

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD GAZETTES JURONG TOWN HALL AS SINGAPORE'S
69TH NATIONAL MONUMENT**



Singapore, 1 June 2015 – The Jurong Town Hall (previously known as iHub) will be gazetted on 2 June 2015 by the National Heritage Board (NHB) as Singapore's 69th National Monument, and will join the growing list of post-war buildings that have been preserved for posterity.

2 Jurong Town Hall stands as an iconic testimony to Singapore's drive towards modernisation and development in its early years of independence. Constructed between May 1971 and March 1974, this landmark once served as the headquarters of the then Jurong Town Corporation [now JTC Corporation (JTC)] which played a leading role in developing Singapore's first industrial estate and spearheaded Singapore's industrialisation drive. Jurong Town Hall is the seventh post-war structure gazetted as a National Monument.

3 Recognising that Jurong Town Hall is an important architectural and historical symbol of Singapore's economic and industrial progress, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) awarded it conservation status on 25 November 2005. On 2 June 2015, as part of NHB's



ongoing efforts to study and evaluate Singapore's heritage landscape, the building will be preserved as a National Monument by the Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division under NHB, in conjunction with Jurong Town Hall's 40th anniversary of its official opening. This ensures the Jurong Town Hall and its intrinsic historic features will be accorded the highest level of legal protection.

4 The gazette of Jurong Town Hall will be the first time that NHB is gazetting a conserved building as a National Monument and the change in status recognises the national significance of the building as well as the role played by JTC in Singapore's industrial heritage. As a National Monument, Jurong Town Hall will be protected by and have to abide by preservation guidelines (instead of conservation guidelines) and will undergo a regular cycle of inspections to ensure its proper upkeep.

5 The decision to gazette Jurong Town Hall was made after very careful assessment of its historical significance, architectural merit and current condition. As the government agency which oversees the preservation of nationally significant sites and monuments in Singapore, NHB monitors the development and transformation of our heritage landscape closely to safeguard heritage buildings and structures in the best possible way. This ongoing assessment process includes the evaluation of heritage buildings and structures in past and present contexts.

6 Ms Jean Wee, Director of the PSM division, NHB, says, "Jurong Town Hall was built in the first decade of nation building in Singapore, specifically, when we were in our nascent years of industrialisation. This landmark was the work of a pioneering team of local architects. We have made a conscious move to fill the gaps in our architectural heritage timelines – going beyond colonial structures, and including landmarks that reflect our own historic landscape. After 50 years, what helps define us, is our heritage and our attitude towards wanting to discover it and preserve it."

Historical Significance

7 Newly independent and against the backdrop of high unemployment, the Singapore Government embarked on an ambitious push towards industrialisation in the 1960s and set out to attract foreign investment to Singapore. Then-Minister of Finance, Dr Goh Keng Swee, initiated the establishment of the Economic Development Board (EDB) in 1961, which was



tasked to spearhead this drive. One of EDB's key projects was the development of Jurong, Singapore's first ever industrial estate.

8 Given the rapid growth of Jurong by the late 1960s, it was decided that a specialised agency should be established to develop and manage all industrial estates, allowing EDB to focus on its broader role of promoting investment and economic growth. To serve this function, JTC was formed in June 1968. It brought to fruition Dr Goh Keng Swee's vision of Jurong as a thriving industrial estate, and a self-contained satellite town. Besides developing Jurong's industrial infrastructure, JTC also enhanced the quality of life for residents through the addition of a variety of housing options, recreational facilities, and a public transport network.

9 In 1974, JTC moved into Jurong Town Hall, its first permanent headquarters. Prominently located on a hill overlooking the Jurong estate, the Modernist building was officially opened by then-Minister of Finance Hon Sui Sen on 2 June 1975.

Architectural Merits

10 The Jurong Town Hall was built based on the winning entry submitted by local firm Architects Team 3 in an architectural design competition. The boldly futuristic building consists of two elongated parallel blocks of unequal length connected by bridges. It is reminiscent of a ship, with a 50-metre high digital clock tower serving as the "mast." The use of reinforced concrete and its modular form emphasised its industrial character, making it an apt home for JTC.

11 Architects Team 3's design also has functionality at its core, since it was a primary consideration in the design contest. In addition to accommodating JTC's offices, Jurong Town Hall was equipped with facilities such as an air-conditioned auditorium and lecture theatre, and a mezzanine floor with multipurpose space, which made it an ideal venue for hosting exhibitions and conferences.

12 Although JTC relocated to its new headquarters at the JTC Summit in 2000, Jurong Town Hall continues to play a role in the economic development of Singapore. In March 2015, JTC announced that the Jurong Town Hall will house the new Trade Association Hub that is slated to open in early 2017, with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry coming on board as the anchor chamber.



13 Mr Png Cheong Boon, CEO of JTC, says, “The Jurong Town Hall is a building of symbolic significance and historical importance. It is an integral part of the Singapore industrialisation story, as it was where the planning took place that shaped the development of Jurong Industrial Estate. We are glad the Government has designated it a National Monument and bestowed it the importance for the benefit of our future generations.”

14 Please refer to **Annex A** for a complete list of the 69 National Monuments and to **Annex B** for a list of post-war structures gazetted as National Monuments.

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore’s heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB’s mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is now a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Preservation of Sites & Monuments Division

The Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division, under the National Heritage Board (NHB) and with advice from the PSM Advisory Board, guides the preservation of buildings, monuments and sites, which commemorates Singapore’s heritage as defined under the Preservation of Monuments Act. The PSM division also leads NHB’s joint efforts with National Parks Board to list the Singapore Botanic Gardens as Singapore’s first UNESCO world heritage site. It also oversees the 100 heritage sites that have been marked by NHB.

PSM division’s administration of the preservation gazette is complemented by its outreach objectives to promote a renewed appreciation and understanding of national monuments



and their history, and to encourage people to relate to them as sites of memory that convey a sense of place, identity and belonging. To date, 69 structures have been gazetted as National Monuments.

For more information on PSM division, please visit www.nhb.gov.sg/psm.

List of Singapore's National Monuments

	Name of Building	Date of Gazette
1	The Former Thong Chai Medical Institution (1892)	28 June 1973
2	Armenian Church of St Gregory the Illuminator (1835–36)	28 June 1973
3	St Andrew's Cathedral (Rebuilt 1856–64)	28 June 1973
4	Former Telok Ayer Market (now Lau Pa Sat) (1890–94)	28 June 1973
5	Thian Hock Keng (1839–42)	28 June 1973
6	Sri Mariamman Temple (Rebuilt 1843)	28 June 1973
7	Hajjah Fatimah Mosque (1845–46)	28 June 1973
8	Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (1843–47)	28 June 1973
9	Nagore Dargah (now Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre) (1828–30)	19 November 1974
10	Al-Abrar Mosque (1850–55)	19 November 1974
11	House of Tan Yeok Nee (The Former Salvation Army HQ) (1885)	19 November 1974
12	Tan Si Chong Su (1876–78)	19 November 1974
13	Jamae Mosque (Rebuilt 1830–35)	19 November 1974
14	Sultan Mosque (Rebuilt 1924–28)	8 March 1975
15	St George's Church (1910–13)	10 November 1978
16	Hong San See (1908–12)	10 November 1978
17	Sri Perumal Temple (Rebuilt 1961–66)	10 November 1978
18	Abdul Gafoor Mosque (1907–27)	5 July 1979
19	Siong Lim Temple (now Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery) (1902–08)	14 October 1980
20	Raffles Hotel (1887–1907)	4 March 1987

		(Re-gazetted on 3 June 1995)
21	Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (1924–25)	23 March 1989
22	Goodwood Park Hotel (Tower Block) (1900)	23 March 1989
23	The Former Convent of Holy Infant Jesus Chapel (now CHIJMES Hall) (1903) and Caldwell House (1840–41)	26 October 1990
24	Istana and Sri Temasek (1867–69)	14 February 1992 (Re-gazetted on 1 October 1993)
25	City Hall (1926–29)	14 February 1992
26	Victoria Theatre (1856–62) and Concert Hall (1902–05)	14 February 1992
27	Former Parliament House and Annex Building (1826–27)	14 February 1992, 26 June 1992
28	Supreme Court (1937–39)	14 February 1992
29	Former Empress Place Building (now Asian Civilisations Museum) (1864–67)	14 February 1992
30	National Museum (now National Museum of Singapore) (1884–87)	14 February 1992
31	Former St Joseph's Institution – Main Building (1855–67), Chapel (1911–12) and Classroom (1906–07) (now Singapore Art Museum)	14 February 1992 26 June 1992
32	Former Attorney-General's Chambers (now Parliament House Block C) (Rebuilt c.a. 1906)	14 February 1992
33	Sun Yat Sen Villa (now Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall) (1900–02)	28 October 1994
34	Yueh Hai Ching Temple (1852–1855)	28 June 1996
35	Maghain Aboth Synagogue (1878)	27 February 1998
36	Former Ministry of Labour Building (now Family Justice Courts) (1928)	27 February 1998
37	Former Tao Nan School (now The Peranakan Museum) (1910–12)	27 February 1998

38	Chesed-El Synagogue (1905)	18 December 1998
39	Former Hill Street Police Station (1934–36)	18 December 1998
40	Ying Fo Fui Kun (1881–82)	18 December 1998
41	Central Fire Station (1908–09)	18 December 1998
42	The Former Nanyang University Library & Administration Building, The Former Nanyang University Memorial and The Former Nanyang University Arch (1954–56)	18 December 1998
43	The Chinese High School Clock Tower Building (1925)	19 March 1999
44	Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (1930–31)	12 January 2000
45	Former Admiralty House (1939)	2 December 2002
46	Tan Teck Guan Building (1911)	2 December 2002
47	College of Medicine Building (1926)	2 December 2002
48	Cathay Building (1939)	10 February 2003
49	Church of St Peter and St Paul (1869–70)	10 February 2003
50	Macdonald House (1949)	10 February 2003
51	RC Church of St Joseph (1906–12)	14 January 2005
52	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes (1888)	14 January 2005
53	Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1901)	14 January 2005
54	Tou Mu Kung Temple (1919–21)	14 January 2005
55	Former Ford Factory (now Memories at Old Ford Factory) (1941)	15 February 2006
56	Former Raffles College (now NUS Campus at Bukit Timah) (1927–53)	11 November 2009
57	Church of St Teresa (1926–28)	11 November 2009
58	Former Keng Teck Whay building (now Singapore Yu Huang Gong) (est 1831)	11 November 2009
59	Command House (1939)	11 November 2009

60	Former St James Power Station (1926)	11 November 2009
61	Bowyer Block (1926)	11 November 2009
62	Former Singapore Conference Hall and Trade Union House (now Singapore Conference Hall) (1962–65)	28 December 2010
63	Esplanade Park Memorials: Lim Bo Seng Memorial (1953-1954), Tan Kim Seng Fountain (1882) and Cenotaph (1920–22)	28 December 2010
64	Tanjong Pagar Railway Station (1929–31)	8 April 2011
65	Civilian War Memorial (1966–67)	15 August 2013
66	Chung Cheng High School (Main) Administration Building and Entrance Arch (1965–68)	10 July 2014
67	Sri Thendayuthapani Temple (rebuilt 1980–83)	20 October 2014
68	Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque (1931–32)	19 December 2014
69	Jurong Town Hall (1971–74)	2 June 2015

LIST OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED IN POST-WAR SINGAPORE

No.	Monument	Year of Completion	Year of Gazette
1	Macdonald House	1947	10 February 2003
2	Nanyang Administration Building, Memorial and Arch	1956	18 December 1998
3	Lim Bo Seng Memorial (one of the three Esplanade Park Memorials)	1954	28 December 2010
4	Singapore Conference Hall and Trade Union House	1964	28 December 2010
5	Civilian War Memorial	1967	15 August 2013
6	Chung Cheng High School (Main) Administration Building and Entrance Arch	1968	10 July 2014
7	Jurong Town Hall	1974	2 June 2015