

# **A Photographic Catalog of Structures and Architectural Features at Charles Fort, St. Kitts, West Indies**

**Charles Fort Archaeological and Historical Project Report No. 2**

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## **Introduction**

Charles Fort is located at the south end of Sandy Point Harbor and less than a kilometer northwest of the base of Brimstone Hill. The fort was constructed by the British in 1672 to protect the harbor and was maintained as a military post until 1854. In 1890, after nearly 40 years of abandonment, the fort was converted to a leper asylum. It was used in this capacity until 1996.

This catalog consists of 98 photographs representative of the buildings and architectural features recorded at Charles Fort in May-June, 2000 by the University of Tennessee. A comprehensive discussion of the work carried out at that time and of the buildings found at the site are provided in *An Archaeological and Architectural Assessment of Charles Fort, St. Kitts, West Indies* by Gerald Schroedl submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Information, Telecommunications, Commerce, and Consumer Affairs (formerly Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Environment) Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies. The pictures produced here were selected from 264 black and white negatives taken during the course of investigations.

The catalog includes, as Figure 1, a map showing the locations of all structures recorded at the site. Figure 2 is a copy of a black and white picture postcard taken by V.E. John of a portion of the northwest portion of the site. This photograph is significant because presently it is the only known historical image of the site's interior, and because it shows extensive gardens and landscaping now represented only by rock alignments or geometric patterns. Clearly shown in the photograph are three buildings, two of which are now represented only by stone foundations. There are 38 recorded structures at the site. These were arbitrarily numbered clockwise beginning in the Northeast Bastion. They are presented in this order.

List of individually numbered structures at Charles Fort.

Structure	Description	Figure
1	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	1 3
2	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	1 4
3	Standing structure, patient detention	1 5
4	Standing structure, kitchen	16, 17,18, 19
5	Standing structure, guard house and asylum storage	2 0
6	Standing structure, guard house and asylum storage	2 1
7	Standing building, housing for hospital staff and administrative office	22, 23, 24, 25
8	Standing structure, assembly hall	26, 27, 28
9	Standing structure, clinic	29, 30, 31, 32
10	Standing structure, pharmacy	33, 34, 35, 36
11	Ruin, housing for hospital staff	37, 38, 39
12	Standing structure, patient housing	40, 41, 42, 43, 44
13	Standing structure, patient housing	45, 46, 47
14	Standing structure, patient housing	4 8
15	Standing structure, patient housing	4 9
16	Standing structure, patient housing	5 0
17	Standing structure, bathroom	5 1
18	Standing structure, patient housing	52, 53, 54, 55,56
19	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	5 7
20	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	58, 59
21	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	6 0
22	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	61, 62
23	Standing structure, fountain	6 3
24	Standing structure, bathroom	64, 65, 66
25	Ruin, bath and laundry	67, 68
26	Standing structure, septic tank attached to Structure 24	6 4
27	Ruin, probable patient housing	69, 70
28	Ruin, bath and laundry	71, 72, 73
29	Standing structure, sally port	74, 75
30	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	76, 77, 78, 79
31	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	76, 77

List of individually numbered structures (continued)

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3 2	Stone foundation, arsenal	8 0
3 3	Stone foundation, probable patient housing	8 1, 8 2
3 4	Ruin, patient housing	83, 84, 85
3 5	Standing structure, cistern	86, 87, 88
3 6	Ruin, patient housing	88, 89, 90
3 7	Stone foundation, library	91, 92
3 8	Standing structure, chapel building	93, 94, 95, 96, 97

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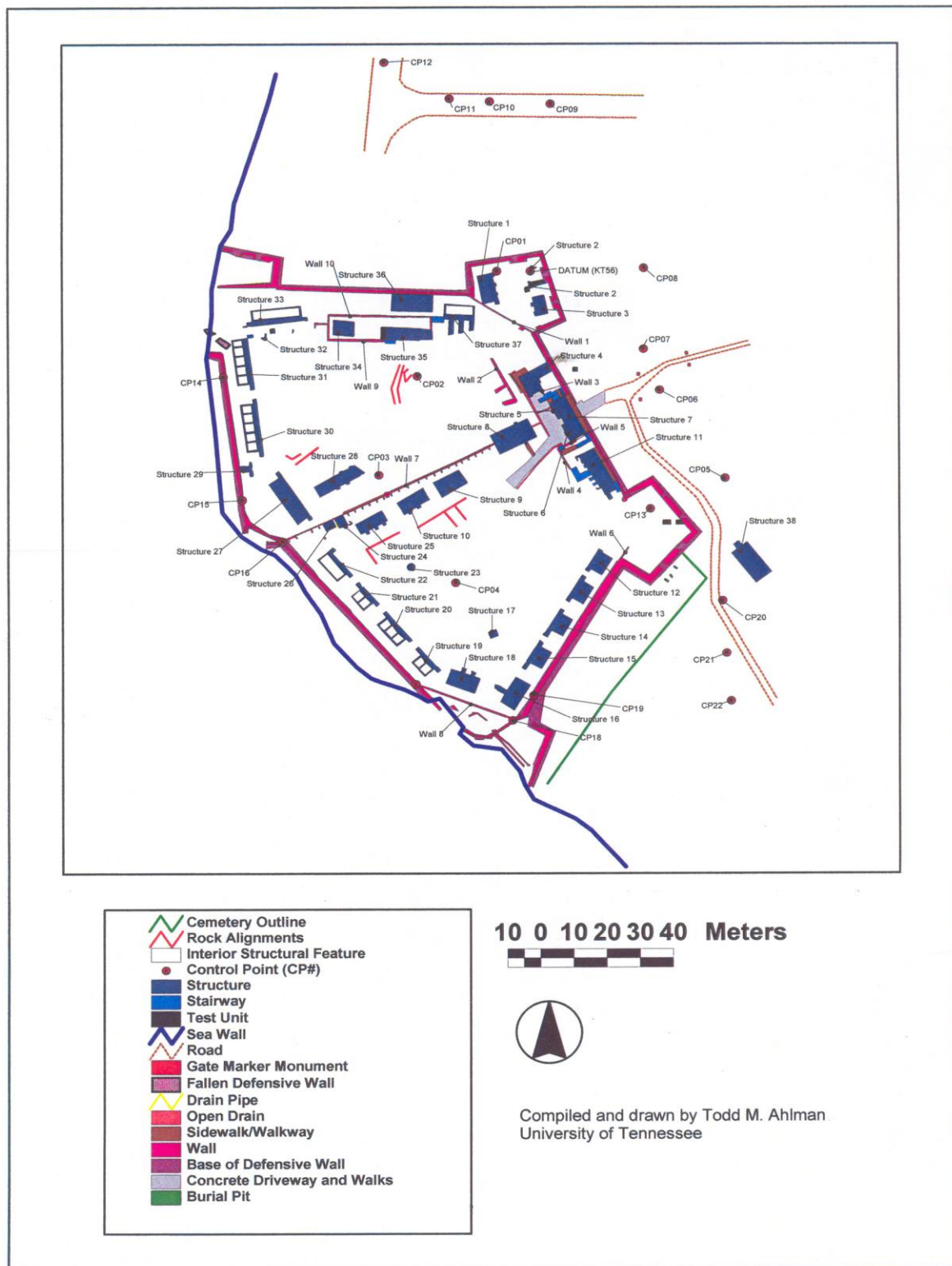


Figure 1.—Plan of Charles Fort showing the locations of structures and related features mapped in May-June, 2000



Figure 2.—Reproduction of post card by V.E. John (date unknown but probably circa 1920-1930), showing structures in the northwest corner of the asylum (left to right Structures 31, 33, and 34) and extensive landscaping and gardens. Structure 34 is located in the west end of the cistern catchment area. The edge of the roof at the lower right corner belongs to Structure 4, the Kitchen. Note the decorative trim on the roof. Portions of the decorative stone work shown in the right center were recorded in 2000, see Figures 3 and 4.





Figure 3.—Rock alignment south of Structure 35, view south (see Figure 2).



Figure 4.—Rock pattern south of Structures 35 and 36, view southeast, Structures 4, 7, and 8 visible in background (See Figure 2).





Figure 5.—Southeast Bastion, view southwest



Figure 6.—Interior of the Southeast Bastion, view south





Figure 7.—Northwest Bastion, view east along north defensive wall toward the Northeast Bastion.



Figure 8.—Northwest Bastion where it is collapsed from erosion, view north.



Figure 9.—Interior of the Southwest Bastion, view south



Figure 10.—Interior west defensive wall between Structures 20 and 21, showing masonry pattern of different sized cut stones, view west.





Figure 11.—Overall view of eastern area of the fort's interior, Structure 17 (foreground) and from left to right Structures 8, 5, 7, 6, and 11, view east-northeast.



Figure 12.—Overall view of southern area of the fort's interior, from left to right, Structures 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 16, 19, and 20, view to the south.





Figure 13.—Structure 1, Stone Foundation, view to the south-southwest, Northeast Bastion wall shows at the right; recent fence shows to the rear (see Figure 100).



Figure 14.—Structure 2, Stone Foundation, Northeast Bastion wall shows at the right; Structure 3 to the rear, view to the east-southeast.





Figure 15.—Structure 3, Detention Building, west elevation.



Figure 16.—Structure 4, Kitchen, north elevation, wood addition and east defensive wall to the left.





Figure 17.—Structure 4, Kitchen, west elevation, concrete walk and drain in foreground, note filled fireplace to left of person, Structures 5 and 6, rear right.



Figure 18.—Structure 4, Kitchen, south elevation of main building, stairs to Structure 7 in foreground, note covered drain left of steps.



Figure 19.—Structure 4, Kitchen, south elevation, showing chimney and wood bathroom addition, roof of Structure 3 in background.



Figure 20.—Structure 5, Guard House/Asylum Storage building, west elevation, fort's primary entrance passage to the right.





Figure 21.—Structure 6, Guard House/Asylum Storage building, west elevation, fort's primary entrance passage to the left, stone retaining wall to right and stairs accessing Structures 7 and 11.



Figure 22.—Structure 7, Administrative Building, west elevation; built over Structures 5 and 6, and the fort's entrance passage; Structure 8 shows left foreground.





Figure 23.—Charles Fort main gate and Structure 7, Administrative Building, east elevation; concrete gate posts in foreground.



Figure 24.—Structure 7, Administrative Building, south elevation.



Figure 25.—Structure 7, Administrative Building, interior of office area, view to northeast



Figure 26.—Structure 8, Assembly Hall, south elevation; Structure 4 shows in rear background.





Figure 27.—Structure 8, Assembly Hall, north elevation.



Figure 28.—Structure 8, Assembly Hall, east elevation.



Figure 29.—Structure 9, Clinic, south elevation.



Figure 30.—Structure 9, Clinic, east elevation.





Figure 31.—Structure 9, Clinic, north elevation



Figure 32.—Structure 9, Clinic, interior of examination room and examination table, view to the west-southwest.



Figure 33.—Structure 10, Pharmacy, south elevation.



Figure 34.—Structure 10, Pharmacy, west elevation.



Figure 35.—Structure 10, Pharmacy, north elevation, note concrete fence foundation in foreground.



Figure 36.—Structure 10, Pharmacy, interior, note built in shelves and counter, view to east-northeast.





Figure 37.—Structure 11, Nurses and Orderlies Living Quarters, west elevation.



Figure 38.—Structure 11, Nurses and Orderlies Living Quarters, north elevation, stairs to Structure 7 in foreground.





Figure 39.—Structure 11, Nurses and Orderlies Living Quarters, showing concrete bathroom addition, south elevation.



Figure 40.—Structure 12, Patient Living Quarters, northeast perspective.



Figure 41.—Structure 12, Patient Living Quarters, west elevation.



Figure 42.—Structure 12, Patient Living Quarters, showing alignment with Structures 13, 14, and 15, and relationship to south fortress wall.





Figure 43.—Structure 12, Patient Living Quarters, showing interior architecture of roof construction (contrast with Figure 47).



Figure 44.—Structure 12, Patient Living Quarters, interior, view east.



Figure 45.—Structure 13, Patient Living Quarters, north elevation.



Figure 46.—Structure 13, Patient Living Quarters, east elevation.



Figure 47.—Structure 14, Patient living Quarters, showing interior architecture of roof construction (contrast with Figure 43).



Figure 48.—structure 14, Patient Living Quarters, north elevation.





Figure 49.—Structure 15, Patient Living Quarters, northeast perspective.



Figure 50.—Structure 16, Detention Building ruins, north elevation, note barred window left of stairway.



Figure 51.—Structure 17, Bathroom, northwest perspective, Structure 14 shows in left background



Figure 52.—Structure 18, Patient Living Quarters, southeast perspective, note decorative trim at top of porch and built in bench; Structure 19 shows to right with west defensive wall to rear.



Figure 53.—Structure 18, Patient Living quarters, southwest perspective.



Figure 54.—Structure 18, Patient Living Quarters, north elevation; note concrete support piers filled in between with cut stones; concrete retaining wall to right, Structure 16 left rear; Brimstone Hill in background.





Figure 55.—Structure 18, Patient Living Quarters, detail of stairs and handrail supports.



Figure 56.—Structure 18, Patient Living Quarters, interior, view south.



Figure 57.—Structure 19, Stone Foundation, southeast perspective.



Figure 58.—Structure 20, Stone Foundation, east elevation.



Figure 59.—Structure 20, Stone Foundation, south elevation.



Figure 60.—Structure 21, Stone Foundation, north elevation.





Figure 61.—Structure 22, Stone Foundation, east elevation.



Figure 62.—Structure 22, Stone Foundation, south elevation.



Figure 63.—Structure 23, Fountain, view to north; Structure 10 shows at right rear.



Figure 64.—Structure 24, Bathroom, west elevation and Structure 26, Septic Tank; note exhaust stack; concrete fence foundation attached to Structures at the left.





Figure 65.—Structure 24, Bathroom, south elevation; Structure 28 shows in right background.



Figure 66.—Structure 24, Bathroom, north elevation; note attachment of concrete fence foundation at both corners.





Figure 67.—Structure 25, Bath and Laundry Building ruins, south elevation; note three sets of steps; Structure 24 is to left and Structure 28 is center background.



Figure 68.—Structure 25, Bath and laundry Building ruins, east elevation; Structure 24 shows right.



Figure 69.—Structure 27, Patient Living Quarters ruins, northeast perspective



Figure 70.—Structure 27, Patient Living Quarters ruins, north elevation; Structure 24 shows left background.



Figure 71.—Structure 28, Bath and Laundry Building ruins, north elevation



Figure 72.—Structure 28, Bath and Laundry Building ruins, south elevation; laundry is to the left, bath is to the right.





Figure 73.—Structure 28, Bath and Laundry Building ruins, west elevation; note wire mesh ventilation at the top of the wall.



Figure 74.—Structure 29, Sally Port, east or interior opening, view to the west; note steel picket security fence attached to defensive wall.



Figure 75.—Structure 29, sally Port, west or exterior opening.



Figure 76.—Structure 30 (rear) and 31 (foreground), Stone foundations, northeast perspective.





Figure 77.—Structure 30, Stone Foundation, southeast perspective; note defensive wall and steel picket security fence at rear.



Figure 78.—Structure 30, Stone foundation, southeast perspective.





Figure 79.—Structure 30, Stone foundation, north elevation, note interior partitions.



Figure 80.—Structure 32, Stone Foundation, view to west, Structure 31 in rear, wall of Structure 33 at right.



Figure 81.—Structure 33, Stone Foundation, northwest perspective; in the background from left to right are Structures 8, 12, 13, and 9.



Figure 82.—Structure 33, Stone Foundation, southeast perspective.





Figure 83.—Structure 34, Patient Living Quarters ruins, south elevation; south cistern (Structure 35) catchment retaining wall in foreground; north retaining wall to right.



Figure 84.—Structure 34, Patient living Quarters ruins, east elevation; collapsed structure wall rests against north cistern catchment retaining wall.





Figure 85.—Structure 34, Patient Living Quarters ruins, west elevation; west cistern catchment retaining wall in foreground.



Figure 86.—Structure 35, Cistern and catchment area, west elevation; note stairway attached to structure's right side.



Figure 87.—Structure 35, Cistern and catchment area, showing retaining wall to the left and rear, view to east.



Figure 88.—Relationship of Structure 35 (left), Structure 36 (center) and Structure 37 (far right).





Figure 89.—Structure 36, Patient Living Quarters, southeast perspective and stairway between Structure 37 (at right) and cistern catchment retaining wall (at left).



Figure 90.—Structure 36, Patient Living Quarters ruins, east elevation; note relationship to north defensive wall.





Figure 91.—Structure 37, Library, southeast perspective.



Figure 92.—Structure 37, Library, east elevation; Structure 36 shows in background.



Figure 93.—Structure 38, Chapel, northwest perspective; dedication plaque to left of standing individual.



Figure 94.—Structure 38, Chapel, southwest perspective; note filled niche at the rear of the building.



Figure 95.—Structure 38, Chapel, portico, northwest perspective; note cross and cupola.



Figure 96.—Structure 38, Chapel, interior looking toward altar, view to south; note roof construction and remains of benches.





Figure 97.—Structure 38, Chapel, interior detail of louvered window.



Figure 98.—Section of steel picket security fence atop west defensive wall; individual is standing on concrete fence foundation that runs from Structure 3 across the fort's interior and attaches to the west defensive wall (see Figure 99).



Figure 99.—Fence line consisting of concrete base and steel posts dividing asylum grounds, Structure 9 at rear, view west.



Figure 100.—Modern fence constructed on top of stone wall enclosing the Northeast Bastion (to the right); Structures 36 and 37 show at rear center; Structure 1 visible to the right, view to northwest.