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CROSS RIVER STATE TOURIST GUIDE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
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LEGAL DEPOSIT SECTION
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MANAGEMENT

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CROSS RIVER TOURIST GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This brochure is designed primarily to serve tourists and would-be visitors to Cross River State in addition to exposing the ordinary reader to the natural and man-made attractions of the State.

Indeed, there is plenty to make one's stay happy — lovely unspoilt scenery, historic buildings, monuments, festivals, waterfalls, etc.

Different types of accommodation are available. They range from modest guest houses to top-class hotels. Their message is always the same: "Welcome to Cross River State".

Calabar, the State Capital, has dual functions. First, it is a tourist destination in its own right. Secondly, it is the major gateway to other areas of the State and the most convenient point to start a tour of Cross River State in view of its sprawling facilities and social infrastructure.

We hope, therefore, that this publication, will be useful to holiday makers, social researchers, culture lovers, and adventurers alike.

This applies too to those seeking to invest in the tourism development industry, as rich potentials exist for the economic exploitation of the vast tourism-related resources of the State.

PUBLISHED BY THE CROSS RIVER STATE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE AND
PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CALABAR



UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON



NOTE

The Local Government Area Boundaries shown on this Map are not necessarily accurate. They have been plotted from Gazette Notices where available.

INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING



AIRPGRT



HOSPITAL



POST OFFICE



RIVER



Bridge

LEGEND



FACTS ABOUT THE STATE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ADMINISTRATION

The State was created as South-Eastern State in May, 1967. In February, 1976, when the 19-State structure emerged in Nigeria, the State's name was changed to Cross River State.

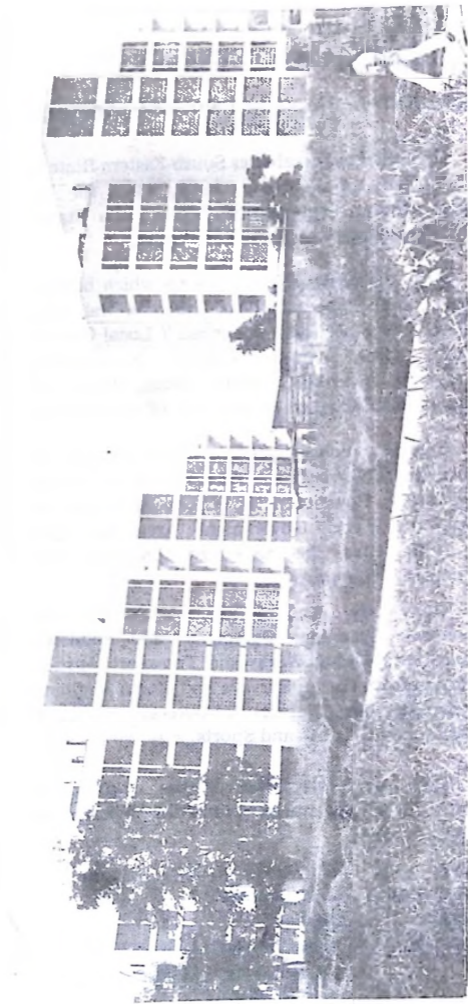
With the 1987 political reform which brought about a 21-State structure, the area was split, Cross River State then comprised 7 Local Government Areas namely Calabar Municipality, Odukpani, Akamkpa, Obubra, Ikom, Ogoja, and Obudu with Calabar as the seat of government.

However, consequent upon the creation of more Local Government Areas based on Federal Legislature Constituencies, Cross River got an additional Local Government Area viz Ugep in 1989. Thus, the State now comprises eight Local Government Areas.

There are ten ministries — Finance and Economic Planning; Commerce and Industry; Education; Health; Works and Transport; Justice; Information; Lands, Surveys and Town Planning; Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Social Development, Youth and Sports.

The Governor's Office is the co-ordinating centre for all government ministries, departments, and parastatals.

Area:	23,074.425 sq.km.
Population:	Over 2.6 million
Capital:	Calabar
Location:	It lies between latitudes $5^{\circ}32'$ and $4^{\circ}27'$ North and longitudes $7^{\circ}50'$ and $9^{\circ}28'$ East.



Micheal Ani Secretariat, Calabar

The Cross River which rises from the Cameroun Mountains and spans the entire length of the State in a north-south direction is the dominant body of water.

The State is bounded on the north by Benue State, on the south-west by Akwa Ibom State, on the south by the Atlantic, on the east by Cameroun Republic, and on the west by Anambra and Imo States.

CLIMATE:

Cross River has tropical climate with minor varieties which depend on relief. The climate of Obudu Plateau on an elevation of 1,575.76 metres above sea level is temperate. There are two main seasons — the rainy season, from May to October and the dry season, from November to April. Characteristic of the dry season is the cold, dry, harmattan wind which blows from the north. The average rainfall is 350 mm. The best time to visit the State is from November to the end of April, being the dry months.

PEOPLE:

There are three main distinct linguistic groups — the Efiks, Bekwara, and Ejagham. Other distinct ethnic groups are Yakurr, Bahumono, Agbo, Mbembe, Etung, Yalla, Iyache, Mbube, Utugwang and Bette.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

The State holds about a third of Nigeria's total forest area. There is a variety of wild life such as chimpanzees, gorillas, leopards, reptiles, monkeys, and buffaloes. The rivers, creeks, and coastal waters breed rich species of shrimps and fishes. The entire State is also rich in agricultural produce.

IMMIGRATION:

All foreign visitors arriving Cross River State must possess a valid passport. Visas are required by citizens of certain countries who should check with their Embassies, High Commissions, or Nigerian Diplomatic Missions in their countries, before travelling. Visitors' visas are in most cases valid for three months. Those who do not have an onward air ticket may be required to lodge a refundable deposit with Immigration Officials.

Personal effects including cameras and films may be brought in without permit. A customs bond may be demanded from visitors bringing in video equipment, radio sets, tape recorders, and musical instruments to ensure that the goods are also taken out. Firearms require a special permit.

CURRENCY:

1 Nigerian Naira = 100 kobo.

Coins are in 1, 5, 10 kobo denominations while notes are in 50 kobo, 1 Naira, 5 Naira, 10 Naira and 20 Naira denominations. Foreign currency or travellers cheques may be exchanged for local currency at commercial banks. Exchanging money through black markets and street dealers is illegal. Visitors may re-exchange Naira into foreign currency before travelling out of the State.

Banking hours throughout the State are from 0800 to 1500 hours on Mondays, and 0800 to 1330 hours from Tuesday to Friday. All the banks are closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Public holidays. Shops open from morning to evening daily except on Sundays. Some house-hold stores and medicine stores open on Sundays from noon.

HEALTH CARE:

Malaria is rampant in most parts of the State. Visitors may take appropriate preventive treat-

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Head Office: Manan Beach, P.M.B. 1073, Calabar. Tel: 224958, 225040



ment two weeks before arriving the State and for four weeks after their return. Chemist shops are generally well stocked but visitors on a course of specialized drugs should ensure they bring an adequate supply with them. There are many hospitals and clinics just as there are many efficient medical practitioners.

SECURITY:

This is a matter of common sense. Do not carry large sums of money about. Keep a close watch on hand bags and kits when in or passing through crowded areas. Always lock valuables up.

TELEPHONES:

Direct dialling facilities are available in a few urban towns. Calls to oversea locations are booked through Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (Nitel).

ELECTRICITY:

Cross River's public mains supply is in the range of 220 to 250 volts. Some hotels, motels, and guest houses have private stand-by generators.

TAXIS:

Taxis are only available in urban areas and individual bargaining is the vogue because the taxis do not use meters. Fare is generally ₦1 a drop within the town. The fare from Calabar airport to the metropolis varies. Car hire services are also available.

MASS TRANSPORT

Cross Lines Bus Service operates a cheap and comfortable bus service throughout the State. There are yet no organised coach tours to historic sites or other tourist attractions. Visitors usually rely on private car hire service or on taxis.

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CALABAR**



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Fixed

1st January	—	New Year Day
1st October	—	National Day
25th December	—	Christmas Day
26th December	—	Boxing Day

Moveable

Id-el-Fitri	(End of Rahmadan)
Good Friday	
Easter Monday	
Id-el-K abir	(Greater Beiram)
Id-el-Maulud	(Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed)

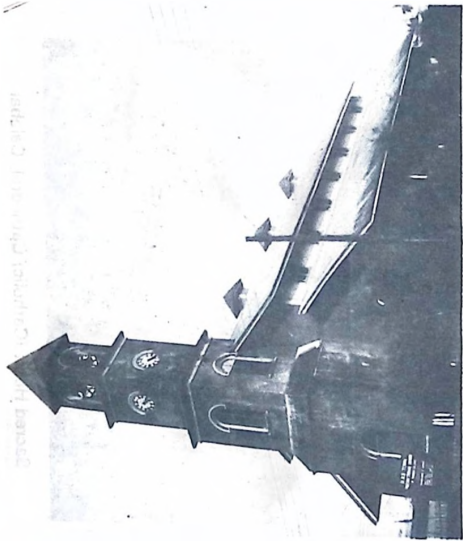
SPECIAL EVENTS

15th January	—	Armed Forces and Remembrance Day
1st May	—	Workers' Day
27th May	—	Children's Day

PLACES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Although there are many religious denominations in the State, visitors who are Protestants, Catholics, Anglicans, Apostolics, or Methodists will have little trouble finding their respective places of worship. There is complete freedom of worship in the State.

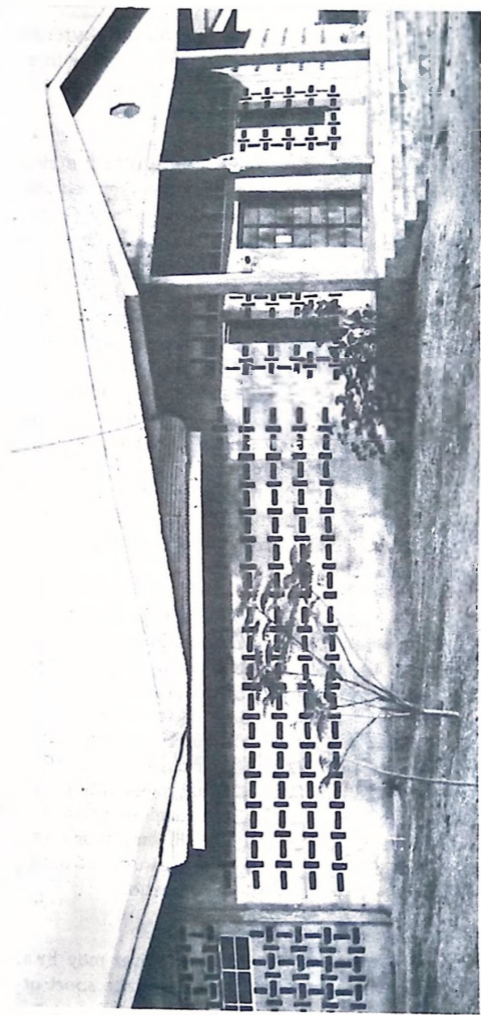
Cross River's rich array of Cathedrals, Parish Churches, and Collegiate Chapels, some of them over a century old, can be appreciated in a variety of ways and particularly so during harvest, Christmas, and Easter time. Such buildings include the Roman Catholic Cathedral along Egerton Street, Hope Waddell Institute Chapel in the premises of



Duke Town (Presbyterian) Church, Calabar



Sacred Heart (Catholic) Cathedral, Calabar



Stella Maria (Catholic) Church, Itigidi

the institution, and Duke Town Presbyterian Church along Eyamba Street all in Calabar. Others include the Catholic Cathedral at Ogoja and the Catholic and Protestant Churches at Itigidi.

The casual visitor can gain much pleasure simply looking round and admiring the architecture, stained glass windows, and serene premises. Cathedrals are always kept open. Churches are often times kept locked but can be opened on request.

Another way of enjoying our churches and cathedrals is to listen to their music. Organ recitals and other musical forms routinely take place in churches and cathedrals. These religious establishments are important venues for many of Cross River's major annual festivals of music and the arts and, indeed, form the very heart of religious festivities such as harvest, thanksgiving, choir competitions, and Christmas Carols, to name a few. These festivals take place in different communities at different times each year.

Easter is one of those occasions when our churches are full of joyous music and so present an inspiring experience. Easter is also a popular time for religious retreat during which a number of religious organisations in the State welcome visitors — some to share in aspects of community life and worship; some to seek peace through quiet reflection; and others to attain spiritual regeneration. As an enabling factor, some of the religious establishments are set on grounds where the emphasis is on tranquility, and away from the pressures of daily life, to make for maximum concentration.

SPORTS (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)

Even though your visit to Cross River may be a short one, you can enjoy your favourite sport or

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Inkand Supermarket,
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Tel: 087-222929

26 Oron Road,
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MANAGEMENT

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STATE SPORTS STADIUM:— Calabar Road, Calabar.

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AFRICAN CLUB:— Calabar Road, Calabar

Lawn tennis, Billiards/snookers, Tombola, and Darts.

CALABAR SPORTS CLUB:— Leopards Town Road, Calabar.

Table tennis, Lawn tennis, Darts, Monopoly, and Scrabble.

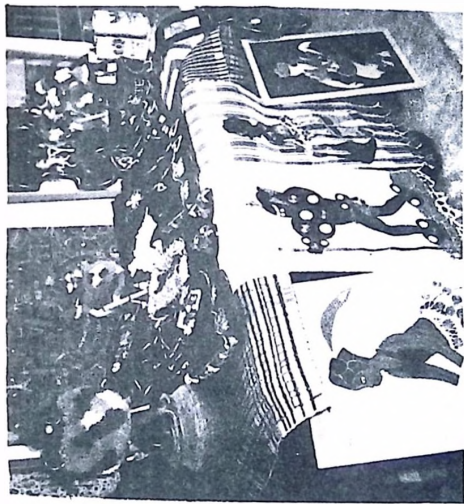
OPAL SQUASH CLUB:— Opposite Calabar International Airport, Calabar

Squash, Badminton, Billiards, Table tennis, Lawn tennis, and Monopoly.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Tourism is enticed by culture. Cross River's cultural heritage is a unique asset and a major attraction to visitors to the State. Exciting cultural displays such as festivals, the theatrical and performing arts, traditional crafts, and contemporary works of art are an essential part of Cross River's tourist attractions.

Various performing groups of the State's Cultural Centre Board, for example, have been selected at different times to feature in national and international engagements just as they did for Heads of States and other important dignitaries at the All-Africa Games held in Algiers in 1978, and at the Commonwealth Africa held in London in 1984.



Articles at Cultural Board Craft Shop, Calabar

The production staff of the Board are responsible for all productions and performances. Excellent cultural productions are staged at various venues throughout the year. They include plays, dances, and arts and crafts exhibitions.

To further promote our heritage, the Cultural Centre Board is already producing exquisite local crafts for sale in its craftshop. Embroidered velvet shoes, caps, bags, coconut flower vases, cane bottles, brass-castings, and wood carvings are some of such products.

These carvings are now eagerly acquired and given places of pride in many private and public buildings — a clear evidence of a cherished and well established carving tradition.

Cross River is also very rich in traditional dances which are too numerous to enumerate here.

Denwa/Ikpa Dance in Akamkpa Local Government Area, for example, is a social dance which gives expression to the aspirations of maidens. Adiaha Umo-Nkoriko (Akamkpa Urban) is a common social dance that is performed by boys and girls. Based on folk tale, it has all the imaginative vivacity of folk tale compositions.

In Calabar, the State Capital, Ikpaya Dance is a creative dance performed by girls dressed in woven raffia fabric depicting the ancient dress of Efiks as far back as the 13th Century. The dance commemorates the change-over to textiles. The kings and Obongs of Calabar still use Ikpaya as their official traditional coronation robes. The dancers are between the ages of 10 and 15.

In the northward Local Government Areas too, the people love entertainment and enjoy sharing

it. In Ugep Local Government Area, Giza Aminakwol of Itigidi is a maidens' social dance by which dancers learn to use traditional cosmetics and receive instructions on personal hygiene.

There is the Kepu Efu dance also a ceremonial dance which usually precedes wrestling contests in the same Local Government Area. When the drums play a fast beat, the champion wrestler comes out with pomp. The opponent has either to accept the challenge or acknowledge him as champion before the maidens. Where there is a contest, it offers an opportunity for the victor to win a bride.

Ayita Dance is a war dance performed with some sacrifices to mythical creatures to mark a victorious war. Udeng Dance is performed to celebrate circumcision while Alom Dance which is a puppet show, is performed to dramatize folk tales. All these dances are performed by natives of Obudu Local Government Area.

In Ogoja are Agot and Uyebi Tem Ntoi Dances — the first being a female masquerade dance. The masquerades are graceful and beautiful. The dance is usually performed at the funeral of a member and at celebrations by important persons in society.

In Ikom there is the Agut Dance — a social dance for burial ceremonies. The dancers are females from the ages of 10 to 30. The dance is also a common Christmas entertainment.

And in Obubra Local Government Area are Otaba and Aboada dances.

A festival of traditional dances is staged in the State once a year.



A Cultural Performance at Ikom

ENTERTAINMENT AND NIGHTLIFE

For different moods, Cross River offers different pleasures. Each person thus seeks his or her pleasure. In Cross River's capital, one finds many places of entertainment. There is a good selection of films to choose from at the cinema theatres. Cinema fans can see current releases, for the most part foreign.

Along Marina, is Rolsol Cinema. There is the Patsol Cinema along Bedwell Street, while National Cinema is along Goldie Street.

Cinema goers don't have to book their cinema seats in advance. In Calabar, cinema shows normally start at 8.00 p.m. Matinees offer opportunities for cheaper seats though ticket prices in general are very reasonable. Performances at matinees start at 12 noon and again at 3.00 p.m. daily.

Calabar is renown for its drinking parlours too. The drinking parlour is the traditional place to meet people and have friendly chats over glasses of liquor. In some drinking parlours one can also get a cheap, satisfying lunch time meal. Outside the State Capital, drinking parlours are popular too, but are of poorer structures.

Calabar's nightlife vibrates with night clubs where one can dance until the early hours. Some hotels also provide facilities for dancing and floor shows. Admission is open to the general public.

Pop and rock fans are well catered for. They are the favourite patrons of the following night spots:

Luna Nite Club along Fosbery Road, Tuxedo Junction Club along Chamley Street, Metropolitan Hotel Night Club along Calabar Road, and Paradise City Hotel along Atekong Drive



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Tickets are obtainable at the gate and are valid only on the day of performance. Membership is not necessary in night clubs.

Elsewhere, there are night clubs of varying standards. Their musical renditions take many forms from place to place. For the most part they are pop and rock music, native blues, and admixtures of different African tunes.

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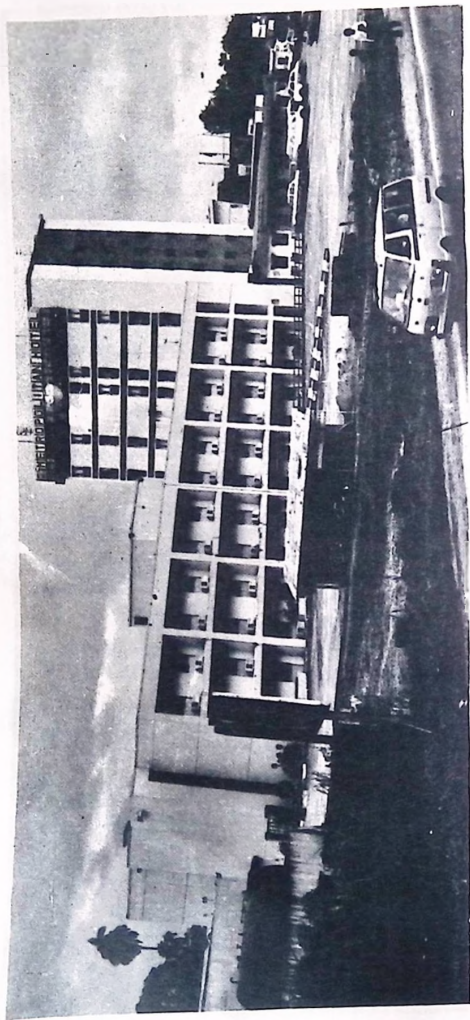
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Calabar

OR

Phone: (087)—222684



Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar

CROSS RIVER STATE POLICE DIVISIONS AND SUB-STATIONS

CALABAR MUNICIPALITY

AKIM DIVISION

PHONE NO.

1. Police Station Akim — Divisional Headquarters — 222766
2. Police Station, Moore Road — 222333
3. Police Station, State Housing — 221543
4. Police Station, Federal Housing — 223611
5. Police Station, Airport — 221547
6. Police Post, Ikot Omin — —

EFUT DIVISION

PHONE NO.

1. Police Station, Efut — Divisional Headquarters — 222720
2. Police Station, Uwanse — 223612
3. Police Station, Anantigha — —

ATAKPA DIVISION

PHONE NO.

1. Police Station, Atakpa — Divisional Headquarters — 222323

PORTS AUTHORITY POLICE

PHONE NO.

1. Ports Authority Police Station, Calabar — 220088/156

ODUKPANI DIVISION

1. Police Station, Odukpani — Divisional Headquarters
2. Police Station, Ikang
3. Police Station, Creek Town
4. Police Station, Ikot Edem Odo
5. Police Station, Akpap Okoyong
6. Police Station, Ikot Nakanda
7. Police Station, Ikot Effanga
8. Police Post, Ikot Effiong Otop
9. Police Post, Akim Akim

AKAMKPA DIVISION

1. Police Station, Akamkpa — Divisional Headquarters
2. Police Station, Ekang
3. Police Station, Oban
4. Police Station, Odiono Ito
5. Police Post, Crel

AKPET CENTRAL DIVISION

1. Police Station, Akpet Central — Divisional Headquarters
2. Police Station, Ikot Okpora
3. Police Station, Biakpan
4. Police Station, Erei Farm
5. Police Station, Erei
6. Police Station, Agwagwune
7. Police Post, Adim

JGEP DIVISION

1. Police Station, Ugep — Divisional Headquarters
2. Police Station, Ekori
3. Police Station, Nko
4. Police Station, Ediba
5. Police Station, Itigidi
6. Police Station, Igbo Ekureku
7. Police Post, Mkpani

OBUBRA DIVISION

1. Police Station, Obubra — Divisional Headquarters
2. Police Station, Apiapum
3. Police Post, Isobo (Otaka)
4. Police Post, Ijutum

IKOM DIVISION

1. Police Station, Ikom — Divisional Headquarters

PHONE NO.

— 670505

2. Police Station, Mfum
3. Police Station, Bateriko
4. Police Station, Edor
5. Police Station, Bendehe Ekim
6. Police Station, Okundi
7. Police Station, Abo
8. Police Station, Boje
9. Police Station, Irruan

OGOJA DIVISION

PHONE NO.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Police Station, Ogoja — Divisional
Headquarters | — 424120 |
| 2. Police Station, Okuku | |
| 3. Police Station, Yahe | |
| 4. Police Station, Odojie | |
| 5. Police Station, Gakem | |
| 6. Police Station, Wanakom | |
| 7. Police Station, Alifokpa | |
| 8. Police Station, Ekpugrinya | |

OBUDU DIVISION

PHONE NO.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Police Station, Obudu — Divisional
Headquarters | — 550223 |
| 2. Police Station, Utugwang | |
| 3. Police Station Utanga | |
| 4. Police Post, Cattle Ranch | |



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MANAGEMENT

MAJOR LOCAL MARKETS

Local Govt. Area	Town/Village of Location	Day	Frequency
AKAMKPA			
	Mbarakom	—	Every four days
	Biakpan	—	—do—
	Akpet Central	—	—do—
	Atan Onoyom	—	—do—
CALABAR			
	Ikot Ishie	—	Daily
	Mbukpa	—	—do—
	Big Qua (Ika Ika)	—	—do—
	Watt	—	—do—
	Akim Qua	—	—do—
	Ikot Omin	Saturday	Weekly
	Nasarawa Village	—	Daily
IKOM			
	Akparabong	Saturday	Weekly
	Okuni	—do—	—do—
	Ikom Old Town	Monday	Weekly
	Ikom Four Corners	—	Daily
	Bendeghe Ekim	Friday	Weekly
	Abia	Thursday	—do—
	Ekukunela	Sunday	—do—
OBUBRA			
	Apiapum	Saturday	Weekly
	Ohana	Friday	—do—
	Iyamoyong	Thursday	—do—
OBUDU			
	Bebi	—	Bi-Weekly
	Ukpe	—	—do—



Market Scene

Local Govt. Area	Town/Village of Location	Day	Frequency
Obudu (Contd.)	Sankwala	-	-do-
	Utugwang	-	-do-
	Bendi	-	-do-
ODUKPANI	Ubambat	-	Bi-Weekly
	Etak Uyo	-	-do-
	Esuk Mba	-	-do-
	Ikot Eyo	-	-do-
	Akim Akim	-	-do-
OGOJA	Izzekwe	-	Bi-Weekly
	Okpoma	-	-do-
	Ebo	-	-do-
	Ibil	-	-do-
	Gakem	-	-do-
UGEPE	Ugep Urban	-	Daily
	Ekori	-	Every Four Days
	Ediba	-	-do-
	Itigidi	-	-do-



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MANAGEMENT

HOTELS

Local Govt. Area	Hotel	Telephone No.
AKAMKPA	Global Guest House, Akamkpa Town	
	Alpha Hotel, Akam- kpa Town	
	Local Govt. Guest House Base Camp, Akamkpa kpa	
	CREL Club, Uyanga	
CALABAR	Metropolitan Hotel Calabar Road	220911 220912
	Marian Hotel, Old Ikang Road, Off Ndi- dem Iso Road	220233 220234
	Zoo Garden Hotel, Target Road	222718
	Fonarch Hotel, Obu- tong Street off MCC/ Murtala Highway	
	Itiaba Guest House, 4, Calabar Road	222383
	Government Guest House No. 1	
	Government Guest House No. 2	222209
	Government Guest House No. 2A	223164

Local Govt. Area	Hotel	Telephone No.	
Calabar (Contd.)	Government Guest House No. 3	222655	
	Vetas Guest House, Atu Street	220087	
	The Anchorage, Plot 6, Unit B State Housing Estate	221126	
	Ekunikpa Hotels 55, Mayne Avenue	222063	
	Paladium Hotel, Mary Slessor Avenue		
	Chalsma Hotels, 7, Otop Abasi Street	221942	
	'G' Guest House, 12, Otop Abasi Street		
	Paradise City Hotel Atekong Drive, State Housing Estate	221124	
	Jevic Hotel, 101, Ndi- dem Iso Road	225074	
	IKOM	Metro Hotel GRA	34
		Wama Hotel, 40, Obudu Road, Four Corners	77
Government Guest House, GRA		27	
Hotel De Paragon, Calabar Road, Four Corners			
Emarcel Guest House, Calabar Road, Four Corners			

Local Govt. Area	Hotel	Telephone No.
Ikrom (Contd.)	Castle Holiday Inn, 24, Njang Assam Street, Four Corners	18
	Angels Lodge, 21 Righu Amba Street, Four Corners	
	Amm's Hotel, Fatoki Estate, Off Ogoja Road, Four Comers	
	Paradise Hotel, 25 Obudu Road, Four Corners	
OBUBRA	Local Government Guest House, Obubra	
	Hotel De Jabengo, Ofatura, Adun	
OBUDU	Ranch Hotel, Cattle Ranch, Obudu	
	Itek Inyamagum Hotel Limited Obudu Urban	
	Mrs. C. U. Odey's Hotel, Obudu Urban	
	J. T. Liberty Guest House Okwel-Obudu Road Obudu Urban	
	J. T. De-Bull Hotel Sankwala	
ODUKPANI	Local Governmen Guest House, Odukpani	
OGOJA	Ikpala Estate Hotel 61, Mission Road, Igoli	
	Metro Hotel, Abakpa Road	

Local Govt. Area	Hotel	Telephone No.
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Ogoja
(Contd.)

Alada Guest House Okuku
Road

Ejinison Hotel, New
Army Barracks-Road

Itak Inyamagun Guest House
Ishibori Town

Bright Future Hotel
13, Udamongim Street
Igoli

UGEP

Ekokol Hotel, Ugep
Town

Ambassador Hotel,
Ugep Town

New Haven Hotel,
Ugep Town

Local Government Guest
House Ugep Town

Itigidi Guest House,
Itigidi

Kenko Guest House,
Ekori

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

A number of financial institutions exist in the State. They are mostly Banks and Insurance Companies. In compliance with Federal Government policy buttressed by management desire for expanded business, branches of some of the banks and of course the insurance companies are now found both in the local government headquarters and in rural communities.

A mental enumeration of the financial institutions in the State readily brings the following names to focus:



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Location	Bank	Tel. No.	
Akamkpa	Union Bank, Akamkpa Town	—	
	Mercantile Bank, Oban	—	
Calabar	African Continental Bank, Calabar Road,	222260	
	Allied Bank, Ndidem Usang Iso Road,	220878	
	ICON (Merchant Bank) Ndidem Usang Iso Road	221000	
	Central Bank of Nigeria, Calabar Road		220168
			220155
			220168
			220165
			220158
		221172	
	Co-operative Development Bank, Calabar Road	224785	
	Federal Savings Bank, 47, Barracks Road	222789	
	First Bank, Calabar Road	222622	
Federal Mortgage Bank, Egerton Street	222370		
International Bank for West Africa, Fosbery Road	225000		
Mercantile Bank, Calabar Road		222605	
		222603	
Mercantile Bank, Mbukpa Road			

Location	Bank	Tel. No.
Calabar (Contd.)	Mercantile Bank, opposite Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar Road	220992
	Mercantile Bank, Calabar International Airport	225242
	Mercantile Bank, Ika Ika Oqua. Market, Ndidem Usang Iso Road	220508
	First Bank, University of Calabar	223864
	Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank Calabar Road	221392
	Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry, 15, Ndidem Usang Iso Road	225440
	Union Bank, Calabar Road	222888
	United Bank for Africa Calabar Road	223129
	Progress Bank, Hewett Street	225617
	Nigeria-Arab Bank, Fosbery Road	224959
IKOM	United Bank for Africa, 18, Okim Osabor Road, Ikom	670097
	Mercantile Bank, 7, Calabar Road, (4 Corners) Ikom	670649
	Mercantile Bank, Okundi	—

Location	Bank	Tel. No.
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OBUBRA

First Bank, Obubra Town	—
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OGOJA

Mercantile Bank, 13, Mission Road, Igoli	—
--	---

Mercantile Bank, Yahe	—
-----------------------	---

OBUDU

Mercantile Bank, Calabar Road, Obudu	550109
--------------------------------------	--------

ODUKPANI

Mercantile Bank, Ikot Offiong Ambai, Akpabuyo	—
---	---

Union Bank, Odukpani Town	—
---------------------------	---

Savannah Bank, Akpap	—
----------------------	---

UGEPE

Mercantile Bank, Calabar Road, Ugepe	—
--------------------------------------	---

International Bank for West Africa, Nko	—
---	---

First Bank, Ekori	—
-------------------	---

Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry, Nko	—
--	---

INSURANCE COMPANIES

Company	Telephone No.
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Express Insurance Company 59, Marian Road, Calabar	220238
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Milverton Insurance Company 116, Calabar Road, Calabar	222252
--	--------

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Akwa Ibom State

LAGOS:
Victory House
Plot 104 Orileja Ojoja Street
Ajao Estate, Mafoluku
Phone: 01 - 521221
01 - 521355

Company	Telephone No.
African Alliance Insurance Company 38, Bedwell Street Calabar	222240
National Insurance Cor- poration of Nigeria (NICON), Desam House, Ndidem Usang Iso Road, Calabar	222241
British-American Insurance Company 45, Bedwell Street Calabar	222976
Manilla Insurance Company 1, Barracks Road Calabar	222188
Manilla Insurance Company 23, Barracks Road Calabar	222895
Manilla Insurance Company 13, Mission Road, P.M.B.112 Ogoja	
Manilla Insurance Com- pany, 16, Okim Osabo Street, P.M.B. 1019, Ikom	045/67057
Manilla Insurance Company 1, Anderson Street P.M.B. 1040 Obudu	
Manilla Insurance Company P.O.Box 71, Ugep	
Destiny Insurance, Barracks Road, Calabar	220469
American International In- surance, Chamley Street, Calabar	222953
United Nigeria Insurance 131, Calabar Road, Calabar	2221009

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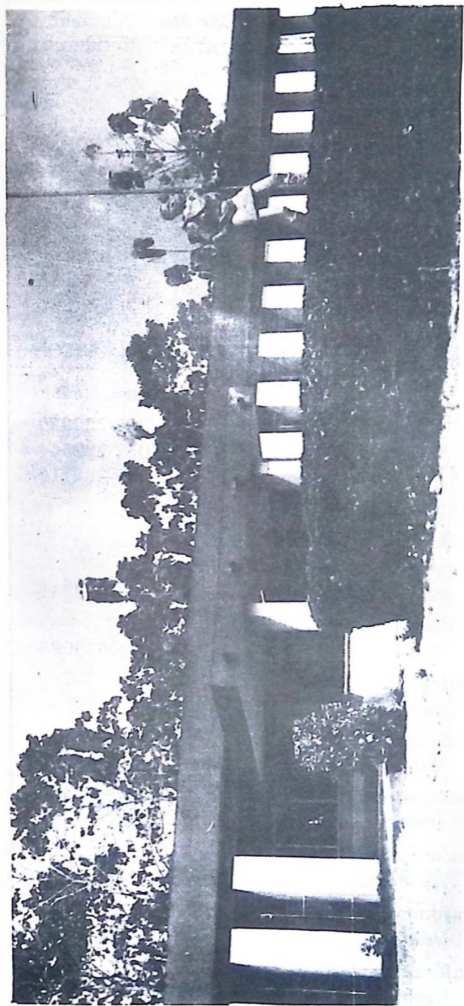
HEAD OFFICE: 1, Barracks Road, P. M. B. 1085, Calabar. IPhone: 087-223646, 223647, 227188, 221253, 222360, 222855



Company	Telephone No.
Unity Life Insurance 6, Harcourt Street, Calabar	222632
Perils Technical Consultants, 78, Marian Road, Calabar	220346
Tabs Assurance, 116, Calabar Road, Calabar	222225

FIELD ADMINISTRATION

	Telephone Numbers	
	Office	Residence
1. The Liaison Officer Cross River State Office P.M.B. 12631 Victoria Island, Lagos	01-610105 01-610145	01-982277
2. The Chairman Calabar Municipal Council, Calabar	087-222044 087-222461	—
3. The Chairman Odukpani Local Govt. Council, Odukpani	605	553
4. The Chairman Akamkpa Local Govt. Council, Akamkpa	—	—
5. The Chairman Obubra Local Govt. Council, Obubra	11	3
6. The Chairman Ikom Local Govt. Council, Ikom	045-670277	—



Local Government Secretariat

Office	Telephone Numbers	
	Office	Residence
7. The Chairman Ogoja Local Govt. Council, Ogoja	—	—
8. The Chairman Obudu Local Govt. Council, Obudu	085-5500	—
9. The Chairman Ugep Local Govt. Council, Ugep	—	—

CROSS RIVER STATE FIELD INFORMATION OFFICES

	Telephone Numbers
1. Information Department, Calabar	087-222330 087-222544 087-222115
2. Cross River State Infor- mation Office, Abuja	—
3. Cross River State Infor- mation Office, Lagos	01-616241
4. Information Office Obudu	085-550085
5. Information Office Ogoja	—
6. Information Office Ikom	045-670158
7. Information Office Obubra	—
8. Information Office Akamkpa	—
9. Information Office Odukpani	—
10. Information Office Ugep	—



CROSS RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

HEAD OFFICE: BASIN TOWN, MURTALA MUHAMMED HIGHWAY
P. M. B. 1248 CALABAR - NIGERIA
TEL: 087 - 223163, 223164

SERVICES RENDERED

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Carry out viability tests on seeds.

PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SERVICES

To produce topographic maps for Spatial Planning and for design of dams, drainage system, new roads, erosion control/protection works and irrigation facilities.

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Calabar Road
Calabar

Andy Jack Transport Co.
Calabar Road
Calabar

Akwa Ibom State Transport Cor-
poration, 53, Edgerley Road
Calabar

Inyang Ette Line
37, Ekpo Abasi Street
Calabar

Roadtune Booking Office
Murtala Mohammed Highway
Calabr

WATER:

Government Coastal Agency
Murtala Mohammed Highway
Calabar

Cross Lines Ferry Services
Marina Road
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AIR: Trans Voyage Agency
 59, Nelson Mandela Road
 Calabar

Network Travels Ltd
 164, Ndidem Usang Iso Road
 Calabar

Nigeria Airways Sales Office
 46, Bedwell Street
 Calabar,

Okada Air Booking Services
 97, Goldie Street
 Calabar

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CALABAR

Police	.. .. .	199, 222388
Fire Service	.. .. .	999, 220017
Ambulance	.. .. .	999
NEP.A.	.. .. .	222477
Teaching Hospital	- - - ..	222408, 222409

NITEL SERVICES:

Enquiries	.. .. .	194
Exchange	.. .. .	190
Faults	.. .. .	192, 197
Speaking Clock	.. .. .	191

MAJOR TOWNS:

Calabar (State Capital), Odukpani, Akamkpa, Ugep, Obubra, Ikom, Ogoja, and Obudu.



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6. Agbor	0-55
7. Akure	0-34
8. Asaba	0-57
9. Auchi	0-37
10. Agwu	0-42
11. Azare	0-71
12. Badagry	0-1
13. Bauchi	...	...	...	0-77
14. Benin City	...	...	...	0-52
15. Bida	...	...	...	0-66
16. Calabar	...	...	...	0-87
17. Daura	...	...	...	0-65
18. Enugu	...	...	...	0-42
19. Ibadan	...	...	...	0-22
20. Ihiala	...	...	...	0-46
21. Ijebu-Ode	...	...	...	0-37
22. Ikorodu	...	...	...	0-1
23. Ilaro	...	...	...	0-39
24. Ilorin	...	...	...	0-31
25. Issele-Uku	...	...	...	0-55
26. Jos	...	...	...	0-73
27. Kaduna	...	...	...	0-62
28. Kano	...	...	...	0-64
29. Katsina	...	...	...	0-65
30. Kwale	...	...	...	0-53
31. Lagos	...	...	...	0-1
32. Lokoja	...	...	...	0-58
33. Maiduguri	...	...	...	0-76
34. Makurdi	...	...	...	0-44
35. Minna	...	...	...	0-66
36. Obiaruku	...	...	...	0-55

37. Ogbomosho	...	...	...	0-38
38. Ogidi	...	...	...	0-46
39. Okitipupa	...	...	...	0-59
40. Ondo	...	...	...	0-34
41. Onitsha	...	...	...	0-46
42. Owerri	...	...	...	0-83
43. Owo	...	...	...	0-51
44. Oyo	...	...	...	0-38
45. Port Harcourt	...	...	...	0-84
46. Sabongida-Ora	...	...	...	0-57
47. Sapele	...	...	...	0-54
48. Shagamu	...	...	...	0-37
49. Sokoto	...	...	...	0-60
50. Suleja	...	...	...	0-66
51. Ubiaja	...	...	...	0-55
52. Ughelli	0-88
53. Umuahia	0-88
54. Uromi	0-55
55. Uyo	0-85
56. Warri	0-53
57. Yola	0-75
58. Zaria	0-69



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France	009 33
German Federal Republic	009 49
Greece	009 30
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Italy	009 39
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Portugal	009 351
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United Kingdom	009 44
United States of America	009 1

WHAT TO SEE

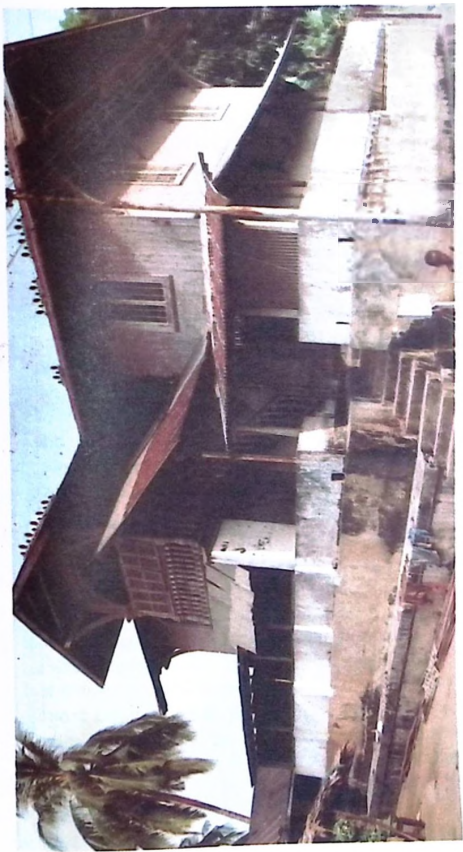
CHIEF EKPO EKPO BASSEY'S HOUSE 19 BOCO STREET, CALABAR

According to the family lore, Obong Ekpo Ekpo Bassey's house was specially ordered by its owner and paid for with 300 puncheons of palm oil worth about £3,000 at the time.

It is a fine example of early prefabricated storey buildings. It was imported by an Efik trader of Old Calabar River through his trading contacts with British traders. In the words of Consul E. Hewett, "The traders in the Oil Rivers have mostly houses sent from England. The houses are built on iron columns 12 or 14 feet high; the framework being made of single iron; the roofs of corrugated iron; the walls and bullhead of red or pitch pine" — (Memo on Houses in the Oil Rivers, 1884, FO 2/98, Public Records Office, London). The house is of similar structure as other houses and government buildings imported into Old Calabar in the latter part of the 19th century.

The house was erected in Calabar in 1886. Its owner, of course, was Obong Ekpo Ekpo Bassey, alias "Ekpo Ekpriwong". He was an outstanding figure in the Efik community, and a wealthy merchant of his time. Though an ordinary member of the Ekpo Ekpo Abasi Family of Duke Town, Ekpo Ekpo Bassey, through his commercial aptitude and trading abilities, became a prominent trader throughout the Western Cameroons, Creek Town, and Oron, exporting ivory, ebony, palm oil, palm kernels, etc, through European merchants in exchange for European manufactured goods.

The house was imported in parts together with the furnishings as was customary at the time, and was erected on a plot of land allocated by the



Chief Ekpo Ekpo Bassey's House, Calabar

family — (Ekpo Abasi House of the Lower Cobham Section of Duke Town).

An earlier house, built on that plot by someone else had been pulled down, and only after an appeal through the Obong of Creek Town (the ruler of a related Efik settlement up-river) and other Efik chiefs, all of whom interceded with the Cobham Town Family, was the plot allocated to Chief Bassey for the magnificent building.

The name of the owner, date, and place of erection, are inscribed on the wooden cornice over the front door leading to the central hall. The decorative cast iron columns supporting the building carry the stamp of their producers — “McFarlane and Co., Glasgow (Scotland)”, who had also supplied the cast-iron supports for the Old Residency, High Court, and the Hope Waddell Training Institute buildings among other prefabricated houses of the same period in Calabar. The central hall has decorative plaster-work cornices, ceiling rosette, and flower-patterned multi-coloured window panes. A decorative metal sheet work of stylized thistle motifs and an intricate weather-cock and cardinal-point fixture beautify the roof.

The ground floor, divided into several compartments, has walls of galvanized corrugated zinc sheets, and was used as storage (and probably sale) area for trade goods. The central hall upstairs is flanked by four rooms (2 on each side) and front and back verandahs each leading to a stair-case. Carved wooden ballustrades border the verandahs and the staircases.

Shuttered sun-shades serve to control the sunlight on the front verandah which provides a convenient observation post towards the waterway and

the nearby Government Hill. A covered passage at the back of the house leads to a row of outbuildings — kitchens, stores, bathrooms, etc.

The owner lived in the compound — 19 Boco Street — for 10 years before he died in 1897. The house was inherited by his son, Chief Edet Ekpo Ekpo Bassey, a customs officer in the colonial administration. He too died in the same house in 1974 at the age of 78.

It is said that the first Roman Catholic Holy Mass in Calabar was held in the central hall of the building circa 1902 or 1903 in the presence of Rev. Father (later Bishop) Okokon and Father Healey (later Catholic Bishop of Onitsha). Roman Catholic worships were conducted there until the church service was moved to the present site of the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

In the early 20th century, the house was rented by a prominent Lebanese trader and businessman in Calabar, J. M. Anthony, whose daughter now recalls that she was born in 1919 and married in 1936 in the same house.

The house and its Victorian furnishings attracted many admirers. A visitor's book kept there between 1959 and 1966 was said to have recorded 350 visitors among whom were Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Dr F. A. Ibiam, Dr M. I. Okpara, etc.

The centenary anniversary of the house was marked by the Ekpo Ekpo Bassey's family on December 13, 1986.

The building was declared a National Monument by the Federal Government on 14th August, 1959 after relevant publications in the Federal

Gazettes of 5th February, 1959 and 7th May, 1959.

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments has carried out some repairs and specialized restoration works on the structure. They include, stabilizing the foundation by constructing foundation embankments; repair of doors and floor-board; erection of fence; restoration of the glass murals. Full restoration is hampered by insufficient funding at the moment. On account of this, the house is at present unoccupied and empty and is thus subjected to fast deterioration.

There are roof leakages; the staircases are losing some steps; erosion still threatens the foundations.

Yet, the building has retained its original architectural and historic appearance and still attracts many visitors and admirers.

It is worthy of note that Obong Ekpo Ekpo Basse also acquired land from the Ikot Akasuk (Qua) people nearby and founded Ikot Inim (Ekorinim) village near Calabar.

THE OLD RESIDENCY, CALABAR

The Old Residency building was erected in late 19th century.

The building remains one of the finest examples of early colonial architectural pieces in Nigeria. Its walls and entire top floor are made of Scandinavian red pine-wood, which was considered to have strong resistance to termite attacks.

The wooden walls are double, being made of inward and outward overlapping boards which



Old Residency, Calabar

encase structural pillars.

A framework of cast iron columns and beams supports the structure while brass nails keep the corrugated iron-sheet roof in place. Ornate latic work and wooden step rails make up the front staircase. Sashed windows and shuttered walls in-between them provide efficient ventilation in the tropical climate. Decorative pieces of cast iron on the ceilings of the rooms provide further ventilation shafts as they open to the spacious area between ceiling and roof. This serves to isolate the heat accumulated by the roofing sheets.

The roof itself has three layers — wooden-plank structure bearing slabs which are then covered with corrugated iron-sheets. Rain water from the roof is trapped in curved zinc gutters set along the eaves. The water then flows through a pipe down, into zinc water tanks placed over cement gutters at the corners of the house. The ground floor and verandahs are concreted to preclude the formation of marsh.

Some of the cast iron columns along the verandahs still display the manufacturer's stamp, reading 'McFARLANE and Co, Glasgow'. A huge concrete block with a heavy chain found in the compound was probably used in anchoring the structure during the erection process.

A short staircase flanked by stands carrying ornate cast-iron decorative flower pots, and two gas lamps installed on similar cast-iron decorative pillars, lead to a front flower garden. At the back, the top floor of the building is bridged by two covered passages to a storey brick annexe which accommodated a kitchen and storerooms.

Behind that building, two arched sentry boxes provided stands for guards who watched over the prisoners detained at the basement of the brick building. A special vent over the door made for easy sight over the movements of the detainees. A well laid road with brick canalisation and good lighting linked the Old Residency building with other government buildings down the hill and continued to the water-side where merchant ships and military 'men-of-war' anchored off shore.

The building was first known as 'Government House', but was later called 'Old Residency' (after the Resident of Old Calabar province whose household and offices it accommodated in the early 20th century).

When the administrative headquarters of Eastern Nigeria was moved to Enugu in the late 1920s, the building was used as a V.I.P. guest house. After the creation of the South-Eastern State of Nigeria in 1967, it was used as government offices by the State Ministries of Finance and, Lands and Surveys.

Efforts to preserve the building were made as early as 1953 when, through the initiative of the then Antiquities Department, it was placed under government protection. It was Monument No. 20 in the list of declared National Monuments. On the basis of this, the National Commission for Museums and Monuments and the local community objected to the demolition of the building and it was finally handed over to the N.C.M.M. on 27th May, 1981 for restoration and preservation.

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments then did the cleaning and landscaping of the compound and undertook full restora-

tion work on the wooden edifice. The restoration work was a complicated process on account of the fact that behind the strong outward panels of the walls often hid rotten beams and pillars. There were also hundreds of bats and termites living under the roof. These had to be eradicated.

All latter features such as partitions, curtains, and air-conditioner boxes inserted by latter occupants were removed to reveal the original structure of the building. The weight-carrying beams and pillars were fortified or replaced. The roof was cleared of bats, birds, and insects; fumigated; then sealed with metal netting.

The original decorative facial boards were reconstructed. Wall, floor, and ceiling beams, rafters and wooden coverings were checked and renovated. Special wooden material resistant to termite attacks was used, after being chemically treated. The renovated areas were painted with insecticidal paint to repel insects.

Research was conducted to ascertain the original features and furnishings of the building. Descriptions and drawings were collected from various sources which made possible the reconstruction of the punkha fan in the central reception hall, the rain-gutters, and some of the security lamps in the compound. Searches in the government departments which had previously occupied the building yielded some recoveries of some of the missing ancient furniture.

In addition to the large collection of exhibits made up of over 1,050 objects, photographs, and documents among them an 1848 bell, cast-iron cauldron for re-boiling palm oil, various types of manillas, some of Obong Archibong V's paraphernalia, and ballot boxes used in the Nigerian inde-

pendence elections, the Old Residency Museum has such other facilities as a general purpose exhibition hall, lecture room, bookshop, craftshop, traditional crafts workshops, and a kitchen for light traditional menus which are patronized by the public.

Contacts with various government and private establishments both in Nigeria and overseas have yielded useful results too. Some of the antiquities obtained through these contacts have been installed as permanent features in the premises. They include a post office pillar box used for letter posting, some colonial water-pumps, canons, and a cast-iron boat.

MV 'Oron' ferryboat has also been released to the museum for preservation. It is to accommodate a traditional food restaurant 'on board'.

The museum is also involved in documenting traditional rites and ceremonies in its locality apart from its documentation of historical sites, monuments, and antiquities in Cross River State. It has sponsored research on the architecture of Old Calabar and on the role of women in national development, focussing on the market women revolt in Calabar in 1925 and the women's war of 1929.

Apart from the historic house and the museum exhibits in and outside it, the public is welcome to the craft village where it can observe the production of traditional crafts, and purchase some. Visitors could relax in the traditional restaurant on board the MV 'Oron' or stroll along the beautiful grounds, admiring the antiquity-images moulded on the fence pillars.

For researchers, the museum's photo-archives, documentary archives, library, and documentation catalogues are accessible.

The museum education unit arranges series of exhibitions, workshops, etc., for various age and interest groups. Among such services are:—

1. Historical and cultural exhibitions
2. Public lectures and seminars
3. School educational services
4. Children programmes.

Between August 1986 and December 1988, seven special exhibitions were held at the museum premises. They varied from arts and crafts to historical, architectural, and photo-topical exhibitions. Two public lectures and two seminars were also organized between 1986 and 1988. They dealt with the "Story of Old Calabar", "The Oron Ekpu Carvings", "The Fathers of Nigerian Antiquities", and "History and Culture of the Upper Cross River People".

The Museum Educational Services include organized museum tours, illustrated school lectures, inter-school debates (two of such debates having been organized to mark the International Museum Day of 1987 and 1988), and a Quiz competition on "The Nigerian Cultural Heritage".

The State Youth Arts and Crafts Exhibitions for the Children's Day Celebration of 1987 and 1988 were similarly held on the museum grounds.

For the children, the museum operates the Children's Saturday Arts Club which was started within the first three months of the museum's existence. A children's cultural playground has just been completed in the museum premises.

Such community services programmes need the continuous and strong support of the local community which benefits from them.

The museum's programmes and facilities attracted over 61,000 visitors during the first two years of the Old Residency Museum's existence and have garnered a small but active group of museum friends from within and outside Calabar. These have offered the museum constant encouragement and assistance by the donation of equipment, museum objects, books, and funds in addition to their active participation in various committees and programmes.

The museum has inaugurated a branch of the Nigerian National Museum Society, in Calabar. This is aimed at:

1. Providing meaningful recreational and educational activities in Calabar through monthly sessions
2. Promoting both the cultural development of the State and the preservation of Nigeria's cultural heritage by integrating Nigerian cultural values into modern life behaviour, mode of dressing, etc.

KWA FALL

Situated eastwards about 60 kilometres from Calabar, Kwa Fall is one of the attractive natural sceneries in the State. It is at Aningeje, near the Oban Hills in Odukpani Local Government Area.

The waterfall is in the vicinity of a fully developed oil palm plantation — the Kwa Fall Estate. In the estate is a recreation hall which houses:

a snack bar,
restaurant,
games room.

The most attractive scenery at the fall is the sparkling snow-white stream seen rolling down a

rocky hill. The thick evergreen tropical shrubs which line the fall add immeasurably to its beauty. Also, one cannot resist the lovely scent exuding from plants in the vegetation.

The area is always cool and pleasant because of the breeze that blows gently all the time from the ravine. The velocity of the stream and the water level vary from season to season.

Apart from the scenic attraction in relaxing in the cool of the lawns at the slopes of the fall to watch the snowy down-pour of the stream, the waterfall has been assessed by experts to be capable of generating hydro electric power to meet the needs of Cross River and Akwa Ibom States.

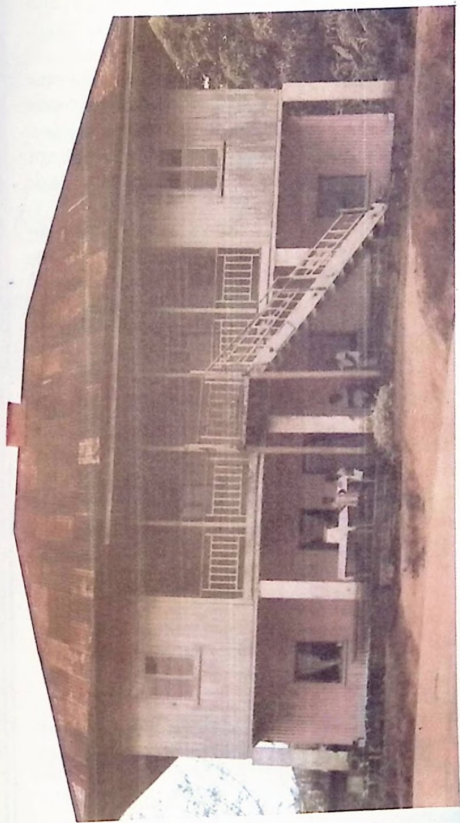
MARY SLESSOR'S RESIDENCE

The famous Mary Slessor came to Okoyong in 1878 under the auspices of the United Free Church of Scotland (now the Presbyterian Mission).

At first, she was offered, and lived in, an open hut. Her escort to the station or duty post, a Mr Bishop, fitted a door and windows in appropriate places on the walls. Even then, there were several unwanted holes all over the hut.

Soon, Mr Bishop was gone and Mary faced the problem of leakages with rain water dripping over her boxes and bed. She endeavoured to patch up the holes on the roof and walls, provided her conveniences, and fenced a portion of the yard to provide a secluded space for her cooking and washing. She used curtain to provide the bare privacy she needed inside the hut.

Eventually, Mary built her own house. It was a two-room mud house with a verandah, store,



Mary Slessor's Residence, Okoyong

and parlour. The walls were smoothly scrubbed while the windows were of glass panes. She called the house 'Caravan' while the villagers called it 'fine pass all'. The house stood on a plot of land donated to her by the Chiefs of Okoyong in 1890.

In 1899, a missionary carpenter, Mr Owens, was sent to Okoyong to put up a permanent residence for Mary. All the materials used in the construction of the one storey building were imported from England. They consisted of zinc, glass, and wood.

The walls of the ground floor were made of zinc while the doors and windows were made of wood. There were two rooms, one each on both ends of the sitting room. The room on the right end had two doors, one leading from the sitting room while the other led to the back yard. There were three windows in that room. The room on the left, adjacent to a water reservoir, had two doors and two windows. One door led to the sitting room while the other led to the back yard. The sitting room had four windows. The ceiling of the ground floor which also served as the floor of the first floor was made of wood. There were six pillars along the front verandah, six on the back verandah, and fifteen in the sitting room of the ground floor.

Most of the original wooden pillars have been replaced with concrete pillars in the course of renovation and rehabilitation.

The staircase leading to the first floor had 21 steps and was supported by two pillars and wooden railings.

The body-work of the first floor which had five rooms was completely made of wood, with glass windows and wooden doors.

The five rooms had nine windows and seven doors while the sitting room had four doors and four glass windows. The ceiling was made of wood.

The kitchens for the ground floor and the first floor were semi-detached. The ground floor kitchen had one door and one window while the first floor kitchen had two windows and one door. It also had a chimney.

The rear stair case also had 21 steps.

At the left of the house was a beautifully constructed water reservoir fitted with a hand-operated pump. Water was trapped in the reservoir with the aid of gutters fitted along the edges of the roof and channelled through pipes into the reservoir.

After the death of Mary Slessor, another missionary known as Miss Aims resided there before it was used as a rest house for other missionaries. A primary school was later opened there.

At various times, the building was used as a Church, dispensary, and a maternity home.

The building was also used as the first Women Training Institute in the then Eastern Nigeria and was later abandoned because of the deteriorated condition of the structure. As a result, there was an intention to demolish the house but the Presbyterian Church bought it over and in 1927, it was converted into a health centre after intensive repairs.

Two brothers, Chief Aye Okon Ekpo and Archibong Okon Ekpo were instrumental in ensuring that the house was maintained.

At present, the ground floor of the building is used as a Primary Health Centre operated by the Odukpani Local Government Council.

(Note: Most of this information was obtained from Chief Asuquo Akiba Eyo, J. P., to whom we are thankful).

PROFILE ON MARY MITCHELL SLESSOR

FAMILY BACKGROUND AND BIRTH

Mary Slessor was born in a humble family on 2nd December, 1843 and was the second child of the family. She was baptized in the United Presbyterian Church, Belmont Street, Aberdeen, Scotland. Mary took up an early appointment in a factory to enable her help the family.

Though the working conditions at the time were hard, she found time to attend Sunday School and to improve herself intellectually.

THE CALL

She received the missionary call in 1874 through Dr Livingstone and she immediately offered herself to the Foreign Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church. She was accepted and deployed to the Calabar Mission. She left Liverpool for Calabar on August 5th, 1876 on board the steamer "Ethiopia".

HER WORK

Mary Slessor arrived Calabar town on 11th September, 1876. She immediately mounted a campaign against alcoholism and the ill-treatment and killing of twins and their mothers. She carried her campaign further into the hinterlands, preaching the good news about the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Obutong, Creek Town, Okoyong, Eniong, Itu, Use, Ikpe and Ediene fell to her mesmerising



Mary Slessor with Children

influence. She taught women and children how to read and write and keep their homes.

For many years she was stationed at Akpap Okoyong. She later moved to Use, from where she explored the Ibibio hinterlands.

Mary Mitchell Slessor laboured for Christ till her end came when she fell sick of coastal fever characteristic of malarial attack. On Wednesday 13th January, 1915 she peacefully passed away in the Lord. She had spent the better part of her life among the Efik, Okoyong, Eniong and Ibibio tribesmen.

HONOURS

The General Hospital at Itu Hill has been named after her. So also is the Presbyterian Church in Port Harcourt. Other places named after her include a Nursery School at Ogoia, a street and an avenue in Calabar. Mary Slessor's statues have also been mounted outside the Presbyterian Church at Akpap Okoyong and outside the Presbyterian Women's Guild Hostel, Calabar.

In appreciation of her work she was conferred with the award of Honorary Associate of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Mary Slessor was buried at the Mission Hill Cemetery, Calabar. There, a giant granite Cross stands towering over her grave. A miniature of that tombstone has also been built at Use where she served too.

Mary Slessor's grave has become a tourist attraction, pulling visiting dignitaries and Christian pilgrims alike.



A Sand Bank at dry Season

Bank of the river at dry season. The water is low and the sand bank is wide and flat. The trees are green and the sky is blue.

Recently, Duke Town Parish prepared a special complimentary card to be issued all visitors to the grave of that great Missionary.

AGWAGWUNE SAND BANK

It is located at the beach of Agwagwune Village in Akamkpa Local Government Area.

From Akamkpa main town, which is the administrative headquarters of Akamkpa Local Government Area, to the Agwagwune sand bank at Agwagwune village is about 84 kilometres.

The sand bank is the most extensive of the stretches of glittering sand banks which line the shores of Cross River during the dry season.

The attractive coastal sand is an excellent holiday and camping ground for tourists and fun lovers only during the dry season.

By virtue of its location, the sand bank offers one the opportunity for surf riding, swimming, picnicking, sun-bathing, etc.

Historically, the Agwagwune Sand Bank is said to be the relaxation ground for the early European missionaries who settled in Agwagwune village.

Apart from serving this social function, the bank also has its economic importance. The huge and massive stretch of sand harbours fishermen who camp on it full-time throughout the dry season.

ROCK WITH FOOT-PRINT INDENTS. NGARABE

Also, there is another tourist wonder at Igbo Ekureku. It is at the village square of Ngarabe. It



Kwa Fall

like in forest of the islands from 1900 but was first reported in 1905 in an edition of the Journal

is a solid rock with two human foot-prints indented on it.

No one can say exactly how old the stone is or how such indents really occurred. Even the founders of Ngarabe met the wonder there when they were settling in the area.

A widely believed legend among the villagers has it that a fairy had leapt on the rock with its left leg as it entered the area for an unknown mission. With such powers, the foot dented the rock leaving the print deeply stamped on the rock. At the completion of its mission, it also leapt on the rock with its right foot and so similarly left the right foot-print deeply stamped on the rock.

Since the community regards the rock as a bearer of mysterious powers, its members invoke its powers for their communal strength. They thus revere the rock.

An 18th century European invader is said to have been startled on seeing the rock and so exclaimed, "Great things shall grow from this village — village where spirits visit and leave indelible foot-prints".

The rock is now a treasure and is open to sight-seers, tourists, and those interested in exploring the unusual.

IKOM MONOLITHS

The monoliths are stones carved in low relief in different shapes representing human figures.

The existence of the stone carvings or monoliths in forests of the Middle Cross River belt was first reported in 1905 by an officer of the British



Ikom Monoliths

Administration. But until 1961 and 1962, when Philip Allison carried out a survey for the Nigerian Department of Antiquities, their distribution and total numbers could only be guessed.

These monoliths or stone carvings are locally known as Akwanshi. Akwanshi appears to literally mean "dead person in the ground".

Stones carved to represent human forms or embellished with surface decorations have however, only been found in the Alok, Akajuk, Nnam, Nselle, Nta, Abanyom, Nde and Akparabong areas of Ekoi tribe with heavy concentrations in Nselle and Alok areas.

The isolated dispersal of the Akwanshi in a small part of the area occupied by the Ekoi-speaking people suggests that either the carvings are, in fact, the work of some previous occupants of the land, or that of the present population although the descendants of the carvers are ethnically distinct from the rest of the Ekois.

The second alternative appears to be the more likely explanation of this phenomenon. The boundaries separating the recognizably different styles of carving coincide closely with the present sub-tribal boundaries, so that one can speak with some confidence of the Nta style and the Nnam style, for example. This being the case, it would surely be surprising if small separate groups of invaders should settle in exactly the same restricted areas previously occupied by the small separate groups of their predecessors.

Whatever may be the truth of the matter, it is probably permissible to consider the people of the

Akwanshi as sections of the Ekoi people, pending further ethnographical research.

Some of the largest groups of the monoliths are at the Nselle villages of Nkrigom, Nta and Ekpantana Farm Camp. Some of the stones at the Ekpantana Farm Camp measure up to 96 inches high and are carved in such manner that they bear protruding navels.

During the period of inter-tribal warfare, certain territories and villages changed hands thus some groups of the Akwanshi were certainly carved by the forefathers of the people who no longer occupy the land on which the monoliths stand.

AGBOKIM WATERFALLS

The waterfalls are located on the eastern end of a small village called Agbokim in Ikom Local Government Area of Cross River State. The village is about 37 kilometres from Ikom Urban. The water from the falls empties itself into the Cross River about 250 metres away. Seven rivulets account for the water supply for the falls. Of the seven rivulets, three lose their velocity in the dry season and only function fully in the rainy season but the remaining four are full all year round.

The seven rivulets or streams tumble down a steep wall at separate points into a lake-like basement from where the combined pool flows out.

The steepness of the tumble and the force of the splash at the bottom engender a beautiful rainbow-like aura which envelopes the pool in the semblance of colour-tinted vapours.

Another noticeable feature of the waterfalls is the continuous change in the temperature of



Agbokin Waterfalls

the surrounding area. Each day, there is the change from warm to cold or at times chilly atmospheric condition and vice versa occasioned by the rise of vapour from the ever foaming pool. That atmospheric condition is felt throughout the areas about one kilometre radius from the falls.

That weather condition accounts for the irregular and uncommon type of vegetational growth in the area. Thus, one finds some type of flowery vegetation which thrives only within the waterfalls area and nowhere outside it — not even in Agbokim village in whose territory the waterfalls are located. While some of the flowering plants are seasonal, others blossom all year round.

There are also dotted tall luxuriant trees within the waterfalls vicinity. These form what looks like a sparse forest vegetation. Some of the trees still shed their leaves in spite of the humid atmosphere. Many of the trees — those that do not — either have creeping roots to enable them hold fast to the rocks or have sharp, strong, and long roots that pierce and penetrate the rocky soil at the waterfalls.

Experts have asserted that the Agbokim Waterfalls can be harnessed to generate electricity which is capable of meeting the domestic and industrial needs of all the eastern states — Imo, Anambra, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States as well as the South-West Province of Cameroun.

CROSS RIVER STATE NATIONAL PARK

The park is made up of two sectors — the Oban sector, and the Boshi/Okwangwo sector. The two sectors however, come under one management.

OBAN SECTOR

The Oban sector of the Cross River State National Park is only a part of the Oban Group Forest Reserve located in Akamkpa Local Government Area.

The Area has a host of wood species among which are: The Mahoganies, Iroko, Iron wood, Camwood, Edo, Nauclea and Ebony.

The other animal species generally found there include the Antelopes, Bush Pigs, Chimpanzees, High Forest Monkeys, Manatee, Buffalos and High Forest Elephants.

BOSHI/OKWANGWO SECTOR

This sector of the Cross River State National Park is located in Boki area of Ikom Local Government, and extends from Kanyang to portions of the Obudu Cattle Ranch area and its environs. Its unique natural features which include rugged mountains and rolling hills of grassland, have caused it to be described as "one of the finest places in the world" by a 1979 UNESCO report. Moreover, the area has all year round temperate climate on account of its high altitude of up to 6,000 feet above sea level at some portions.

It has Mahogany, Iroko, Iron wood, Camwood, Edo, Ebony and Nauclea as the dominant species.

In addition to a variety of grassland and forest ungulates, the reserve has such other animals as Gorillas, Chimpanzees, Baboons, Leopards, Red Foxes, High Forest Monkeys, Buffalos and Elephants.

Gorilla formerly declared extinct in Nigeria, however, still has a strong-hold in this part of the Cross River State.

Cross River State National Park Project is designed primarily to save our rare animal species from extinction, and as a way of protecting part of our remaining tropical rain forests. The re-appearance of Gorillas in the Kanyang mountains and portions of Boshi/Okwangwo as well as the Qbudu Cattle Ranch areas attracted both the World Wide Fund (WWF) and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) to recommend the creation of a park in the area.

The British Government announced a donation of One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00) through the WWF to facilitate its establishment. Some WWF consultants are working in conjunction with Cross River State Wildlife personnel to ensure the successful completion of the project. In addition, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, which is an affiliate of the WWF, is assisting the Cross River State Government in setting up a Conservation Education Centre at Oban, as a public enlightenment unit of the park.

Gorillas are now found only in Boki area between Ikom and Obudu. In no other area in Nigeria and West Africa are these animals found.

CROSS RIVER GORILLAS

- eat leaves, fruits, barks of certain trees.
- spend their days eating, resting, playing and looking after their young ones.
- live in small groups usually of one male adult, three female adults and their young ones.

- spend most of their time on the ground and not on trees.
- sleep all night on low nests made of branches of trees.
- have a vocabulary of 22 distinct sounds.
- give birth every four years.

OBUDU CATTLE RANCH

This Plateau which has become a fascinating holiday and ranching ground is situated in Obudu Local Government Area, Cross River State. It was discovered in 1949 by Mr Macculloh of the Veterinary Department in the former Eastern Nigeria. On investigation, he found the plateau to be flat at the top and to be tse-tse fly-free hence he tipped it for a viable or ideal ranching/animal rearing area.

His idea materialised in 1951 when the Eastern Nigeria Government formally established the Ranch and embarked upon its road construction which lasted four years.

The Obudu Cattle Ranch is spread over an area of 40 square miles/104 square metres. It is 5,200 feet/1,576 metres above sea level with the highest point being 5,975 feet/1,810 metres. There are 27 grazing ranges of which nine are in use.

The climate is generally semi-temperate. The highest temperature of 85°F—90°F is recorded between November and January while the months of June to September record the lowest temperatures of 40°F to 50°F. August usually records the highest rainfall of about 30.5 inches/76.25cm while the month of December experiences a rainfall of about 0.76cm. Pressure is higher in the rainy season than in the dry season. Humidity is 80—90% in the rainy and 50—55% in the dry season. The ave-



Obudu Ranch Meandering Road

rage duration of sunshine per day in the dry season is five hours—October to April, while it is two hours in the rainy season particularly from July to August.

The Ranch offers the following facilities:—

- (i) Holidaying and Tourism
- (ii) Livestock development
- (iii) Cultivation of exotic vegetables

The Ranch Hotel offers a variety of 24-hour quality services. There are 33 chalets of various standards. These comprise VIPs — 11 rooms, Suites — 6, Single Rooms — 16. Each of these has twin beds.

The Hotel has a Kitchen, Restaurant, and Bar. Since it offers accommodation, it offers laundry services too.

The Dining Room has a capacity for 50 guests at breakfast, lunch, and dinner and takes up to 100 for buffet luncheon or dinner.

Breakfast is Ala Carte i.e. pay for what you select.

Lunch and Dinner are of three courses whether for African or European dish.

Accommodation is offered strictly on first-come, first-served basis. VIPs provide exquisite comfort as their facilities include:—

Large sitting room

Video recorder and T.V. (coloured)

Cocktail bar

Kitchen

Spacious bedrooms containing executive beds with built-in stereo sets

Private baths

Fire place.

The Livestock Development activity there entails the rearing of Cattle, Pigs, Poultry, Sheep and Horses. There are the milking parlour; the crush — for the slaughtering of cattle; the cold store; dairy rooms — for processing of fresh milk, cheese, and butter; the dip — for immunization of cattle; horses stables; and ranges for grazing. The Ranch already produces tender beef, pork, chicken, fresh milk, cream butter.

The ranching area has a capacity for 15,000 cattle but less than 2,000 are yet kept.

The Obudu Cattle Ranching Company has taken advantage of the weather to cultivate such temperate crops and vegetables as:—

Carrots

Potatoes

Beans

Peas

Spring Onions

Tomatoes

Green Pepper

Lettuce

Cabbages

Rhubarb

Parsley

Parsnip

Strawberries

Turnips

These crops and vegetables are sold fresh to the public and are also served in the hotel restaurant.

Recreational facilities are available indoors and outdoors.

Those indoors are:—

Chess
Dart
Monopoly
Ping-pong — (table tennis)
Sambros
Scrabble
Cards
Billiard

Those outdoors are:—

A 9-hole golf course
Badminton
Grotto — natural swimming pool
Horse riding
Lawn tennis — (flood lit and fenced)
Mini golf course — puzz putt of 14 cups
Squash racquet court.

These facilities are intended to keep guests/tourists busy while on vacation.

The Ranch International Hotel operates a 24-hour service. Guests can be accommodated any-time, but, during the peak periods particularly between September and December, it may be worthwhile to book in advance. The following booking centres can be used,

- (i) Governor's Office, Calabar;
- (ii) ADC Building, No. 2 Barracks Road, Calabar
- (iii) Cross River State Liaison Office, Lagos;
- (iv) Obudu Local Government Office, Obudu.

Alternatively, personal enquiries or reservations can be made by writing to:—

The Hotel Manager
Obudu Cattle Ranch
P. O. Box 37
Obudu
Cross River State of Nigeria

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A stop-over at kilometre 45 along Calabar/Ikom highway brings you face to face with a changed landscape, with uniform vegetation featuring rubber trees. The expanse of more than 40,000 hectares of land accommodates high-yielding rubber clones planted on different locations in Cross River State, with the headquarters at Uyanga in Akamkpa Local Government Area.

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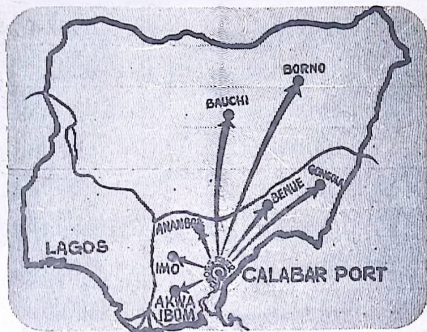
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