



SALLY BASSETT STATUE

To the west of the grounds is the Statue of Sarah (Sally) Bassett a signature piece of public art, commissioned by former Premier, the Hon. Dame Jennifer M. Smith DBE, DHumL, JP.

Sarah (Sally) Bassett was an enslaved woman owned by the estate of Francis Dickinson of Southampton.

On June 1, 1730, she was tried on the "suspicion of poisoning several persons" including the mariner Thomas Forster (who owned Sally's granddaughter Beck), his wife Sarah Forster, and Nancey, a household bondswoman.

Sally was charged with supplying Beck with the poison that Nancey discovered in the wall of the kitchen outlet. Although Sally maintained her innocence, stating that she "never deserved" the sentence given, for the offence, she was burned at the stake.

Local lore holds that it was extremely hot when Sally was executed; and even now, Bermudians may refer to a scorchingly hot day as "a real Sally Bassett day".

At the time of her sentencing, Sally was valued at one pound, four shillings and sixpence.

Another local legend says that Bermuda's national flower, the Bermudiana, grew from Sally's ashes.

Bermudian artist Carlos Dowling was commissioned to create the Sally Bassett Statue.



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

105 Front Street, Hamilton, Bermuda



THE CABINET OFFICE

HAMILTON, BERMUDA



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

ABOUT US

The Cabinet Office is the seat of the Executive under Bermuda's Constitution. The compound houses the Cabinet Room and the Office of the Premier of Bermuda, who is appointed by the Governor and is an elected Member of the House of Assembly and the leader of the majority political Party. Also onsite is the Office of the Minister for the Cabinet Office (and since 2025 he is also responsible for digital innovation). Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier and form the Cabinet.

The Cabinet exercises executive authority under Bermuda's Constitution and meets weekly to consider Government business, approve amendments to legislation and authorize the implementation and execution of Government policy. Bermuda's Westminster-style Government is like that in other Overseas Territories and within the Commonwealth.

Also located within the Cabinet Office is the Secretary to the Cabinet who is appointed by the Governor under the Constitution and is the principal policy advisor to the Premier and the Cabinet, responsible for the management of the Cabinet Office, and recording the Conclusions of the Cabinet. The Head of the Public Service is located in the Cabinet Office and is likewise appointed by the Governor and is responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Public Service.

THE HISTORY OF THE CABINET BUILDING

The Cabinet Building was designed in 1837, by an officer of the Royal Engineers then serving in Bermuda.

When it was first opened in 1884, it was known as The Public Building and housed the Customs and Treasury Departments and the Bermuda Library on the ground floor with the Council Room and the Secretariat on the upper.

It remained the home of the Council and the Secretariat, with the exception of a period of nine years (1969 - 1977) when the Executive Council was based in offices on the second floor of the General Post Office at Church and

Parliament Streets. Since 2016 the Senate (the successor to the Executive Council) has been housed with the House of Assembly, combining the Legislature as a separate Branch of Government under the Constitution.

The entrance door and those in the foyer are of Bermuda Cedar mostly made from a gift to the Government of Bermuda from the US Consul General. The doors were installed as part of the 1989 renovation of the building. Today, the building features portraits of all Bermuda's Premiers since 1968. The 2016/17 renovation added modern fixtures and fittings to include presentation and virtual meeting capacity as well as extended bathroom facilities and new catering capacity.

With engraving by Mr. Lawson Mapp JP (former Mayor of Hamilton) the converted meeting room has a board, also of Bermuda Cedar, marking the tenures of Cabinet Secretaries from 1968 to the present.

THE GROUNDS

Immediately beyond the flagpole located at the front of the Cabinet Office is the Cenotaph – Bermuda's memorial to those who died in the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. The monument is a replica of the Cenotaph in London and is built almost entirely of Bermuda limestone. The cornerstone was laid on 1st October 1920 by HRH the Prince of Wales who would eventually abdicate the throne as Edward VIII in 1936.

To the east of the Cabinet Office is a granite obelisk which was erected by the people of Bermuda and dedicated to the memory of Major General Sir William Reid KCB, Governor of Bermuda from 1838-1846. Reid is recognized as a Governor who did much to advance the cause of education in Bermuda and to improve agricultural methods and the general welfare of the Island and her people. The inscription at the base of the monument reads: "In grateful remembrance of his public service and private worth".

The Cabinet Office Lawn is maintained by the Department of Parks and is the setting for such annual observances as Remembrance Day, the Convening of the Legislature and the staging point for the marching troops on the King's Birthday Parade.

The most recent addition to the grounds is the war memorial (2011) which contains the names of all Bermudians who served in the two World Wars, denoting those who made the ultimate sacrifice by an asterisk beside their names. Wreaths are laid at the Memorial and the Cenotaph by the Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition on Remembrance Day (11th November).

