

We look forward to our continued work with Falmouth Heritage Renewal.

By Jeffery Price, Virginia Lime Works

A Special Thanks to Our Preservation Field School Sponsors, Partners, and Volunteers

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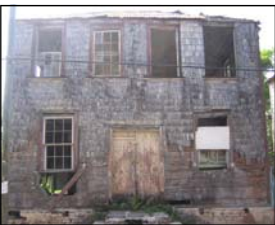
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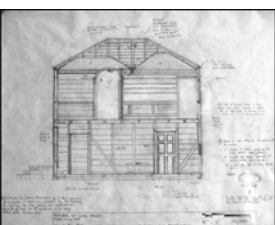
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Shingle House, 18 King St., Elevation



Perspective From Back Yard.



Shingle House, Section Drawing

Friends of Falmouth Annual Membership Appeal Raises \$32,000

Thanks to the support of more than 130 individuals in the United States, France and Great Britain, our 2006 Friends of Falmouth annual appeal has raised more than \$32,000 in support of our mission.

Your charitable gifts make a direct impact by helping to expand the scope of our programs and services in partnership with local and international efforts to pre-

- Friends of Falmouth**
- Student \$25
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serve Falmouth’s historic Georgian style buildings. As a Friend of Falmouth, you are ensuring that we provide needy families in Falmouth with a better place to live, work and prosper, while simultaneously saving the architecture heritage of Falmouth, Jamaica. If you would like to receive an official report of this fundraising effort, please email us at esb4z@virginia.edu.

Falmouth Heritage Renewal

Lee Hall - P.O. Box 494
The Plains, Virginia 20198

Donate Today!

www.falmouthjamaica.org

Preserving Jamaica's Past for the Future

About Us

The mission of Falmouth Heritage Renewal is to preserve and restore the historic buildings of Falmouth, Jamaica while making the lives of the people who live there better.

Founded in 2001, Falmouth Heritage Renewal is a United States registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with public charity status.

Falmouth was declared a National Monument by the Jamaican Government in 1996 and was recently designated as an official Resort Area by the Tourism Product Development Company of Jamaica.

Falmouth Heritage Renewal Trainees Help to Restore Tabby Cottage (c. 1890) at Jekyll Island Museum in Georgia

Each year the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) sponsors interns in preservation, archeological and cultural resource exchanges throughout the world. US/ICOMOS sent two Falmouth Heritage Renewal trainees, Calvin Hall and Lenard Wilson, for an eight-week internship with the Jekyll Island Museum in Georgia. Funding for the exchange program came from a grant by the Dorothy-Ann Foundation. Housing was provided by the Jekyll Island Museum.

Calvin and Lenard spent the majority of their time at Jekyll Island restoring the servant's porch on the Holbourne Cottage (c. 1890).



Lenard Wilson (left) and Calvin Hall (right) visited the Heyward-Washington House (c.1772) in Charleston, SC. Russell Buskirk of Buskirk Restoration (center) gave them a tour of the house. The Charleston Museum sponsored the event.

They scraped off the old paint, made several repairs to the lattice, and rebuilt the

stairs with new stringers since the old ones had rotted at the bottom. Once the repairs were finished, they painstakingly repainted all the lattice and stairs.

Amy Hollis, Jekyll Island's Historic Resources Manager, said that Calvin and Lenard will take what they learn and incorporate that into Jamaica. "We have enjoyed having Calvin and Lenard here. They are extremely skilled craftsmen. I do not often see such professional behavior at their age. They were always on time, always worked a full day, always worked hard at whatever task they were given, and did extremely well under minimal supervision," commented Mrs. Hollis.