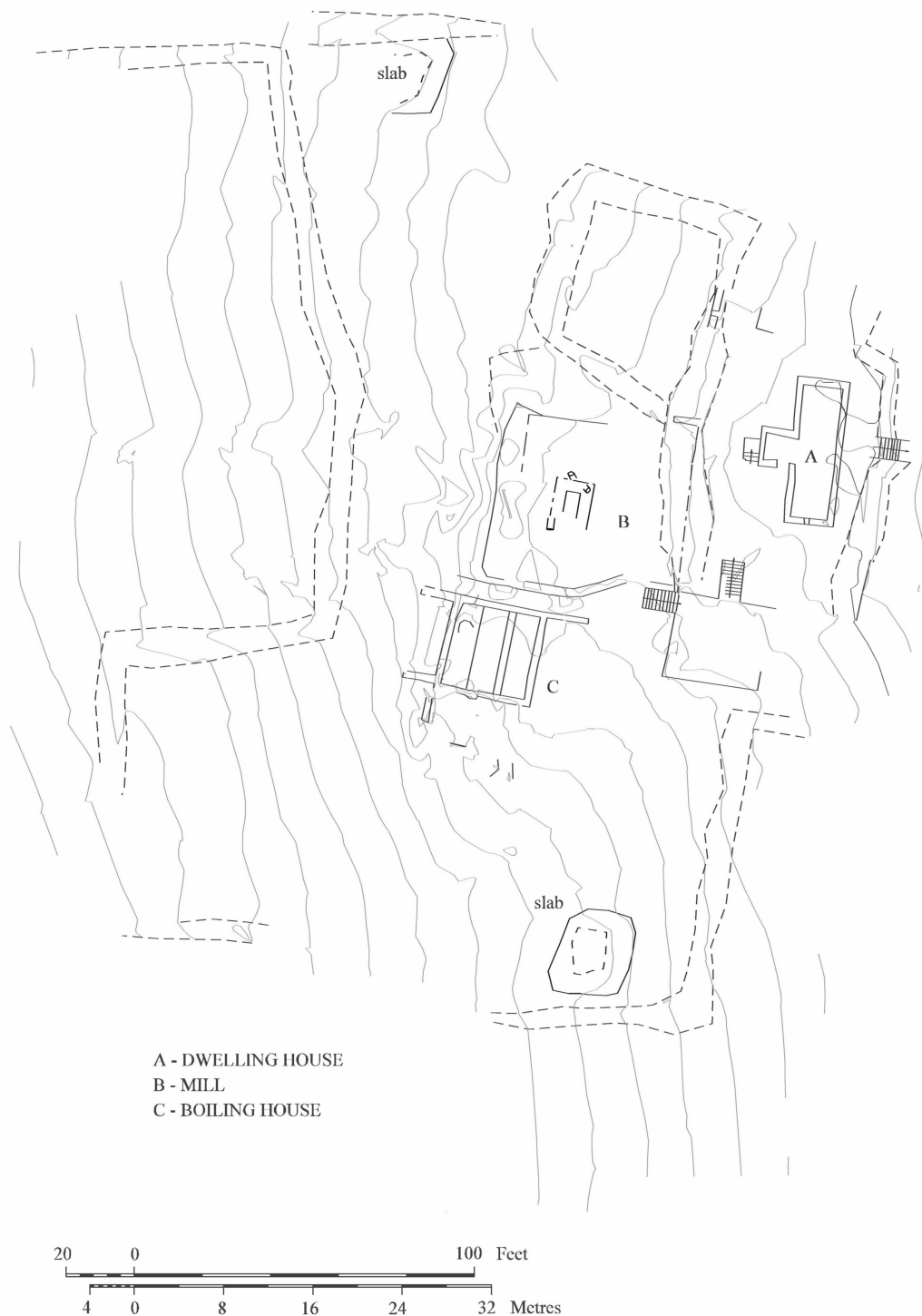


Fig. 3.7 Mountravers, field survey, initial results from GPS survey



*Fig. 3.8 Woodlands, survey of the plantation house and works (based on a survey by Tim Sly)*

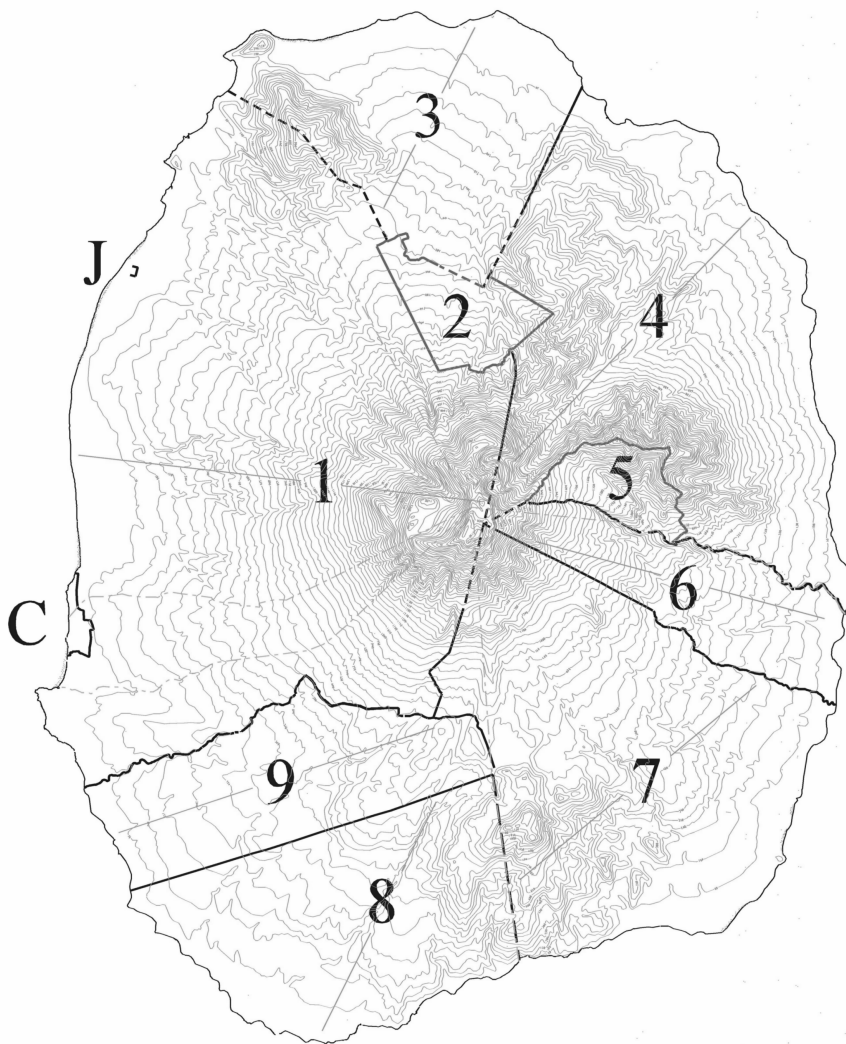
### Upper Woodlands

The earthwork and standing remains of a further works are situated 450m to the east of Mountravers between 1200 and 1250ft OD. The most obvious feature is a stone revetted platform, 60ft wide north-south, 80ft long east-west. Stone footings indicate that the platform supported timber framed buildings. These remains will be planned in detail in 2002. The uppermost part of the Mountravers estate as it was by 1879 may have formerly been a discrete plantation centred on these works.

### The Landscape of Mountravers – the Wider Context

Documentary research has continued to be directed at placing the Pinney estate at Mountravers in its wider context. At an early stage in the project the rectilinear form of the surviving colonial landscape of Nevis was noted as dating most probably from the early settlement of the island from the 1630s onwards. Research utilising early estate maps, air photographs and the modern mapping of the island has enabled some preliminary conclusions to be made. The boundaries of the plantation estates of the island were probably aligned on seven principal axes (Fig. 3.9). On the west coast the boundaries of estates from the Sulphur Ghut on the south to Cade's Bay on the north followed the same common alignment (1 on Fig. 3.6). To the north, east and south, estates were similarly laid out on discrete alignments (3, 4 and 6-9 on Fig. 3.9).

In some instances, as with Sulphur Ghut and New River Ghut, natural features formed the boundaries between these major blocks. The northern boundary of the block to the south of Sulphur Ghut is also of particular interest. To the east of Sulphur Ghut the boundary (between 1 and 9, Fig. 3.9) appears to be the present round the island road, indicating that this was already in existence when these two blocks of estates were laid out.



*Fig. 3.9 The colonial landscape of Nevis: the possible divisions of the island as in the seventeenth century. Within each division the single straight line indicates the alignment of the plantations and principal land divisions*

With the exception of the block of estates on the south-east (7 on Fig. 3.9), the estates within each block were laid out so as to run across the contours, towards the sea at one end, towards the mountain at the other. On the south-east, where there is a more gradual ascent towards Nevis Peak, estates were laid out along the contours. Fieldwork and documentary research are

indicating that within many of the strips extending across each block there may have been in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries two and sometimes four or more estates.

In this European Renaissance landscape of geometrically enclosed fields two blocks of estates were anomalous. To the north of Nevis Peak the Hog Valley estate, in the nineteenth century renamed as Mount Pleasant, forms one entirely separate block (2 on Fig. 3.9). To the east of Nevis Peak, a second such estate is the Deodand (5 on Fig. 3.9). Both must have been laid out as discrete entities. Why and for what purpose will merit future discussion. The Deodand can be linked to the defence and protection of plantations and slaves in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

The discrete blocks of estates may be referred to as 'Divisions'. This is a term used in several of the few early surviving deeds of property transactions, and also within the earliest census of the island for 1677-8. The latter is essentially a listing of the militia available for the defence of the island, arranged within 13 'companies' or 'divisions' (Oliver 1919, 27-35, 70-80). Mapping of the divisions indicates also a possible relationship between the civil and religious organisation of the island in the seventeenth century. The five ancient parishes are in considerable part coterminous with the main blocks of estates. Research in 2002 will be directed towards establishing further the wider Caribbean context to island division for the English colonial settlements of the 1630s on Nevis and other islands.

## **Excavations on the Global Dominion Site in Charlestown**

Excavations in 2000 had been completed with some rapidity in the expectation that this site was about to be redeveloped. Plans for the future of the site have now been extended, and provided the opportunity in 2001 to record in more detail the east-west section across the site. The sloping deposits recorded to the east of the early eighteenth-century sea wall are now seen as dumped material, possibly to clear the ground behind and restore this site to its former ground level after severe erosion of the shore here in the late seventeenth or very early eighteenth centuries.

Further research has also identified two views of the building on vertical air photographs of the 1950s. David Rollinson has provided one view of the seaward side of the plot. The discovery of a photograph showing the site from Main Street would be of great interest.

## **Jamestown**

Locating the site of the seventeenth century town at Jamestown has for long been a subject of great interest to Nevis historians. Identifying its location was also one objective for the investigations undertaken by the *Time Team* archaeological project in 1998. These investigations provided evidence for seventeenth century occupation to the south-west of Fort Ashby, but no evidence of structures other than a wall visible within a field belonging to Mr John Clarke. Drought conditions and road widening works in 2001 enabled the location of Jamestown to be suggested with rather more certainty.

Drought conditions and the reduction of vegetation cover enabled the identification and survey of more of the north-south wall recorded by *Time Team*, and the corner of this wall with a second wall at least 2 metres wide extending westwards to the present road (Fig. 3.10). The north-south wall continues, evident for the most part only as a break of slope, northwards towards the ghut beyond the riding stables of Mr John Guilbert. Within this walled area, one set of building foundations was identified by Mr Guilbert, close to the road beside the entrance to his stables. Immediately to the south, within the line of a modern track, much cultural material of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was recorded on the surface.



Immediately south of the ghut, on the west side of the road, a further area of high resistance may indicate a former structure. Further south the visible foundations are similarly recorded as an anomaly. West of the present road and immediately east of Fort Ashby an area of high resistance may denote a structure placed symmetrically opposite the entrance to the fort. To the south, no further features were identifiable between Fort Ashby and the ghut.

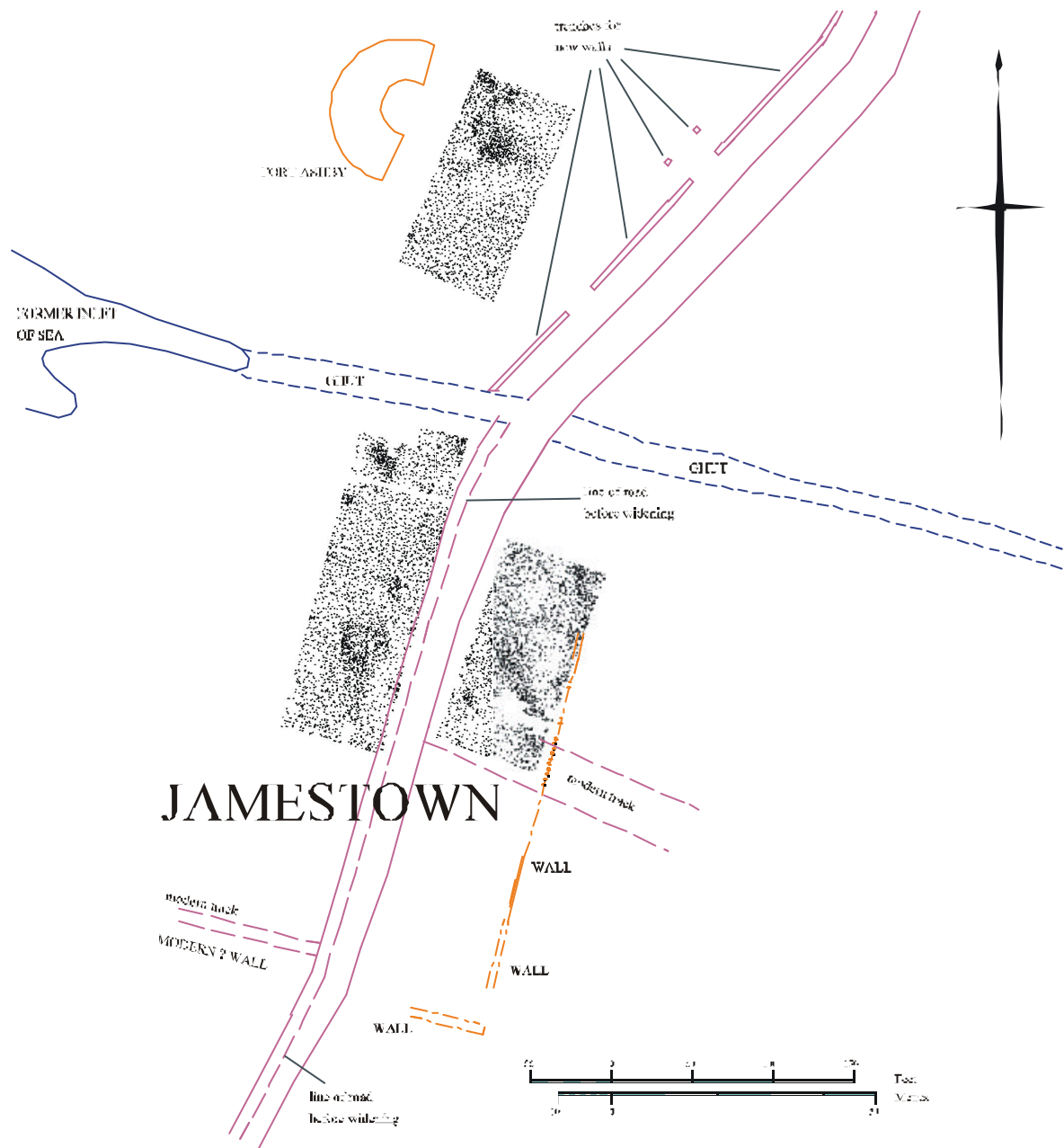


Fig. 3.11 Jamestown, geophysical survey in 2001

It seems increasingly likely that the present road was also the main street of seventeenth century and later Jamestown. Documentary research indicates that properties extending backwards from the east side of the Main Street of Jamestown were of 64 feet in depth (Nevis Common Records, fol.159). The distance from the frontage of Building 4 (the only structure yet recorded on the east side of the main road) to the north-south wall first recorded by *Time Team* is c.65 feet.





## Education

A major part of the project was again its educational dimension. The work served as a field school for the University of Southampton students, but also as an introduction to archaeology for four sixth form students from Bristol, all with a West Indian or African background. Bristol City Museum's archaeological unit is supporting this part of the project as a means of involving young people from a significant minority group within the city in archaeology - linking this to the ongoing programme to bring a multi-cultural perspective to the city's complex Atlantic past and involvement in the slave trade.

In 2001 the project benefited from the involvement of Elizabeth Rhodes, an Outreach Officer for Bristol City Museum, first in the selection of five young people of African-Caribbean heritage attending Bristol schools and colleges for the archaeology project, subsequently in a preliminary meeting for familiarisation at the museum before the expedition, accompanying the young people en route, working alongside the young people on the island, encouraging a sense of 'exploration' on the island, providing opportunities for finding out about local culture and providing opportunities of integrating with people of Nevis.

Working along with the Departments of Education and Culture the Outreach Officer was involved in making contacts with Nevis schools to create links with three Bristol Primary schools, working closely with the education department in order to foster a sense of pride in the island's heritage, encouraging schools to find out more about their local heritage, developing and running a programme for trainee teachers to assist them in adding site visits to their history curriculum, working closely with the museums on the island in their work of encouraging more interest from schools and local people in the museum collections.

Filming all of the above was Janice Armstrong from BBC Bristol. The film coverage was used for three news items broadcast to several million viewers in south-west England whilst the project was in progress, and is being used also for a feature film now in preparation. News clippings taken from the filmed material were posted online on the Internet, as part of BBC Black Echo (Fig. 3.12 is one extract from this coverage).

## Acknowledgments

For support and help in 2001 many thanks are needed. On Nevis we owe an especial debt to our sponsor Morning Star Investments, also to Vince Hubbard, Ernest Dover and Guy and Marion Walker, also to Bill Pinney for his permission and support at Mountravers, to Nicholas Grant St James for permission to complete the work on the Global Dominion Site, to John Guilbert, John Clarke and Mrs Dora Stevens for permission to undertake work at Jamestown, to Richard and Maureen Lupinaci for permission and much assistance at the Hermitage. In Britain we are especially helpful to the support given by the British Academy, the Society of Antiquaries, and English Heritage.

Equally vital has been the help given by Nevis Historical and Conservation Society, by Joan and David Robinson, by Annette Manners, by Lornette Hanley and their respective staff members, and by many members of the Society. Here we must especially thank David Rollinson for his valuable support and advice on archaeological matters and Edris Fellows for organising accommodation for the Bristol students. In progressing the work in the field all those who provided assistance in a multitude of ways are warmly thanked, most especially the Four Seasons Resort for the loan of wheelbarrows and hard hats, Martin Dalglish for much practical assistance and Drew and Marjorie Morris for the storage of equipment in their garage.

More generally on Nevis we owe many thanks to the Director of Planning, Mrs Esternella West, and her staff, for permissions and support. The ever increasing contacts between the project and



the government and people of Nevis have been one of the rewards to us of working on the island. Here we must again give our especial thanks also to the Premier, the Hon. Vance Amory, for his support and for having introduced us to Edward Herbert, who has contributed much to our work in the field. We must also thank Malcolm Guishard and Tyrone O'Flaherty, Minister and Permanent Secretary for Tourism, for their support, also Lieutenant Liburd of the Prison Service for the assistance of prisoners from the island's Prison Farm to cut a more direct track to the Mountravers Slave Village, enabling the excavators, their equipment and visitors to reach the site with relative ease.

Finally we must thank colleagues and members of the team. Amongst the former we are again especially grateful to Stephen Price, Director of Bristol City Museum, and to Professor Eric Klingelhofer of Mercer College, Georgia, for their support and advice. We must also thank Dr Mark Horton of the University of Bristol for his support and collaboration in the British Academy research project. For advice on the historical sources for Mountravers and the Pinneys we again thank David Small and Christine Eickelmann for generously sharing their knowledge and expertise; we must also thank Charlie Woodley for our first memorable visit to the site of the slave village and David McOmish of English Heritage for advice on undertaking fieldwork on Nevis more generally. For advice on air photographic sources and GPS we are again much indebted to Russell Fox of the Ordnance Survey in Southampton. In the field we were especially grateful to our staff colleagues Jim Andrews, Kathryn Knowles and Tim Sly from the University of Southampton, to Nigel Fradgley and Jen Heathcote from English Heritage, to Rosie Clarke, Reg Jackson, Elizabeth Rhodes and David Stevens from Bristol City Museum, to students from Nevis schools, to the students from Bristol schools, Stephen Dick, Aldo Daud, Shawn Simon, Ella Stewart-Holland and Leonie Williams, and to the Southampton students Adam Jackson, Angela Smith, Isabelle Dyer, Charlotte Frearson, Holly Goldsmith, Caroline McCarthy, Dan Britton, Simon Gorst, Christopher Wickens and Matthew Wright, also students from various institutions Anna Clarke, Alex Marshall, Jenny Pollock, Simon Williams, Katherine Allen and Eleanor Leech.

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## **EVIDENCE FOR A TSUNAMI ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1690 EARTHQUAKE**

Dr James R Andrews, School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton

In the Interim Report for 2000 archaeological data for the erosion of the shoreline and removal of earlier deposits at Main Street, Charlestown, was linked to the documentary evidence for a tidal wave following the earthquake of 1690.

In 2001 the author undertook a search for evidence at two sites of possible deposits which might mark the limits of a catastrophic marine incursion. Such deposits might be expected to take the form of rounded beach pebbles, boulders and marine shells.

## **Locality A - east of the supposed former site of Jamestown behind the Nevis Equestrian Centre**

An area approximately 400m by 200m is bounded by the main road to the west and by a stream to the east (centred 338 990). The latter curves westward as it continues downstream, exiting to the sea at Fort Ashby. This area was traversed on a series of E-W lines but no evidence of any unusual deposits were encountered.

## **Locality B - coastal fields abutting Hurricane Hill immediately east of the coast at Oualie Beach**

This constituted a good potential site as there is a gentle slope away from the shoreline before the land rises rapidly to the east (centred 350 015). This would have formed a natural backstop to any large wave(s). In July 2001 the preceding dry spell had subdued the natural vegetation and afforded excellent conditions for a search. Exposures of volcanic bedrock are common affording confidence that any unusual deposits would still have been visible. Despite an extensive search no traces of any marine shells or rounded boulder beds were found.

## **Recommendation for further work**

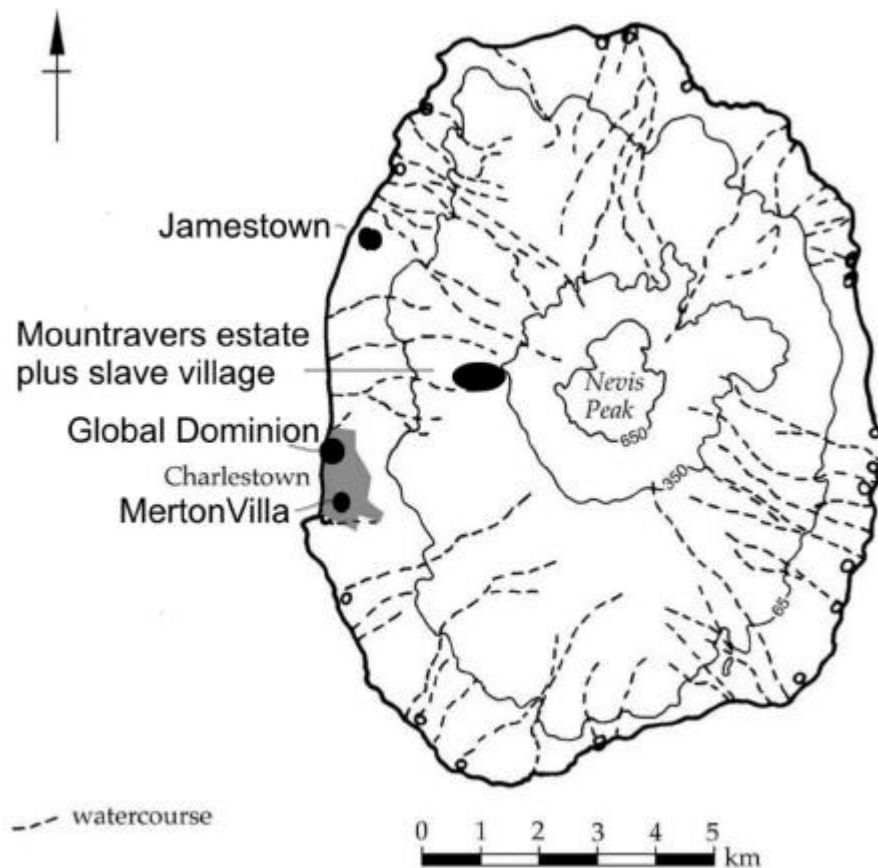
Marine incursions caused by a tsunami overwhelming a fresh water lake can result in catastrophic death of any fresh water organisms and terrestrial vegetation. These, together with contemporaneous flood-deposits of sands and gravels, can form a distinctive layer in the lake sediments. Coring of any suitable fresh water lakes combined with radio carbon dating of the decayed organic matter provides a potential means of establishing evidence for a 1690 event.

## **SOCIAL STATUS AND ETHNICITY IN HISTORIC NEVIS: A ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Mark Nokkert

This study is an abridged version of a Master's dissertation that was written as part of the MA Osteoarchaeology course at the University of Southampton (Nokkert 2001). Only the more important results will be presented here. For more detailed information of the methodologies applied and further results, plus for information regarding the historical and zooarchaeological background of the study, the reader is referred to the original dissertation. The results of the analyses of additional animal remains from the Jamestown and Mountravers excavations, re-discovered after completion of the dissertation (Nokkert 2002a,b), have also been included here. This study is the first historical zooarchaeological study carried out for Nevis.

The 'sugar boom' during the seventeenth century attracted a variety of people to Caribbean islands such as Nevis. Most prominently amongst these was a small, powerful group of rich white planters. They erected a graded social system in which the big planters, small planters, servants, and slaves were ranked and segregated into their own social classes, resulting in a strict social stratification on Nevis. After Emancipation, in 1834, the Creole population led a liminal existence in a society still ruled by the former colonists.



*Fig. 3.13 Nevis with the location of the five sites studied*

## **Aims**

This study tries to show that differences between the various groups that lived on Nevis during the historical period are reflected in the patterning in the animal remains discarded by these groups. Such remains show variations in human-animal relationships and differences in the diet, reflecting the socio-economic status or ethnicity of these groups.

## **Materials**

Animal remains found at five historical archaeological sites on Nevis, dating from the late seventeenth to the twentieth century, were analysed (Figure 3.13). Animal remains were obtained from the following excavations: the 1998 Channel 4 'Time Team' excavations at Jamestown and the Mountravers estate, the 2000 and 2001 excavations by a team led by Dr. Roger Leech (University of Southampton) and Bruce Williams (Bristol City Museum Archaeological Unit) at the Global Dominion, Mountravers estate and Mountravers slave village, plus the 1993-1997 excavations at Merton Villa by Dr. Michelle Terrell (Boston University).

### **Jamestown**

The excavations at Jamestown, the first settled town on Nevis, delivered relatively few animal remains. Some remains were associated with a late 17th - early 18th century occupation, centering at the 1680s (N = 87), while others were associated with a post-1830s occupation (N = 71). The former remains were possibly from white merchant families, while the pottery from the latter group showed that people of low socio-economic status lived in the area. These were most likely Creole people who had settled here after Emancipation (Barker N.D., Bellamy 2001a).

## **Global Dominion**

A somewhat larger collection of remains was analysed from the Global Dominion tenement plot, located near the waterfront in the northern part of Charlestown (Leech & Williams 2000). The remains from this site were separated into two main groups, remains from undisputed late 17th - early 18th century contexts (N = 1016), and remains from the late nineteenth century onwards (N = 301).

## **Mountravers estate**

The largest number of remains originated from the excavations at the Mountravers estate. The remains excavated by the 'Time Team' in 1998 (Bellamy 2001b) and by Roger Leech's team in 2000 and 2001 were combined. The pottery found indicated that some of the remains could be dated to the 1680s (N = 1484), which are probably related to the Freemans occupation (Barker 2001; Bellamy 2001b). The remainder could be identified to the 1830s, related to the Huggins occupation of the estate (N = 321). The pottery showed that the Huggins led a very affluent life.

## **Mountravers slave village**

The excavations by Roger Leech's team in 2001 at the Mountravers slave village delivered very few animal remains (N = 62). The remains are probably from the late 18th-early 19th century (Williams *pers. comm.* 2001), and are presumed to be part of the refuse of slave diets.

## **Merton Villa**

The Merton Villa, a late 18th - early 20th century townhouse in the south of Charlestown had been occupied by four different families, which could be identified by historical documents (Terrell 2000). All families had been known on Nevis as prosperous, white families, who also had plantations elsewhere on the island and came to the townhouse for rest and entertainment. Three of the four families left distinctive archaeological deposits, and animal remains were analysed belonging to each of these families: the Pembertons (c. 1762-1828; N = 821), the Cassins (1828-1862; N = 321), and the Liburds (1873-1929; N = 131).

## **Methodology**

All remains were analysed using identical methodologies, thus facilitating comparisons between the various assemblages. The following basic data were recorded: identification of element and taxon; a zoning system for the recording of the parts of the element present; dental eruption and tooth wear stages; epiphyseal fusion data; sex identifications; measurements. In addition, several data were recorded specifically for taphonomical analyses in order to be able to understand possible changes to the assemblages due to different taphonomical histories: preservation; gnawing; burning; chop and cut marks; pathological and non-pathological conditions; worked bone. For quantification purposes, NISP (number of identified specimens), MNE (minimum number of elements) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) were applied.

## **Results**

### **Taphonomy**

When analysing the preservation of the remains, there was a clear distinction between the Global Dominion and Mountravers estate assemblages on the one hand, and the Jamestown and Mountravers slave village assemblages on the other. The former assemblages contained rather well preserved remains, contrasting sharply with the badly preserved remains from the latter group. The preservation of the remains from the Merton Villa assemblages was somewhere in between these two extremes, with the oldest assemblage, Pemberton, showing worse preservation than the two more recent ones. Bad preservation of the remains could indicate that most of the more fragile remains may have disappeared over time. The observed differences in preservation were also reflected in the identifiability of the remains, with the better preserved assemblages generally showing a much higher percentage of identifiable remains. While some

of these differences could be linked to variations in collection methods or refuse disposal patterns, most were, however, probably caused by differences in the intensity of post-depositional destructive processes.

A fragmentation index was created from the zoning data obtained for all assemblages. This showed that all sites contained a predominance of very fragmented remains. Only the Huggins assemblage contained relatively large bone pieces. For all other sites, 50% or more of the pieces were very small fragments (less than 12.5% of the original bone size).

### Species representation

Table 3.1 gives an overview of the NISP for the identified taxa in all assemblages.

Common name	Taxon name	Jamestown		Global Dominion		Mountravers estate		Mountr. slave village	Merton Villa		
		17/18	p-1830s	17/18	19/20	1680s	Huggins	18/19	Pemberton	Cassin	Liburd
<b>MAMMALS</b>											
Human	<i>Homo sapiens</i>										5
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>				1						
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>				6						
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>			1							
Donkey/Mule	<i>Equus</i> sp.				1						
Horse/Donkey/Mule	<i>Equus</i> sp.			1							
Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	4	4	27	15	7	12		17	8	2
Cow	<i>Bos taurus</i>	8	2	138	47	23	3	2	18	1	4
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>			4	2	1	5		3		1
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>			1					1		
Sheep/Goat	<i>Ovis/Capra</i> sp.			45	33	9	31		31	18	17
Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>						2				
Rat	<i>Rattus</i> sp.				1	1	2				1
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus</i>				1						
Cow-size	Mammalia	3	2	79	36	47	3		18	3	
Sheep-size	Mammalia	5	1	42	27	16	21		80	18	17
Rodent-size	Mammalia						1				
Unidentified Mammal	Mammalia	50	6	240	70	262	76	6	375	81	36
<b>BIRDS</b>											
Domestic fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>				1		1				
Domestic/ Guinea fowl	<i>Gallus/Numida</i> sp.			4	6	1	5		2		1
Domestic goose	<i>Anser</i> sp.						1				
Unidentified Bird	Aves			2	9	2	7		8	3	5
<b>REPTILES</b>											
Sea turtle	Cheloniidae			32	7		67			2	2
Unidentified Reptile	Reptilia										1
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>											
Unidentified Amphibian	Amphibia						3				
<b>FISH</b>											
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>			1					2		
Needlefish	Belonidae										1
Squirrelfish	Holocentridae			1					2	1	
Barracuda	Sphyraenidae				1				1	1	
Grouper	<i>Mycteroperca</i> sp.									1	
Grouper	Serranidae	1		11	10		1		44	34	3
Jack	<i>Caranx</i> sp.								1		
Jack	Carangidae								2	3	
Snapper	Lutjanidae			1	3				1	5	

Grunt	Haemulidae			1		1			6	5	2
Porgy	Sparidae								1	4	
Mullet	Mullidae									1	
Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma</i> sp.			1					1		
Parrotfish	<i>Scarus</i> sp.								1		
Parrotfish	Scaridae			1					1		
Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus</i> sp.								1		
Tuna	<i>Euthynnus</i> sp.			3							
Tuna fish	Scombridae				1				1		
Triggerfish	Balistidae			5					8	8	5
Trunkfish	Ostraciidae								4		
Porcupine fish	<i>Diodon</i> sp.								1		
Porcupine fish	Diodontidae				1				1		
Unidentified fish	Osteichthyes			23	13	4	4		189	124	26
Unidentified bone	Vertebrata				1						2
<b>SHELLS</b>											
West Indian Top Shell	<i>Cittarium pica</i>	15	27	7		8	4				
Checkered Nerite	<i>Nerita Tessellata</i>			2							
West Indian Fighting	<i>Strombus pugilis</i>		4								
Rooster Tail Conch	<i>Strombus gallus</i>		1				1				
Queen Conch	<i>Strombus gigas</i>		10				1				
King Helmet	<i>Cassis tuberosa</i>		1								
Giant Tun	<i>Tonna galea</i>						1				
Deltoid Rock Shell	<i>Thais deltoidea</i>		1								
Variegated Turret Shell	<i>Turritella variegata</i>			3							
Trumpet Triton	<i>Charonia variegata</i>						2				
Triton	<i>Cymatium</i> sp.					1					
Latirus	<i>Leucozonia</i> sp.			1							
Striated bubble	<i>Bulla striata</i>			1							
Turkey Wing	<i>Arca zebra</i>		8				1				
Ark	<i>Anadara</i> sp.						1				
Eared Ark	<i>Anadara notabilis</i>	1	2				1				
Decussate Bittersweet	<i>Glycymeris decussata</i>						1				
Tiger Lucina	<i>Codacia orbicularis</i>						1				
Atlantic Strawberry	<i>Americardia media</i>						2				
Coquina	<i>Donax denticulatus</i>			172		928	43	52			
Unidentified Oyster	Isognomonidae		1								
Unidentified landsnail	Gastropoda			20		143					
Unidentified shell	Mollusca			113		30	1	2			
<b>CRABS</b>											
Coral crab	<i>Carpilius corallinus</i>				1						
Land hermit crab	<i>Coenobita clypeatus</i>			3	1						
Great land crab	<i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i>			3	2		2				
Black land crab	<i>Gecarcinus lateralis</i>			15	2						
Mountain land crab	<i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i>			2	1		3				
Unidentified land crab	Gecarcinidae			3							
Unidentified crab	Decapoda			7	1		11				
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>131</b>

Table 3.1 NISP of the taxa identified for the various assemblages. Data compiled from Nokkert (2001, 2002a and 2002b).

### Jamestown

Both the late 17th - early 18th century and the post-1830s Jamestown assemblages contained several cattle and pig remains. The remains of a snapper in the earlier deposits and the remains of several shellfish species in both assemblages indicate that local wild resources were also exploited in both periods. Of the shellfish, remains of the West Indian Top Shell (*Cittarium pica*) seemed particularly abundant in both periods. Due to the extreme weathering noticeable on most remains, most of the more fragile vertebrate and invertebrate remains may have been lost over time.

### Global Dominion

Both the late 17th - early 18th century and post-late 19th century assemblages were dominated by mammal remains. In both cases cows dominated, followed by sheep/goat and pig remains. The older assemblage also contained a relatively high number of large-sized sea-turtle remains, which may then still have been abundant in the waters surrounding Nevis. Both assemblages also contained large numbers of fish remains, especially groupers (Serranidae). All fish were from local waters, except for cod (*Gadus morhua*) found in the older assemblage. The cod vertebra had probably been part of imported salt fish. Amongst the shell, especially large numbers of a small bivalve were found (*Donax denticulatus*).

### Mountravers estate

Whilst the 1680s assemblage was dominated by cow remains, the Huggins assemblage was dominated by sheep/goat remains (probably all sheep) with pigs of secondary importance, and cows relatively unimportant in the diet. The high number of sea turtle remains from the Huggins assemblage is somewhat inflated by a large number of carapace scutes, probably originating from a single Hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Shell remains, most notably *Donax denticulatus*, were particularly abundant, especially in the 1680s assemblage.

### Mountravers slave village

The Mountravers slave village contained only a few cattle and shellfish (*Donax denticulatus*) remains. The bad preservation and the small scale of the excavations carried out could both be responsible for the lack of animal remains. Alternatively, the slave diet may have contained very little meat.

### Merton Villa

The three Merton Villa assemblages are all very similar to each other but differ greatly from the Global Dominion and the Mountravers estate assemblages. Mammal remains dominate in all three assemblages, in each case dominated by sheep/goat remains, with both cattle and pigs of secondary importance, although cows were still moderately abundant in the oldest assemblage. Interestingly, large numbers of fish remains were found in each assemblage, possibly related to the closeness of the site to the local fish market. The fish remains contained a relative wide diversity of fish taxa, especially for the Pemberton assemblage. Groupers (Serranidae) and Triggerfish (Balistidae) were most commonly eaten. All fish could have been caught in local waters, except for cod (*Gadus morhua*).

## Discussion

Despite low sample sizes for most assemblages, this study has provided several interesting results which may be related to differences in social status and/or ethnicity between the occupants of the sites analysed.

First of all, when looking at the species diversity between the assemblages, it is clear that some sites contain a wider spectrum of taxa than others. Despite a low overall number of remains, the Huggins assemblage is remarkable for its wide variety of different wild and domestic taxa, including several fish and shellfish species, plus two species which were not found in any of the other assemblages: domestic goose and an amphibian, probably the 'Mountain Chicken',



*Leptodactylus fallax*. This wide variety and the consumption of certain rare and sought-after types of meat can be interpreted as a sign of the Huggins' high social status and prosperity, which gave them the opportunity to acquire a wide range of foodstuffs.

The low fragmentation of the remains in the Huggins assemblage may, furthermore, be an indication of the consumption of relatively large pieces of meat by the Huggins household. This can also be seen as a difference in social status, or at least a difference in overall wealth: the Huggins were consuming larger portions of meat than anybody else, and were much less concerned with wasting useful body parts.

The three late 17th - early 18th century assemblages (from Jamestown, Global Dominion, and Mountravers estate) were markedly dominated by cow remains, whilst most later assemblages were dominated by sheep/goat remains. Pig remains were present in all assemblages, but usually in lower numbers than either cow or sheep/goat. Despite a possible island-wide trend towards an increased reliance on mutton at the expense of beef in the diet of many people on Nevis, the numbers of sheep remains in the Huggins assemblage are especially high. A connection between historically known high-status sites and the presence of large numbers of sheep remains in such sites is also known from other sites in the region (for example, Reitz 1987,1992; Watters 1997:272-273).

The high numbers of sheep/goat remains in both the Huggins assemblage, as well as in the Cassin and Liburd assemblages of the Merton Villa site contrast sharply with the much lower numbers of these small bovines in the contemporary assemblages of the Jamestown and Global Dominion sites. This may be a result of a defined difference in social status between the well-to-do white planter families on the one hand, and the much poorer Creole people living in the former Jamestown area and in the vicinity of the Global Dominion plot in Charlestown. The latter group may have continued the consumption of beef, whilst the white planters developed a preference for fresh mutton sometime in the late 18th century.

There is an indication that at least some of the beef consumed on Nevis was probably imported as barrelled beef. When combining the domestic mammal remains into their various body parts, a similar pattern emerged for all sites: relative to sheep/goat and pig remains, the numbers of cattle skull, teeth and foot remains are remarkably low. These are precisely the elements normally lacking in barrelled meat. The body part distributions of sheep/goat and pigs, in contrast, suggested that these were probably all locally raised. Similar conclusions were also drawn from differences in the body part distributions of the domestic mammals found at the slaves' quarters from the Brimstone Hill site on St. Kitts (Klippel 2001), although the pig bones found there also originated from barrelled pork.

The data analysed here suggests, nevertheless, that the majority of the meat from domesticated mammals consumed on Nevis throughout the last four hundred years came from locally raised animals, at least as far as the planters are concerned. Most other meat (fish, shellfish and other animals) were also locally obtained. Unfortunately, the little data from the Mountravers slave village made it impossible to ascertain whether this relative self-sufficiency extended to the meat supply for the slaves. More likely, however, there was a rather strict division between the white planter class consuming fresh locally raised animals, and the slaves living on poorer quality salted fish or meat. As the differences in the assemblages studied suggests, a similar distinction in diet probably continued after Emancipation between the remaining whites consuming fresh mutton and the Creole population consuming much cheaper barrelled beef.

## Conclusion

This study has shown that certain differences within the zooarchaeological remains from contemporary assemblages of Nevis' historical archaeological sites reflect differences between the various social groups who lived on these sites. This was most clearly seen in such subjects

as the overall species diversity, the consumption of fresh meat versus salted meat, the relative amount of mutton in the diet, and the size of the meat cuts consumed. It has also become clear that these differences are primarily a result of differences in socio-economic status between the social groups, with ethnicity of secondary importance.

Due to a strict hierarchical social system, the social groups on Nevis each had very different means for acquiring their daily protein intake. Differences in overall wealth seem to be the prime factor in this, whereby the rich, ruling white planter class had virtually no constraints in what they could eat, whilst people from lower, and thus poorer, social standing, such as the Creole population, lived on a more restricted diet.

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## **Appendix: Mountravers House 2001 – By Nigel Fradgley**

### **Introduction**

Objects recovered during the current archaeological excavations at Mountravers House attest to the occupation of the site in the seventeenth century. However the scope of this part of the report is to describe the later development of the house until its abandonment in the middle of the twentieth century. This task is complicated by the fact that the main part of the house no longer exists. Evidence for the former layout and use has been collected from various sources; these include a few existing exterior photographs, two air photographs, and architectural investigation of the standing ruins. Descriptions of the house given by Albert Powell, who lived at Mountravers as a boy, have provided a vivid picture of the scene as it was in the 1920's and 1930's. His evocative written description, made in 1988 after his return in 1980 to Nevis, is appended to this report.

### **The Main house**

The west front of the former house is known from two exterior photographs, both taken from the foot of the elegant stone steps which led up to the front entrance. The style of dress of the lady standing on the terrace (perhaps Joyce Huggins) suggests that one photograph was taken in the second half of the nineteenth century, the other is thought to have been taken in 1939 (Pam Barry pers comm.). Both photographs show the house in the same form, but the views do not extend to include the counting house to the south (right) or the stone built wing to the north, which now survives as a ruin. The exact location of the former house is indicated today by the survival of an unvaulted cellar, in which excavations have recently taken place. The cellar is rectangular in plan, aligned north south, measuring 11.13 x 4.72 metres internally. Sufficient of the stone rubble-built end walls survive to reveal a single entrance to the cellar at the south end

but no openings in the other walls. This seems to represent the footprint of the house shown in the photographs. The end walls of the cellar, just 0.65 and 0.50 metres thick, suggest that the main body was of single pile depth and of timber framed construction. The pattern of wall shingles can be made out faintly on both photographs, confirming that the house was timber framed.

A verandah or *stoep* is shown giving shade to the front of the house at the principal floor level. Turned timber balustrades flank both sides of the central entrance at the top end of the ascending stone steps. Today the position of the verandah is marked by the level platform, c.3 metres wide, which extends for the length of the former house. An extension of the verandah to the south, beyond the end of the house also provided access to the counting house and kitchen beyond (see discussion of counting house). There is virtually no trace left today of the grand approach steps, which would have been easily lifted for reuse elsewhere after the house was abandoned.

The internal layout of the house is necessarily less certain. However the photographs and most importantly the account by Albert Powell provide evidence. A small area of light within the dark of the front doorway shown on the photographs gives a clear sight through the house into the rear garden (east) beyond, indicating that the entrance hall had an opposed garden doorway at the rear. A closer view into the rear garden is provided by a small format photograph (in the possession of Pam Barry), taken from just inside the house. It shows garden bushes and plants on both sides of a path leading to steps ascending into the shade at the east end of the garden. The entrance hall gave access to the dining room at the south end of the house. Stairs in the north east corner led to the chamber floor, and additional stairs in the north west corner gave internal access to the cellar. A pantry was attached to the rear of the house, to which there was direct access from the dining room as well as from outside. Foundations of the pantry and steps to the doorway were seen and surveyed during tree clearance in 2001, and a small projection is shown in this position on the earliest air photograph (USAF 1946), which must represent the same structure. This photograph is taken from a high altitude and details are therefore unclear, however, with the exception of the stables, it seems to show the roofs of all the main buildings then still intact.

The plan of the chamber floor level is thought to have comprised three bedrooms. The largest bedroom, at the south end reached by a passage on the east side of the house, was occupied latterly by Mr. Mills (manager of the estate) and Mrs. Maud Mills. This room is likely to have mirrored the plan of the dining room below in taking the full depth of the house. As likely as it may have been, there is no direct evidence that a dressing room or closet, adjoining the main bedroom, was situated over the pantry. The other two family bedrooms, each having two windows, would have looked west over the forecourt towards the sea.

There is understandably no stylistic architectural evidence for the dating of the vanished house. Examination of the junction between the cellar and the front wall of the stone built northern wing reveals that the north wing was built up against and so postdates the cellar. One aim of the current excavations within the area of the cellar is to establish the construction date through analysis of the datable objects sealed beneath the brick and stone floor (see excavation report). A date in the first part of the eighteenth century has been given provisionally. Bearing in mind the building remains found under the cellar floor in 2001 it would be unreasonable to suggest that the house at Proctor's (Mountravers) described in the claim for losses in 1706 (PP West Indies, Box B) is the same as that shown in the early photograph. In any event some degree of internal refitting and external modification is likely to have taken place during the two centuries between the time of its first construction and the final days. The claim evidently describes a seventeenth-century plantation house, which is likely to have taken a different form. Thus it is possible that the cellar and vanished house are the direct successors to the house described in 1706.

## The North Wing

In marked contrast to the vernacular scale and style of the plantation house just discussed, the stone shell of the north wing still stands as much a monolithic statement today as it must have been when newly built. Had such a large building been put up during the later part of the Pinney era it seems likely that the building accounts would have emerged from among the Pinney papers. It is unlikely that Pinney would have initiated such a building project at Mountravers after his final return to Bristol in the 1770s; it is also questionable if such an investment would have been made during the unsettled times at the end of the century. It is suggested therefore that the wing was added by Edward Huggins after buying the estate from Pinney in 1808 (Pares 1950, 264), and that construction may not have started until after completion of the new house at Pinney's Yard in 1818, built by Peter Thomas Huggins (datestone above the upper storey doorway, PTH 1818).

The north wing is built of roughly squared granity coursed rubble, articulated externally by a platband, an ovolo moulded cornice and raised keystones to the flat headed openings. All the decorative timber mouldings and fittings have been removed, and now only the stone shell remains but enough of the masonry details survive to afford a more detailed account of the design and use of the building.

It had three storeys of a rectangular plan measuring externally 75 feet x 28 feet, aligned at a right angle to the main house. This required considerable excavation into the rising ground to the east. In addition, the wing is surrounded on three sides by a dry drain or ditch 8 feet wide. This also served to provide external access to the cellar level, which was subdivided into three separate cellars each with separate original external access. The former garden areas to the north and south are roughly level with the principal floor of the wing, so that sight of the cellars from the gardens was largely concealed from view. The aerial photograph of 1946 appears to show the roof hipped at both ends while the photograph taken from the garden suggests a shingle roof covering.

Measurements from the electronic survey carried out in 2000 reveal the following internal design dimensions (nominal):

	Internal Dimensions	External walls	Ceiling Heights
Cellar level	69 x 22 feet	3 feet	
Principal floor plan	71 x 24 feet	2 feet	11 ft 6 inches
Bedchamber floor plan	72 x 25 feet	1ft 6 inches	10 feet

Whilst the plan of the cellars is evident from the surviving internal walls, the arrangement on the upper two floors is subject to debate. Traces of two vertical scars in the remaining wall plaster on the principal floor indicate the former position of a folding screen or a timber cross wall 6 inches thick. This division would have produced a room at the east end of the wing measuring 35 x 24 feet with symmetrical fenestration on three walls, the focus of which was the large recessed panel with an elliptical head placed centrally in the east wall. The recess appears to have been tiled. Latterly the room contained a grand piano (Albert Powell, pers comm.) and was evidently the drawing room and reception room. The remaining western half of the wing, measuring 35ft 6 inches x 24ft, served both as a stair hall and garden entrance hall. The seven bays of the north elevation are punctuated by a doorway occupying the central bay, which is reached from the garden by a bridge across the cellar ditch; an arrangement which is matched by an opposed doorway in the south elevation. The position of the former stairs is indicated by the irregular bay spacing of the south elevation and by an internal vertical plaster scar on the south wall.

The junction between the old house and the new wing was effected by a linking block, homogeneously extending the west front elevation by one bay to produce the appearance of four bays width, not three, to the new wing. This stone façade concealed the timber construction of

the rear wall of the link block. The need to connect both parts of the house in this way also gave cause to break the regular pattern of openings in the south wall, which has six bays, instead of the seven seen in the north elevation. An indication of the original depth of the link block is given by the point at which the stone plat band ends on the south wall, as there is no indication that it has been dressed back later. Immediately to the east of this point an original window has been blocked and a chasing cut in the stone blocking to receive a fixing batten at picture rail height; evidence enough that the link block was later extended to the east.

Other alterations seem to be associated with this, although there is no means to date the change. Above this point, the original bedchamber window has been enlarged to create a doorway, and the original doorway in the south west corner of this floor blocked up. This not only provides confirmation that the plan of the link block was extended but also suggests that the stair plan was changed at the same time. Another vertical plaster scar can be seen c. 1 foot to the east of the blocked window and together these signs give the best indication of the final position of the stairs but the exact stair arrangement is not known.

It has been stated (Albert Powell pers comm.) that there was no direct access between the old house and the link block/north wing at bedchamber level, and from this we may infer that the bedroom accommodation in the north wing was intended primarily for visitors. Once again some evidence for the arrangement of the bedrooms can be gleaned from the plaster scars. Only a single scar survives on the north wall c.14ft 9ins from the east wall. If a passage ran along the north side from the head of the stairs as far as the plaster scar the plan may have comprised four bedrooms: one occupying the full width of the wing at the east end, two leading from the passageway, and one in the extended link block, mentioned above.

A photograph of the north side of the north range taken from the garden illustrates the window fittings. While the principal floor has conventionally splayed openings with pairs of external shutters on pintles, the windows of the bedchambers have reversed splays with louvred internal shutters and external shutters. This form of the splays must have been designed to increase the ventilation for the bedrooms. The principal floor was refitted with all steel sash windows, including composite steel sash boxes (unattractive to bugs). Traces of putty fillets still stuck to the thin glazing bars show they were originally glazed. The pattern of glazing bars, configured to produce six-paned sashes, suggests this alteration was made in the late nineteenth century.

### **The Kitchen**

Substantial parts of the kitchen walls still stand to the south of the early house. The stone construction of the gable walls and the surviving parts of the east wall show that it was two storeyed. Although the counting house is now attached to the north side of the kitchen, the latter is likely to have been built entirely detached from the main house. The large battered internal stone stack is placed centrally in the south gable, and enough of the associated fireplaces survive to give an impression of its most important features. The south wall incorporates the large central fireplace, which is flanked on the left by a bread or baking oven, while on the right remains of a small oven or iron range can still be seen under the collapsing masonry. It is likely that a set of charcoal braziers once occupied this position. The chimney shaft is decorated by a recessed panel with a round arched head. Access to the kitchen was via an external doorway at ground level in the west corner of the north wall, conveniently close to the stone water cistern. The west wall has almost entirely vanished but just enough stone dressings remain in the east wall to indicate the position of two splayed windows on each floor. An additional stone jamb survives above the entrance door jamb. Descriptions of the kitchen area (A.E. Powell) enable further interpretation. By the early part of the twentieth century the main kitchen functions had been transferred to the counting house, but the old kitchen fireplace was still occasionally used for cooking on a large scale. The upper floor was used for servants' accommodation, which was reached via stairs set against the north wall rising to the west over the entrance doorway. The stairs were lit by the window positioned directly above the doorway.

## The Counting House

Instructions to build a counting house, given in a letter from Pinney to William Coker dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 1785, provide a fair description of the building as it survives today. It remains the only structure on the site still roofed, a testament to the strength of the pyramidal stone roof structure “...to preserve papers etc from fire and wind...” ordained in the letter (reference from David Small). The structure measures 12 x 12 feet internally with stone walls 2 feet thick on both the cellar level and the principal floor levels. No original means of access to the vaulted cellar can be seen but a more recent low door opening is evident in the west wall. The original doorway to the main room can be seen now blocked up in the north wall, and was reached from the main house via the platform and verandah along the west front of the house. A straight stone joint between the kitchen and the counting house is visible on the east wall indicating that the counting house is built up against the earlier kitchen. Signs of alterations in the nineteenth century within the counting house suggest it was then divided by a timber partition wall, now removed, providing a direct passage route along the west side from the kitchen to the dining room. Adding the doorway into the kitchen from the counting house and moving the external doorway in the north wall to the west completed the new arrangement.

It is not clear when the counting house was first used for cooking on a daily basis, however it seems most likely that the change caused the timber partition to be removed. Today there are no signs that it served latterly as the main kitchen. Cooking was done on a freestanding metal stove fuelled by charcoal, no doubt equipped with a stove pipe.

Traces of exterior stone detailing and embellishment are still discernable. These include a parapet at the head of the three walls facing away from the old kitchen. The northern parapet appears to have been pitched a little towards the centre. A plain cornice, measuring 3” x 1” is also evident. An iron spike projects from the apex of the pyramid shaped stone roof, to which would have been fixed the “*turned lignum vitae ball with mouldings for the roof of the counting house...*” described in the accounts for 1789 (ibid.). Apart from decorative appeal the parapet also served to direct rainwater via a lead pipe probably to the nearby cistern.