



Dubloon Hill Farm, formerly Brown's Farm



Dubloon Cottage in 2019.

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This is part of a series of architectural articles by the Bermuda National Trust that will highlight some of Bermuda's endangered historic buildings.

Dubloon Cottage, as it's now called, with roughly 12 acres was purchased by the Bermuda Government from the James estate around 1993 to enlarge what is today Hog Bay Park. The creation of the 32.23 acre park began in 1986 with the acquisition of the Freeland and Mayor estates. The three properties cost \$7.925 million. The park consists of agricultural fields, woodlands, an ancient lime kiln and several abandoned cottages. The steep coastal hillside slopes down to the shoreline of Brown's Bay.

The first recorded landowner was Sir John Heydon of the Sommer Islands Company with 140 acres in 1663. By 1789, Colonel Henry Tucker owned 75 acres which included his residence called The Hermitage located nearby. In 1852 the property was purchased by William Richard Outerbridge whose daughter



Eliza had married Captain Richard Anderson of the 56th Regiment of Foot. The Andersons sold 25 acres to farmer James Brown in 1871. It is believed he built the house shortly thereafter.

Local legend has it that James Brown found a keg of doubloons on the property which he took secretly to England and sold. It was Brown who originated the biblical quotation on the sandstone wall opposite Scaur Hill Fort to give thanks for a bountiful winter's harvest about 1901. The original saying was marred when a driveway was cut through the wall. It was rewritten sometime after 1921 and today reads "There is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved but the name of Jesus".



Visitor Baldwin Staubach photographed James Brown's original quotation in 1921

The hard-working native of Surrey, England had three sons. James Uttridge Brown taught school in Southampton before leaving Bermuda to study law in the US. In 1903 he became a member of the US House of Representatives for Kansas. Ernest Edward Brown studied medicine at Bellevue Hospital in New York and returned to Bermuda to practice in 1893. He lived at Fernleigh in Hamilton and died in 1945. Samuel George Brown followed in his father's footsteps and was actively involved in the farming industry on the Dubloon Cottage property. He owned several other properties in Sandys and also served as Sandys sub-postmaster for 21 years until his death in 1938.

The house became known as Dubloon Hill Farm and is fondly remembered by those who rented the property from the 1950s until it was sold to the Bermuda Government. It is not known how long it has been unoccupied, becoming more and more derelict. The Bermuda Government has recently advertised for "expressions of interest for renovation and use". Although it's a shame that the house has been allowed to deteriorate, it is hoped that someone with vision will undertake its long-overdue restoration.



Dubloon Cottage in 2019



An old bake oven at Dubloon Cottage.



The roof on Dubloon Cottage looks unrepairable