

Story of the Caymanian House

by: John Doak

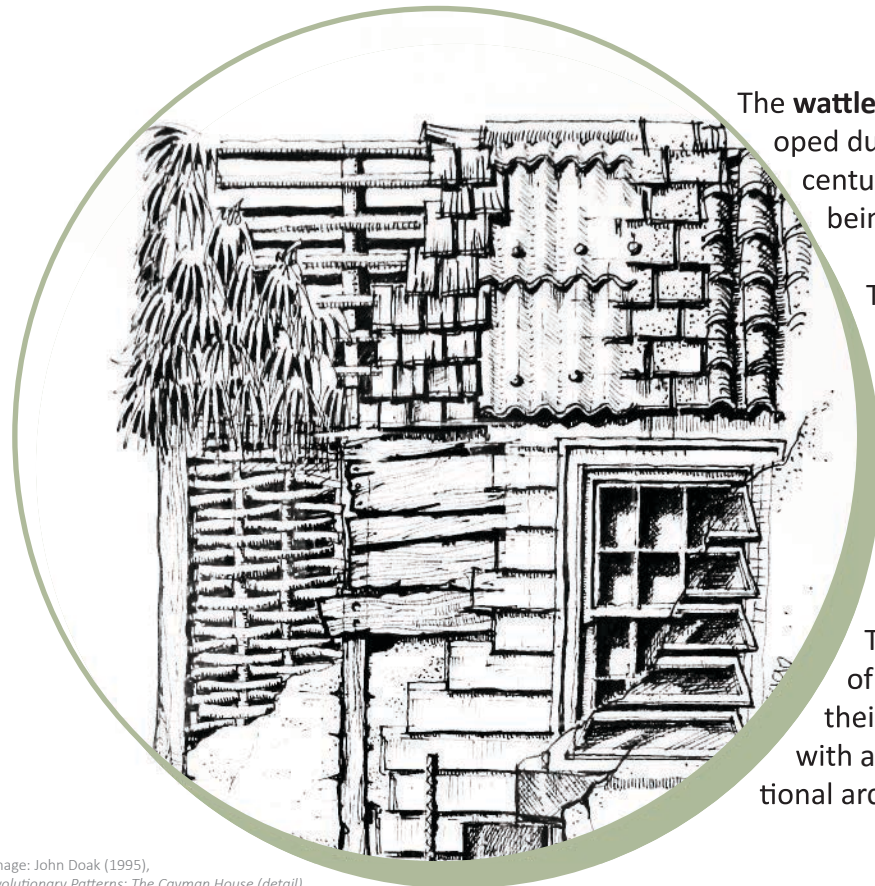


Image: John Doak (1995), *Evolutionary Patterns: The Cayman House (detail)* from the collection of the CI National Museum

The **wattle and daub cottage** construction method developed during the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, and remained the indigenous house-type being built entirely from local materials.

The **cabin** style house evolved in the late 1800's. During this time, Caymanian seamen were offshore on extended trips so they would bring back building materials to the islands.

The **bungalow** style reached Cayman in the 1920s, – again through the travels of Caymanian seamen.

Today, houses in Cayman come in a wide variety of styles, some still influenced by the origins of their inhabitants. Most are now built of concrete, with a variety of roofs, but some elements of traditional architecture are found to be making a comeback.

● **Follow Up Activities COLOUR** the illustration above.

VISIT <http://www.johndoak.com/index.php/cayman-style-6-traditional-house-styles/>

The national tree of the Cayman Islands is the Silver Thatch Palm. It has been important for Caymanians since the first settlers arrived on the islands in the early 1700's. It is endemic to the Cayman Islands — meaning that it is found nowhere else. It gets its name from the silver underside of its broad leaves and has had many uses.

★ **LIST** some of the things Silver Thatch was used for.

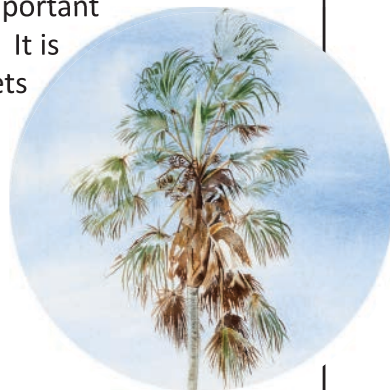


Image: Penny Clifford (2003) *Silver Thatch Palm (detail)*, from the Collection of NCCI



Watercolour is a medium that has become synonymous with the early development of the visual arts in the Cayman Islands. As an art form capable of producing an astonishing variety of effects, it is perfectly suited to capturing the light and palette of the Caymanian landscape.

★ **REVIEW** these watercolour techniques.



★ **FIND** where the artists have used these techniques in the paintings. Can you spot any other techniques that we have not included here?

colour

- ★ **FIND** the painting each of the buildings that are featured on this map are in.
- ★ **LIST** some of the main features of each one of them.

size

The map shows the outline of Jamaica. Seven circular inset images of buildings are placed on the map, each with a corresponding grey note box:

- Top left: A small white building with a red roof.
- Top left: A larger white building with a blue roof.
- Bottom left: A white building with a red roof.
- Bottom left: A large white building with a blue roof.
- Bottom center: A small white building with a red roof.
- Center right: A white building with a red roof and a blue awning.
- Far right: A white building with a red roof.

- ★ **DRAW** sketches of other buildings you see in this exhibition.
- **Follow Up Activity COPY** one of your drawings onto larger paper and complete it with watercolour paint.

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