

ABSTRACT

Morant Bay owed its development into a town through the facilities that existed there. It became a population centre early after the English conquest of the Island. By the end of the eighteenth century Morant Bay was definitely the site of political, military, civil and ecclesiastical establishments of the Parish.

Throughout the period under study the wharves at Morant Bay were used for the importation and exportation of supplies mainly for the plantations. When many plantations went out of existence after the 1846 Sugar Duties Act, the ports started to handle less cargo. By the time of the riots, Morant Bay as a port town had declined in importance as a trade centre. The plantations that remained in operation, being mainly on the Western side of the Parish, were making greater use of the facilities at Port Morant. By then however, Morant Bay had already become the 'Capital' of St Thomas in the East.