



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH LIBRARY

The St. Elizabeth Parish Library was constructed at a cost of seven thousand three hundred (7,300) dollars, three quarters which was provided by Central Government through the Jamaica Library Board and a quarter by the Parish Council through the St. Elizabeth Parish Library. The library was officially opened on April 29, 1953 by His Excellency Sir Hugh Foo, K.C.M.G., O.B.E. then Governor of the Island. This was the second library building constructed under the Jamaica Library Service building scheme instituted in 1950. Erection of the building came in 1953, the committee experienced serious problems in finding accommodation for the library.

The library was erected in 1953, however the committee experienced serious problems, notice to vacate the premises within one day, brought about a crisis which threatened to necessitate the closing down of the library in September, 1947. An earlier appeal to the Colonial Secretary for a grant of two hundred (\$200) dollars to commence building had been turned down. The Hon. Sir Donald Sangster, then a member of the Library Committee provided accommodation in his offices and there it remained until the completion of the library building in 1953.

In 1963, the building was extended this included a workroom/garage to accommodate the Schools Library Service Bookmobile when operating in the parish, and also to relive the shortage of workroom space. Foreseeing the need for further extension of the building, the Committee began negotiations to acquire additional land and the Johnston family generously donated land adjoining the present site, in memory of the late Mrs. Julia Johnston who had been so closely associated with the development of the public library service in St. Elizabeth.