

43 Palms (300-43) Rudy and Irene Patton

Tully Plessner built our house in 1974 with Dale Baird as the contractor with an all island crew. It had a steep drive (unpaved) up to the house where the car was parked next to the cistern but under the deck. When Tully came down from New York to view the construction he told Dale that this was not his lot; his lot was farther up the road. Dale told him it was indeed his lot!

We bought the house in 1978. Our realtor, Bob Eaton, told us there were no mosquitoes here (!) Rudy stepped onto the deck and said “faces North, perfect”; after house sitting on Bordeaux, we knew we did not want SE trades in our face. He was right. Tucked in under the hill and 2 lots above the Bay, it fared well in most hurricanes. Damage to the house was primarily things hitting the house like rafters from a Chocolate Hole house and a large limb from our west side Gre Gre tree. Thanks to Dale Baird and John Johansson for the sturdy construction!

We were part of the first 30-somethings that moved into GCB who were working, not retired (all of us from Mongoose Junction!). We spent the first 10 years working daily and upgrading the house. For relaxation on Sundays, we used to tour the island and visit the other construction going on. In the 70’s we knew every house on the island and who was building it. A funny thing we overheard from an amplified taxi tour on the hill across Great Cruz Bay: There is where all the millionaires live...

We added a downstairs living space for my sister in 1984 and she was part of our family for decades. We also got rid of that steep drive and now have 38 steps to the top! Last year, we retired from retail at Mongoose Junction and are enjoying our island home every day, all day.