

Preserving the story of the heroic men of Albert Row

I read with great sadness that the historic terrace of Albert Row “must either be refurbished or face the wrecking ball”, according to the West End Development Corporation (Wedco).

For my brother and for me the destruction of our childhood home in Albert Row would be a great tragedy; but we believe too that for Bermuda it would be missed opportunity.

Albert Row was not just the home of “working-class community of Dockyard tradesmen and their families” as described in the Royal Gazette; it was the home of skilled artisans including shipwrights, mariners and carpenters. Albert Row is one of the world’s last remaining examples of a unique form of Dockyard architecture built specifically in the mid 19th century to accommodate the skilled artisans so essential to the maintenance and performance of an international maritime power.



The Bermuda Dockyard shipwrights in 1944. Bill Bendall at centre.

The story of wartime Bermuda is as epic as that of the island of Malta (GC) and, we believe, equally deserving of the George Cross. Surrounded by U Boats and at the mercy of enemy battleships Bermuda was a soft target, with Dockyard workers and their families living in fear of a battery of attacks on the Dockyard munitions store, and the consequent destruction of every building on Ireland Island including Albert Row.

Today Bermuda has the opportunity to tell its unique story to the thousands of tourists landing from the cruise ships; this is not just the chance to tell a truly heroic narrative but also the chance to build a commercially successful tourist business. The Dockyard Township including Albert Row offers a unique story that is more relevant

and accessible to the tourists of today than the laneways and colonial buildings of St. Georges.

View more Bermuda stories at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408892213001927/>