



PHT newsletter

ISSUE No. 76/ AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2002

SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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**PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST**

**Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang**

PHT

EDITORIAL

Dear PHT members,

As you can see, we are attempting to get a more regular newsletter going. It'll be treated as an informational tool, which translates as 'don't expect great creative writing'.

There is much happening in George Town and with PHT and it's all happening so fast. We shall try to keep you on track with all the news while its still fresh.

Since the last newsletter in August, we have had 2 site visits, the first on August 25th when we visited the Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct and the second on September 29th when Armenian Street with its recent restoration works was re-visited. The Annual General Meeting 2002 coincided with the September site visit. It is a non-election year and you should have received your Annual Report and Accounts.

We are also happy to report that a donation of RM\$5,000 has been received from Tanjung Public Listed Co. for PHT's use in promoting traditional trades. While the amount may not be huge, the significance lies in the recognition given to PHT's work by a large Kuala Lumpur-based corporation.

In the meantime we are enlisting the help of members in locating a building in George Town for PHT to restore and use as our office. As you may have read, Amex is donating US\$80,000 to us for that expressed purpose. It should be a relatively prominent building where the owner wishes to have financing for restoration works and to have a very good tenant for many years. The matter is of some urgency so please get in touch with the office if you have any possible leads.

There is much to do in George Town and as always, we urge you to help us in any little way that you can - time, suggestions, paying up subscriptions, donations, expertise etc.

L.L.Loh-Lim



August 20th 2002 'The Star'

George Town - one of the 100 Endangered Monuments of the World.

Presentation of mock cheque to Penang Heritage Trust President Dr Choong Sim Poey. With him is state executive councillor Datuk Dr Loh Hock Hun representing Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, American Express Malaysia country manager Lee Siew Lee and PHT honorary secretary, Khoo Salma.

Dr.Choong: "The Trust plans to restore a heritage building in George Town to be used as its office and resource centre with a RM304,000 (US\$80,000) grant from the American Express Foundation. We are looking at old buildings such as insurance firms, banks, big trading companies and old clan houses to be converted into the office"

Lee Siew Lee: "The grant is part of the Foundation's funding for projects on the 2002 List of 100 Most Endangered Sites." "As the world's largest travel company, American Express understands the importance of saving monuments of world heritage" "This would be the second grant in Malaysia, the first was a RM190,000 grant made in 1998 to assist in the restoration of the Kampung Cina River frontage in Kuala Terengganu."

STOP PRESS

SUN. OCTOBER 27TH
& SUN. NOVEMBER 24TH
SITE VISITS
DETAILS ON PAGE 9

The Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct & the Guillemard Reservoir

It was a hot but beautiful Sunday afternoon when 82 PHT members gathered in front of the Holiday Inn, before car-pooling to enter the restricted area of the aqueduct and water reserve. Visitors were greeted with lush greenery and fresh, cool air at the aqueduct while huge water pipes could be seen laid along the hill slope.



(Pic courtesy Lim Gark Siang)

We were very honoured by the presence of Dato Lee Yow Ching of the Penang Water Corporation (PBA), also Life Member of PHT, who had kindly consented to be our guide and who, together with his charming wife, welcomed PHT members. We were briefed on the historical background of the aqueduct and its importance in supplying clean water to Penang Island since early days. The brilliant design of the water system, with the linkage between the aqueduct to the Guillemard Reservoir and other reservoirs in Penang Island, has provided a full coverage for the island's water supply.

~ Water supply started in 1804 & in 1877, the British had constructed cast-iron water pipes to supply fresh clean water to the growing population and to aid in the expansion of the city

~ In the 1920s, the 1st treatment plant, ie the Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct had been constructed. Construction of the 6 km long tunnel from the Aqueduct to the Tanjong Bunga treatment plant was over a period from 1926 to 1929. It was pointed out that 4.5 km of the tunnel are exposed whilst 1.5 km was painstakingly laid underground through the hilly terrain all the way to Tanjong Bunga, all of which was undertaken by the then Chief Engineer, Mr. Fettes (Fettes Park has been named in his honour, one of the few roads in Pg named after an officer of the Administration then)

~ At this point, it was also highlighted that it was through the ingenuity of the then engineer, Mr. Goh Heng Choon, that the Air Itam Dam was computer-designed. He was promoted to be the Head of the Water Department in 1958 before retiring in 1965.

~ After this briefing, the group then made the 4.5 mile trek alongside the open aqueduct to the dam at the ridge. A number of the participants made their way there by using their cars whilst through the encouragement & exuberance of Loh-Lim, a higher number of participants trekked the distance to the reservoir. Those with a keen eye for Mother Nature's beauty were duly rewarded, taking in the pristine beauty of the forest-clad hilly terrain. A pair of brahminy kites were sighted, a good indicator of the healthy cycle of life in this unspoilt part of Penang. After about 45 minutes of good walking, where one could see filtration stations and see and touch crystal clear water flowing along the aqueduct, we finally arrived at the reservoir.

~ After the walk participants were treated to curry-puff and mineral water for refreshments before proceeding to the Guillemard Reservoir, situated at the hilly terrain along Vale of Tempe Road. The Guillemard Reservoir, which is also known as the "Spectacles Reservoir" by the locals is located at the top of Fettes Park..

~ The Reservoir, opened on 16th July 1929, was named after Sir Laurence Nunns Guillemard who was the then Governor of the Straits Settlements. Designed by Naylor, a water engineer with J.D. Fettes as the engineer responsible for its construction, it supplies water for 6% of Penang. It is situated @ 246 feet above sea-level and has a capacity for 7,578,000 gallons of water and a maximum depth of 24½ feet.

The visit was a fascinating and valuable experience and a revelation of the contributions and the enormous importance of the early waterworks of Penang. Dato Lee highlighted 3 important points :

- Penang has the good fortune to have among the cleanest water available on tap
- It has the least loss between the point of collection and the point of use
- The Penang Water Authority is the most profitable water body in the country

Yeap Peng Hoe / Tan Yah Phing / Loh-Lim

SITE VISIT REPORT 29 SEPTEMBER 2002

THE PENANG HERITAGE TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

The meeting held at the first floor of the newly restored corner building of Armenian Street and Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, Nanyang Chinese Cuisine, was called to order at 3.20 p.m. by the President, Dr Choong Sim Poey. As this was a non-election year, the Annual Report was read and adopted, as were the accounts for the year. A resolution to express members' concerns with regards to the land reclamation project (part of the Penang Outer Ring Road) at Gurney Drive, was tabled and passed unanimously. The main area of concern centred on the adequacy of marine studies re. tide patterns and silting and the impact of the proposed 300 metre reclamation outwards, upon the historic port of George Town.



SITE VISIT FOLLOWING AGM

After the AGM on 29 September 2002 at the Nanyang Chinese Cuisine, members were taken on a tour of six privately-owned houses along Armenian Street, three of which had been restored, with the remaining one awaiting restoration. PHT members were treated to a bit of the history behind each house and also a description of the restoration works.

~164 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling~

You can't miss this large double-storey house at the corner of Armenian Street and Pitt Street. The house has three different sections and is now called the Nanyang Chinese Cuisine. It belongs to the family of engineer Mr Yeap Chin Chau, chairman of the Yeap Kongs. It was the 19th century home of a Minang family and a former Mufti, and stayed in the Mufti's family for 5 generations before it was sold, being used as a Rumah Tumpangan Haji or pilgrimage lodge for pilgrims en route to Mecca. The house was in a poor condition at the time of purchase. The doors had to be changed, as well as the timbers, the windows also needed repair, as the wooden shutters were dilapidated. The restoration was conducted together with 2 adjoining houses on Armenian Street, currently awaiting occupancy by new tenants.

~118 Armenian Street~

Proud new owner Dr Tan Chong Guan, our PHT Council member, will be restoring this building for use as an art gallery to exhibit his exclusive private collection of paintings by pioneer Penang artists. It originally belonged to the Lee family, who were tea merchants operating the famous tea shop Leng Chuah in the 19th century. When the patriarch passed away, one of the sons, the brother of well-known Penang businessman Lee Guat Cheow, took over the ownership of the house. The house was renovated in the late 1920s, and was re-sold in the 1980's whereupon it became the premises of a printing press with printing machinery still very much in evidence.

~116 Armenian Street~

This 19th century shophouse is part of the Choong family estate. In a very advanced stage of dilapidation and disrepair, it has been fully restored under the consultancy of Laurence Loh Akitek, and now serves as the offices of AR & T Consultancy. Members were impressed by the restored air-well and the two wooden staircases as well as the original floor tiles, which had been retained. Members attention was directed to the display of terra-cotta roof tiles put up by AR & T, and the different sizes and designs of pre- and post war traditional tiles as well as current adaptations were explained.

~120 Armenian Street~

The site visit ended at Dr Sun Yet Sen's Penang base, where PHT Hon Secretary Khoo Salma was on hand to narrate the interesting history of the house and its former occupants. PHT members are of course quite acquainted with the fact that the house was the headquarters of the Penang Philomatic Union, which was the cover organisation for Dr Sun Yet Sen's Bing Cheng Yuet in South-east Asia, and also that the building used to house the Kwong Wah Yit Poh newspaper.

Woo Yee Sook

The Inaugural South-East Asian Regional Meeting & Workshop of National Heritage Trust Organisations

8 to 10 August 2002, Darby Park, Kuala Lumpur

The PHT had one of the largest contingents there and we include for your information, 2 write-ups from participants
The first is from our very own Office Manager, Magdalene who had this to say:

This inaugural meeting and workshop was organized by Badan Warisan Malaysia in collaboration with UNESCO. 13 countries in the Southeast Asian region participated - Australia, Brunei, Macau, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, UNESCO Bangkok and Malaysia; and through exchange of experiences and insights, strategized our efforts to protect and manage heritage resources. 8 delegates from the PHT made up the largest contingent. We were welcomed by an opening buffet dinner at Badan Warisan Malaysia and a viewing of the Rumah Penghulu on the registration day, 7th of August 2002. The first day of the conference opened with introductions by the various trusts followed by 'Capacity Building for Heritage Management'. Issues on management challenges, capacity building, heritage properties, planning guidelines were highlighted. Delegates shared some basic or fundamental principles of existence and discussed challenges confronting the present and the future.

The theme for the second day was 'Management of Properties'. The Conference was preceded by a speech by the President of Badan Warisan Malaysia, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji on 'The Future Role of National Trusts'. He spoke on legislative framework, conservation expertise, sensitizing government relating to urban development, and strategy on sustainable urban management plans. The case study on that day discussed the papers presented by Khoo Salma on 'Kampung Masjid Melayu'. The cultural impact assessment guidelines prepared by Richard Engelhardt helped the workshop participants assess the case through data collection, analysis, evaluation/ recommendations and monitoring.

The delegates visited Rimbun Dahan in the afternoon to view architect, Hijas Kasturi's country home where Dr Anita Lundberg represented the hosts. Several papers were presented on financial management & fundraising in the afternoon.

The theme for the last day of conference was 'Future Developments'. Janet Pillai from ArtsEd & Loh-Lim gave a presentation on the PHT education programme followed by video & wood carving work shops, both enjoyable & productive.

The conference ended with a review of the proceedings by Richard Engelhardt and Laurence Loh. Despite the different focal points the fact remains clear that a set of legislative guidelines should be established for the protection, promotion & management of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.



Congratulations Badan Warisan for a very productive workshop.

picture courtesy Ee Lin, Badan Warisan

A Gathering of Heritage Conservation Lovers

By John L. Silva - Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Conservation Society of the Philippines

You need a breather now and then in the fight to save old buildings. A recent Heritage Conference in Kuala Lumpur under the auspices of Badan Warisan, Malaysia's leading heritage group, the Japan Foundation and UNESCO was one great tonic. Twenty-seven non-governmental organizations, national trusts, foundations, museums, and government departments, from 12 countries, all concerned with saving their country's heritage gathered for three days to exchange stories about their work, their sacrifices and their achievements. And when you hear the achievements, from organizations smaller and less equipped than our own Heritage Conservation Society, our problems are put into perspective. For we were in the company of inspiring men and women who've made a difference in preserving their respective patrimonies. The participating organizations, aside from the Philippines, included Australia, Brunei, Macau, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States. As to be expected, Malaysia had the most number of organizations like the Malacca Heritage Trust, the Penang Heritage Trust, the Perak Heritage Society, and the Sarawak Museum. When we gathered the morning of the first day of sessions, it was clearly a women dominated forum, with a perky Elizabeth Cardoso, Badan Warisan's Executive Director leading the proceedings and explaining the various topics that we would cover in the next three days. The first topic was Management Challenges for Heritage Organizations with the first speaker S. K. Nisra, a retired civil servant now with the Indian National Trust for Arts and Culture (INTAC). It's an 18-year old organization headquartered in New Delhi with 140 chapters throughout the country. Their work, amounting to 1500 projects yearly, run the gamut from advising state governments, documenting over 24,000 heritage sites...

...We turned our focus from the continent size conservation efforts in India to the goings on in the island city of Georgetown in Penang and the efforts of the 16 year old Penang Heritage Trust (PHT). There is something very envious about their work conserving 12,000 pre-war buildings. That's a lot of buildings compared to the pitiful we in Manila have left due to WW II and unmindful demolitions after. PHT's representative Lin Lee Loh-Lim is a powerhouse of a woman who makes no bones about her group being a pugnacious bunch scrapping to retain the charm, cultural diversity and historical landmarks of their city....In a later session, we would participate in a cultural impact assessment on a proposed Georgetown redevelopment project to demolish a series of old crumbling shop houses and residences fronting a mosque to be replaced by a four storey low income housing building... Despite the current imbroglio, Georgetown has some of the most successful heritage preservation projects in Asia. The late 19th century "Blue Mansion" of Cheong Fatt Tze, who the New York Times once called the 'J.P. Morgan' of China has been lovingly and scrupulously restored by Mr. Laurence Loh, an architect and currently Deputy Director of Badan Warisan, and Ms. Lin Lee Loh-Lim, now with PHT. For their restoration efforts, the team in 2000, received UNESCO Asia-Pacific's top award for Cultural Heritage Conservation.



Pictures courtesy Loh-Lim

Visiting heritage houses was a welcome diversion...brought on a 40 minute ride to Rimbun Dahan, a 14-acre creative arts and tropical garden containing an arts studio, accommodations, and a restored century-old village house. The complex is a foundation gift by the Malaysia's most popular architect, Mr.Hijias Kasturi, to enable other young architects and artists to learn the concepts of space, place and context. The restored village house, carefully dismantled from Parit in PerakState, was brought to the current site in 1998 and faithfully reconstructed... My attention was drawn to all the sensuous timber filigree panels, that run the full length of the upper walls of the house which, in the Philippines, we call calado or tracery. These artistic ventilation panels, along with the painted panels on the lower outside walls have a Chinoiserie sensibility, with allusions to curvaceous flowers and sinewy dragons. It's the perfect marriage of Chinese décor and Malay architectural elements.

There were many interesting presentations made at the conference from ongoing efforts to retain turn-of-the-century business establishments in Fiji to the successful efforts to save the British Fort Alice in Sarawak. The most inspiring presentation was that of Hasti Tarekat, the Executive Director of the Sumatra Heritage Trust based in Medan... is a smoldering passion to keep her country's past intact...her trust's efforts to restore the decrepit Titi GantungBridge built in Medan in 1885. ... clued us in to the lady's resolve to finish this project as well as another bridge, several dilapidated houses, the renovation of a historical town hall, and an ongoing inventory of all historical buildings in Medan.

.....There were many more impassioned speakers with poignant heroic stories throughout the conference proceedings but the presentation made by Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji, the Chairman of Badan Warisan Malaysia was the most stirring of all. The former government Chief Secretary, a position equivalent to that of our Secretary of State came into our conference hall in a business suit with the bearing of a senior minister. I had prejudged the scene as the obligatory presence of an official and a possible droning speech ahead. I was terribly wrong. Speaking extemporaneously Tan Sri gave three prerequisites for a truly developed heritage consciousness in a country, using Malaysia as the point of reference. First, a government must have the teeth to be able to declare and enforce zones that are deemed of heritage value. He underscored this with the need to have a Heritage Legislation Bill passed in parliament. Second, extensive public education of heritage is necessary. People need to know, he said "that heritage buildings are the heart of a nation. "History," he added, "is a memory of events, a memory of places, and without memory, we will have no soul, no heart." Lastly, he said that our countries need the local expertise and professionalism to care for endangered heritage buildings. Local history experts are needed to separate myth and inaccuracies from the real truth about heritage sites and events surrounding them. Sensitive architects, engineers, more dedicated NGO's are to be encouraged so that heritage preservation becomes an issue that can be addressed by their own citizens. "Aside from buildings," Tan Sri concluded, "we must inculcate this love of heritage in the younger generation." Heritage curriculum must be part and parcel of the educational system especially in the discipline of architecture. His brief speech had all the ingredients for a strong heritage trust and a clear path on how to reach those objectives. I made mental comparisons wondering if there were any Philippine senators or senior official that could be so articulate and profound on heritage without the aid of a canned speech? It was hard to think of an equivalent person which only goes to show how advanced and mature preservation efforts have been in Malaysia. Tan Sri also gave me the impression that his chairmanship of a leading heritage group was simply not ornamental. He has grappled and internalized the problems facing his organization and recites them as clearly and cogently as one who has mulled things over for quite some time.

One common concern raised by many of the presenters how to foster a love of heritage among our young, now distracted by a western dominated and globalized culture. Tamalia Alisjahbana, Executive Director of the National Archives Foundation which recently restored an 18th century abandoned classical villa into an astonishing jewel in old Jakarta, had a gem of a thought when the matter concerning the demolition of shop houses around the Penang Mosque was raised earlier. A Penang government official who decided on continuing with the demolition said in an interview "Why keep these old run down buildings? It only shows the poverty and backwardness of Malays?" Tamalia impressed upon all of us to listen closely to the arguments of the other side. Listen closely, she said, to why heritage preservation is perceived as the idle and aesthetic preoccupation of local elites without any regard to the concerns of the underclass and their need for a semblance of pride in the midst of their poverty. One way to counter the modernity-equals-demolition argument is to highlight structures and sites lovingly restored, creating civic good will and, most importantly, reviving the community around it. In the Philippines alone, the restored former Finance Building in Manila, a Federal neo-classical building converted into the National Museum, is one example of a dramatic turnaround of a once decrepit structure, now a modern museum visited and enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of young students each year.

.... I leave the conference and Malaysia knowing that our heritage efforts in the Philippines have much to learn from best practices found in many parts of Asia and most especially in Malaysia....I left with a rejuvenated feeling of hope having seen hints of future possibilities in the sacrifices, good works and achievements doneby colleagues throughout the region.

John Silva, Manila

A thank-you to Singapore Heritage Society

The PHT would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the donation of books made by the Singapore Heritage Society to us during the Penang Story International Conference. The SHS gave us the following for our library:

- 1) *Chinatown Memories*
- 2) *Memories and the National Library*
- 3) *We Asians Betw Past and Future*
- 4) *Our Place in Time*
- 5) *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in S'pore*
- 6) *Living Legacy: Singapore's Architectural Heritage Renewed*

Thank you Mr Liew Kai Khiun and the Singapore Heritage Society for your support.

A LETTER FROM U.S.A.

Dear Penang Heritage Trust

Thanks for keeping me in the loop on things. It is nice, here in Maryland, USA, to get a message from you folks now and again. When I receive mailings from you I show them to my officemates and they are quite astonished at everything you do and how much you support the broad spectrum of voices in your community.

I just received some photos of my visit from my brother in Seattle. I know what a great place Penang is when I can feel homesick for a place I visited for just a week. You really are lucky to live in such a great place and to be doing such important work.

It is a nice time of year here in provincial Maryland. I'm about to start reworking part of the wooden wall of a structure that is part exhibit and part reconstruction. The interior contains the remains of a 17th Century dry laid brick floor and hearth base. After that I am going to work on rebuilding a palisade fence. Between all this I'm working on Museum accreditation documents, inspecting and treating wooden buildings, and working on a grant for a 19th century African-American slave house.

Any new work being done on the fort???

Best to you all,

Eric Marr
Historic Architecture Curator
Historic St. Mary's City,
Maryland

&

ONE FROM AUSTRALIA

The Secretary, PHT

Recently received my membership card and a tour advice but as you will note, I have returned to Australia and am not expecting to return to Malaysia in near future. However, I enjoyed several months living in George Town and certainly hope to visit again. I don't think there is any need to keep sending me the mailings but for your records my Sydney address is 82 Artarmon Road, Artarmon NSW 2064, Australia.

One of the highlights of my stay in Penang was attending "The Penang Story" conference. I thought it was very well organised and most enjoyable and I made several friends I hope to see in future through attending the weekend's activities. I wish the Trust good fortune in its World Heritage nomination endeavours because Penang is a very special place. I remember Mrs Loh Lim Lee (?) and others at the conference voicing concern at the problem of rubbish and litter in Penang and I am enclosing contact information for Clean Up Australia which worked for 10 years before the Olympic Games in Sydney 2000 to improve Sydney's environment and especially its harbour and river waters. Its community-based activities have spread world wide and it has encouraged public and government participation in this worthwhile activity, in promoting recycling, etc.:

Clean Up Australia
18 Bridge Road
Glebe NSW 2037
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9552 6177

Internet: www.cleanup.com.au

email: cleanup@cleanup.com.au

Best wishes and good luck for the future, Jan Cumming

Tuesday, September 3, 2002 THE STRAITS TIMES

MALAYSIA



Dilapidated Georgetown shophouses in various states of neglect are now prized for their heritage value.

Penang pre-war houses snapped up by S'poreans

.....& FROM SINGAPORE..

Subject: STI News: Penang pre-war houses snapped up by S'poreans

Dear Magdalene,
Penang Heritage Trust was mentioned in this Singapore newspaper article recently. Penang Heritage Trust has done a wonderful job to protect our heritage. As a Penangite who is currently based in Singapore, I hope I can also contribute to the Trust's objectives.
Please let me know how I can help.
Best Regards,
Tian Yee Ping (Member)

by Leslie Lau

SINGAPORE investors are chasing the heritage dollar in Penang, buying up and restoring old Georgetown shophouses that are being threatened by decay and demolition. The inner city in Georgetown is home to nearly 10,000 pre-war shophouses, and much of it is in poor condition because of years of neglect. But the city's application to be placed on the United Nations World Heritage List has sparked interest in Penang's old buildings. 'There have been more enquiries from Singaporeans interested in buying up some of these old shops. We have closed a few deals in the last few months,' a Penang estate agent told The Straits Times. He said the cost of the old buildings ranges from just a few hundred thousand ringgit to millions of ringgit, depending on the condition and location of the property.

The most visible restoration project undertaken by a Singaporean is a row of 16 townhouses called 8 Row, off the major Georgetown thoroughfare off MacAlister Road. At least two of the townhouses did not even have roofs and most of the other houses were in different states of neglect, with broken windows and paint peeling off the plaster walls. But the buildings, which were built in 1927, were fully restored last year, and since then they have been leased out to restaurants and wine bars. 'The buildings were carefully restored without spending that much money,' said Mrs Loh-Lim Lin Lee, of the conservation unit of Laurence Loh Architects, the firm that restored the buildings. However, she told The Straits Times that conservationists in Georgetown do not want the city's restoration to take after the 8 Row project. They do not want to see an invasion of Starbucks outlets, she said, referring to the international chain of coffee shops. But, instead, conservationists are looking at preserving old Penang and its traditional trades and businesses, a key factor in attaining World Heritage status. 'We want a living city. There is now a trend where professionals such as lawyers are buying townhouses in the inner city, setting up practice downstairs and living upstairs. This is what we want to see happening,' she said.

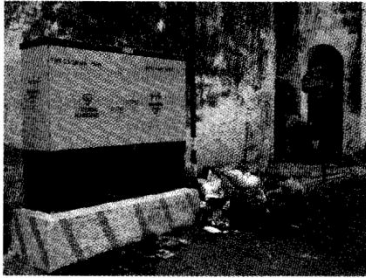
But while it is wary of the concept of gentrification, where old shops are restored and boutiques, restaurants and bars operate, the Penang Heritage Trust says it is heartening that Singaporeans realise the value of heritage. 'We welcome them. Hopefully, this will encourage local investors to do the same,' Penang Heritage Trust president Choong Sim Poey said.

The Penang conservation movement is considered the most active in the country and has a strong political lobby in the state. Backed by affluent families, much of Penang's restoration projects of historically significant buildings are undertaken privately. But Singaporeans have been targeting many pre-war shophouses that used to house old Chinese restaurants and other traditional trades. Most of these houses were neglected because of rent control laws that put a cap on rental, which stayed at 40s rates. But since the laws were repealed in 2000, many have been put on sale.

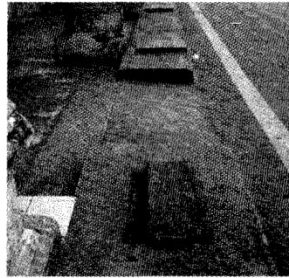
Singapore Straits Times September 3rd 2002

Urban Blight - An Update by Ahmad Chik

How often have you stumbled over a broken pavement, and silently cursed the local authority, or with averted eyes and bated breathe hastened past a pile of uncollected rubbish? Welcome to our Urban Blight programme.



Right in front of PHT office



On busy Chulia Street



Breach Street danger

We are pleased to report some progress in this respect, not quite enough to celebrate but enough to be cautiously optimistic for the very modest start that has been made by an MPPP Committee headed by City Councilor Mark Ooi.

Using Beach Street as a pilot / trial area, two well-attended meetings with senior MPPP officers present, were held. The second meeting was on site and everybody had to walk the length of the street. (The Press turned up as well) Several urgent items requiring immediate attention, were identified.

1. Litter & clogged drains - litter was evident in many places and a lot of drains were blocked with rubbish and filled with stagnant water
2. Public amenities which were unsightly and badly located. The array of differently designed and coloured booths in front of the immigration office is an example (blue / green / yellow - different sizes, heights and designs) In many other places, electrical distribution boards were so positioned as to block pedestrian access

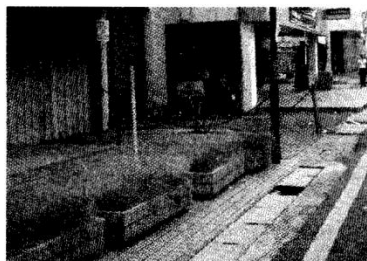


An array of shapes, colours, sizes for your phone needs



Grouping of postboxes, bins, TNB box & phonebooths

3. Blocked and dangerous pedestrian walkways. Several stretches of pedestrian ways were blocked by large planters or even chained off. In other places the 5-foot way had been turned into motor-cycle parks making pedestrian access difficult. Some walkways have been turned into dangerous traps for the unwary by broken pavements stones or drain covers



Walkways blocked by chains, planter boxes



Walkways inaccessible to wheelchairs, prams etc

4. Dangerous & unsuitable signage. Some of the signs such as the 'head-level' No Entry at the post office, are plainly dangerous. Others such as the motley collection at the pavement island on Bishop/Beach Streets are unsightly and unhelpful.

5. Last but not least, disabled access was considered. Tan Kuan Aw from SILA (Sustainable & Independent Living Access) accompanied the committee and very forcefully demonstrated how difficult, if not impossible, access for the disabled and elderly has become - raised pavements, lack of ramps, blocked walkways - and obtained a firm promise that something would be done.

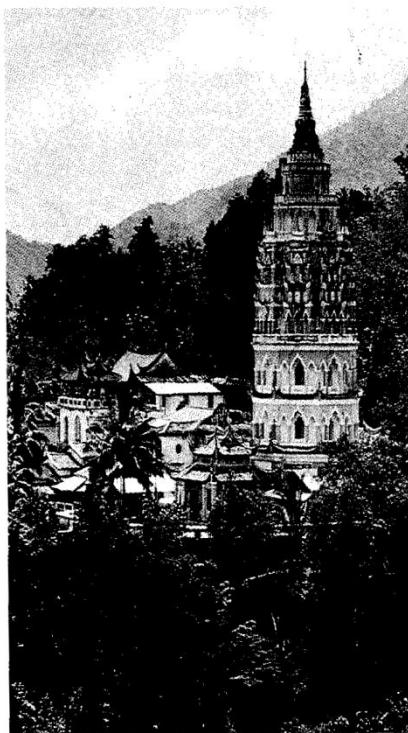
Most of the MPPP officers were sympathetic and promised that immediate action would be taken to address the many issues raised. A meeting to review the progress would be held in early October. We remain optimistic.

The October 2002 PHT Site Visit

Sunday 27th October 3.30 p.m.

A VERY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR PHT - PRIVATE ROOMS INACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE MADE OPEN TO US. THESE CONTAIN INVALUABLE BOOK COLLECTIONS AND LIFE-LIKE STATUES OF THE ORIGINAL C19TH DONORS TO THE TEMPLE.

The 'Temple of Supreme Bliss' is the largest temple complex in Malaysia and one of the few to be found outside of Tibet and China. The brainchild of Beow Lean who came from Foochow in China in 1888 to be the Chief Monk at the Goddess of Mercy Temple in George Town, construction began in 1893 and most of the complex was complete by 1905. The massive fund-raising at the turn of the century received the overwhelming support of the Straits Chinese philanthropists, most of whom were originally from the Southern provinces of China. The original temple consisting of monastries, prayer halls and landscaped gardens was meant to combine excellent geomancy, the cool, natural ambience of the hills and all the necessary elements for retreat and prayer. The Pagoda itself allows a spiral ascent of religious pilgrimage past many tiers of fine alabaster and bronze Buddhas. The 21st century has brought a new cycle of life to the temple. Masses of visitors now throng the complex to visit a new temple building with Northern Chinese architecture, a new colossal statue of the Goddess of Mercy with an overview of the whole Ayer Itam suburb and a Buddhist theme park complete with a 'Liberation Pond', vegetarian restaurants, fortune tellers and souvenir shops.



DIRECTIONS: DRIVE PAST THE AYER ITAM MARKET-TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE ROAD-SMALL LANE LEADING TO THE DAM AND UPPER LEVELS OF THE TEMPLE-FOLLOW ROAD UP TILL YOU PASS A LARGE CARPARK ON YOUR LEFT-PROCEED TO NEXT SMALLER ORNAMENTAL GATE (STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION) AND PARK INSIDE-MEET IN FRONT OF OFFICE.

.....

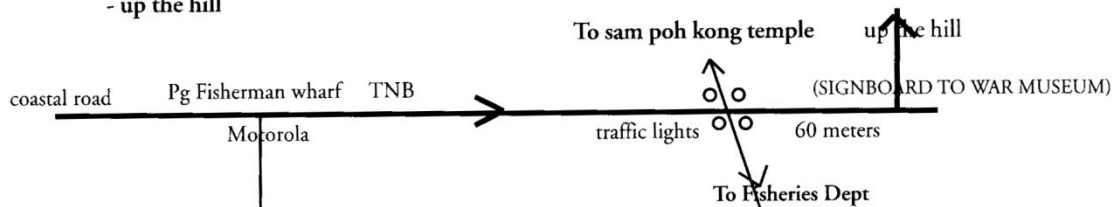
THE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH SITE VISIT

The Penang War Museum - Bukit Batu Maung

The soon-to-be-officially-opened War Museum will be made accessible to PHT for our November site visit. It was originally the Bukit Punjab British naval fortress patrolled by the 3rd Battalion SSVF 'E' Company. The Museum is purported to feature a torture room used by the Japanese, escape tunnels, lock-ups and cookhouses, quarters for rank and file, an infirmary, cannon bays and operations-cum-communications room. It is also meant to honour World War II veterans by exhibiting some of their photographs, artefacts and memorabilia.

We will be guided by a Museum official and are hopeful of obtaining the company of Penang Veterans Association President Harold Speldewinde, whom we are certain will regale us with many fascinating stories of the War days in Penang.

- Directions :**
- Proceed along the coastal highway from the bridge heading towards the airport
 - take the right 'Perindustrian' zone /factories road - (instead of the one to the left to the airport)
 - follow the road all the way passing the factories on your right (past Motorola) and the sea on your left till the very end - intersection with traffic lights - proceed about 60 m - to your left War Museum sign
 - up the hill





October 2nd 2002 Star North

Donation of RM5,000 to PHT to promote old trades. Cheque presentation to PHT President Dr Choong by Penang State Tourism Chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen. The presentation took place during the prize giving ceremony for the winners of the Tanjung Heritage 2002 art competition. Also present was Pan Malaysian Pools S/B (a wholly owned subsidiary of Tanjung PLC) Chairman, Mr Ng Eng Tong. "....the art competition held for the 2nd consecutive year, was to provide opportunities for Malaysian youth to express their appreciation for the state's heritage through art."



.....& ANOTHER OPINION, ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW FROM ANOTHER LAND, FOR US TO PONDER....

The true costs of preservation lost in debate

An article by Tim Lloyd in The Advertiser - Adelaide, Australia - Saturday August 17 2002

The old fallacies are returning to the debate between owners and the community over who bears the cost of heritage preservation. Heritage Listing has two kinds of economic effects on owners and it is worth looking at them separately.

On one hand, a heritage-listed property is protected to a degree from demolition and development. That means that its value for future development is affected and there have been a bevy of complaints this week from owners and developers about their economic loss.

I think we can safely ignore them. the whole point of heritage protection is to stop buildings from being demolished or ruined in the name of some future profit.

Clearly the profit motive is the main driver of these complaints. If the community can scare developers away from heritage worthy buildings then it has won a major victory.

It's only by having their fingers burned that property developers will be persuaded to stay clear of such buildings and places. If they did not try to take control of such properties in the first place we would be all the better off. Most of the tragedies resulting in the loss of important parts of our heritage have been grudge matches between disaffected developers and the system of protection of our heritage.

Properties are often rushed into the federal, state or local government-prescribed heritage protection in reaction to irresponsible opportunism by property developers.

It's a joke if developers take control of a property, which is subsequently heritage-listed and then complain that they are being penalised. Of course they should be penalised. They should be sued for causing so much angst. If the cost of this kind of protection is the lowering of the potential profits in the ownership of some property, that's a cheap price to pay. It is after all, only paid for in paper profits.

That kind of cost of heritage protection should not be confused with the direct costs of owning a heritage property. These are small but significant costs and the community should be debating how to go about paying for them.

I recently highlighted the way property insurance costs can be affected by heritage listing. Restoration and repair costs might also be higher.

These direct costs of owning a heritage property are often borne by the owner in good spirit as a public service. But these are the areas where authorities need to be prepared to back up their heritage listing with real financial assistance.

That would keep a check on excess heritage listing and focus everyone's mind on real, not punitive, costs of heritage.

Sharon Cheah Ui-Hoon who used to work for the Star reports from Singapore : The Business Times Sept 27 2002

TRACKING THE PAST

The growing awareness of heritage and culture has spun off a whole host of industries. Is there money to be made, then from Singapore's cultural capital?

LOG ON TO THE BUSINESS TIMES ONLINE EDITION to find out more

...and PHT member, Raymond Kwok, decides it is time to poetically express his feelings about the heritage of George Town....

Swansong

Save our heritage buildings before it's too late
The past was but a melancholic sight
A solemn reminder, a grim warning,
That soon more will fall due to Man's folly
Too mindless the decision,
Too hasty the demolition
Too swift the action

Lodged deep in my chest
Feelings I could not suppress
For protest I must at my own behest
For dearest Penang I love thee best

Mornings revealed the ugly rubble
that nights attempted to conceal
It was a sad sight, a sinful sight!
Burying history 'neath tons of trash'

What price 'modernity'?
Left at the mercy of Man's whim and fancy
Leaving fewer that are worthy of praise
and more to lament

But changes do not my spirits dim,
Nor do I care if Destiny's die is cast
Anger reverberates within my heart
'Spare the buildings' I will continue to shout
It's our 'Heritage' that makes out life-blood flow.

I've done my best and kept it true
my total commitment, my life's final duty
The battle I win is all for you and posterity
My sacrifice is small, my deed is done,
For dearest Penang, let this be my swansong
I won't stop till I've won

Raymond Kwok
29th April 2002

pic.courtesy Kim Wong

**The Royal College of Defence Studies,
Belgrave Square, London ~ visits the PHT ~**

On Saturday the 28th September 2002, 13 members of the RCDS paid an official visit to the PHT, led by 3-star Commandant Lieutenant General Sir Christopher Wallace KBE and the Defense Advisor at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Col. Roger Little. They had made a special request to be briefed by PHT on George Town and were greeted by Vice-President Ahmad Chik, Loh-Lim, Kim Wong, Magdalene and the rest of the staff. Ahmad and Loh-Lim gave the visitors a short presentation with slides followed by a Q & A session. A walk along Stewart Lane and Muntri Street, led by tour guide Pat Chong, gave the multinational visitors a quick overview of street life, followed by a tour of the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion. Loh-Lim joined our guests for lunch and the Commandant had this to say in a letter later in the day
".....I would like to thank you most warmly for your time and involvement in this morning's RCDS programme." ".....your enthusiasm for conservation in Penang, in the Penang Heritage Trust....was an inspiration to us all and I can only wish you every success in continuing your good work in future. I hope to return in a few years time....to find out how well you have done."

The RCDS runs a one year course for senior military officers from all over the world and part of the course involves a one-month 'exposure' and fact-finding tour of a specific region. The group who visited PHT included officers from Canada, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany and others besides British officers.

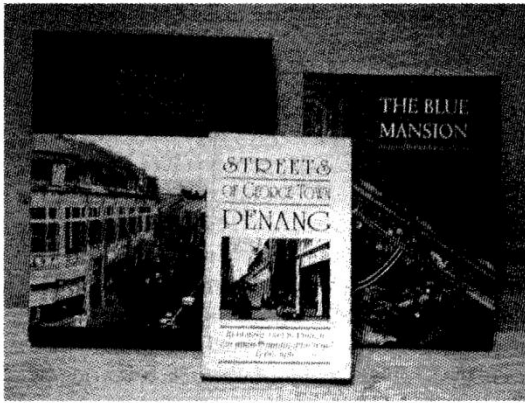
We must admit to being surprised at their interest in PHT and our views. Who knows, we may end up influencing world military policy??



AHMAD & LOH-LIM AT PHT BRIEFING OUR GUESTS

The Penang Heritage Trust Gift Shop

Drop in for a thoughtful, sensitive and appropriate gift from George Town



~ Books on Heritage ~

- Glimpses of Old Penang - ed.Neil Khor RM60
(5% discount for members)
- Streets of George Town - Khoo Salma RM\$35
- The Blue Mansion - Loh-Lim RM\$40

and many more....



~ PostCards & greeting cards - Penang & Malacca ~

- illustrations of Penang from 'The Penang Guide' by Paul Kratoska RM\$1 /card
- Pack of 6 Cheong Fatt Tze cards & envelopes RM\$12
- Pack of 10 postcards Gables of Penang b & w by Tan Yeow Woon RM\$10
- PHT postcards - pack of 8 - RM\$5
- Postcards of Malacca by Lim Huck Chin RM\$12

and many more items such as t-shirts and bags and cd's and conference papers for sale

Penang Heritage Trust Specialist Heritage Tours

Our Heritage Trails and Tours continue to grow from strength to strength. These are co-ordinated by Teresa Capol and Magdalene and they generate much needed income for PHT. They have also been recognised as providing visitors with in-depth information and greater knowledge of the heritage sites and serves an important niche in the current market.

In August Teresa personally conducted tours for:

- ~ 20 V.V.I.P's - Puan Sri's visiting Penang
- ~ Lim Kok Wing Institute architectural and interior design students
- ~ Richard Reddaway & friends
- ~ Diethelm Travel group

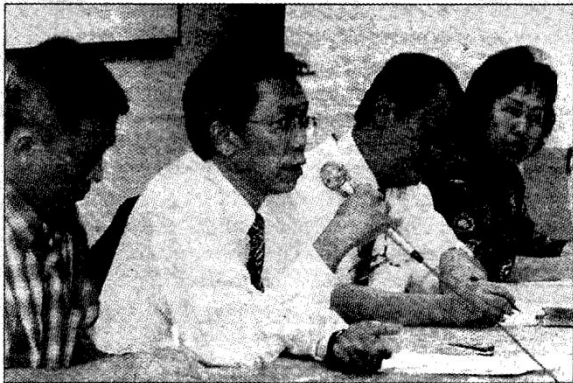
And in September :

- ~ Dillon & friends
- ~ Josephine & friends
- ~ Renate & friends
- ~ Joanne Khaw brought students from the National University of Singapore on tour
- ~ Lim Gail Siang has brought the Anak2 Kota facilitators on a food/ traditional trades tour
- ~ Gail Siang has also arranged tours of the inner city for the media - press & t.v.
- ~ Laurence Loh has brought facilitators for an architectural tour of inner city buildings



Tour for Foreign Minister of China and Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia earlier this year

NATION

STAR
10/10/02PRISCILLA DIELENBERG and DERRICK VINESH
at the Penang Tourism Forum 2002 yesterdayCity heritage
'key to
uniqueness'

TOURISM TALK ... PenEvents CEO Ong Ben Seang presenting his views at the forum yesterday. The other panellists are (from left) Anthony Wong, Eric Lim and Doreen Wong.

GEORGE TOWN'S architectural and cultural heritage has to be conserved to maintain Penang's uniqueness, and government financing is needed to conserve the heritage buildings and other structures.

This was one of the resolutions presented to the state government during the Penang Tourism Forum 2002, by state Forestry Department director Dr Mohd Yunus Zakaria who chaired a panel on tourism products.

Dr Mohd Yunus went on to say that George Town's community population had to be maintained to conserve its cultural heritage.

"The revised rental rates are too high. That results in the community moving out of the city. When they move out, their culture goes with them," he said, adding that the government had to revise the rental rates to prevent the depletion of the population.

Dr Mohd Yunus said all tourism products had to be well managed and presented, adding that tourism product promotion and infrastructure facilities in Seberang Prai were far behind compared to those on the island.

He called for more support from the government and tour operators to promote and market Seberang Prai's tourism products. "Market Penang as a whole, not the island alone," he said.

Penang Tourist Centre (PTC) director Lawrence Koay, who chaired a panel on tourism services, spoke of the importance of information technology (IT) and the need to be more IT-savvy in businesses.

Koay said that although Penang food was tasty, there was a problem with hygiene.



Koay ... chaired a panel discussion on 'Tourism Services'

He said the Penang Hawkers Association pledged to co-operate in promoting good hygiene, but he felt that there was lack of enforcement against untrained or unlicensed hawkers.

On transportation, he said the trishaw riders in Penang required the state's help to maintain their unique service by providing them with promotional items and training on tourism products.

He also said the time had come for the tourism sector in Penang to be more dis-abled-friendly.

Cititel Penang chief operating officer Eric Lim, who chaired a panel on marketing and promotions, said there was a need for Penang to focus on the domestic tourism front.

He said the general consensus was that culture and heritage was one of the key elements to promote in Penang.

He said there was a need for the state to be more actively engaged in promoting tourism, and there was



Yap ... helmed session on 'Accommodation and Convention facilities'

continuous need for more investment in tourism.

Penang International Hotels Association chairman Edwin Yap, who chaired a panel on accommodation and convention facilities, called on the state to provide additional funding to repair, maintain and upkeep tourism infrastructure.

He said the state should not approve the development of new hotels and mega convention facilities as the existing capacity was more than sufficient to meet current declining demands.

PTC chairman Datuk Syed Mohd Aidid, who chaired a panel on bumiputras participation, said there was a need for more networking and training, and the training should be focused on the niche market.

He said IT was important to remain competitive and it was agreed that smart partnerships and strategic alliances among bumiputras and non-bumiputras should be maintained.

檳古蹟信托會提高護古醒覺
大街小巷 2週1巡

(檳城訊) 有鑑於大部份市民對於保留古蹟的意識不強，檳州古蹟信托會將每隔兩週，拉隊前往州內各古老街道，走一趟“大街小巷”古蹟之旅。

拍照收集資料

檳州古蹟信托會于周六，在大街（或稱為觀音廟前街）舉辦了首次的“大街小巷”古蹟之旅，該會秘書邱思妮、委員林玉裳、南洋民間文化負責人陳耀威等人，皆出席當天的游行。



清荷人文空間建築，建於1843年，於1906年重修。

光明日報 2002年10月13日(星期日)



林玉裳、邱思妮及陳耀威等人，展示大街以前的照片。

林玉裳表示，該會每隔兩個星期舉辦此項游街活動的目的，是為了提高市民對於保留古蹟的醒覺意識，因為目前州內的大部份市民對於古蹟的認識皆不深。

她說，由土庫街、椰脚街、牛干冬及萊特街4條街道圍繞著的地区，是檳州最早发展的城市地区，因此，該會每次的古蹟之旅都會挑選該区內的古老街道，如大伯公街、吉靈街、义兴街、皇后街、唐人街等。

“我們會走完整條街道，途中，我們也會拍下照片及收集資料，然後在活動過後，會撰寫一份報告。”

她說，如果有可能，該會也有打算把資料整理成一本介紹市古老街道歷史深度的旅遊手冊。

南洋民間文化負責人陳耀威表示，大街以前的路名並非稱為大街，現在所

謂的唐人街，在1797年被稱為大街，不過，後來大街之名是如何易名的，就无从考究，有可能是自觀音廟建竣後，才慢慢改名的。

對廟街大興旺

他說，對於華人來說，如果住宅大門對正大街就會有煞氣，不過，廟宇則相反，所以自觀音廟建竣後，對正廟前的大街也開始興旺起來。

林玉裳說，大街的歷史不僅悠久，而且當時許多州內名人皆住在此處，如檳州首位甲必丹辜禮歡、著名商人胡泰興、吳連德、謝后意等人。

她說，大街擁許多富有歷史價值的建築物，如位於大街路頭，建於1907年全世界唯一沒有鐵軌的火車站，建於1947年的大街25號三開間、擁有160年歷史的清荷人文空間建築物等。



該塔為建於1907年的世界唯一沒有鐵軌的火車站。

The PHT - Anak2 Kota Education in Heritage Programme

1) School-based Talks

Interactive programs designed to complement formal learning in schools and to provide a creative entry point to the programme.

2) Heritage Discovery Walks History Walk / Geography Walk / Language Walk / Art Walk / Tourism Walk.

- Video defining heritage
- Interviews / Observation
- Demonstrations
- Worksheets / Documentation
- Creative presentation

3) Multi-Arts Workshops Photography / Graphic art / Wood carving / Illustration / Videography / Storytelling

These workshops incorporate appreciation, skill learning and product application.

4) Community Project- Research on Endangered Trades

Research on 6 traditional trades and publication of a brochure on each trader for distribution to visitors.

5) Video Production

Production of a 20 minute video defining heritage and illustrating briefly the many aspects of heritage in innercity Georgetown,

Projects for Education in Heritage 2003

2003 will repeat projects 1, 2 & 3 of 2002 in addition to the following:

1) Community Project -Restoration Education

Groups of youth will research the condition of buildings on specific streets and produce illustrated pamphlets recommending good-practice restoration together with a directory for technical, legal or materials consultancy.

Participants: Several groups of 6 students (age14 -18) **Duration:** 30 days **Facilitator:** Architectural Conservation Expert / Facilitators

2) A Traditional Foods Trail

This is designed to highlight the plight of small traditional and endangered food-trades and food producers, viewed as integral to the historic scenario of George Town. (Examples would be noodle makers, spice grinders, wontan skin makers etc) The children have long been exposed to the delights of traditional Penang food but not to the people behind the production of these foods or to the actual traditional processes involved. Again the aim is to have interaction between the children and the traders and informal apprenticeship, as well as to produce a 'George Town Traditional Foods Trail' to be made widely available to locals and visitors.

Participants: Several groups of 6 students (age14 -18) **Duration:** 10 days **Facilitator:** Heritage Guide, 1 artist, 1 facilitator

3) Community Project-Research on Specific Endangered Trades

This is Phase 2 of Project No 4 2002 - Research on 5 endangered trades (example, signboard carver, lantern maker), interaction and informal apprenticeship with the traders. Publication of a brochure on each trader for distribution to heritage centers for distribution to local and foreign tourists. This viewed as assistance for small endangered trades and traders as well as essential exposure for the children

Target Group: 10-15 students per artist **Location:** Heritage zone **Duration:** 20 half-days **Facilitator:** Heritage guide, Artists

4) Web Page

Construction of a webpage on the 'Anak-Anak Kota' Project, designed to provide resources on heritage education related to the Penang experience.

Participants: All Facilitators **Duration:** 3 months **Facilitator:** Web designer

5) Booklet & Video on Penang Heritage Education Projects

This kit will incorporate the syllabus of all the Multi-arts Initiatives, the Heritage programs available to schools, as well as the Themed Walkabouts in a simple illustrated booklet with sample activities available in a short video.

Participants: All facilitators **Duration:** 6 months **Facilitators:** Education Expert, Graphic Designer and Videographer.

6) Oral Histories Documentation

This is a research project that will document on video the oral histories of older residents from a cross-section of communities living in the inner city of Georgetown.

Participants: Groups of 3 students (14 -18years) **Duration:** 2 months **Facilitators:** Videographer, 2 Facilitators



In Memory of Tan Sau Bia (1947 - 2001), Managing Director of The Art Gallery, Penang from 1989 to 2000 and beloved wife of Dato Dr. Tan Chee Khuan, Life Member of Penang Heritage Trust.

The President, Council and members of the Trust extend our deepest condolences to the Tan family

(pictured here with her son, Chien Li and daughter Ee Lene)

From the EAVESDROPPER newsletter of the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group, England. (No.21 Spring 2002)

SUFFOLK HOUSE, Penang

Your starter for ten - what links a village in East Suffolk, a tropical port and a south Australian city? Give up? It's Light. Light?

In 1740 Francis Light was born in Dallinghoo, near Woodridge. His father was William Negus, a wealthy if somewhat eccentric landowner from Melton, and his mother was a local woman, Mary Light. Although William neglected the formality of a marriage with Mary he gave their son Francis a good education sending him to Seckford Grammar School, Woodridge where Francis apparently left his name scratched on the window pane of the school library. Has it survived?

On leaving school Francis joined the navy and, in 1765, subsequently embarked as a volunteer on the East India Company ship 'Clive' bound for India. This child from inauspicious beginnings went on to become the founder of Prince of Wales Island [Penang] an important entrepot for the East India Company. In his role as first Superintendent of Prince of Wales Island, Francis Light laid out the town of George Town, established the port and developed the island's agricultural base.

It is indicative of Francis Light's attachement to his home country that, when he constructed his own mansion in 1790, he was to name it Suffolk House and the area in which it stood became known as Suffolk Estate. The brick and masonry colonnaded garden house was built in Anglo-Indian style on the banks of the Ayer Itam River. It was described by Captain Welsh in 1818 as "one of the prettiest spots I have ever beheld. In the midst of a fine extensive lawn, surrounded by majestic trees and a box hedge, with a clean brook meandering through the centre, stands the noble and commodious house, with a park and aviary in its front and the hill gradually receding in the background, crowned with wood of the richest foliage....Italy itself could not produce a more verdant or lovely landscape."

Suffolk house became the home of early Governors and was the scene of many important social and historical events.

Today, Penang still has one of the best preserved Chinatowns outside China, a showcase of Southern Chinese shop house and temple architecture. Penang also boasts an impressive collection of early C19th Anglo-Indian buildings and a unique range of South Indian Moslem architecture. In the early C20th the established classes had developed their own style of domestic architecture now termed Straits Eclectic which according to local conservationist Khoo Su Nin "romantically combined Eastern and Western elements and alluded freely to both ethnic and classical idioms". Beyond China town in the leafy C19th suburbs and in the sea front area, Straits Eclectic, Anglo-Indian and Art Deco villas were set in the centre of very large plots with imposing gateways.



These crumbling fading relics are now under particular threat from development and it is not unusual to see a surviving villa over-shadowed by tower blocks built on neighbouring plots.

Georgetown also had one of the best colonial style hotels in South East Asia. The Eastern & Oriental [E&O] dates around the 1900 and was built by the Sarkies brothers who were also responsible for Raffles in Singapore and the Strand in Rangoon. Even in the mid-1990's the hotel still had an atmosphere redolent of rubber planters, ceiling fans, rickshaws and gin slings.

The business sector in Georgetown has its own fascinating legacy of Go Downs, [warehouses] Government and Company Buildings and possibly what was the only railway station in the world without a railway. Instead of platforms and trains it had offices, a ticketing booth and a Railway Restaurant. Passengers purchased their tickets then walked to the Railway jetty and boarded the Railway Ferry Steamer to Butterworth, on the mainland to catch their train. The ferry ride is still the best way to arrive in Penang today and still costs only 20p.

Today Penang is a thriving multi cultural community experiencing rapid economic growth. Buildign land is in very short supply and in great demand. The solution has been to opt for high rise buildings and these have sprung up all over the island - on down-town and suburban plots as well as in the forested hillsides in the centre of the island. The rich architectural heritage of George Town looks increasingly vulnerable in the face of multi-million dollar investment strategies.

Even five years ago the future for the island's architectural heritage looked very uncertain. there seemed little chance that China Town would survive. The E & O was closed for refurbishment which in reality meant the complete demolition of an historic wing to be replaced by a 13-storey extension (*original proposal before the recession..Ed.*) The suburban villas were one by one succumbing to demolition.

For the E & O the cavalry arrived in the shape of the economic down-turn of the late 1990's; the over-ambitious and destructive scheme could no longer be funded. The E & O finally opened last year following a refurbishment that was much more sensitive to the original building. [Pity we can no longer afford to stay there!]

But the brightest ray of hope for Penang lies in the strengthening influence of the Penang Heritage Trust. From small beginnings in the 1990's (*actually 1980's..Ed*) this organisation has already rescued and repaired a small number of historic properties which are now open to the public (*well, not quite, they were already open..Ed.*) Like our own organisation the PHT aims to awaken owners to the delights and value of their historic buildings and provides them with the information they require in order to carry out sensitive repairs. Like SHBG, the PHT is a small organisation with limited funds - yet they have bravely taken on a daunting challenge in the rescue of Suffolk House.

By 2000 Suffolk House had become a derelict shell in the grounds of a Methodist boarding (?) school. Its future looked bleak even though it is one of the oldest surviving examples of colonial architecture in the Malay peninsula.

However, following a long and dogged battle, the PHT has obtained the building (*as members know, we most definitely have NOT...Ed.*) made the roof weather-proof (*this we did, in good faith, with donated money and expertise, in 1993....Ed.*) and begun a programme of internal repairs. (*again, as members are aware, Phase One works have been funded by the State Government of Penang*)

Work has currently been suspended while the PHT try to raise the money for the next stage of the programme. (*again not quite accurate, we are trying to raise the awareness with relevant authorities that the work HAS to proceed to its logical completion..Ed.*) Once complete Suffolk House will be open to the public and we will be able to see just how far that small boy from Dallinghoo had come.

And for that link with Australia - Francis Light's son William sited and laid out the town of Adelaide which has often been acclaimed by city planners as one of the best planned cities in the world. A little Suffolk talent goes a long way.

Mike McConnell
Spring 2002

.....AND

From the Editor

of the National Geographic
October 2002

Please refer to pg 58
WORLD HERITAGE SITES
Treasured Places

A list of all the 730 sites, both
natural & cultural, is available

The PHT will attempt to organise a
briefing in the near future for our
members and friends on 'World Heritage
Listing - what does it mean for Penang?'

It's a big list: 730 items long, to be exact. That's how many of the world's buildings, ruins, wild places, even fossil beds have earned the World Heritage designation—and the promise of protection—from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

At first a list this long might seem like a cold, impersonal thing. But not this list. I took it home from the office, and I read it slowly one night, from start to finish. Sure, many of the names were unfamiliar to me. But not all of them.

There's Jordan's ancient stone city of Petra, where I once climbed a mountain called Jebel Haroun with guide Hamoudi al-Bedoul (above) to visit the traditional tomb of Aaron, brother of Moses, and find a falcon's view over Jordan and into Israel.

There's Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, where I witnessed the birth of new land during an eruption of Kilauea volcano.

And just a two-and-a-half-hour drive from my living room there's Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, and his living monument, the University of Virginia.

Among the sites, I found places of inspiration, monuments to human achievement, and symbols of international cooperation: natural and man-made treasures that have what UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in Paris calls "outstanding universal value."

Try reading the list yourself. It starts on page 58. As you read, count the ones you've visited. Dream of the ones you'd like to visit. Then imagine a world where these places weren't protected and preserved forever.

Bill Allen

DPM: Preserve our heritage

'Nation's history and identity must not be lost'

The Star
September 26th

By JACQUELINE ANN SURIN

SUBANG JAYA: The country's heritage should be preserved to prevent the loss of her history and identity, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

He said since Malaysia was fast heading towards developed nation status after 45 years of independence, the need to "take stock of our heritage" had become more urgent to prevent the loss of all physical reminders of the country's history and identity.

"There remains a major task ahead if we are to develop a national consciousness and consensus to protect and cherish our heritage buildings."

"Our history is embedded in our architectural, social and cultural fabrics and of these, our architectural fabric is probably the most enduring," Abdullah said at the *Malam Warisan* dinner here to raise funds for Badan Warisan Malaysia.

"There is therefore a need to ensure that from a very young age, children are imbued with values which will provide them with a sense of awe when they look at these physical structures," he added.

Abdullah noted however that Malaysia still had a "long way to go to safeguard our nation's architectural heritage for our future generations."

Among others, he said, the



WARM GREETINGS... Abdullah being greeted by the Badan Warisan Malaysia members at the charity dinner held at the Sunway Lagoon Resort yesterday. Beside him is Malaysian Heritage Board chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji.

Government had drafted national heritage legislation, which would be tabled in the Parliament soon, to provide a legal framework for heritage building protection and ensure proper management of these buildings and sites.

He said the Government had also created a Heritage Fund with an initial injection of RM20m to conserve heritage buildings especially in Penang and Malacca.

Lauding Badan Warisan's efforts since its set up in 1983 as a non-profit organisation to promote the conservation and preservation of Malaysia's built heritage, Abdullah said:

"Their endeavours make an invaluable contribution towards the building of nationhood as they strive to remind us of our history and of our multi-cultural identities through the conserva-

tion of our architectural heritage."

Earlier, Badan Warisan's president Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said Permodalan Nasional Berhad, of which he is chairman, was preparing a plan to make the Merdeka Stadium and Stadium Negara national "treasures".

He said the fate of historical urban buildings now lay "precisely in the hands of

the local authorities."

Ahmad Sarji said what was required now was legislation which would give the state government the powers to conserve any building or historical site.

He said the Badan Warisan had also recommended to the Government to provide financial incentives for conservation and the setting up of a National Heritage Conservation Corporation.

ALL THE RIGHT THINGS SAID BY ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE....

THURSDAY October 10 2002

StarMetro

Ong: Protect heritage buildings

MALAYSIA'S history is largely embedded in its architectural, social and cultural fabrics, and of these, the architectural fabric is probably the most enduring.

Malaysians must be encouraged to protect and care for heritage buildings as they represented the various historical changes that the country had gone through over the years, said Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting recently.

In view of this, the Government had allocated RM20m to kick-start a special fund that was set up to help preserve heritage buildings in Malacca and Penang, added Ong who spoke to reporters after launching a photo exhibition titled *The Image Of The Metropolis: A Survey Into The Modern-Day Mega City At The Turn - Of The Millennium* at Muzium Negara.

He said the fund would help rehabilitate and maintain historically relevant and heritage buildings.

"This is a good start as the Federal Government has decided to spend money towards this cause," said Ong.

He added that the private sector, especially owners of heritage and old buildings, would also be encouraged to play a role in the preservation exercise.

The exhibition, which was organised by the Netherlands Embassy, highlighted photographs taken by four young Dutch architects who had travelled to 26 cities, including Kuala Lumpur to

capture various images, which shared a common theme.

According to Ong, the Government was also amending the Town and Country Planning Act to place emphasis on the protection and preservation of heritage and historical buildings.

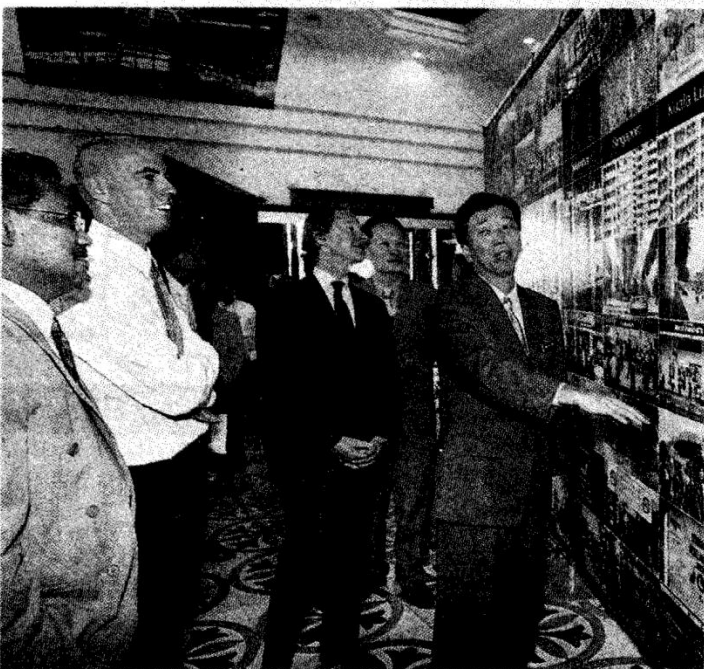
"We are already in the midst of amending the Act and once this is ready, it will be sent to parliament to be tabled," said Ong, adding that this was reflective of the Government's earnestness in protecting and preserving buildings which represented our heritage and events of the past.

The amendments would provide the legal framework for the protection of heritage buildings and places as well as activate the mechanism for their proper management, he said.

Meanwhile, Netherlands Ambassador to Malaysia Jonkheer John von Mühlen, who was also present at the event, said his country and the Malacca Government were discussing ways to jointly preserve common heritage buildings such as the Stadthuys.

"A committee has been formed and Malaysian as well as Dutch architects will discuss what to do," added von Mühlen.

The cities featured in the exhibition, which ends on Nov 3, are Randstad Holland, Moscow, Mumbai, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Mexico City, Santiago, Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo.



Ong (right) looking at some of the exhibits on display at Muzium Negara. Next to him is von Mühlen.

Learning about muhibbah through heritage

THE importance of heritage to education and nation-building is finally being recognised at the highest levels, according to your report "DPM: Preserve our heritage" (Sept 26, 2002). We welcome this statement by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, made at the Malam Warisan organised by the Badan Warisan Malaysia. We are also encouraged by the recent news about the RM20mil heritage fund and the proposed strengthening of planning legislation to protect heritage.

In response to the current issue of educating our children about multicultural co-existence, I would like to emphasise that these values can be inculcated through heritage education.

The idea of learning through heritage is not something new. If we make a trip to Japan, we can see hundreds of schoolchildren in the streets at any day of the week, visiting old temples, traditional shops, farmers' cottages, and learning how Japanese things are made.

That is how the Japanese grow up to have a strong sense of nationhood and pride in their heritage and traditions. We even find Japanese schoolchildren in Malacca for first-hand learning about Malaysian heritage!

Earlier this year, the Penang Heritage Trust organised a youth workshop that used George Town's historic city centre as a civilisational model. We organised walking tours and site visits to Muslim heritage sites to show the remarkable legacy of mosques, *madrasahs* (Islamic schools), burial grounds and houses, built and established by the early Malay, Indian Muslim and Arab settlers. Although George Town is seen as a predominantly Chinese and colonial city, in fact it has Malaysia's largest collection of existing pre-war urban Muslim heritage! This diversity of architectural heritage and the survival of historical communities are the strong points, which will be used to support Malaysia's nomination of Penang and Malacca to World Heritage status.

Through the workshop conducted in this setting, firstly, the youth were surprised to see and experience the depth and diversity of our heritage. Secondly, they were proud to learn that if Penang and Malacca were to be listed as World



Heritage cultural sites, it means that our heritage is culturally on par with the famous Great Wall of China, Angkor Wat of Cambodia, India's Taj Mahal, or even the culturally intact, but technologically modern, historic centres of Paris, Vienna or Quebec City. Thirdly, they learnt of the great tolerance of Islamic community throughout the last 150 to 200 years, living in the former "Straits Settlement." This tolerance is found in a community that produced and/or supported famous Islamic scholars and Muslim intellectuals like Sheikh Omar Basheer, Sheikh Zakaria Al-Hadi and Ahmad Rashid Talu.

In Malaysia, communities from different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds have to learn to live together and also to work and prosper together. The best historical model I know of this is the peaceful co-existence of the Kampung Masjid Melayu Acheen Street, endowed by Tengku Syed Hussain Al-Idid in 1808, and the Khoo Kongsi settlement founded in 1851. During the Penang Riots of 1867, the two communities formed an alliance, much like the Barisan Nasional of today. The Khoos were involved in the Tua Pek Kong society and the Acheen Street Muslims were involved in the Red Flag society. They fought against the Ghee Hin-White Flag alliance for political and economic dominance.

At the time, all these groups were called "secret societies" because the British government considered them a threat; nonetheless the leaders of these so-called secret societies were

READ & WRITE

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HISTORICAL SITE ...
Kampung Masjid Melayu in Acheen Street.

the respected leaders of the Chinese, Malay and Indian communities.

How did the Khoos and the Acheen Street Muslims come to trust each other? Firstly, they were close neighbours - the entrance to the Khoo Kongsi (now a famous historical attraction) is not even 50m away from the Acheen Street Mosque. Secondly, the Straits Chinese Khoos and the Acheen Street Muslims were both involved in the pepper trade with Aceh at the time. Thirdly, close friendships and even intermarriages developed between the two communities.

So enduring was the *muhibbah* between the two communities that during the dark episode of May 13, 1969, the Khoo Kongsi people came in a group to Acheen Street to warn their Muslim neighbours and offer them protection against possible attacks. In doing so, they cited the solemn agreement between the leaders of the two communities more than 100 years ago!

Another few hundred metres away is Little India, one of the most vibrant Indian communities in the country. Field trips could be frequently organised for groups of schoolchildren to learn how these communities have accommodated and influenced each other in food, dress, language, ideas, business skills and technology.

Therefore, I would like to propose to the relevant authorities that, in addition to setting up "unity clubs" in school, we should introduce educational programmes for learning through heritage. When our children learn about their own roots, culture and identity, they feel more confident of who they are. When they learn about their friends' and neighbours' cultural heritage, they learn to accept and respect who others are. If we don't transmit our cultural values and appreciation of heritage, our youth will be lost to the globalised mass culture of television, fast food and consumer goods.

It is urgent that we make a commitment to protecting and promoting what remains of our cultural heritage. If we destroy our heritage today, we have destroyed our own cultural resources for tomorrow. It is never too early for Malaysia as an industrialising country to learn from the mistakes of others. Preserving heritage is not being anti-development, but it is making sure that material progress is balanced with cultural progress and human development for present and future generations.

KHOO SALMA NASUTION
Penang

檳城新聞

2002年9月24日 (農曆壬午年八月十八日) 星期二

喬治市打石街 24 棟老建築 面對拆除或改建噩運

蔡國偉、林步晴

(檳城 23 日訊) 在檳州府政府為檳州爭取千年古鎮新地標之際，以新地標文化遺產區內 24 棟二戰(Category 2)老建築卻於下月方會展開計劃，面對拆除或改建噩運，引起檳州府政府關注，因為它將與檳城新地標區內 24 棟二戰(Category 2)老建築競爭世界文化遺產地位。

在計劃中，業主計劃將老建築改建成為 9 層高百年歷史以上之獨立式或雙連式建築。



入口的舊建築將被拆除，改建為四層樓高，及擴大窗戶入口；而面向打石街的行令人目眩的雙連式建築則被改建及「易容」。

租戶 3 周前收到遷移通知
受影響的租戶在 11 月 20 日遷移。建築計劃。

此建築對新地標及「改容換貌」的建築群分別有百年歷史以上歷史，而且該建築在國家博物館上公佈的文獻法令(Archaeological Act)下。

達賓州政府列開治市 入世界文化遺產城努力

檳州府政府計劃向聯合國教科文組織(UNESCO)爭取將檳城列入世界文化遺產，使這個百年歷史之老建築成為人類共有的遺產，不過這時期卻傳出業主將老建築改建成為 9 層高百年歷史以上之獨立式或雙連式建築，將老建築歷史意義及高歷史意義的破壞。

有關事件已引起全國傳媒及文藝界關注，並在月內向文化遺產及文化部長查詢有關卡地屋上相關投訴。

面對拆毀惡運的 24 棟老建築分別為：

門牌 65, 67, 69, 71, 73 以及面向打石街 77 及 79 及 81 號，其中兩間在最近一次大規模上建築改建，這三間將被拆毀以擴大窗戶入口；此外面向打石街的一行兩排(雙連式)入口面向打石街建築，門牌分別是 47, 49, 51, 53, 55A, 55B 三間，每 47 及 49 同類型)，57, 59, 77, 79, 81, 83A, 83B, 83C, 83D, 83E, 83F, 83, 85, 87 則屬新建築，共 18 間受波及。其中間有數間為民宅，兩間為國家遺產委員會會所，及多間的商店及印刷店。據了解，業主已向檳城府政府申請上拆毀及改建的建築圖則。

除了全國傳媒及文藝界對此的關注外，檳城古蹟基金會及打石街老建築委員會



「環打石街回教堂的 20 多棟以長屋型或雙連式建築，面對拆毀及「易容」命運，引起各方注意。」

(Biden Watson) 已分別對新地標，向檳城府政府提出，包括向新地標區內 24 棟老建築，要求政府方面勿將這些老建築列入新地標區內。

然而與此同時，檳城府政府與地產局(MADP)則已在上月 15 日向受影響的租戶發出通知，要求租戶在 11 月 20 日前遷移。

在一系列由檳城府政府與地產局會同地產局(Hadfield)代表等，更在受影響的租戶會中提出，租戶必須在 3 個月內，或最遲 2002 年 11 月 20 日前遷移。

據中區指出，若租戶拒絕遷移，檳城府政府與地產局會同地產局(Hadfield)代表等，更在受影響的租戶會中提出，租戶必須在 3 個月內，或最遲 2002 年 11 月 20 日前遷移。

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StarNorth

THURSDAY October 10 2002

Penang Hill's hidden treasures

By DERRICK VINESH
Photos by ZAINUDIN AHAD

A PART from their original colonial architecture, the five former British bungalows on Penang Hill are also noted for their individual characteristics such as teakwood staircase, expansive balconies, huge fireplace and cavernous rooms.

Known as the hill's hidden treasures, the bungalows probably got their names based on their usage or locations such as tucked away in the woods, forests and wild ferns or overlooking a treacherous cliff.

● **CONVALESCENT** - Built in 1903, this majestic bungalow, situated on a hillock formerly known as Mt Hyclea, is believed to be one of the oldest houses on Penang Hill.

Convalescent, which literally means recuperative, was built for the East India Company's medical department in Penang for the recuperation of invalids.

The single-storey bungalow with three bedrooms has an old-fashioned hall with greenish-white sand plastered wall finishing which separates two main corridors.

It is currently only available for rental to VIP government servants at RM50 per night.

The bungalow is situated

about 1km from the funicular railway's top station, requiring a 15 to 20 minute walk or visitors can also get there by four-wheel drive.

● **WOODSIDE** - This bungalow was built in 1929 and was once the residence of high-ranking British officers and later turned into a holiday bungalow for the officers' family members. It is the largest of the five bungalows and the only one with a huge open garden fronting the entrance.

The double-storey building, which has separate quarters for the caretaker, is aptly located in the woods as it is quite a distance from other houses.

The majestic abode boasts a grand teakwood staircase leading to a mezzanine floor with two bathrooms and two toilets and to the top floor, which has four gigantic rooms.

Two of the front rooms, which are separated by a second hall, have expansive balconies while the ones behind have smaller balconies facing the back.

The bottom floor has shiny red tiles while the top floor is made up of solid timber.

The bungalow is situated after the upper tunnel stop and is a 10 to 15 minute walk from the stopover.

● **EDGECLIFF** - Laterally perched at the edge of a nearby cliff, this unique-

ly built bungalow boasts a five-tier structure with three open balconies facing a picturesque view of George Town and the sea.

Though its interior design looks more modern compared to the other buildings, this one offers the most scenic and breathtaking view from atop the hill.

The five-room bungalow has two rooms on the first floor, one room on the second floor and two more rooms on the third floor. The hall with a fireplace structure is on the fourth floor while a narrow spiral staircase leads this floor to the biggest balcony on the fifth floor.

Edgecliff, located close to the funicular railway's upper tunnel station, is also accessible midway from the 5.1km-long jeep track that begins from the Penang Botanic Gardens in Waterfall Road.

● **HILLSIDE** - Located after the Woodside bungalow, this cosy traditional cottage bungalow is complete with a barbecue pit and garden tables, and nestled in the deep forests of Penang Hill.

A 10-minute drive from the Penang Hill Canopy Walkway will take you on a treacherous journey through a narrow path leading to

this hidden treasure.

The single-storey bungalow, with four spacious rooms, is also accessible from the other end near the upper tunnel station.

It takes about 10 to 15 minutes by foot from the stopover.

● **FERN HILL** - Situated amidst bushes of wild ferns on a hillock, this single-storey half-brick half-wood bungalow also provides a good view of the George Town skyline, the sea and the Penang Bridge.

The bungalow with four rooms has an adjoining passage connecting to the caretaker's residence at the back of the house.

Situated about 1.2km from the top station, this elegant looking residence can be reached within a 15 to 20 minute walk or by four-wheel drive.

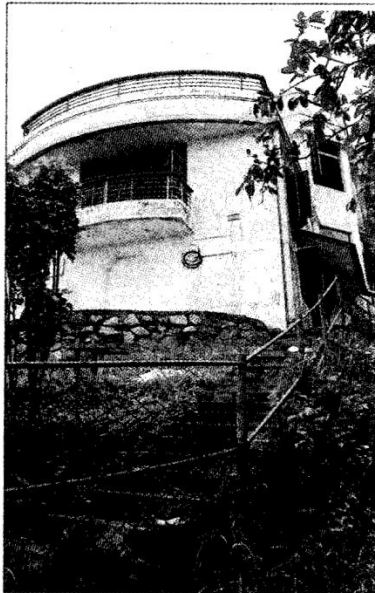
All the bungalows (except the Convalescent) are presently available for rental at RM40 per night for government servants, and RM60 per night for the public.

■ **SOURCES:** The Penang State Secretary's Internet website at www.sukpp.gov.my/jabatan/suk/UnitKBB/Bungalow.html and the Penang State Library Corporation's website at www.penanglib.gov.my/penang%20hill.htm.



ELEGANTLY-DESIGNED ... the Fern Hill is perched on a hillock.

■ BELOW: UNIQUE STRUCTURE ... the Edgecliff offers the most scenic and breathtaking view from atop the hill.



THE STAR FRIDAY October 11 2002

At the Penang Tourism Forum 2002 yesterday

Penang Hill boutique hotels to be new attraction

THE five state bungalows on Penang Hill will be refurbished and turned into boutique hotels at a cost of RM20mil, State Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen said.

She said the privatised project would take off next year.

Kee said the company undertaking the project was expected to sign an agreement with the State Secretary and other relevant authorities soon.

"The company, which will sign a long-term lease with the state government, has been given five years to complete the job."

"Two of the bungalows near the funicular railway's top station and the Penang Hill tea kiosk on Strawberry Hill will be renovated within 18 months," she told reporters after closing the forum yesterday.

Kee was commenting on the



THANK YOU ... Kee receiving a memento from Syed Aiddi at the closing ceremony.

proposed redevelopment project involving five bungalows - Convalescent, Woodside, Edgecliff, Hillside and Fern Hill - featured in StarNorth on Thursday.

Kee said the entire cost of the project would be borne by the private company, adding that the bungalows would be restored to their original British architecture.

She said the boutique hotels would be a new tourist attraction for Penang and that they would definitely be able to lure more tourists up Penang Hill.

"We are also looking at upgrading the existing facilities on our islands like Pulau Aman, Pulau Gedung and

Pulau Jerejak to promote island hopping.

"The project, which is under the Eight Malaysia Plan, will see the utilisation of water-taxis linking the islands," she said.

On efforts to keep Penang island clean, Kee suggested that the Penang Municipal Council learn from its counterpart on the mainland and be more strict on enforcement.

"The Seberang Prai Municipal Council diligently conducts spot checks on restaurants and eateries and immediately issues notices for temporary closure to the unhygienic food outlets."

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST

TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE TO PRESERVE HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, UNIFY A CITY FRAGMENTED BY UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT, RESTORE HUMAN-SCALE URBAN SPACE AND RE-ESTABLISH A CULTURAL VIBRANCY FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

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Inner City Trails of George Town

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Wednesday

Heritage Trail 2 &
Cheong Fatt Tze

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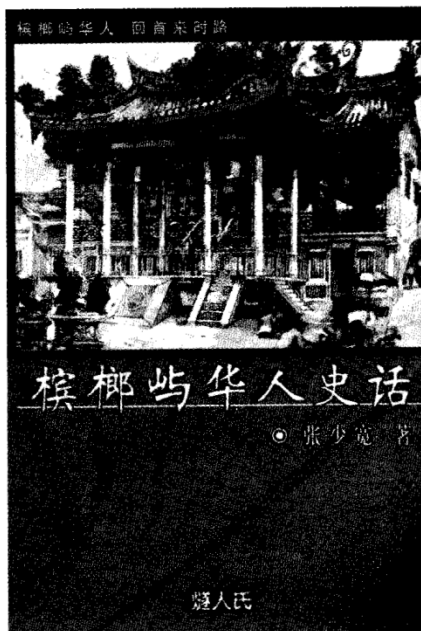
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◎ 张少宽 著

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