ABSTRACT

Heritage & Development at the UWI Mona Campus

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The Mona site of the University of the West Indies is a virtual slice through time, exposing material and natural remnants of many historical periods, and potentially holding the key to others. The UCWI/UWI, the latest tenant on the site, with suzerainty for 999 years, actively interacted with the previous Gibraltar Camp incarnation. And, through its development policies, the university has implicitly or explicitly affected the historical remnants on the site. Yet a look at the institutional responses since 1947 indicate that no consistent effort has been made to engage with the site’s history – and with its heritage potential. This paper explores the theoretical relationships between history and heritage, and heritage and development; and sets down a detailed history of the Mona site – including details culled from primary research within and beyond the UWI Archives. This provides a context for discussing the extent to which the university has taken its history into account as part of its development strategies over the years, and seeking to re-think the approach to the UWI Mona Campus, within a heritage context.

Keywords: Suzanne Francis Brown; UWI Mona Campus; Heritage and history.