

From Golden Rock to Historic Gem: a historical archaeological analysis of the maritime cultural landscape of St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean Stelten, R.J.G.

Citation

Stelten, R. J. G. (2019, March 21). From Golden Rock to Historic Gem: a historical archaeological analysis of the maritime cultural landscape of St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean. Sidestone Press, Leiden. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/70210

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/70210

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle http://hdl.handle.net/1887/70210 holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Stelten, R.J.G.

Title: From Golden Rock to Historic Gem: a historical archaeological analysis of the

maritime cultural landscape of St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean

Issue Date: 2019-03-21

Propositions

Relating to the subject of the dissertation

- 1. In order to truly make sense of the complex interactions, events, and processes that shaped St. Eustatius' maritime world, land and sea need to be studied in relation to each other.
- 2. Slaves on St. Eustatius often asserted their own power in various ways, both implicitly and explicitly, to challenge colonial administrators and the elite white class they were subjected to.
- 3. Even though St. Eustatius seemed to be a well-defended stronghold in the eighteenth century, its works of defense could never have prevented a serious attempt at a hostile invasion.
- 4. The only way to gain a complete understanding of a historic anchorage area is through a multidisciplinary approach that combines archaeological analysis, documentary research, and the study of the natural environment.

Relating to the discipline of historical archaeology

- 5. The increased use of the term "enslaved African" in Caribbean and historical archaeology is problematic at best and promotes the ideas it is trying to curb at worst.
- 6. Slavery is a very diverse concept that can entail many different experiences. For some slaves, their status had a relatively minor impact on the quality of their lives, and may have even provided them with opportunities not enjoyed by free people.
- 7. Very often, the notion that shipwrecks are 'time capsules' particular events frozen in time is too simplistic.
- 8. In Caribbean archaeology, the maritime cultural landscape is a heavily understudied topic. This is strange, as on small islands nearly every aspect of past human behavior is linked to the maritime world in one way or another.

Miscellaneous

- 9. In archaeology you often have no clue what you're doing when you're doing it, and even less so when you're finished.
- 10. In order to survive economically and function properly, the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands can never become completely independent from the European Netherlands.