



Friday 4th April 2025

The St. Christopher National Trust is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that was established by an Act of Parliament in 2009. The Trust transitioned from the St. Christopher Heritage Society which was established in 1989. The primary objective of the Trust is the administering and preserving of sites, buildings and objects that are of archaeological, architectural, artistic, environmental and historical importance on St. Kitts

Construction of the Old Treasury building began in 1894. It was completed and occupied as the Treasury in 1896. It is the official home of the St. Christopher National Trust and Museum. The building has been vested in the National Trust.

Repairs to cracked walls were done over the past few decades, but these past repairs utilized modern cement which reacted with the original limestone mortar. Ultimately the use of Portland Cement led to further cracking and even crumbling of the surface of many of the walls. Additionally, the roof is in dire need of repair, with leaks threatening historic artifacts that were housed in the Museum on the upper floor.

In 2018 minimal scaffolding was erected to stop crumbling stone from the rooftop cornice falling onto the sidewalk. Numerous assessments made it clear that specialized expertise would be needed to repair the decades-old deterioration.

Monies were allotted in the National Budget passed in December 2022, for restoration work on the building. A contract valued at some EC\$1.8 million was signed between Parvenir Restoration Trinidad and the St. Christopher National Trust (on behalf of the government) in July of 2023. Parvenir is an industry leader with an outstanding reputation. Its projects have included the restoration of the Orillion Bastion wall at Brimstone Hill.

The National Trust building restoration was estimated to take nine months. Amendments were made to the contract in August and after a 10% mobilization fund



was paid, work got underway on the 11th of September, 2023. The project saw a significant amount of hoarding going up around the entire building to protect people moving in the vicinity of the edifice.

In December 2023, there was a break in work for the carnival festivities, and the Parvenir crew returned to Trinidad. They returned to St. Kitts in January of 2024, But left soon thereafter due to lack of funding by the State for work that had already been completed.

The outstanding monies were eventually paid in July 2024, however additional costs incurred by the contractor, due to client delay, were not paid until February of this year (2025).

Parvenir has submitted an adjusted schedule to the Project Manager, Lindbergh Alvaranga, and is preparing to be back on the ground in St. Kitts. Work is scheduled to resume in April.

The Trust and Parvenir have received a commitment from the government that funding will be made available to complete the project.

Due to the amount of time that has passed, there will need to be a reassessment of the structure and the completed work, by the Restoration Specialist Engineer Danielle Steele, but barring any significant issues, it is expected that the project will be completed by year end.