

**Letters and copies of letters and reports between Hall, Staff Surgeon at St. Vincent, Dr. Bone, the Inspector General of Hospitals at Barbados, Captain Egerton, the Military Secretary at Barbados, and officers of the Ordnance and the Engineers, re alterations necessary to the Barracks and Hospital at St. Vincent**

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BCO1/1-17

Correspondence concerning alterations to  
Hospitals in St. Vincent

St Vincent

27 June 1841

Sir:

Our number in Hospital, as you will observe by the accompanying weekly States, continues great, and, as Dysentery is still the prevailing disease, I trust you will excuse me for venturing to call to your recollection the additions, and improvements which are required in the Barracks, and Hospital at Fort Charlotte here to render the condition of the Soldier more comfortable, and to remedy, in my opinion, certain sources of disease.

Barracks  
The windows in the men's Barrack rooms at Fort Charlotte would be much improved by having moveable jalousies fitted into them, in place of, or in addition to, the present wooden shutters.

To  
Dr Bone  
Inspector General of Hospitals  
Barbados



The rooms are about 40 feet long,  
15½ wide, 10⅓ high to the centre of the  
arch in the upper story, and 8½  
to the beams in the lower, and have  
been occupied on an average by  
10 men.

The heat in the rooms  
during the night is considerable,  
and, when from storms or other causes  
it is found necessary to close the  
wooden shutters it becomes almost  
insupportable. Under any cir-  
cumstances the men who occupy  
beds near the windows are exposed  
to injurious draughts of air, and  
disease is apt to be the consequence

Barracks

The soil from the mens privy,  
for want of a proper drain to carry  
it off, accumulates and becomes  
very offensive at times to the officers  
quarters

Mens  
Privy

The East side, and South end  
of the gallery requires to be jalousied,  
because, from the exposed position

Hospital

of the building, the draughts thro' the  
wards when the Windows shutters are  
open are so great as to prove injurious  
to the sick, and to cause frequent  
relapses.

Dead  
Hands

There is no Dead Hands  
attached to the Hospital, which is a  
serious defect, now that postmortem  
examinations are enjoined in all  
fatal cases. The health, and safety  
of the Medical officer who is called  
on to perform this duty, it is to be  
hoped will meet with due consideration  
from the authorities.

Hospital  
Drain

The Hospital Drain is distant  
203 feet from the nearest point of exit  
from the Hospital, & 286 feet from the  
most remote Ward - It is built in  
a situation difficult, & may almost  
say dangerous, of access in a  
dark night, and ought to be replaced  
by a new one to the S. W. of the Hospital  
Kitchen, where there is a favorable  
site - Easy of access, and distant  
90 feet only from the Hospital.



The Hospital Kitchen requires ventila-  
 tion, and there ought to be two new  
 coppers put up, one of 20, + the other  
 of 40 gallons, in place of the one there  
 at present which is too large, & requires  
 too much fuel to render it useful  
 for any ordinary purpose.

Tho' not immediately connected  
 with the subject of this report, yet, it  
 may not be considered altogether irre-  
 lewant to mention, particularly, as  
 there has been a scarcity of water  
 at Fort Charlotte within the last three  
 months, and it had to be supplied  
 from the fountains in Kingston at  
 the heavy charge to the public of 2<sup>d</sup>  
 a gallon, that Mr Robertson a Civil  
 Engineer of this place has offered to  
 lay down pipes, and convey a stream  
 of water to Fort Charlotte from a place  
 called Cavalris, distant about three  
 miles from the garrison for £1500 Sterling

Now for this would be an eco-  
 nomical, and advantageous arrangement  
 for Government remains for others to  
 decide; but so far as the health & comfort  
 of the garrison & sick are concerned, every  
 one must admit that a constant, & abundant  
 supply of pure water, <sup>is a desideratum like this</sup> is a blessing that  
 cannot be too highly prized.

I have the honor to be  
 Your most obedient  
 humble servant  
 J. M. Cole Staff Surgeon

Report of  
 J. M. Cole  
 Hospital at Fort Charlotte  
 1841  
 5884 Gallons  
 were conveyed  
 at a cost of \$47.74  
 for eight days  
 consumption in  
 April last -  
 Water

No 2 - with an Enclosure

No 3 + BCO1/2

No 4

Inspector General's Office  
Barbados, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1841. -

Sir,

In reference to your Letter dated  
St. Vincent 27<sup>th</sup> June, I herewith forward  
to you Copy of Observations and of a Letter  
sent by me to the Lieut. General Commanding,  
and I hope that Colonel Winchester will  
strongly support the Recommendations made  
by you and by me for the Improvement  
of the Barracks and Hospital in St. Vincent.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. Rose Esq

Imp<sup>l</sup> Genl of Hosp<sup>ls</sup>

Staff Surgeon Hall

p. m. o

St. Vincent.



1861



Copy of observations from Inspection Report  
of the Barracks and Hospital at St. Vincent  
dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 1841. -

The Hospital is a new building for the  
accommodation of 30 Patients, and the present  
number of Patients is 45, therefore additional  
Hospital accommodation is required for 15 or 20  
Patients, and Rooms for 6 Orderlies and 2 Military  
Labourers. The Gallery is boarded but open and the  
South and East Winds blow strongly on the Wards, but  
were the Gallery round the Hospital made a spring jalousied  
Gallery, and 3½ feet of the lower part of it boarded; and  
the Wards furnished with spring jalousies or Glass Windows  
the Hospital Room for Patients would be sufficiently  
enclosed, for occasionally some of them might be placed  
in the Gallery, and this improvement I earnestly recommend  
may be ordered and made as soon as possible. -

- 1<sup>st</sup> There is also required for this Hospital a Dead House  
well lighted and well ventilated say 24 feet by 18 or 20 feet. -
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - A Privy adjoining the Hospital, and with a covered Gallery  
leading to it - the present Privy, if Privy it may be called,  
is distant from the Hospital, and the Road to it steep  
and exposed in the day to the burning Sun; - and  
Dysentery is the prevailing Disease in the Garrison. -
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - A Bath Room with 2 Sunk Baths and a Shower  
Bath, and a Douche, and a reception Room. -
- 4<sup>th</sup> - The Kitchen to be fitted up with plank Tabling  
round the inside, the floor to be paved with Flag stones,  
the large Boiler now in the Kitchen to be removed, and  
2 Boilers of 12 gallons each for cooking the Men's diets;  
and one Boiler of 20 gallons for heating Water for  
Baths to be placed in it, and a pipe to convey  
Water

Water from that Boiler to the Bath Rooms, and  
places for boiling Kettles and Saucepans; and an Oven,  
and place for emptying dirty water; and the getting  
round the Boilers to be covered with sheet lead. The  
Windows to be glazed and to have Spring Jalousies. -

The Barracks are Bomb-proof, and very  
crowded, and ill ventilated, - each case mate has  
two small Windows in each end, and each Window  
has a close Suffocator or Board Shutter - the prin-  
cipal cause of the unhealthiness of this Barrack. -  
I earnestly recommend that all the Windows in this  
Barrack may be made Spring Jalousied Windows,  
and without waiting for the approval of the necessary  
Expense by the Board of Ordnance.

The Tanks of this Barrack were lately empty,  
and Mr. Robertson a Civil Engineer offers to bring  
Water to the Barracks by Pipes from a Spring in  
a neighbouring Hill for £1500. - This offer is in  
my opinion worthy of Consideration. - This Barrack  
is 2 miles from the City and on the top of a Hill -  
The Hospital is lower on the same Hill, and  
it is proposed to build a new Barrack near  
the Hospital. -

Signed) A. Bone, M.D.  
Insp. General



"Copy"

Inspector General's Office  
 Barbados, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1841.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to you for consideration of the Lieutenant General Commanding copy of a Letter I have this day received from Staff Surgeon Hall relative to the Barracks and Hospital at St. Vincent and to recommend most earnestly that the Recommendations of my Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, may be executed as soon as possible. 51 Patients ill, with Hospital accommodation for 30 Patients only and 16 Men in a Case Mate which, even if dry and properly ventilated by moveable jalousied windows ought never to be occupied by a greater number than 10 or 12, and the State of the King and Pitcher and the wants mentioned in my Letter require very serious consideration. —

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Yours Most Obedient Servant

Signed "H. Bone M.D.

Insp<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Hosp<sup>ls</sup>

Captain Egerton

Military Secretary

f. f. f.

A true Copy

H. Bone M.D.

Insp<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Hosp<sup>ls</sup>

Inspector General's Office BCO1/5  
Barbados, 18<sup>th</sup> August 1841.

Sir,

With reference to my Inspection Report of the Hospital in St Vincent, I received on the 7<sup>th</sup> August from the Military Secretary the following observation.

"You state there are 51 Patients with Hospital accommodation only for 30. I am to observe that the Ordnance Authorities state the accommodation to be for 50."

I therefore request that you will favor me with a Return showing the Length & Breadth, <sup>of the floor</sup> and Height of the Wall of each Ward; and a Computation of the Superficial feet of floor, and of the Cubic feet of Space in each and in all the Wards; and a Computation how many each and all the Wards can contain, allowing 5 feet of Wall to each Patient according to our Hospital Regulation 13<sup>th</sup> 16, and deducting the spaces opposite the Doors.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

John Hall, Esqre  
Surgeon to the Forces  
p. M. O  
St Vincent

A Bone M.D.  
Insp<sup>r</sup> Genl. of Hosp<sup>l</sup>s



No 3 Ward - on the one at the south  
End of the building.

Length 24 feet 2 in; breadth 21 feet 5 in. Height to roof 16 feet 3 in  
Height to ridge pole 21 feet 10 in -

Means ventilation

1 Door to W 5 feet 6 in by 3 feet 3 in 1 D<sup>o</sup> to S. 6 feet 6 in by 3 feet 3 in

3 Windows to E 5 feet 8 in by 3 feet 3 in 2 D<sup>o</sup> to W. 5 feet 8 in by 3 feet 3 in: 2 D<sup>o</sup> to S 5 feet 8 in by 3 feet 3 in

Cubic Contents of Room 9458.5

No of patients calculated to contain - 8

No actually in it at present 10

Height of Pillars of Gallery 11 feet 3 in

Height of Iron Balustrade of Gallery 3 feet

This building, which has been divided into wards by means of wooden  
partitions <sup>10 feet high</sup> ~~which extend as high as the commencement of the roof~~  
appears originally to have consisted of one room -

The beams, window blinds - <sup>Pillars</sup> ~~support of roof~~ and balustrade  
of veranda are of cast iron - The windows <sup>on the E side of the building</sup> have been  
fitted with shutters since its erection - but as they have been placed  
inside instead of out the rain, from the exposed position of the  
building, still beats into the wards in tempestuous weather -

If the gallery were fitted with movable plantings  
this defect would be remedied, and considerable space  
would, <sup>but that means</sup> be afforded for the accommodation of beds in  
the event of necessity - (272 feet <sup>Lower Hospital</sup> from kitchen to S door; 280 feet <sup>to S door</sup>)

The wooden building, called the 'Lower Hospital',  
to the southward of the new hospital, and close to the bathing  
at the point. measures 60 feet 6 in in length, 18 feet 6 in in breadth,  
8 feet 3 in in height to the commencement of the roof  
and 15 feet 8 in to the ridge pole. It is divided into three  
wards measuring <sup>No 1 ward</sup> 14 feet 11 in long 18 do 6 in broad <sup>No 2 ward</sup> 20 feet 8 in long 18 do 6 in broad <sup>No 3 ward</sup> 24 feet 5 in long 18 do 3 in broad  
and is calculated, if in good state of repair, for accommodation  
of 20 beds - We have



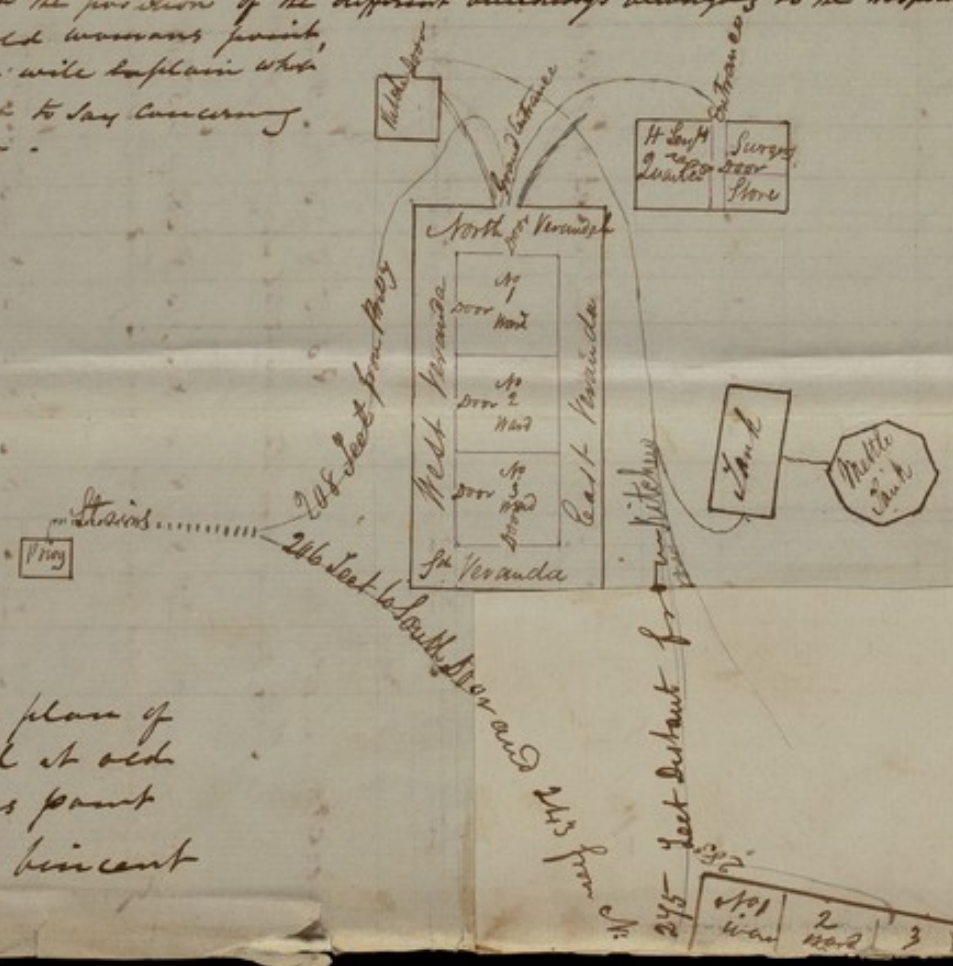
Sergeant's Quarters from N.E. Extremity of N. Hosp. Veranda 55  
 Lower Hospital in a direct line from S.E. Extremity of D-77  
 Privy 80 Feet from S.W. Extremity of N. Hosp. - Veranda  
 Kitchen 14 3/4 Feet from Veranda of N. Hosp -  
 From N. Hosp. Door to Privy 208 Feet  
 D-200 - do to Kitchen 52 Feet  
 From South Door Old Hosp. 275 Feet to Kitchen door  
 From North do do 283 Feet do do  
 From South Door old Hosp. 206 Feet to Privy  
 From North do do 243 Feet do do

Commence Here

St Vincent 28 August 1841

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst., which I had the honor to receive yesterday, I beg to submit a return of the admissibility of the Hospital at old woman's point; and a computation of the number of sick it is calculated to accommodate agreeably to the scale laid down in the Regulations issued by the Sec<sup>y</sup> at War, in October 1838 for the management of Regimental Hospitals; but as that scale is evidently calculated for wards of less cubic capacity than those of the Hospital here, I have added a column to show the number of sick that might be accommodated with safety in case of emergency. The following ground plans will call to your recollection the position of the different buildings belonging to the Hospital establishment at old woman's point, and will explain what I have to say concerning them.



Ground plan of  
 Hospital at old  
 woman's point  
 St. Vincent



Building	Ward or Room	Dimensions								area of Floor	Cubic contents of Room	No. of Beds inhabitable immediately allowing six feet for each person & Hospital Regulations page 10. area deducting the space given to the doors	Number of Beds that the Cubic space of the room will admit if without injury to the Cubic.	Windows doors and other means of ventilation	Observations	
		Length	Breadth	Height		Height		F	I							
				to Rail	to Sole	F	I									
ft	in	F	I	F	I	F	I	Feet								
New Hospital	101	28	2	21	-	16	3	21	10	591	6	11057.95	10	allowing 9 cubits between each bed - 13 Placing one bed at the E end of the ward - 14	One door to the N. 8 ft 6 in by 3 ft 3 in One do to W. 8 ft 6 in by 3 ft 3 in Three windows to E. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in Two do to W. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in Two do to N. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in	The framework of the doors and windows in of Cast-iron and the windows are fitted with Cast-iron sashings. The windows looking to the East ward have had wood-work inserted on the inside since the erection of the Hospital to prevent the rain from beating into the wards in tempestuous weather, but they do not answer the purpose completely - It has been proposed to enclose the gallery on this side and at the South End of the Hospital with movable sashings, and sashings estimated for that purpose is now under consideration
do	2	26	10	21	-	16	3	21	10	563	6	10730.16	10	allowing 9 cubits between each bed - 12 Placing a bed at each end of the ward - 14	One door to the W. 8 ft 6 in by 3 ft 3 in Three windows to E. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in Two do to W. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in	
do	3	24	2	21	-	16	3	21	10	507	6	9458.43	8	allowing 9 cubits between each bed - 11 Placing a bed at each end of the ward - 12	One door to the W. 6 ft 6 in by 3 ft 3 in One do to E. 8 ft 6 in by 3 ft 3 in Three windows to E. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in Two do to W. 6 ft 6 in by 3 ft 2 in Two do to S. 5 ft 8 in by 3 ft 2 in	
do	101	14	11	18	6	8	3	15	8	275	11 1/2	3088.46	6	Total 40	Two windows to W. 4 ft 4 in by 2 ft 4 in One do to S. 4 ft 5 in by 2 ft 4 in	
do	2	20	8	18	6	8	3	15	8	384	4	4457.06	6		One door to S. 8 ft 9 in by 2 ft 6 in One window to S. 4 ft 6 in by 2 ft 4 in	The windows in this hospital are closed thickly by wooden shutters and the whole building is very much out of repair.
do	3	24	5	18	3	8	3	15	8	445	1/2	5739.71	9		One door to N. 8 ft 4 in by 3 ft 4 in Two windows to S. 4 ft 5 in by 2 ft 4 in One do to W. 4 ft 4 in by 2 ft 4 in	

This room was the hospital surgeons quarters formerly

This was the old Surgery, and is fitted with shelves 2 ft 5 inch as high.

This room was formerly the hospital store



The New Hospital is a Substantial Stone building placed nearly North and South, at an elevation of about <sup>250</sup> 300 feet above the level of the Sea - It measures 83 ft 4 in length on the outside, and 25 feet in breadth. It is raised from the ground sufficiently to guard against damp, and admit of ventilation, and is surrounded by an open veranda paved with flag stones, measuring ten feet eight to the outside of the pavement, and 9 ft 8. to the base of the pillars that support the roof - There is an open balustrade to the veranda 3 ft 7 high, and the pillars which support the roof are 11 ft 3. The interior of the building has been divided into three wards by means of wooden partitions 10 feet high. The dimensions and cubic capacities of these wards will be seen on reference to the table on the opposite page -

The beams - roof truss - doors, window frames, & window blinds of the main building - and the Pillars and balustrade of the veranda are of Cast Iron -


The windows on the East side of the building have been fitted with shutters since its erection, but, as they have been placed inside instead of out, the rain, from the exposed position of the building, still beats into the wards in tempestuous weather. If the gallery were fitted with movable Jalousies this defect would be remedied, and considerable space would by that means be afforded for the accommodation of sick in case of necessity -

The old wooden Building, called the "Lower Hospital" to the Southward and Eastward of the New Hospital, and close to the Battery at the point, measures 60 feet six inches in length and 18 ft 6 in breadth on the outside, and is calculated, if in a good state of repair, for the accommodation of 21 patients. Since the arrival of the 92<sup>d</sup> Regt. necessity has compelled us to occupy it fully with sick; but if it is to be considered as part of the Hospital accommodation, it ought, at all events, to be made weather proof



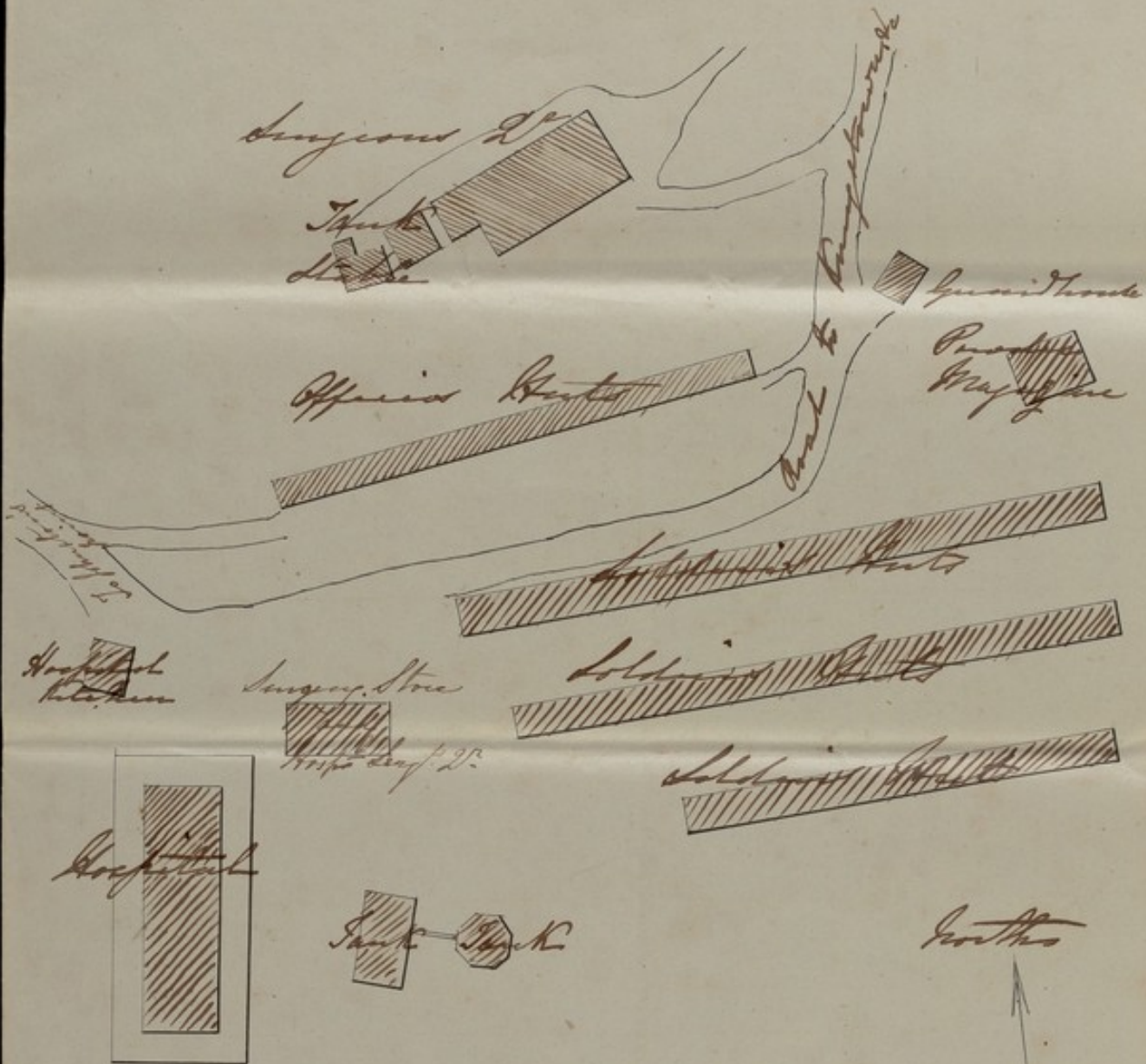
When you were here in June the Sergeant occupied one room in this building; the centre room was the Surgery; and the end one to the East was a Store, or, at least, ought to have been such, but, you may recollect, it had been cleared out to make room for ten patients, and the Surgery was filled with Bedding, and the new parts of Bunks &c -

Since then a new Store, Surgery, Sergeants quarters have been completed, and we have been snatched by that means to avail ourselves of the accommodation of the lower Hospital for sick. But, I believe, this building does not enter into the Ordnance estimate of Hospital accommodation here, as their calculation is that the New Hospital with ~~some~~ <sup>retro</sup> contains 50 Sick - How or where the beds are to be placed I am at a loss to know; for, according to the admeasurement, if they were placed touching each other it would only contain 48 -

The Ordnance plan, as stated in the published transactions of the Engineer Department, under the head of Barracks and Hospitals in the West Indies, is to place the beds together in this manner  and so leave a space only between every four; by which means something is gained and the plan looks very well on paper; but you, and all Medical officers, who have had charge of Hospitals in the West Indies, or, indeed, anywhere else, know very well that it cannot be adopted in practice without manifest injury to the sick - Even the space of nine inches that is proposed to be left between each <sup>pair of</sup> beds is much too small for the comfort of the patients - Scientific gentlemen, when planning ~~with compasses and pencils~~ <sup>on paper</sup>, are too apt to overlook the minor, but very important, & essential details of an Hospital Establishment - <sup>They forget that</sup> ~~Something~~ <sup>is required</sup> more than the mere fitting in <sup>by line and rule</sup> of so many beds into ~~so many~~ <sup>a given</sup> part of space, ~~is required.~~ <sup>is required.</sup> The sick man <sup>requires</sup> a small table or bench by his bed side to place nourishment or drink on - Space is required for night chairs and perhaps <sup>it is of the utmost importance for</sup> ~~it may be deemed necessary~~ that the Medical officers <sup>to</sup> ~~should~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~means~~ <sup>convenient</sup> of access to his patients - It is one thing to build Hospitals on speculative principles, & another to treat sick in them - In the present instance, it is evident there must be some error in the Ordnance calculation, arising in all probability from not allowing sufficient width <sup>for</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>for</sup> each Hospital bedstead -



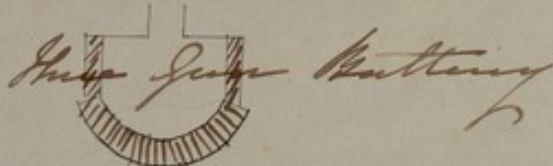
Sketch of the different buildings  
at Old woman's Point S<sup>t</sup>. Vincent



An old building, formerly  
used as the Surgery.

Hospital, Surgons Dept & Deadhouse

Quay



Scale for sketch 50 feet to one inch



I hope you will be good enough to exert your influence with the authorities at H. Q. Barbados to obtain a shed house for us, which is absolutely necessary for the safety of the Medical Officers if they are to perform the ~~the~~ post mortem examinations enjoined by the Regulations of the Service.

A new privy is also much wanted as the present one is too distant, and difficult of access. And the Kitchen requires the alterations pointed out in my letter to you of the 27 June last to render it a fit place for a white soldier to be occupied in in this climate.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient  
Humble servant

John Hall  
Staff Surgeon

To Mr Bond

Inspector General of Hospitals  
Barbados

N<sup>o</sup> 7 BCO1/8

Inspector General's Office  
Barbados, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1841.

Sir,

In reference to your Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> August, I have the honor to enclose to you copy of a Letter I have written to the Military Secretary and to acquaint you that The Resident Royal Engineer in St. Vincent will be called upon to show in what way 50 Patients can be accommodated in the new Hospital at Old Woman's Point - St. Vincent; and I have also to acquaint you that I have sent to the Military Secretary and recommended your application for a new Dead House and a new Privy and for repairing the Hospital Kitchen, and I hope that by friendly communication with The Resident Royal Engineer you will be able to obtain these accommodations. The Dead House should have one side to Windward, and should be at least 24 feet in length and 16 in width; and the Privy should be at the side or end of the Gallery that the Patients may be able to go to it without being exposed to the Sun, Wind, or Rain; about 4 seats for the Men might suffice, and there should be a separate Privy for the Medical Officers and one for the Women adjoining the Men's Privy. - The Kitchen I suppose will be

Staff Surgeon Hall

repaired

P. M. O.

St. Vincent



repaired as you require. -

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

W. Bane W.D.

Insp. Gen. of Hospitals

No 2

Barbadoes Hospital  
at St Vincent

J

On A. M. Service

Staff Surgeon Hall

P. M. O.

Imp. Genl. of Hosp.

St. Vincent



No 16 BCO 1/11

Barbados, 5<sup>th</sup> January 1842

Sir  
I have received your Letters of the  
21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December, and approval of all  
your proceedings and I send to you copy  
of a Letter I have this day sent to the  
Military Secretary. —

I beg that you will send to me the  
measurement of the Barrack Rooms and  
a statement of the number which in  
your opinion each Room can properly  
accommodate. Draydall's Hospital  
Sergeant died lately of Yellow fever,  
and his present Staff Sergeant is dead  
and therefore I beg of you to look carefully  
at all the Returns of the 33<sup>rd</sup> before you  
forward them to me. —

I think your success in the Hospital has  
been very good, and I am very glad that  
you promptly urged the encamping of  
the Men. Had it been practicable to  
adopt that measure in Demerara  
with equal promptness the mortality

Staff Surgeon Hall of  
p. m. a  
St Vincent

of the Troops there would not have  
been so great as it has been. —

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

Wm M

Inspr. Genl. of Works

Barracks at Fort Charlotte St Vincent - Upper Floor - (1808) - Length 40 ft. Breadth 15 ft 6 in  
Cubic Space - 5820 ft  
Height to spring of Arch 5 ft 2 in  
do - to Centre 10 ft 4 in  
Number of men capable of acc<sup>s</sup> according to Ordnance regulations 20 in each room  
Number of men that might according to my opinion be put in each 22 End row

Lower Rooms at the Casemated Barracks - (1808)

Length 40 ft - Breadth 15 ft - Height to floor 8 ft 6 in

Cubic Space 5100 ft

No of men for each room according to Ordnance regulations 16 beds  
20 beds

No that the cubic space is fit for

Three of the Barrack rooms at Fort Charlotte are appropriated to other purposes than the accom-  
modation of men - One is a Store & gun's park - One is a Serj<sup>t</sup> Major's room & Serj<sup>t</sup> Major's  
garage and the third is a School room & Sailors' Shop -

Johnston's point - No of Rooms (4) Upper Light Breadth Height  
Cubic Space Lower

No of men they are calculated to accommodate according to Ordnance Reg<sup>s</sup> -

No that there is cubic space for



Copy

Barbados. 5<sup>th</sup> January 1842. No 11

Sir I have the honor to forward to you for information and favorable consideration of the Lieut. General Commanding a Letter from Staff Surgeon Hall dated 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1841 urging the necessity for giving the Barracks Spring Jalousies. The propriety for this improvement was strongly urged in my Inspection Report of the Hospital and Barracks in Vincent dated 10<sup>th</sup> June and forwarded to the Lieut. General on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, and as that improvement has not been made the Sickness of the Men quartered in those Barracks was to be expected. The Iron Jalousies now used in the new Barracks and Hospitals, if put into the Windows of that Barrack would render it more healthy than it has been, but the number of Men quartered in it should be so reduced that every Man might have 60 or at least 50 square feet of floor, and 600 or at least 500 Cubic feet of Space in his Barrack Room and ~~Men~~ should not be placed in the middle, nor at the ends, nor opposite the Doors of Barrack Rooms. I also very earnestly recommend

Captain Ogerton

Military Secretary

that

that a new Dead House may be built  
for the Hospital; and I approve all the  
proceedings of Staff Surgeon Hall relative  
to the late Sickness of the 92<sup>nd</sup> in Vincent.  
The Huts he mentions cannot be the private  
property of the 1<sup>st</sup> West India, and if some  
of these Huts are not required by the 1<sup>st</sup>  
West India Regiment, and can be made  
healthy for Troops. The proposal to quarter  
part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> in these Huts appears  
to me to be worthy of the Lieutenant and  
General's Consideration.

I have &c. &c.

Lieut. Col. St. Borce M.D.  
Insp. Gen. of Hosp<sup>ls</sup>

File 6  
Barracks of Vincent



Copy

N<sup>o</sup> 8 BCO/9

Inspector General's Office  
Barbados, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1844.

Sir,

When I inspected the Hospital in St. Vincent on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, I concluded that it could not contain above 30 Patients. This Report I made to the Lieutenant-General Commanding, and in reply received a Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August from you stating that by the Ordnance Regulations the Hospital should accommodate 50 Patients; I therefore applied to Staff Surgeon Hall to send to me the admeasurements of the Wards. He states to me that the length of the Hospital is 70 feet, and the breadth of it 21 feet within the Walls. According to the Hospital Regulations, page 16, five feet of Breadth is the minimum allowance for each Bed, and 70 divided by 5 gives 14 Beds for each side of the Hospital - Total 28; but 9 feet 6 inches is to be deducted for 3 Doors in the West Side, therefore the West Side can accommodate 13 Beds only, and the East Side 15 - Total 28; and apportioning these 28 Beds to the 3 Wards into which the Hospital is divided. - No 1 Ward can contain 10 Beds, No 2 - 10 Beds, and No 3 - 8 Beds - Total 28 Beds. This is the Maximum number of Beds that should be placed in that Hospital; and if the Ordnance allow 50 Beds for that Hospital they

Captain Egerton  
Military Secretary  
f f f

Calculate

calculate on some erroneous principle in allotting area of floor to Beds in Hospital, and probably it would prevent future misunderstanding between the Medical and Ordnance Departments relative to Hospital accommodation, were the Officers of the Royal Engineers required to give to The Lieutenant-General Commanding a plan of the 3 Wards in St. Vincent Hospital, and mark in it the places for the 50 Beds, and were The Lieutenant-General to apprise the Officers of the Royal Engineers that, in every Military Hospital 5 feet in Breadth is the minimum area of Floor for each Bed, and that the space opposite doors is to be deducted, and that Bedsteads are never to be placed at the ends of the Wards. This is the minimum according to the Regulations in our Service, and in the French Service; but in this Climate it is too little - 6 feet would be more advisable to give room for a side Table, and occasionally a close Stool to be placed between each two Beds, and to allow room for the Medical Officer and for the Orderlies to come between the Beds -

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

"Signed" A. Bone M<sup>d</sup>

Insp<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Hosp<sup>ts</sup>



Copy

Head Quarters Barbados No 9

4<sup>th</sup> November 1841. - BCOI/10

Sir  
With reference to your letter as per  
margin I am directed to acquaint you that  
the Hospital accommodation at St. Vincent,  
although rated by the Ordnance as being  
for 50 Patients has been found on admea-  
surement, as stated by Staff Surgeon Hall,  
to be sufficient for 30 only, allotting to each  
bed 5 feet of wall, as directed by the  
Hospital Regulations dated War Office  
31<sup>st</sup> August 1838 and that The Lieute-  
nant General Commanding the Forces  
will take an early opportunity of bringing  
the same to the notice of the Home Autho-  
rities.

I have the honor to be,

Signed) C. R. Egerton  
Cap<sup>t</sup>: Mil<sup>y</sup>: Secretary

A true Copy

Sam<sup>l</sup>: Payne  
M<sup>aj</sup>: Clerk

Inspector General of Hospitals,  
West Indies.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1841  
23 September -  
2<sup>nd</sup> November -

forwarded for information  
of  
Staff Surgeon Hall  
P. M. O. Vincent  
by Doctor Bone  
Imp. Sect. of Hospitals



no 12.

BCO1/12

Brigade Office

Vincennes May 13<sup>th</sup>  
1842-

Sir

I am directed by the Colonel  
Commanding to request you  
will have the goodness to furnish  
him with any observations  
or suggestions which may pre-  
sent themselves to you on the  
subject of the Hospital &  
Barrack accommodation of  
the Troops at this Station, in order  
that he may submit the same  
for the information of the Adjutant  
of works Brigadier Genl Dept now  
about to frame the Annual  
Estimate for the ensuing year

I have the honor to be

John Hale Esq. Sr.

Prinl. Quarters

Vincennes

Sir

Your most obedient  
humble servant

Charles Mills

H. H. Mills

St. Vincent  
13 May 1842.

Sir

In reply to your letter of this days date I have the honor to state for the information of the Col<sup>d</sup> Commanding the Troops that I consider the following additions and alterations in the Barracks and Hospital at Fort Charlotte would contribute materially to the health and comfort of their inmates.

Barracks

Barrack room  
windows

The windows of the mess room to have Jalousies in place of the present wooden shutters.

Shed

An open Shed to wash, or clean their appointed parts under is much wanted.

Cook House  
for Surg<sup>t</sup>s Mess

There is no proper cook house for the Surg<sup>t</sup>s Mess, and the mess kitchen does not afford any convenience for that purpose.

Salitary  
cells

Two dry, airy Salitary cells are wanted for the confinement of prisoners. The two in the Bomb Proof on the north face of the Citadel are so damp, and ill ventilated that they have been abandoned for some time; and the Gaol of Georgetown, to which military prisoners are now sent, is so unhealthy at particular seasons of the year that a large proportion of those committed to it, are obliged to be admitted into Hospital for medical treatment.

Hospital

Galeries

The east side, and South end of the Galeries require to be Jalousied to prevent the rain from beating into the wards in stormy weather which it does at present.



The prison is distant, and difficult of  
access and requires to be explained

Prison

The kitchen requires ventilation  
and two small coppers are required to cook  
the patients' diets in

Kitchen

A Dead House is required as there  
is no place at present to deposit the corpses  
in but a species of cellar under the board  
of the Hospital -

I have the honor to be  
Sir Sir Sir

John Hale  
Staff Surgeon

Barbados, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1842.

Sir

I herewith have the pleasure to transmit to you an Extract from a Letter I received from the Military Secretary dated 29<sup>th</sup> October, stating that the Repairs required for the Barracks and Hospital in St. Vincent have been allowed. This information gives me, as it will give you and the Troops quartered in St. Vincent very great pleasure. —

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

A. Bone Ltd

Insp. Genl. of Hosp<sup>ls</sup>

Staff Surgeon Hall

St. Vincent.

St. Vincent.



Copy.

No 15 BCO1/14

Extract of a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Byham  
to Lord FitzRoy Somerset dated  
Office of Ordnance 5<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1842. J. G. F.  
74-9

---

"I have the honor by command  
of the Board of Ordnance to  
acknowledge the receipt of  
your Lordships' letter dated  
29<sup>th</sup> August, respecting the  
Parade Services at St. Vincent  
enumerated on the next  
page, and I am instructed  
to state for the information  
of His Grace the Commander  
in Chief that directions will  
be sent to the Commanding  
Royal Engineer by the first  
packet to carry into immediate  
effect the services in question;

St. Vincent

"Repairing the frames and  
substituting moveable jalousies  
in lieu of shutters in the upper  
gallery of the Soldiers Barracks;  
Repairing the frames and  
substituting jalousies in  
lieu of shutters in the lower  
gallery

"Gallery of Soldiers Barracks":  
"Attaching pitch pine Jalousies"  
"Skirting under the Handrail  
"to the Windward Side and South  
"end of the Hospital Gallery  
"at old Womans point:—



"Copy"

Head Quarters Barbados

6<sup>th</sup> December 1842.

Sir/

In reply to your communication of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant representing, with reference to my letter and enclosures of the 29<sup>th</sup> October on the subject of Barrack improvements at St. Vincent that it is also of the very greatest importance for the information & health of the Troops that the wooden shutters of Staff Surgeon's Windows of the Barracks Rooms should be replaced by moveable jalousies. I have the honor to acquaint you that this service is provided for under the items referred to by Mr. Byam (9 & 10 Annual Estimate 42-45) and ordered to be forthwith carried into effect.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant

Signed "C. R. Gorton

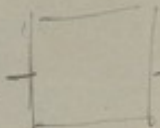
Capt. &amp; Military Secretary

A true Copy

W. Kane M.D.

Insp. Genl. of Hosp.

Rugh Bone Esq. M.D.  
Insp. Genl. of Hosp.  
West Indies



No 17

Copy

St. Vincent

20 Decr. 1842

I find from the acting Engineer, and Clerk of the works here, that the service provided for at St. Vincent, under 9 and 10, of 42 - 43, quoted by Captain Egerton in his letter to you of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst, alludes solely to the jalousying of the galleries of the Men's Barracks, and not to that of the windows of the rooms, which is estimated for under 16 of 43 - 44. At least, unless fresh instructions be sent down from Barbados, such is the reading of the order received by the Engineer Department here.

I need not point out to you how important it is to have the ventilation of the rooms improved and it appears to me they are <sup>beginning at</sup> the wrong point for effecting that desirable object

I have the honor to be &c. &c. &c.

Signed J. M. Spake  
Staff Surgeon

Dr. Bone

Inspector Genl. of Hospitals

Barbados



A

On A. M. Service

Staff Surgeon Hall

P. M. O

St. Vincent

Supr. Genl. of Hosp.



St. Vincent

10 January 1842

Sir

Agreeably to the request contained in your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. I have the honor to enclose a table of the admeasurement of the Barrack rooms in the Citadel of Port Charlotte St. Vincent, and a computation of the number of men which ought, in my opinion, to be quartered in each -

Story	Number of Rooms	Length	Breadth	Height	Cubic Contents	Number of men that each room is calculated to accommodate according to the present Ordnance Regulations	Cubic Space each man would have under this Regulation	Number of men that ought, according to my opinion, to be put into each room
Upper	8	40 feet	15 <sup>ft</sup> 6 <sup>in</sup>	To the centre of the arch 10 feet 4 <sup>in</sup> To spring of arch 5 feet 2 <sup>in</sup>	5620	In the end rooms 22 men In the centre rooms 20 men	255.5 feet 281 feet	12 men
Lower	8	40 feet	15 <sup>ft</sup>	To the beam 8 feet To the floor 8 feet 6 <sup>in</sup>	5700	In the end rooms 20 men In the centre rooms 10 men	255 feet 318.7 feet	10 men

$\frac{1110.2}{277.5}$

The Bomb proof Barrack at the Citadel contains 16 rooms, but only 13 are available for the accommodation of troops so that 150 men is the utmost number that should ever be put into it, if the health and comfort of the Soldier be considered -

The Ordnance scale of accommodation, as given above, would be too high in any climate, and under almost any system of ventilation; but when the high range of the Thermometer in this country is taken into consideration

and.



and it is known that no provision has been made for ventilation in these Barracks beyond the two windows at each end of the rooms which are carefully closed by means of ~~these~~ wooden shutters the inadequacy of the accommodation strikes one still more forcibly -

The quantity of air which a man requires is about 600 cubic feet in 24 hours, but the Ordnance calculation does not in any one room amount to one half of that quantity, and in their estimate, small as it is, they have entirely left out of sight the space occupied by the man's person, arms, accoutrements, Pack and Bedding -

In the process of expiration 4 per cent of Carbonic Acid gas is formed, and when the air contains 8 per cent of that gas it acts as a deadly poison on the human frame. In a Barrack room the exhalations from so many persons crowded together add to the impurity of the atmosphere the men are breathing, and any one whose duty has ever led him into a Barrack room a few hours after the men have been in bed knows full well how poisonous it is.

It has often been asked why so large a proportion of disease and death takes place amongst Soldiers who are in the prime of life - are well fed - well & warmly clothed - comfortably lodged, and not overworked - There must be some cause for this deviation from the laws of disease, and mortality amongst Soldiers, as compared with other classes of the community, and I am inclined to ascribe the deterioration of their general health to our crowding in Barrack rooms, where they are compelled for so many hours to breathe a vitiated atmosphere for want of proper & judicious ventilation.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> report of the Commissioners for prisons, it will be seen, in the plan of the new gaol about to be erected, that the felon who has forfeited his liberty to the laws of his Country is to have a Cell <sup>13</sup> 12 feet long <sup>7</sup> 10 wide & <sup>8</sup> 8½ high with proper means for throwing pure air into it and carrying off that which is vitiated - How surely if so much sympathy, and care be shown for the violator of the laws of his Country, the defender of them is certainly worthy of an equal share of public consideration.

I have the honor to be  
Sir - &c - &c

J<sup>r</sup> Bone

Inspector General of Hospitals

Signed John Hale  
Staff Surgeon

Barbados -

Note The dimensions of the Convent's Cell were quoted from memory and are inaccurate - in the proportions of 728 - to 1020 Cubic feet of space - 684/192  
Hall

Staff Surgeon D'Alacamus letters of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 12 July 1839 to Lieut. Col. Kilsale of the 70<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> on the imperfect ventilation of the Barrack rooms at Fort Charlotte St Vincent -

Arm Bands placed in the rooms considered sufficient ventilation by the respective officers and Resident Engineer vide Lieut. Chapman's letter to Col. Kilsale 70<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> dated 12 July 1839 in answer to D'Alacamus representations -



10<sup>th</sup> January 1842

Letter to Dr. Dove on the imperfect  
ventilation of the Great Room  
Barrack at Fort Charlotte St.  
Vincent.

St. Vincent

8<sup>th</sup> May 1843

Sir,

In reply to your communication of this date I beg to observe that I still consider the alterations in the Hospital Kitchen, and Privy, pointed out last year in my report, desirable.

The Estimate for the Dead House, I presume, from your observation, has been sanctioned.

Your letter alludes to the Hospital alone; but I trust I may be permitted to reiterate how important I consider a better system of ventilation in the men's rooms in the Citadel Barrack, and I hope the substitution of moveable Jalousies for close wooden shutters in the windows

will

Lieut. Dawnes

St. Vincent

Fort Charlotte



will again be brought under notice; as  
well as the necessity of having proper  
Solitary Cells erected in Fort Charlotte  
to obviate the practice of sending  
Military prisoners to the Common  
goal in Kingstown whence so many  
and such fatal cases of disease are  
admitted into Hospital -

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble servant

John Hall

Staff Surgeon

St. Vincent 13 May 1843.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of this day's date I have the honor to state for the information of the Col. Commanding the Troops that I consider the following additions, and alterations in the Barracks and Hospital at Fort Charlotte would contribute materially to the health and comfort of their inmates -

### Barracks

Windows of the  
Bk. rooms

The windows of the men's rooms to have  
jalousies in place of the present wooden shutters

Sheds

All open sheds to wash, or clean their  
appointments under is much wanted

Cook House  
for  
Sergeants mess

There is no proper Cook House for the  
Sergeants mess, and the men's kitchen does not  
afford any accommodation for that purpose

Salutary  
Cells

Six dry, airy Salutary Cells are wanted for  
the confinement of prisoners. The two in the Bomb  
Penon on the north face of the Citadel are damp,  
and ill ventilated that they have been abandoned  
for some time; and the goal of Kingstown, where  
military prisoners are now sent, is so unhealthy  
at particular seasons of the year that a large  
proportion of those committed to it are obliged  
to be admitted into hospital for medical treatment

### Hospital

Galleries

The East side and South end of the  
gallery require to be jalousied to prevent the  
rain from beating into the wards in stormy weather  
which it does at present



The Privy is distant and difficult  
of access and requires to be replaced

Privy

The Kitchen requires ventilation,  
and two small Coppers are required to  
cook the patients diet in

Kitchen

Painting and Repairing required in  
the Prison Hospital at St. Leonard's  
Hospital - Fort Charlotte

1st Lieutenant May 1843

A Dead House is required  
as there is no place at present to deposit  
the corpses in until they are buried but  
a Spans of land under the walls of the  
Hospital -

Dead House

I have the honor to be  
de de de

John Hall  
Staff Surgeon

Fort  
Mills  
Fort Republic  
Wincent