



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

15 NATIONAL MONUMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDING AS PART OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND 2019

Singapore, 10 September 2019 – Keeping one of Singapore’s surviving examples of English Neo-Gothic architecture – not to mention the oldest Anglican place of worship – in good condition, is no easy task. To help with the cost of its upcoming restoration and maintenance plans, the St Andrew’s Cathedral will be receiving funding from the *National Monuments Fund (NMF)* as a first-time recipient.

2 The *NMF* is a co-funding grant that addresses the challenging task of up-keeping historic buildings and structures. Administered by the National Heritage Board’s (NHB) Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division, the fund aims to assist eligible monument owners in the restoration and maintenance of our built heritage. Please refer to **Annex A** for the full list of National Monuments eligible for the application of the *NMF*.

3 Since the introduction of the *NMF* in 2008, the fund has grown¹ and adapted to better serve the evolving needs of our National Monuments and their owners. For example, in 2015, a new funding category – *Maintenance Fund*² – was introduced in view of the frequent and important maintenance works National Monuments require. Complementing the original *Restoration Fund*, it serves to ensure that monument owners conduct regular maintenance work to restrain building deterioration, so as to prevent incurring costlier restoration works in the future. Please refer to **Annex B** for more information on the *NMF*.

Safeguarding Singapore’s Built Heritage with the Community

4 Ms Jean Wee, Director of the PSM division, NHB, said: “Our National Monuments are important symbols of our past, protected today by the diverse communities they continue to serve. We hope this continues for future generations, through means such as the *National Monuments Fund* which is a co-funding support towards that end. Over the years, the fund has enabled us to deepen our partnership with stakeholders. Beyond being a funding stream, it is also about the sharing of knowledge and principles of good restoration. We are also very encouraged by strong positive feedback. Fourteen of the 15 grant recipients this year are repeat applicants. This augurs well as an indication that earlier restoration has spurred them to continue and widen their preservation efforts on site.”

¹ The *NMF* started with a first tranche of S\$5 million in 2008, and was subsequently given a second tranche of S\$11.77 million in 2015.

² The *Maintenance Fund* covers regular work to identify building issues early and pre-empt necessary restorative works, while the *Restoration Fund* covers rectification works that restore the spirit of the buildings’ historical fabric.

5 This year, a total of S\$2.61 million will be disbursed to 15 National Monuments. Of this, S\$2.5 million will help co-fund restoration works and S\$115,000 will co-fund maintenance works of the National Monuments. As both funds are designed to be complementary, some National Monuments are recipients of both funds. Please refer to **Annex C** for the list of 2019's *NMF* recipients.

National Monuments Fund Disbursement 2019		
Type of Fund	Amount (S\$)	No. of Monuments
Restoration Fund	2.5 million	7
Maintenance Fund	115,000	14
Total	2.61 million	15* <i>*Some are recipients of both funds</i>

6 One example is the St Andrew's Cathedral, which is a first-time *NMF* recipient. Completed in 1861 and gazetted as a National Monument in 1973, the Cathedral sits on the site which was chosen for a church by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1823. The original St Andrew's Cathedral, which was completed in 1837, no longer stands as it was struck by lightning twice in 1845 and 1849, and had to be reconstructed.

7 Through the years, the St Andrew's Cathedral has remained an important place of worship for the Anglican Communion in Singapore, and also a landmark in the heart of the Civic District. It was last restored in 1991, and this year, the Cathedral is a first-time recipient of both the *Restoration Fund* and *Maintenance Fund*. Its scope of work includes the removal of plaster and repainting of the entire Cathedral; restoration to pews, stalls, doors and windows; repair or refurbishment of timber flooring in bell tower; termite control; removal of vegetation on or near the Cathedral; and spot repair of artefacts or features.

8 Mr Lee Chi Kuan, Chair, Restoration Works Committee for the St Andrew's Cathedral, said: "The Cathedral is a part of the Civic District and has a significant place in terms of heritage and a tourist destination. We have been considering and planning the restoration of the Cathedral for some time now, and the grant from *NMF* will help us defray a substantial part of this cost. Our building needs to be kept in a good state of repair as a witness to our stewardship and responsibility – we are heirs to the past, stewards of the present and trustees for the future."

9 Other recipients of the *Restoration Fund* include the Thian Hock Keng Temple and Church Of Nativity Of The Blessed Virgin Mary, both of which are third-time recipients of the *NMF*; and fourth-time recipients the Chesed-EI Synagogue and Maghain Aboth Synagogue.

10 Mr Hertzell Lelah, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Chesed-EI Synagogue, said: "The Trustees of the Chesed-EI Synagogue are extremely grateful for the support received from PSM over the years; we are a small charity with limited access to contributions from our



congregation and from other kind donors. For instance, during our major restoration in 2016, we not only were supported by PSM in the form of the *NMF*, but again the advice and assistance received – to prevent our front canopies from collapsing, to fixing our leaking roofs and in replacing the worn out floor tiles – went a great way to restoring the Synagogue to its former glory.”

11 Chesed-El Synagogue will be utilising the *Restoration Fund* received for 2019 to address the unique challenge of the Synagogue being built in front of a retaining wall. The grant will be supporting the costs for micro-piling and reinforcing the wall. Mr Lelah added: “The dedication and effort that the PSM staff have put into preserving and maintaining the many National Monuments in Singapore are greatly appreciated not only by the management of these sites, but also by the millions of visitors who come to view these National Monuments each year.”

Please refer to:

- **Annex A:** List of National Monuments eligible for the application of the *NMF*
- **Annex B:** About the *NMF*
- **Annex C:** List of *NMF* recipients in 2019

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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 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 and 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.

The 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, 72 structures have been gazetted as National Monuments. For more information on the PSM division, please visit www.nhb.gov.sg/psm.

List of National Monuments Eligible for the Application of the NMF

Criteria of eligibility:

- Owned and managed by a non-profit or religious organisation
- The organisation has the ability to finance the works before applying for contribution from the NMF
- Public has access to the National Monument

There are currently 31 non-profit or religious National Monuments that qualify for the grant:

1. Abdul Gaffoor Mosque
2. Al-Abrar Mosque
3. Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
4. Armenian Church of St Gregory
5. Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
6. Chesed-El Synagogue
7. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
8. Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Church of St Peter and St Paul
10. Church of St Teresa
11. Hajjah Fatimah Mosque
12. Hong San See
13. Jamae Mosque
14. Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery (Former Siong Lim Temple)
15. Maghain Aboth Synagogue
16. Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre
17. Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
18. Singapore Yu Huang Gong (Former Keng Teck Whay)
19. Sri Mariamman Temple
20. Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
21. Sri Thendayuthapani Temple
22. St Andrew's Cathedral
23. St George's Church
24. St Joseph's Church
25. Sultan Mosque (Masjid Sultan)
26. Tan Si Chong Su



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27. Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
28. Thian Hock Keng (Chong Wen Ge & Chong Hock Pavilion)
29. Tou Mu Kung
30. Ying Fo Fui Kun
31. Yueh Hai Ching Temple

About the NMF

In 2008, the *National Monuments Fund (NMF)* was introduced with a first tranche of S\$5 million, dedicated to monument restoration works. In 2015, in recognition of the growing needs of our National Monuments, and to better support the monument owners in addressing these needs, the *NMF* was given a second tranche of funding of S\$11.77 million.

In addition to its increased funding pool, the enhanced *NMF* in 2015 went beyond restoration to include a new category of funding for maintenance. This *Maintenance Fund* was allocated S\$2 million from the second tranche (of S\$11.77 million), and aims to ensure that stakeholders conduct regular maintenance work to restrain building deterioration, thereby preventing unaddressed works from snowballing into significant restoration costs. Monument owners will be able to receive funding from PSM for regular maintenance work based on their identified needs.

To encourage responsible ownership of the National Monuments, the *NMF* is disbursed through a co-funding scheme. Application is open to National Monuments that are owned and managed by non-profit or religious organisations. To apply, monument owners will need to be able to financially co-support the restoration and or maintenance works, and the disbursement quantum is individually assessed based on the severity and urgency of the scope of work required for rectification.

The outstanding costs of works not covered by *NMF*, including those for upgrading and enhancement works unrelated to but done in conjunction with the restoration or maintenance process, are usually covered by donations raised by the monument owners.

List of NMF Recipients in 2019

Note: Some monuments may have been grant recipients in earlier years.

	National Monument	NMF (Restoration) – 7 recipients	NMF (Maintenance) – 14 recipients
1	Al-Abrar Mosque		✓
2	Armenian Church of St Gregory		✓
3	Chesed-El Synagogue	✓	✓
4	Church of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary	✓	✓
5	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes	✓	✓
6	Jamae Mosque		✓
7	Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery		✓
8	Maghain Aboth Synagogue	✓	✓
9	Sri Mariamman Temple		✓
10	St Andrew's Cathedral	✓	✓
11	St George's Church		✓
12	St Joseph's Church	✓	
13	Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple		✓
14	Sultan Mosque		✓
15	Thian Hock Keng	✓	✓