



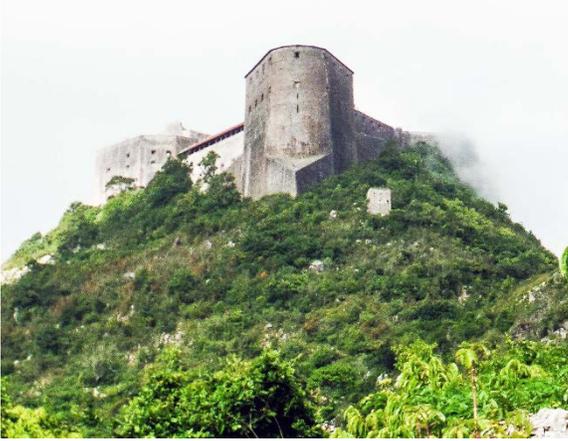
HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Citadelle La Ferrière



The Citadelle La Ferrière, located on the northern coast of Haiti, was built between 1805 and 1820 on top of the Bonnet a L'Eveque (Bishop's Hat) mountain (3000 ft) by some 20,000 workers. Citadelle Henri Christophe, named after its creator, is the largest fortress in the Western Hemisphere.

It was part of the fortification system, designed to keep the newly independent Haiti safe in case of a renewed French attack. The fortification system also includes Fort Alexandre and Fort Jacques. All three forts were built on mountains surrounding the Cap Haitian area.

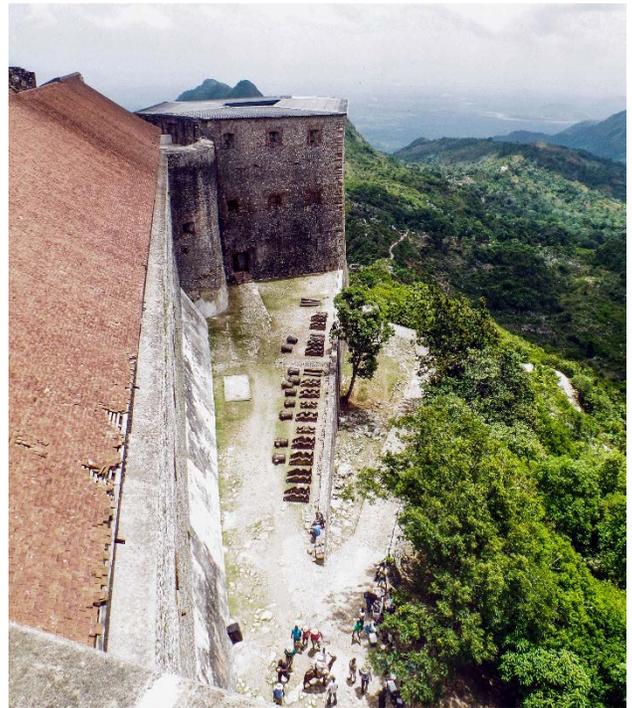
After the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) a power struggle ensued between, Henri Christophe, Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Alexandre Pétion. At the time, Jean-Jacques Dessalines was Haiti Emperor, Henri Christophe and Alexandre Pétion were both Generals in the Haitian Army.

In 1806 Alexandre Pétion launched a coup against Jean-Jacques Dessalines and he was assassinated on October 17th. Henri Christophe knew about the assassination though he did not warn Jean-Jacques Dessalines as it would permit him to achieve his goals.

The death of Dessalines then caused a power struggle between Christophe and Pétion which led to the division of Haiti into the of Northern and Southern states. Henri Christophe had the presidency of the North by 1807 and he then declared himself King in 1811.

This beautiful fortress is approximately 110,000 sq. ft with the outside walls 130 feet high and 10 feet thick. The structure is angular and assumes different geometric forms based on the viewers orientation. The view from the trail leading up to the Citadelle looks like a great stone ship. Some angles were built so it could deviate cannonballs if attacked.

Most parts of the structure have no roofs, but it includes large cisterns and storehouses, royal mansions, dungeons, bathing quarters and bakery ovens. The fortress was outfitted with 365 cannons of different sizes that bear the royal crests of famous 18th Century European monarchs. Large piles of cannonballs are still seen stacked in pyramids. As the French attacks never came the Citadelle was eventually abandoned. Henri Christophe died in 1820.



Dr. William Hodges spent many weekends at the Citadelle in the late 70's mapping the fortress in his free time. A trip to the Citadelle is a must for HBS volunteers and visitors.

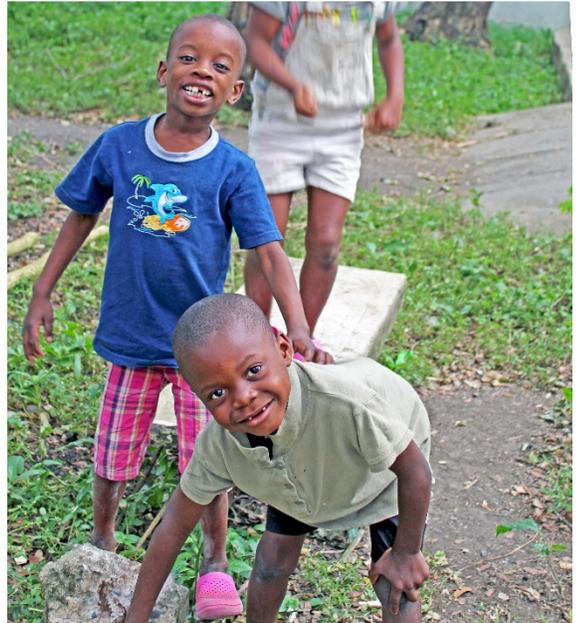
In 1982 UNESCO nominated the Citadelle as a World Heritage Site. About that time, ISPAN (Institut du Sauvegarde Patrimoine National) under the direction of Albert Mangones, Architect, conducted restoration and preservation of the monument.

Hodges House Newcomers

Meet the all grown up and energetic Nicodem (left) and Wency (right), the newest additions to the Hodges House. Both children were transferred from the Kai Mira Orphanage last summer. Nicodem is 7 years old while Wency is 5.

Nicodem was abandoned in our Pediatric Ward with severe malnutrition in 2012 when he was one year old. Wency was nine months old when he was left in the HBS waiting room in November 2013 with typhoid fever. Both boys were treated in the Pediatric ward and then moved to Kai Mira.

They both started school in September and are both doing very well. It has been a learning experience for them and the other children in the house as they all learn to cohabitate as a family. We currently have nine children living in the Hodges House ranging from the age of 5 to 14 years old.



Burn Wounds

Cooking in Haiti, for the most part, is accomplished on homemade charcoal stoves. They are about 18 inches high which are small firepits on stands. Charcoal is lit and when hot enough, the pans/pots are placed on top of them to cook food or boil water.

As they are open, people and especially children get burned very easily. The burns come sometimes from the fire itself but more often from knocking over precariously seated pot of water or oil.

Children with burns are frequently seen at HBS. Dr. Bill Benish spent the month of February volunteering at HBS and cared for four children with burns during his time. Burns are a major cause of childhood death and disability in low-income countries.

The little girl below was one of the patients that came to HBS. She had a second degree burn wound on her left hand from boiling water. She and all the other children healed well, "*Grace a Dieu*" (Thanks to God).



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Happy Easter