

# CAYMAN ISLANDS WILD TREES & THEIR USES

## Wattle and Daub Houses

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Cousin Cora's Cottage, Bogy Sand Road, West Bay. The original one room wattle-and-daub house was built in 1913, with Ironwood posts and Silver Thatch roof. It was the home of Captain McLaren Henning, his wife Cora and their six children.

**Wattles:** Cabbage Trees were used because the soft wood could easily be split into lathes. These wattles were woven as shown below. A plaster of sand, water and Lime, (made from burning coral rocks from the sea) was then daubed on the wattles to make a sturdy wall.

Insect and water-rot resistant Ironwood, or Mahogany, were used for the upright posts.

### Wattles



Photo of Wattle & Daub (left) taken at the Cayman Islands National Museum.

The upright post is

**Ironwood**, *Chionanthus caymanensis*  
Family: OLEACEAE, a tree endemic to the Cayman Islands, it grows here & nowhere else in the world & is on the **World List of Endangered Trees**.  
The wattles are Cabbage Tree.



### Wattles

were made out of flexible

#### **Strawberry**

*Eugenia axillaris*

Family: MYRTACEAE, with its aromatic leaves and edible fruits, (above middle & right photos),

or

#### **Cabbage Trees**

*Guapira discolor*

Family: NYCTAGINACEAE, which are plentiful and fast growing, (left & right photos)

The fruits of both these trees are eaten by birds.

