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Dr. Louis Nelson, University of Virginia

# Falmouth - A Vision for the Future

## Local Tailor's Shop Restored By Trainees With Support From Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

A small shop located at 3A Lower Harbour Street was selected for restoration under the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica grant. The building, now housing a tailor, is representative of small shops that were prevalent in Falmouth during the 18th and 19th centuries. Due to age and sometimes neglect, these historically significant buildings are disappearing from the inventory of historic structures in Falmouth.

Over time termites had damaged much of the building and a leaking roof contributed to deterioration. Wood that could not be saved was replaced, a new roof was put on and the building was painted using the sand dash or sanding method of finish. Remnants of sanding were found on some of the historic siding associated with the shop. An interesting historic example of dashing comes from *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern*



Top: termite damage; before restoration. Middle: Trainee Tony Birthfield on-site; Kenton Nickle working in new shop. Bottom: after restoration.

*Architecture & Landscape* by Carl R. Loungsbury (1994) and is attributed to George Washington who writes “Sanding is designed to answer two purposes, durability, and presentation of Stone; for the latter purpose; it is the last operation, by dashing, as long as any will stick, the Sand upon a coat of thick paint. To this, I must add, that as it is rare to meet with Sand perfectly sifted; the fine dust must be separated from the sand by a gentle breeze, and the sifter

must be of the finess the sand is required and . . . It must be dashed hard on, and a long as any place appears bare.”

Though small, the building has all the elements of larger historic structures and provided an opportunity for trainees to gain valuable experience in historic restoration as part of our Vocational Training Program for Working-Aged Jamaicans.

## A Message From Our President

News winds are blowing in Falmouth! Palm trees we have distributed are growing taller each month, providing shade and beauty. The streets are getting cleaner. A new sense of pride can be seen everywhere as people paint their houses bright colors and spruce up their gardens.

Our new facility, the Caribbean Preservation Center, has opened with a complete set of traditional hand tools as well as modern industrial grade woodworking machinery. We are fully subscribed with students for the summer schools we are facilitating on Preservation and Archeology this summer.

We have just announced a gift of the "William Knibb Scholarship" for a Jamaican graduate student to attend the summer field school with all expenses paid.

Our latest membership appeal was a great success thanks to the generosity of our members. We recently received two key grants, one from the CHASE Fund of Jamaica for US\$100K (page 2) for our Historic Buildings Restoration Program and US\$10K from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to fund scholarships for the Preservation Field Schools this summer. We are continuing to build on our successes.

And last but most importantly,

we want to recognize the new Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller. We offer her our heartfelt congratulations and wish her Godspeed!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Ohrstrom  
President | [chrisohrstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisohrstrom@yahoo.com)

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## Samuel H. Kress Foundation Awards \$10,000 Grant For University of Virginia's Graduate-Level Summer Field School

The Samuel H. Kress Foundation recently awarded Falmouth Heritage Renewal with a \$10,000 grant. This award will provide six graduate students in Historic Preservation with partial scholarships in order to participate in research and fieldwork as part of the University of Virginia's Falmouth Field School in Historic Preservation (FFS) from July 17 to August 7, 2006.

"I'm enormously grateful to the Kress Foundation for their support. The grant will allow graduate students to attend--including one from the Columbia University--together with undergraduates to enrich the learning environment. This grant will help to establish the Falmouth Field School (FFS) as an annual event to benefit students in historic preservation and the extraordinary efforts to preserve historic Falmouth," remarks Dr. Louis Nelson of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia.

The FFS is a three-week, three-

credit program in applied historic preservation offered by the University of Virginia's School of Architecture. The field school engages many aspects of the practice of preservation in the culturally diverse and economically complex context of the Caribbean. Students will learn a variety of skills, ranging from the conservation of historic brick masonry and timber framing to recording threatened buildings through detailed meas-



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

ured drawings. Directed by Dr. Louis Nelson, FFS will include lectures and field studies with Matthew Webster of Kenmore Plantation, and Dr. Edward Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Students will be housed in a newly renovated two-story stone building in the heart of downtown Falmouth. Built in 1798 as a Masonic lodge, the building served for much of its life as a Baptist Manse. Not only has

Falmouth Heritage Renewal renovated this building, the organization recently outfitted a workshop on the first floor and dormitory-style sleeping quarters on the upper floor. Falmouth Heritage Renewal staff will provide basic logistics, room and board for all students, as well as oversee all research, field activities and related field excursions.

This field school partnership is part of an ongoing effort to develop and archive all the known drawings, lithographs, photographs, etc. of Falmouth's historic structures in order to help recreate the Streetscape of Falmouth. These documents are currently archived at Colonial Williamsburg's Rockefeller Library.

Because of the Kress Foundation's generous support, Falmouth Heritage Renewal will be able to expand its Field School Program, benefiting not just this program but the larger effort to stabilize and preserve historic district of Falmouth, Jamaica.

## Vocational Training Program Moves Toward Certification For Recognition Throughout Jamaica & Common Wealth Countries



Not only does the Vocational Training Program provide basic carpentry and masonry training, the program mandates the learning of practical skills, i.e. how to use Microsoft Word, how to use email, how to surf the web, etc., which are essential to basic computer literacy. In partnership with Mr. McIntire of HEART Trust/NTA, trainees and staff participate in a bi-weekly introductory computer training module. To learn more, visit <[www.heart-nta.org](http://www.heart-nta.org)>.

HEART/NTA and Falmouth Heritage Renewal have been working together to have all staff and trainees certified by HEART in the fields of carpentry and masonry through an outreach program.

HEART instructors visit our staff and trainees on-site and observe them at work. From their observations, module certification can be granted to those demonstrating the required skills. HEART certification is

recognized and accepted in Jamaica, as well as all Common Wealth Countries, as proof of a person's competence and skill.

Moving towards this goal, HEART recently established an introductory computer-training module for our trainees and staff. For most, this is their first experience with computers and, according to the instructor, they are excited about learning the basics. Overall, our Vocational Training Program continues to



move forward and trainees as well as staff are increasing their levels of competence in historic restoration as well as practical skills, such as computer literacy.

HEART is the facilitating and coordinating body for workforce development in Jamaica. They provide access to training, competence assessment and certification to all working age Jamaicans and offer career development and employment facilitation services island-wide.

## Restoration Work Completed On Manse's Ancillary Building For Use As Field School Program's Kitchen House

The fifth and last building restored under the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica grant was the ancillary building behind the Baptist Manse. The oldest part of the structure was the remains of the outside kitchen (as shown on right) for the Manse and dates to 1798. Later additions can be seen and were built in several stages. It appears that at some point the front of the fireplace was taken down and the back portion became part of the wall of a more modern structure. Eventually the building was expanded and used as a classroom when the Baptist Manse housed the William Knibb High School. Four stages of change can be seen in the remains of the building.

Later additions to the building were constructed of a combination of stone, brick and

nog and were all covered with a layer of cement. Later, cement blocks were used to enlarge the structure. Wood beams supporting the nog walls had been destroyed by termites and the wall had to be taken down. The un-

sightly cement block walls and cement plaster were removed and the rear wall built of brick and stone was saved. The outline of the original fireplace can be seen in the rear wall. The two side-walls and the front of the

building were reconstructed using nog-construction employing historic grade lime putty as the mortar base.

The photographs to the left show the ancillary building before and after restoration. The yard has been landscaped with paving blocks manufactured by the trainees. The building has been designed as a kitchen with a large serving area in the front under the porch. Three gazebos are being built to facilitate dining outside. The kitchen will be used when a large number of students are occupying the premises.



### Quote

"Our new facility, the Caribbean Preservation Center, has opened with a complete set of traditional hand tools as well as modern industrial grade woodworking machinery. We are fully subscribed with students for the summer schools we are facilitating on Preservation and Archeology this summer."



Christopher Ohrstrom  
President

## US/ICOMOS Bilateral Historic Preservation Exchange - Trainees Calvin Hall & Lenard Wilson Depart for Jekyll Island, Georgia

In our last newsletter we reported on the experiences of Melissa Malouf Belz and Michael Tornabene, US/ICOMOS interns working with Falmouth Heritage Renewal in Falmouth as part of an ongoing international exchange program. Each year, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) sponsors interns in preservation, archeological and cultural resource exchanges.

Now in a reciprocal move US/

ICOMOS is sending two Falmouth Heritage Renewal trainees, Calvin Hall and Lenard Wilson, for an eight-week pres-



ervation internship with the Jekyll Island Museum, Jekyll Island, Georgia. They departed on March 20th. There they will

work closely with museum staff on various restoration projects aimed at maintaining the historic structures located on the island. This is a great opportunity for two deserving young men.

Funding for the exchange program comes from a grant by the Dorothy-Ann Foundation. Housing is provided by the Jekyll Island Museum. Calvin and Lenard will report on their experience in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

## Falmouth Heritage Renewal

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### 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.

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.

## CHASE Fund of Jamaica Awards \$100,000 Grant For Vocational Training Program & Restoration of Five Buildings

Great news was received recently when it was announced that the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund of Jamaica awarded a grant of \$100,000 to support Falmouth Heritage Renewal's Vocational Training Program & Historic Building Restoration Program in Falmouth. The funds were approved for the restoration of five historic buildings, trainers' salaries and workshop expenses.

A grant making institution, CHASE was incorporated as a company in November 2002 and began operations in January 2003, with a mandate to receive, distribute and administer monetary contributions from Jamaican lot-

tery companies.

In an address to the Jamaica Information Service Think Tank, the Fund's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), W.



Learning how to operate traditional hand tools, Trainee Calvin Hall uses a donated hand planer at 3A Lower Harbour Street.

Billy Heaven, explains that the primary objectives of the CHASE Fund are to initiate, reinforce and support programs and opportunities, which will help to develop and improve health care, early childhood development, sports and arts and culture.

"The fund seeks to uplift the social and economic well-being of our people, through the establishment and funding of programs in the chosen subject areas," he says.

All of us at Falmouth Heritage Renewal extend our heartfelt thanks to the Staff and Directors of CHASE for their support.

Visit <[www.chase.org.jm](http://www.chase.org.jm)> to learn more about CHASE.