

NATIONAL

\$500,000 needed to restore Salt Cay landmark

ANOTHER \$500,000 is needed in donations in order to restore the old Government House on Salt Cay back to its former glory.

The Turks and Caicos Preservation Foundation, working with the National Trust, hopes to turn the crumbling building into a visitors' centre and exhibition hall – but at the moment they lack funds to complete the restoration.

The grounds of the once majestic Government House are overgrown, the stone walls and entrance pillars are crumbling, and the house itself is the definition of dilapidated and decrepit.

Ethlyn Gibb-Williams, director of the National Trust, said that an estimated \$600,000 is needed in total to carry out the restoration work and that more than \$100,000 has already been raised.

A spokesperson from the Turks and Caicos Preservation Foundation said: "It is very apparent that the hearts of the handful of people who live on Salt Cay are behind this project and any project that preserves the culture and heritage of this country."

On Thursday, January 17, about 100 people flew in to Salt Cay to attend a four hour golf buggy and walking tour of Sunnyside and the White House – two completed restoration projects.

Both of the old homes were built by and belonged to the Herriot family who



OVERGROWN: The old Government House's stone, brick and wood are weather beaten and decayed, but not unsalvageable.

came to Salt Cay from Bermuda to make, rake and sell salt.

The two buildings have huge, tall basements and first floors where the salt was stored and the second floor was the living area.

Helen Kriebler, of Colorado, USA, president of the foundation, took on Sunnyside herself and hired a small army of people to complete the impressive restoration work.

Architectural firm Lee and Astwood handled the historical details and plans and have also provided artistic renditions of how the Government House will look once restored.

Minister of Home Affairs Galmo Williams, his wife and prominent businesswoman Althea Williams, and Derek Taylor, former Chief Minister of the TCI, were among those who attended the event.

Windmills Plantation Resort owners Jim and Sharon Shafer were the primary organisers, lining up golf carts, getting people to and from Salt Cay, arranging the food and beverages and ensuring that everyone enjoyed themselves.

In view of the continuing modernisation of each island and cay, the work of the Preservation Foundation, hand in hand with the National Trust, becomes increasingly important.

If you would like to donate time, money or materials to the foundation, contact Helen Kriebler, 6017 N. Villard Court, Parker, CO, 80134, USA.

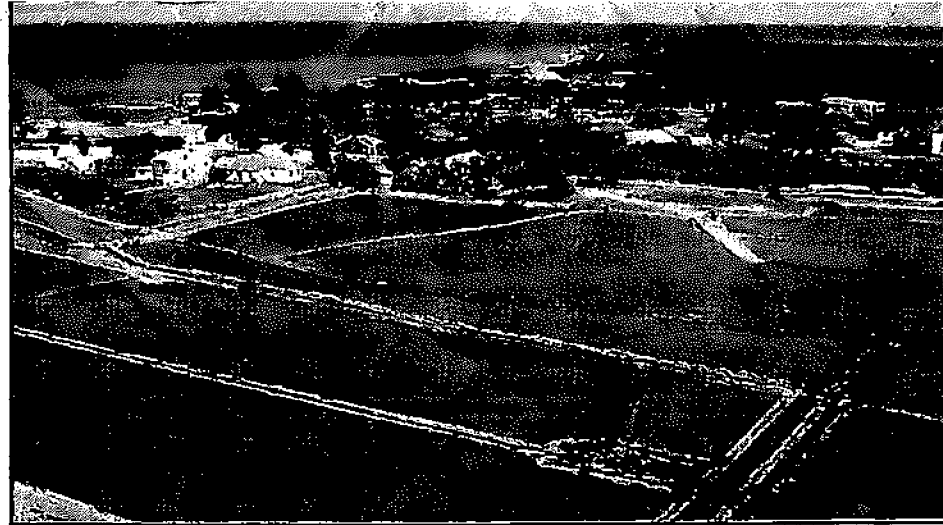
Make cheques payable to The Turks and Caicos Preservation Foundation and mail to the above address.

Donations made payable to the Turks and Caicos National Trust should be dropped off at their offices beside the PPC Customer Service Office, Downtown Providenciales.

The Foundation promises that each and every contributor's name will be displayed on a wall at Government House when the restoration is complete.



SUNNYSIDE RESTORED: Sunnyside (Brown House) has been painstakingly restored, thanks to Helen Kriebler and Lee and Astwood Architects. The lower floor is a large, tall cellar where the salt was stored. The Herriots lived on the second floor, with a fabulous view out to sea.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW: Salt was gold when these salt pans were producing, and it was shipped to the USA, Canada and Europe. The old windmill (bottom left) helped pump water through the pans.



MINISTER'S SUPPORT: Hon. Galmo Williams and his wife Althea were part of the Salt Cay event.



WOOD AND STONE: The once elegant wooden balcony and the venerable old stone walls of Government House are in a sad state.