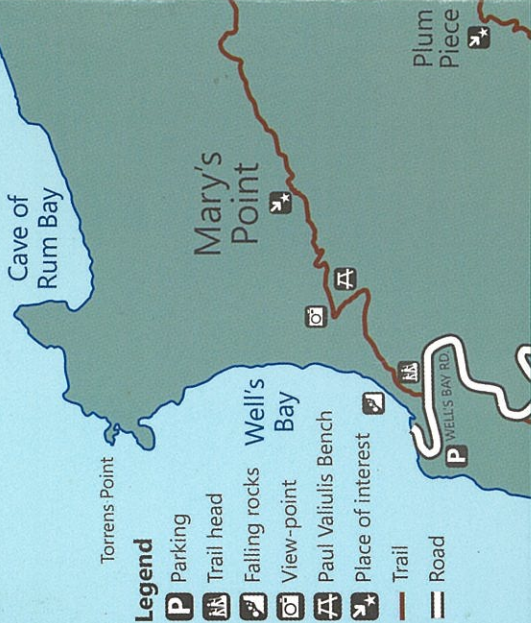


Northwest coast of Saba



Legend

P Parking

Trail head

Falling rocks

View-point

Paul Valluis Bench

Place of interest

Trail

Road

If you'd like to know more about Mary's Point and the fascinating history of the island contact or drop by.

Saba
Heritage
CENTRE

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday
Noon - 5pm



Saba
Archaeological
Center

The Saba Heritage Center
3 Fort Road - Windwardside - Saba
Caribbean Netherlands
Tel: +599 416 2833
Cell: +599 416 9321
Email: director@sabarc.org
Facebook: [sabarchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/sabarchaeology)

Discover Saba's most famous abandoned village...

Mary's
POINT

The area encompassing Mary's Point was first used by Amerindian people for seasonal hunting, with a rock overhang in Mary's Point, known as "Hollow Rock", used as a temporary shelter. Above Mary's Point lies the Plum Piece Archaeic-age site, which dates back to 1,800BC. There they hunted birds and crabs, while harvesting large tree trunks in order to make dugout canoes.

Mary's Point was originally known as Palmetto Point up to around 1900. We know Mary's Point was definitely settled by the mid 1700's, based on archaeological research. However, due to continuous erosion of the cliffs bordering the village, an earlier settlement may have been located further down on lands that have since plunged to the seas below.

Life at Mary's Point was centered on fishing, mostly from shore along Wells Bay, and farming around the house and on the terraced slopes northwest of the village. These can be seen upslope of the North Coast Trail after the Cave of Rumm Bay gut.

Wells Bay is one of only four safe anchorage points on Saba. Wells Bay was listed in several 19th century ships' pilot guides as a place to obtain fresh water, and to purchase firewood from Mary's Point. From about 1818-1829 Wells Bay was the site of a "chop-shop" for ships captured by pirates. Mary's Point residents participated by modifying ships to change their look and erase their origins, so they could be laundered through Saba and St. Eustatius to be resold in at auction in St. Thomas or St. Bartholomew.

The village grew from four houses in 1816 to six in 1848, nine in 1861, and sixteen in 1865. Poverty grew in the village into the early 20th century, and by 1934, the remaining residents were relocated to "The Promised Land" in The Bottom.

The Houses

All houses that rested on the foundations scattered across the site were de-constructed and moved piece-by-piece to be rebuilt in different villages, usually Hell's Gate or The Promised Land. It was a lot of hard labour, but Sabans saw it done. There are no house ruins at Mary's Point as a result, but you can still see the stacked stone (otherwise known as dry stone) house foundations across the village.

The Cliff

The cliff that borders Mary's Point is continually eroding, and will one day consume the rest of the village. As you can see, there is a cistern that is hanging from the edge as a result of this. Please stay away from the edge of the cliff while in Mary's Point as it can be unstable.



The Artifacts

You will probably find several artifacts along the trail as you approach Mary's Point, most likely pieces of pottery and old bottle glass. SABARC kindly requests that you do not remove these from the site, as they may be of use in future archaeological research.



Saba
Archaeological
Center

Discover Saba's

most famous

abandoned village...

SABA - DUTCH CARIBBEAN

© Kai Wulf Photography

Mary's Point Village

S A B A - D U T C H C A R I B B E A N

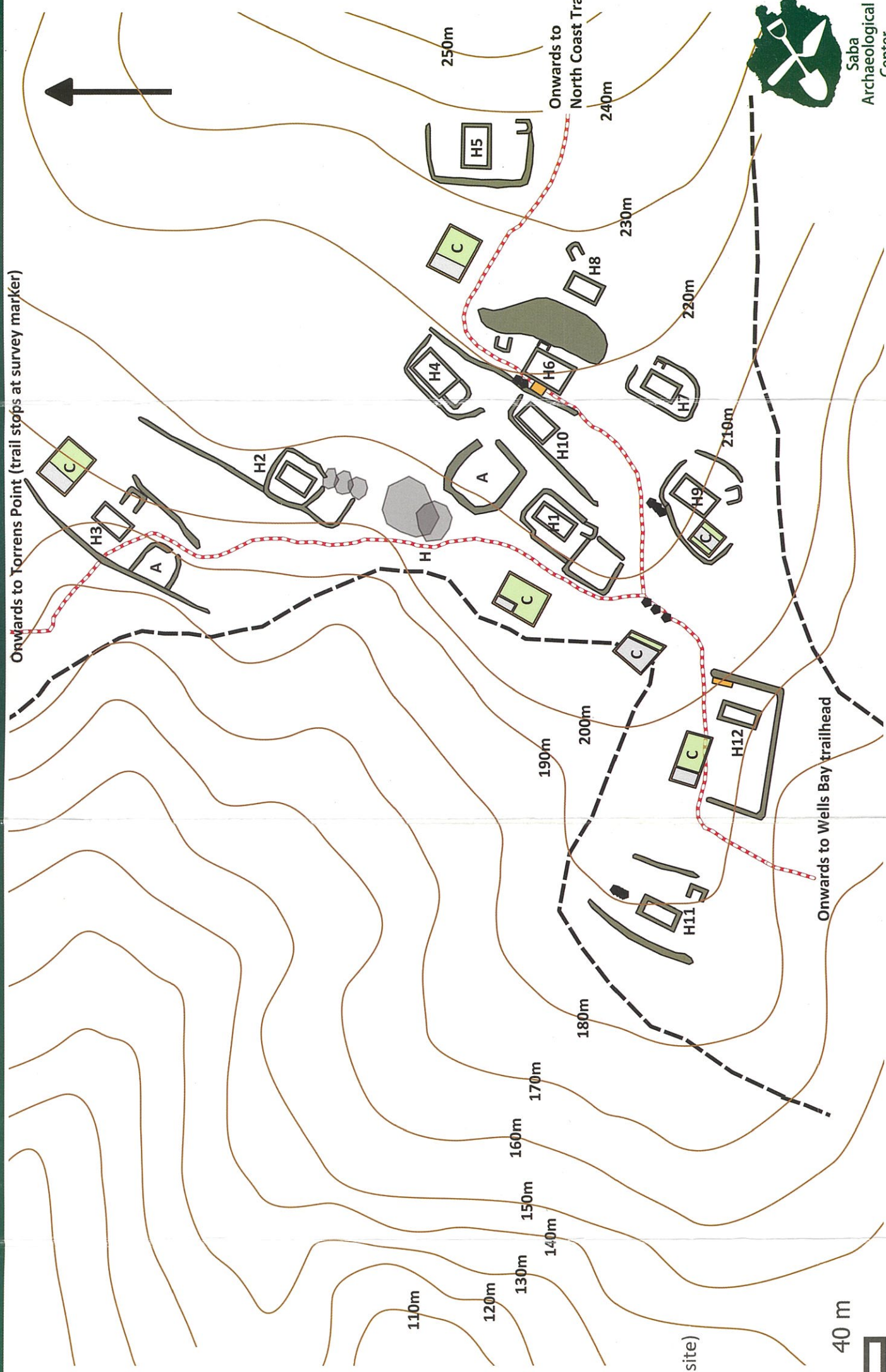
Onwards to Torrens Point (trail stops at survey marker)

Legend:

- Dry stone grave
- Contour line (10m)
- Face stone wall
- Dry stone structure outline
- Modern cistern catchment
- Modern cistern basin
- Boulder
- Cliff edge
- Hiking Trail

- H1 House 1 and kitchen
- H2 House 2
- H3 House 3 and kitchen
- H4 House 4
- H5 House 5 and kitchen
- H6 House 6 and kitchen
- H7 House 7 and kitchen
- H8 House 8 and kitchen
- H9 House 9 and kitchen
- H10 House 10
- H11 House 11 and kitchen
- H12 House 12
- C Cistern
- A Animal pen
- H Hollow Rock (Amerindian site)

10 0 10 20 30 40 m



Saba
Archaeological
Center