

ABSTRACTURBAN DEVELOPMENTS OF SOUTHERN MIDDLESEX
JAMAICA, 1934 - 1900.

Marlene Sweeney - Thompson

After the abolition of slavery it is seen that negroes demonstrated resilience in coping with their situations. Many of them moved away from the estates, acquired lands whether by purchasing or squatting and settled in the hinterland of Southern Middlesex. This stimulated the establishment of towns and villages in the interior of these parishes.

These urban centres developed in response to the basic needs of the settlers for facilities such as shops, markets and government agencies such as courts of law and post offices. Therefore some of these centres were initially offering services as areas of exchange or serving administrative functions. On the other hand, some of the 'old' established towns which had been in existence before abolition experienced a change of status as they lost their prominence to those established since Emancipation.