

## ***A Community Responds: the making of the Foundation for the Pablo Lambey Building***

*By Myrtle Palacio  
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The Pablo Lambey Building is located on Commerce St. in Dangriga Town where once stood the Offices of the Carib Development Society (CDS) in the 1940's. Mr. Pablo "Yau Papa" Lambey, as President of the National Garifuna until 1993 single handedly lobbied and advocated to finally re-take the property after it was lost to the Garifuna organizations for over forty years. He immediately oversaw the making of physical plans to construct a building on the property.

In June of 1992 some members of the National Garifuna Council and supporters of the movement converged on the property and in one weekend set the foundation for the existing buildings. At this time Yau Papa was out of the country for medical reasons and a few of us volunteered to continue with his dream. Tools were borrowed and rented and food was supplied by the community in particular Mrs. Esther Guerrero "Tita Es", now deceased, who replenished us with juices and sandwiches. While most of the volunteers were residents of Dangriga, others came from Belize City.

The following is a list of some persons who volunteered their time and labour, whether digging trenches, carrying boulders, tying steel or just fetching, it set the motion for the construction of the foundation for the existing Pablo Lambey Building. The list comes from the attached photographs to the best of my memory and is not conclusive. Should you recognize persons who are not listed, kindly inform at [info@belize-glessimaresearch.org](mailto:info@belize-glessimaresearch.org). The photographs are from the Palacio archives and taken by Dr. Joseph Palacio.

Therese Elijio and two siblings  
Virgin Arana (now Martinez)  
Aniki Palacio  
Russell "Chiste" Garcia  
Dereck "Head-wa" Sabal  
Myrtle Palacio  
Seme Sabal  
Paul Lewis  
Joseph Palacio  
Matthew Martinez  
Florence Sabal (now Garcia)  
Peter Caliz  
Augustine "Barrister" Sabal

**PICTURES BELOW DEMONSTRATE THE COMMUNITY EFFORT AND THOSE INVOLVED ON THAT DAY**

Pic 1. Matthew Martinez overlooking the work

Pic 2. Myrtle Palacio moving rocks



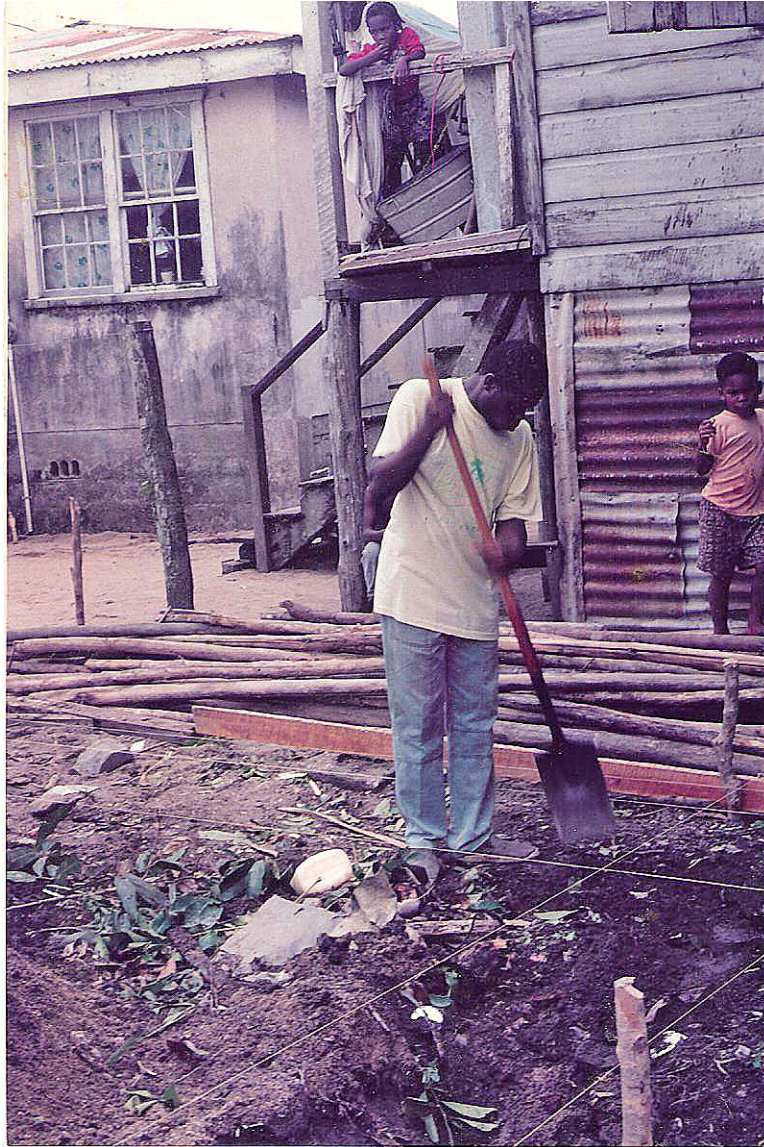
Pic 3. Dr. Joseph Palacio shoveling under supervision



Flo Sabal Garcia and the Elijo siblings stacking rocks in the next two pics







Digging the ground in preparation for the structure—Matthew below & Dr. Palacio above



