

BEQUIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

There are so many clues to life in days gone by on this tiny, but active island – shards of prehistoric pottery on windward beaches, seventeenth century liquor bottles embedded in the sandy bottom of Admiralty Bay, stone remains of indigo-dye processing vats, tools of agriculture, and of whaling and sailing.

The Bequia Heritage Foundation was set up by act of parliament over twenty years ago to identify, preserve, interpret, and display all of this important historical evidence.



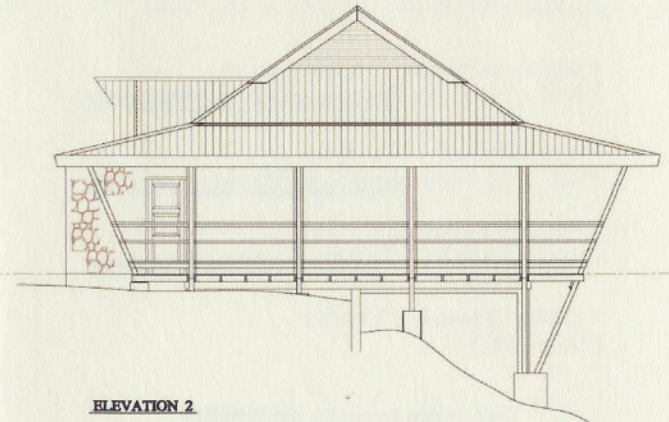
Life on the island is changing so fast; we need to collect and preserve these tantalizing bits of history before they disappear.

The Foundation has luckily acquired a beautiful site overlooking Friendship Bay on which to build the extensive, and no doubt expensive, building which will be needed to do justice to Bequia's history. The trustees are dedicated to this long-term goal.



In the meantime a display shed is being constructed on the upper corner of this site for the storage and display of four indigenous sea-craft in our collection, a whale boat, a blackfish boat, a Carib dug-out canoe, and a Bequia double-ender. Through the kindness of donors the foundation slab is now in place.

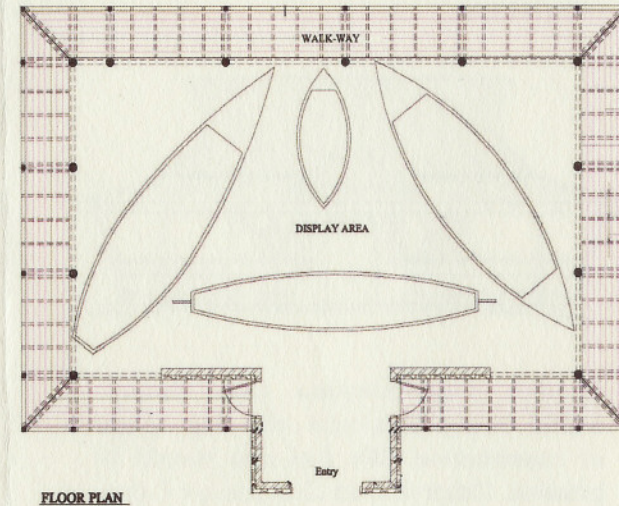
An open-sided superstructure is now required, with roof and security enclosure, and a walkway around for viewing.



ELEVATION 2

The Bequia Heritage Foundation trustees Herman Belmar, Owen Belmar, and Pat Mitchell, in consultation with Wendy Leighton, and architect-builders Thomas Dehen and Gabi Peters, decided that the investment thus far (EC\$30,000) which has produced this considerable concrete foundation, deserves a permanent superstructure, not the temporary one originally envisaged.

Thomas and Gabi came up with an excellent design.

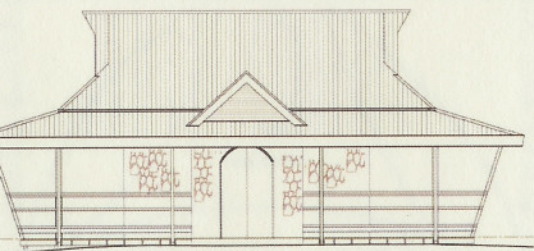


FLOOR PLAN

This will in no way interfere with the larger Bequia Museum which we hope will someday grace the sloping land to the sea. In fact, the trustees are sure that it will be easier to raise funds once this initial project is completed.

The response to requests for donations thus far has been outstanding. Some well-wishers put a hand into their pocket more than once to keep the project on track! But because the building has now been designed to be permanent, and is more complex and attractive, additional funding will be needed.

We are grateful to Bequia resident Wendy Leighton who recently donated sterling £5000, (EC\$26,000). This will cover the cost of the greenheart lumber just arrived from Guyana. We estimate that a further US\$20,000 or sterling £10,000 or EC\$50,000 will see us through to completion.



Another super-donation like Wendy's would really kick-start this last phase of construction. We feel this should be possible. Otherwise an abundance of more modest donations will do the trick.

St. Vincent Electricity Services turned over to us a number of wallaba hardwood poles which will be most useful for roof-support posts. They have also agreed to give us a special rate for connection even though two new poles will be needed.

Help of any kind is welcome. Donations will be duly credited unless you specifically ask to remain anonymous.

A museum for Bequia will proudly include the maritime culture which has been the life-blood of this tiny island for years. Boat-builders, sailors and whalers, and school-children, will have a place to study the roots of their own history.

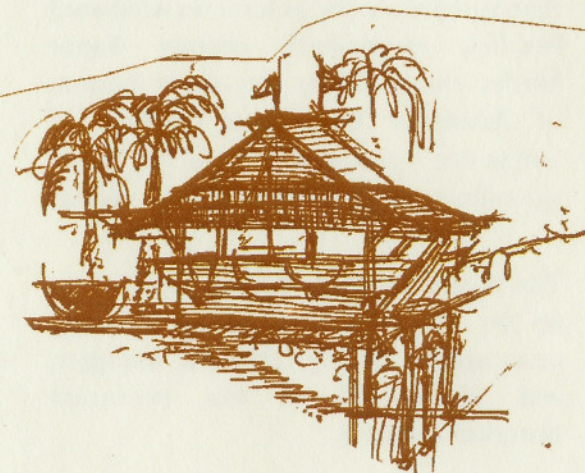


Visitors will take a taxi to this superb look-out site with its panoramic view of Friendship Bay and the lower Grenadines. The boat museum will offer them a deeper insight into what makes Bequia unique.

If you agree with us on the importance of a Bequia Museum we hope you will give us the assistance we need to complete this first phase. We cannot do it without you. Please contact one of the trustees at any time.

- Herman Belmar - Chairperson
(784) 458 3510 humpback@vincysurf.com
- Pat Mitchell - Secretary
(784) 458 3800 patmitchell@vincysurf.com
- Wendy Leighton - Trustee
(784) 457 3681 wjl@wendyleighton.com
- Owen Belmar - Trustee
(784) 458 3318

BEQUIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Goal:
a comprehensive historical and cultural museum for the island

Site:
a superb acre overlooking Friendship Bay and the Grenadines

Current Project:
completion of a building to display the legendary work-boats of the region

P. O. Box 300, BEQUIA,
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
bequiamuseum@vincysurf.com