

## ABSTRACT

### The Built Heritage of St George's, Grenada's Capital City.

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To date, no study exists on the built heritage of Grenada as a whole or of St George's, the country's capital city. Indeed, comparatively little has been written on any aspect of the built heritage of the country. Scholars the world over are gradually becoming aware of the need to focus on this aspect of people's history, and to stress the importance of the efforts and achievements of their forebears in humanizing the land and making it amenable to the quality of life for which they are striving. They also increasingly stress the need to preserve aspects of the built heritage both as a tribute to those who have gone before and an incentive to those who are yet to come. It is in this context that the present study looks at—and hopefully adds to the body of knowledge concerning—the landscapes, buildings, monuments and memorials of St George's. It investigates how, when and why Grenadians have utilized their built heritage. It also looks at the efforts that are being made to preserve and maintain that heritage.

The research affirms much of what the author had previously understood about the rich heritage that the city offers to Grenadians and to Caribbean peoples at large.

What makes St George's different, indeed unique, from other heritage sites is the particular configuration of the city, and the often subtle interplay between natural and man-made aspects of the environment. In the body of the thesis we have quoted several written statements by visitors to show that for many of them a visit to the capital city is a remarkable and often an unforgettable experience. At the same time we are critically aware and emphasize that the built heritage is threatened daily by neglect, decay and disrepair which often reflect the people's lack of understanding or appreciation of their heritage.

**Keywords:** Built heritage, St George's, preserve, heritage sites, threatened, neglect, disrepair.