

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural Heritage is often expressed as either Intangible or Tangible Cultural Heritage. (ICOMOS, ICTC, 2002)

The Saint Lucia National Trust Act of 1975 (***hyperlink to SLNT Act***) gives the Saint Lucia National Trust the mandate to conserve Saint Lucia's Cultural Heritage for future generations.

Conventions

The Trust is guided by a number of international conventions in fulfilling its mandate to protect Saint Lucia's cultural heritage including:

1. The [***UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage***](#) (***hyperlink to PDF document***) adopted by general conference at its seventeenth session in Paris, November 16, 1972. A definition of cultural heritage is contained in Article 1 this Convention. Article 1 states:

For the purpose of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

2. The [***International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites***](#), (***hyperlink to website***) the Venice Charter 1966, the preamble of which gives an indication of why cultural heritage should be conserved:

Imbued with a message from the past, the historic monuments of generations of people remain to the present day as living witnesses of their age-old traditions. People are becoming more and more conscious of the unity of human values and regard ancient monuments as a common heritage. The common responsibility to safeguard them for

future generations is recognized. It is our duty to hand them on in the full richness of their authenticity.

It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions.

3. The [ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites](#) (**hyperlink**) ratified by the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, Québec (Canada), on October 4, 2008. The Charter refers to Cultural Heritage Sites and defines a Cultural Heritage Site as:

a place, locality, natural landscape, settlement area, architectural complex, archaeological site, or standing structure that is recognized and often legally protected as a place of historical and cultural significance.

SLNT Cultural Heritage Properties

- Pigeon Island National Landmark (Insert Link to PINL page)
- The Morne Historic Area comprises a number of historic sites that once formed part of the Morne Fortuné Citadel. The Trust owns or manages the following:

❖ **The Inniskilling Monument:**

The Monument was erected at the eastern-most end of Fort Charlotte and unveiled on August 31, 1932 by Capt. C. H. Knox-Little R.N., of the H.M.S. "DANAÉ" in memory of the 27th Foot, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers for their gallant capture of Morne Fortuné on May 24, 1796. (Devaux, 1975)



❖ **The Apostles' Battery (also called the Four Apostles' Battery)**



The Apostles Battery was one of the most outstanding batteries in the 1890's. The battery received its name from the four guns, which were mounted on it. At first it played a major role in protecting the Castries Harbour, but as technology increased its muzzle-loading guns played no threat to

enemy ships, which had similar guns. Changing its muzzle-loading guns to breech-loading guns changed this situation.

Its construction was commenced on December 16, 1888 when a detachment of 49 men of the 1st West India Regiment under the direction of Capt. Hellard, R.E., arrived at Castries to begin fortifying that Port, which had become the chief coaling port of that area. The first detachment of Royal Artillery arrived on November 12, 1890, along with the four huge guns for that Battery. According to the newspapers of 1892, regular target practice was held from this Battery during which time the port had to be closed as a safety precaution. (Devaux, 1975)

The Battery remained watch over Castries Harbour until it was abandoned in 1905 when the British military evacuated the island. The guns were dismantled and the site remained abandoned.



This battery today is the only complete and unaltered example of the late Victorian Battery for rifled muzzle-loading guns in St Lucia, and it is one of the few remaining sites of its type from the British service in the Caribbean, with a state of the art firing system.

❖ The Powder Magazine

The Powder Magazine is the oldest existing building in Saint Lucia still intact. It dates back to 1768 and was built by the French to store gun powder. The building is located within the Morne Historic Area, a former citadel overlooking the city of Castries. **More** (Insert hyperlink to Architectural Heritage page containing info on the Powder Magazine)

❖ Morne Military Cemetery



The early French cemetery dates from 1782 and is now in a state of extreme decay. Very little is left of the vaults. The cemetery is now sub-divided into residential lots.

Next to the French cemetery is the English cemetery. The English cemetery also dates from about 1782 and is well defined with remains of a fence. The

vaults are intact with many tombstones still legible. However, cattle which are allowed to roam freely in the cemetery, are causing considerable damage to the masonry vaults. In a Deed of Conveyance dated March 25, 1963, this cemetery is to be preserved in perpetuity.

At least five former Governors are buried in the English cemetery:

- Maj. Gen. David Steward
- Maj. Gen. George Mackie
- Maj. Gen. James Farquaharson
- Sir Harry Thompson
- Sir Ira Simmons

❖ **Provost Park and Guard Cells**

Provost Park is one of the better preserved redoubts ringing Fort Charlotte (the Morne Fortuné Citadel). It dates from 1782 to 1905.