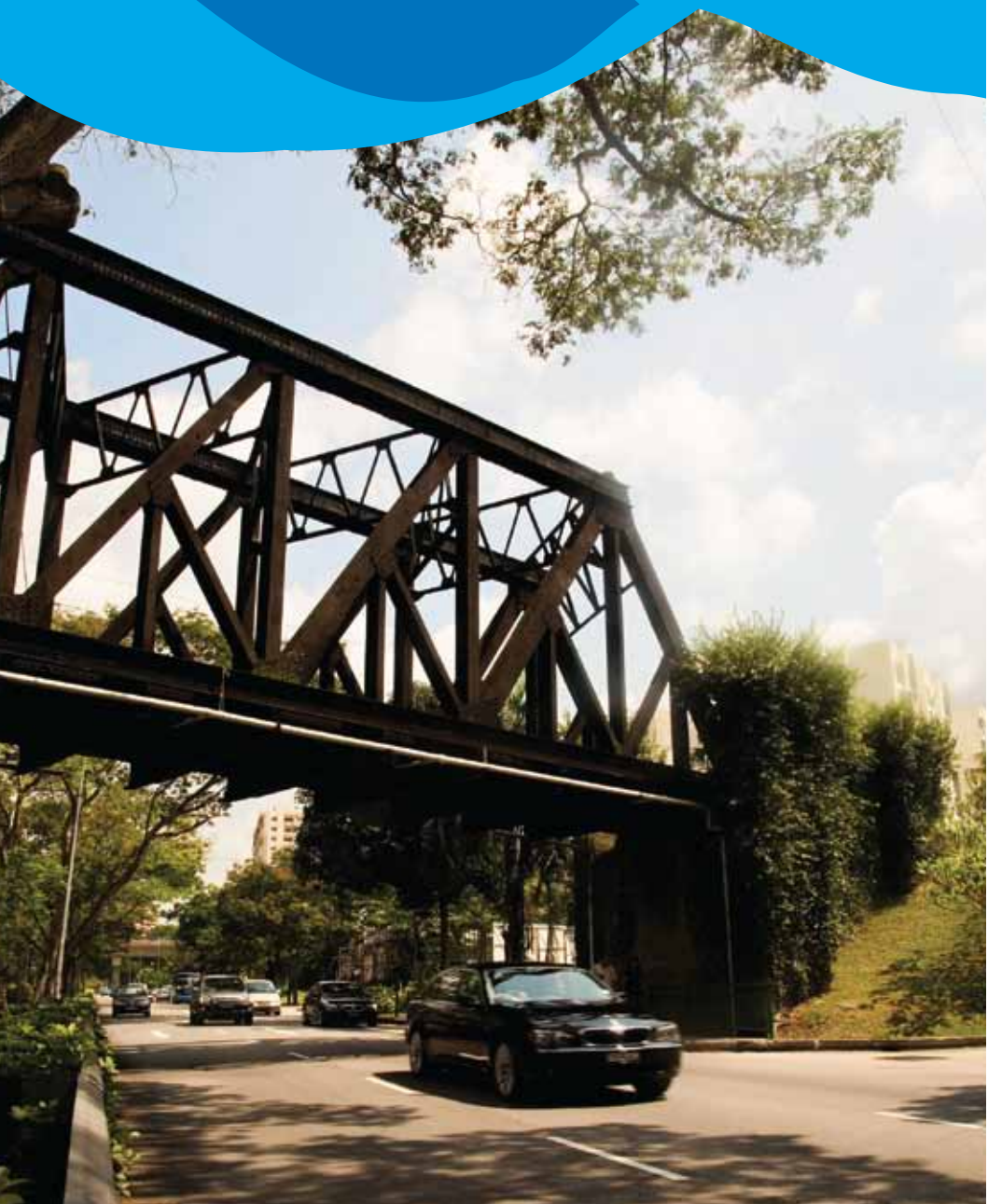


Bukit Timah

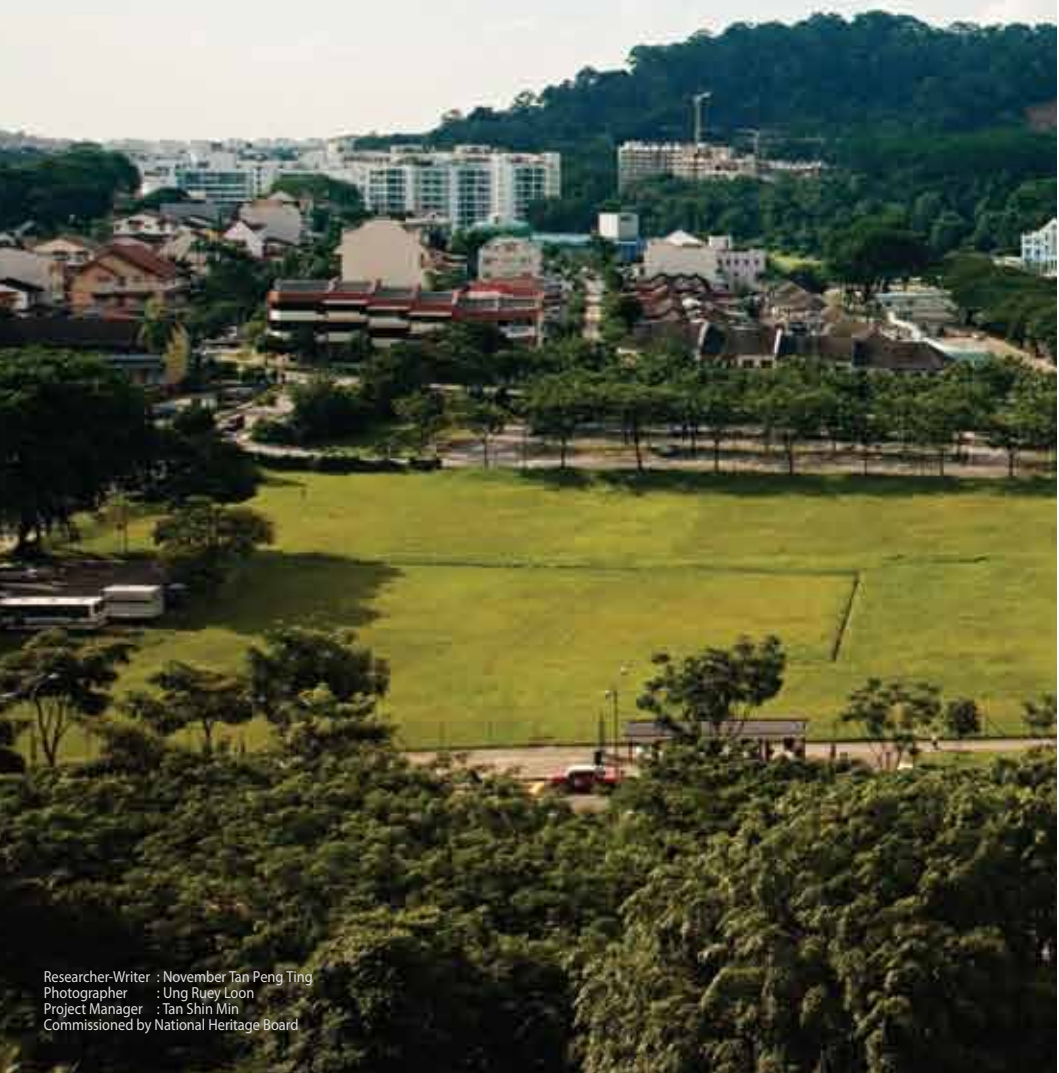
A HERITAGE TRAIL



The mention of Bukit Timah brings to mind many interesting images. From the stately homes, traffic congestions from parents fetching their children to school in the morning, to the weekend races at the former Singapore Turf Club, floods that plagued the area in earlier decades or the rich biodiversity in the forests of the highest point in Singapore, Bukit Timah is that and much more.

Spanning 25 km, or 17 milestones, from one end of the island to the other, Bukit Timah Road is the main arterial road that feeds Kranji, Orchard Road, Newton and Little India. Although the boundaries have been redrawn and new roads added, to many older Singaporeans and Bukit Timah residents, Bukit Timah is not only defined by the road but also by the other areas that surround it.

Bukit Timah COMMUNITY TRAIL

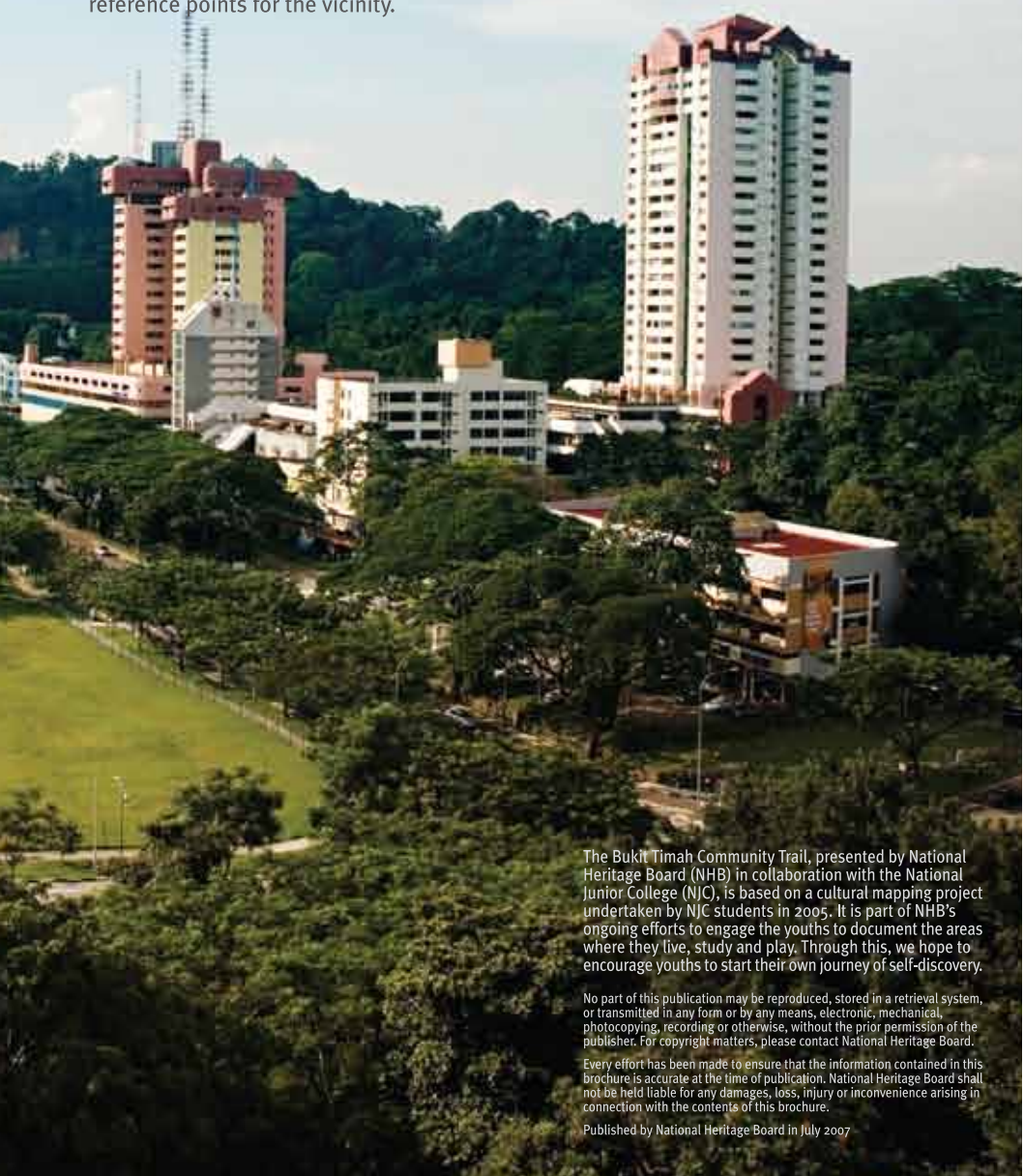


With such a wide area to cover, no one trail will ever do justice to the rich natural and historical heritage of Bukit Timah. As such, this trail provides you with highlights of the many interesting stories and places found here. Divided into eight themed areas, it gives you an overview of the different eras in the history of Bukit Timah.

Our journey begins at the 9th milestone of Bukit Timah near the Memories at Old Ford Factory. Here, we will relive the Battle of Bukit Timah during World War II and continue down the road all the way up till the 4th milestone where we end our trail. The milestones refer to distance markers used in early days as landmarks and reference points for the vicinity.

This trail is only the beginning of the documentation process of capturing Bukit Timah's rich history and heritage. In time, we hope that the community, together with the grassroots will continue to develop more trails within Bukit Timah.

So bring along your friends and family to experience the highlights of Bukit Timah. Remember to dress comfortably, and to bring lots of water. And do not forget your camera! If you are not the sporty type, you can also opt to hop from stop to stop on any public bus that travels down this long stretch of road.



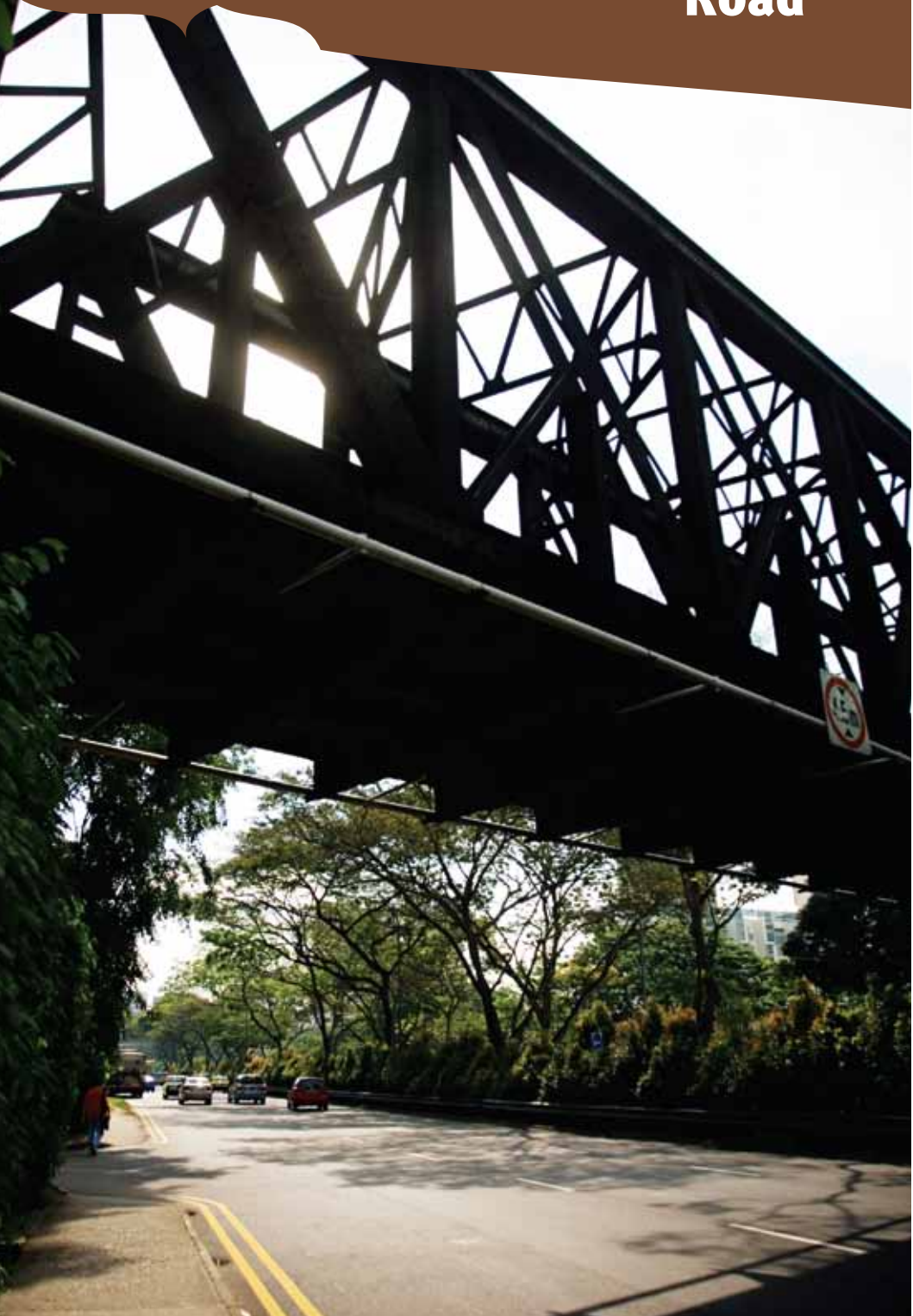
The Bukit Timah Community Trail, presented by National Heritage Board (NHB) in collaboration with the National Junior College (NJC), is based on a cultural mapping project undertaken by NJC students in 2005. It is part of NHB's ongoing efforts to engage the youths to document the areas where they live, study and play. Through this, we hope to encourage youths to start their own journey of self-discovery.

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Bukit Timah Road



The idea of cutting Bukit Timah Road was first considered in 1827 when John Prince, Acting Resident of the Straits Settlements, explored Bukit Timah in preparation for the cutting of a road.

One of the original purposes of this road was to allow access to the highest point on the island. In 1843, a carriageway was completed leading up to the hill where a small hut with chairs was available for colonial visitors who found the air cooler and fresher. By 1845, Bukit Timah Road was extended to as far as Kranji in the north. This, therefore, made the road one of the earliest roads leading out of town to the unexplored wilderness in the hinterlands and the longest road in Singapore from north to south.

The first people to travel from north to south of Singapore via Bukit Timah Road were J T Thomson and Dr Robert Little in 1855 who took a total of four days on horseback!

The opening of the road also provided the Chinese businessmen access to undeveloped land further in the interior of the island where they could clear and cultivate gambier and pepper plantations without paying for the land. However, working in these plantations in the 1800s was a dangerous occupation. By 1860, almost 200 plantation workers were reported killed by tigers that roamed the Bukit Timah area. In 1859, then Governor William Orfeur Cavenagh arranged for selected Indian convicts to patrol the area which resultantly killed six tigers in one year alone. The tigers were believed to have swum from Johor to Kranji and were sometimes seen entangled in the nets and fishing stakes of the kelongs.

Did you know?

Cavenagh Bridge, the second bridge from the mouth of the Singapore River linking Empress Place with Fullerton Square, was named after General Sir William Orfeur Cavenagh who was a British Governor of the Straits Settlements from 1859 to 1867.

Bukit Timah: A Misnomer?

The origin of the name *Bukit Timah* is highly contested. The name was first recorded in an 1828 map as *Bukit Tima* and some believe that *Timah* was short for *Fatimah*, a popular Malay girl's name. However *Bukit Timah* literally means 'tin bearing hill' in Malay. While *Bukit* means hill in Malay and refers to the highest point in Singapore, no tin was ever found in the area. Thus some believe that the hill was actually named after the *Temak* trees found everywhere in the primary forests on the hill. However to the early western surveyors, the word *Temak* probably sounded like *Timah* and was subsequently misspelt, which remains to this day.



Memories at Old Ford Factory

World War II Sites



Being the main road linking Singapore to Johor, Bukit Timah became instrumental during World War II for the Japanese troops to march from Johor into Singapore. As such, Bukit Timah witnessed much of the historical moments during the war.



Memories at Old Ford Factory (MOFF) 351 Upper Bukit Timah Road

Originally built by Ford Motor Works in 1941 to replace their old factory on Anson Road, it was the first motor-car assembly plant in Southeast Asia. Completed just four months before 15 February 1942, it became the site for the signing of the unconditional surrender of the British Forces to the Japanese Army in the Ford Board Room. Lieutenant-General A.E. Percival had walked along Bukit Timah with a white flag to his historic meeting with Lieutenant-General Yamashita.

Located 13.5 km up Bukit Timah Road, all movements along the long stretch of road could then be easily monitored from the Ford Factory, resulting in the Japanese making the factory their military headquarters and a service depot for Japanese military vehicles. It was also a place where Japanese soldiers tortured prisoners of war. After the war, car assembly work resumed until 1980 when it was bought and renamed the Hong Leong Industries Building in 1983.

In 1997, the back of the factory was demolished to make way

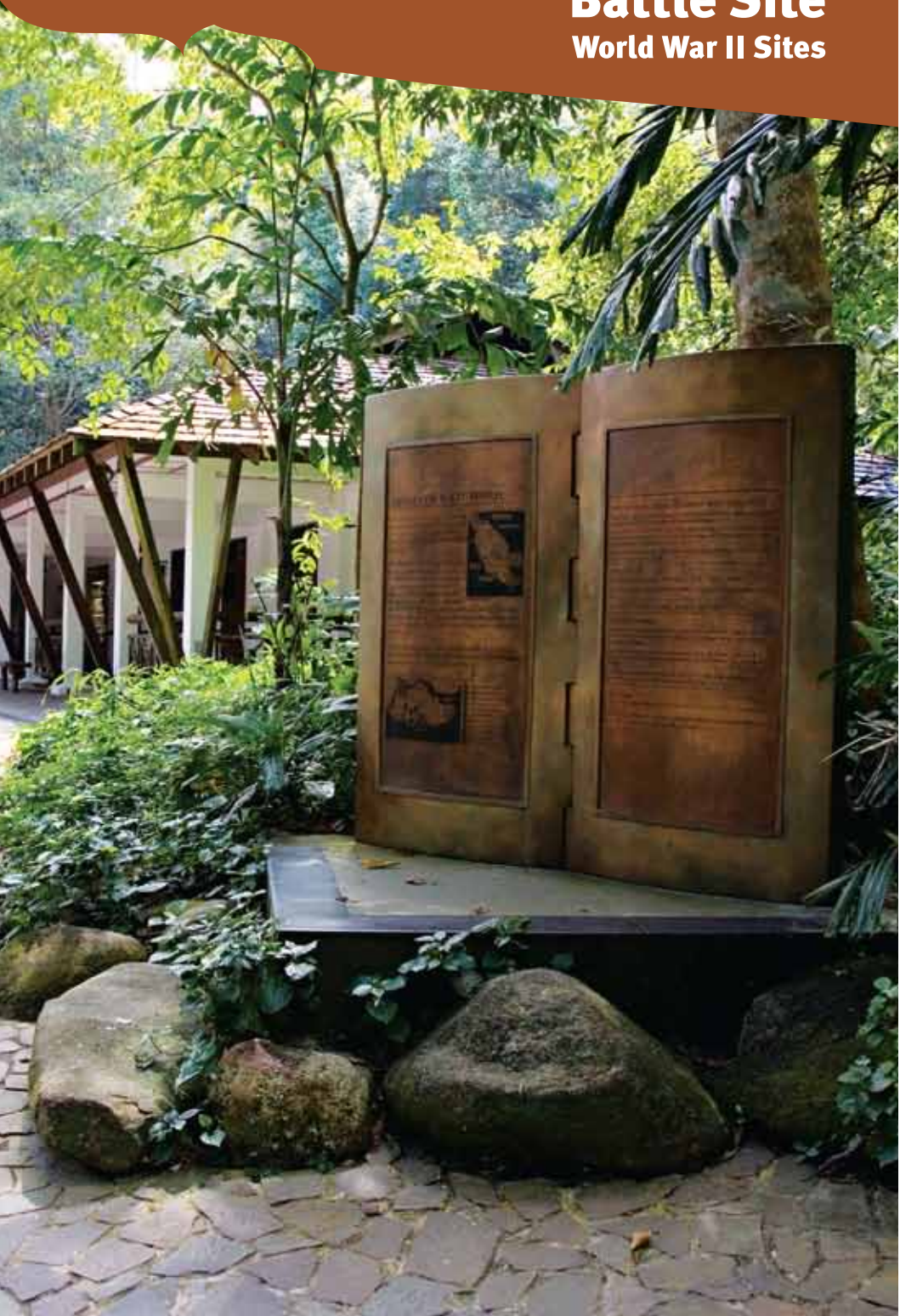
for a condominium while the front portion was announced to be gazetted as a national monument. However it was left unattended until 2006 when the factory was restored as the Memories at Old Ford Factory, a World War Two Interpretative Centre which showcases the events leading up to the British surrender and life during the Japanese Occupation. Some of the highlights include the board room which replicates the surrender negotiations and the WWII food garden which showcases the food crops grown during the Occupation to alleviate the extreme food shortages. The factory was officially gazetted as a national monument in 2006 and is run by the National Heritage Board.

Did you know?

Emile Brizay, a French structural engineer, was the architect behind the Art Deco Style design of the Ford Factory in 1941. Of all the buildings by Brizay, three of the five houses built in the Bukit Timah area still remain today. They can be found at Brizay Park, named after the architect himself, off Bukit Timah Road and Old Holland Road near the Methodist Girls' School. He was also responsible for the St Teresa's Church at Kampong Bahru Road which still stands today.

Bukit Timah Battle Site

World War II Sites



Bukit Timah Battle Site

Foot of Bukit Timah Hill

One of the fiercest military encounters during WWII took place here as the Bukit Timah area held strategic and tactical importance to the Japanese and the British. This site marks Percival's final defence of southern Singapore against the Japanese invaders from the north on 8 February 1942.

The various battalions and brigades stationed here all faced the onslaught of the Japanese at various points along Bukit Timah with fierce hand-to-hand combat and bayonet charges. However many volunteer soldiers on the British side were untrained and poorly equipped and suffered heavy casualties. Japanese tanks appeared for the first time on the island and were used with much brutality at Bukit Timah. It was also here that the Japanese suffered their heaviest casualties. In revenge, they massacred most of the Chinese living in a nearby village.

Today, two plaques in front of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve Visitors' Centre identify the battle site as a marked historic site. Within the Nature Reserve, a series of casemates created by the Japanese to hold their ammunition can also be found.



Former Bukit Timah Fire Station

260 Upper Bukit Timah Road

The façade of the fire station has not changed much and looks just like it did when the station was built in 1956. This was the 4th fire station built in Singapore, after the Central Fire Station at Hill Street and the ones in Geylang and Alexandra. It can house two Fire Pumps, two Fire Bikes, two Ambulances and a Light Fire Attack Vehicle. The Bukit Timah Fire Station closed in April 2005 and there are currently plans by the Urban Redevelopment Authority for the conservation of this site. Meanwhile, its operations have moved to new premises at 80 Bukit Batok Road.

Bukit Timah Hill



Represented as two hills in an 1828 map, Bukit Timah Hill stands at 163.63m and is the highest point in Singapore. It is also the heart of the first Nature Reserve on the island. Formerly a granite quarry in the 19th century and surrounded by vast stretches of plantation and primary rainforest, it is a place where tigers once roamed freely.



Bukit Timah Nature Reserve

As early as 1848, a level of protection was given by the colonial government to the primary forests of Bukit Timah for fear of over-logging and depletion of timber resources. However, it was not until 1883 when the British Colonial Government of the Straits Settlements officially established Bukit Timah Nature Reserve as the first nature reserve in Singapore. During the Japanese occupation, Kwan Koriba, a botanist from Kyoto University was brought in to oversee the parks and reserves on the island and in 1951, the reserve came under the protection of the Nature Reserve Ordinance (the National Parks Act).

In 1986, the Bukit Timah Expressway (BKE) was completed along the reserve's eastern perimeter, separating the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve from the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, where the major remaining rainforest of Singapore lies. While tigers no longer roam

the hills of Bukit Timah and much of the pristine rainforest is gone as Bukit Timah has undergone industrial and urban developments over the past hundred years, what is left are 163 hectares of untouched primary rainforest.

Hindhede Nature Park

Composed mainly of granite, Bukit Timah Hill was once an active quarrying site in the mid-1900s. The three main quarries at Bukit Timah include Hindhede, Singapore, and Dairy Farm Quarries. Hindhede Quarry is named after Hindhede and Company Limited, established in 1922 by a Danish civil engineer, Jens Hindhede. In granite quarrying, dynamite charges were embedded into the granite hill to blast it into granite chips for use in the construction industry. At noon each day, a loud boom from the granite quarry would signal lunchtime. The company operated the granite quarry until it ceased operations around the late 1980s. A kampong stood at the foot of Bukit Timah Hill at Hindhede Drive up till the 1990s when it finally gave way to luxurious bungalows. The abandoned quarry was later developed into Hindhede Nature Park by National Parks Board and is now a popular spot with visitors who come to enjoy the quarry's scenic beauty. Adventurous rock climbers have also made full use of the disused quarry for their activities.

Did you know?

The number of plant species growing in the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is more than that in the whole of North America. New species are still being discovered here. At the same time, Singapore's oldest tree, a 400 year-old Seraya Shorea curtisii Tree, is also found here. This tree is possibly the Temak tree that gave Bukit Timah its name.

Beauty World





A stone's throw from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve at the 7th milestone is Beauty World. Although now pale in comparison to its bustling and colourful past, many old timers in the community still remember this entertainment and shopping venue that served the residents in the vicinity.

Beauty World Amusement Park and Market

At the beginning of WWII, two enterprising *Hokchia* businessmen obtained permission from the occupying Japanese authorities to operate an amusement park named Tai Tong Ah Amusement Park. It had stages for shows, a dance hall, coffee parlours and a large gambling hall. After the war, its popularity declined and permission was sought from the British authorities to convert the park to a marketplace and Beauty World Market was opened in July 1947.

Beauty World was named after the daughter of one of the owners, Mr Giam. As a reminder of its previous existence as an amusement park, it was called "World" to follow in the trend of naming amusement parks in Singapore as "Happy World", "New World" and "Great World". In 1950, there were 34 stalls in Beauty World Market but by 1976, there were 166 stalls! The open-air market continued to have stages for shows as well as drinks with hostesses known as "coffee fires". The area expanded further with the building of Beauty World Town in 1962 just beside the market. Blocks of new shophouses were built housing coffee shops, provision shops and textile shops.

Sadly, in the late 70s, a real fire put an end to the market. By the 1980s, it had closed down. Today, it is an open field and car park across the road from the newer Beauty World Centre.

Modern Shopping Centres

In 1978, the \$70 million Bukit Timah Plaza was opened. The complex is a seven-storey block consisting of four floors of shopping sandwiched between three floors of parking. It was then touted as "Singapore's finest 'one-stop' shopping centre".

After the fire of Beauty World Market, a \$45 million mall along Upper Bukit Timah Road replaced the old open-air market in 1983. With some 200 shops, this four-storey mall now stands across the road from the original market. In 1998, 194 individual shop owners formed the Beauty World Centre Merchants Association and bought the entire building for close to \$80 million.

Beauty World Area



Bukit Timah Village

As early as the 1920s, there was already an open-air market along Jalan Jurong Kechil at the open ground beside where the present day Esso Petrol Station stands. It served the predominantly rubber and pineapple plantation workers living in the area. Farmers would bring their surplus to sell at this market or at the Ellenborough Market, located near present day Clark Quay MRT Station, using bullock carts. Soon, shops and residences sprang up around it forming the Bukit Timah Village. The village had the market in the centre, a Chinese temple, school and even a graveyard. The village was also known as *Beh Chia Loh Boey* which meant “terminal of the horse carriage way” in *Hokkien* because it was then the end of Bukit Timah Road, beyond which was the jungle of Bukit Timah Hill.



Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

The old Bukit Timah Market at Bukit Timah Village, 1986

Bukit Timah Food Centre

In the late 1960s, the newly formed government of independent Singapore made an attempt at increasing the level of hygiene as well as traffic and noise control by building new hawker centres to house existing street hawkers. As such, in 1968, the Hawkers Department of Ministry of the Environment carried out a registration exercise of some 140 hawkers

at the Beauty World Market and Bukit Timah Village market. They were subsequently moved to this new market along with other hawkers from other areas. The new market cost \$1.4 million to build and in 1975, the Bukit Timah Food Centre was completed. Some 27 years later, in 2002, the food centre underwent renovation and was officially opened by Dr Wong Kai Yuan, MP for Bukit Timah Constituency, on 8 March 2003.

Cheong Chin Nam and Chun Tin Road

These two adjacent roads were named after Cheong Chun Tin, the first qualified Chinese dentist to settle in Singapore and his son, Cheong Chin Nam, who was a well-known dentist as well as a merchant, landowner and rubber estate owner. In partnership with his brother Chin Heng, Chin Nam owned the Cheong Brothers dental practice.

Today, the area is well known for the row of coffeeshops by the 24-hour Thai-Muslim restaurant called Al-Ameen Eating House. Other than its opening hours, Al-Ameen was the first Thai-Muslim Restaurant since 1992 and continues to dazzle its customers with its wide array of food choices, including the *Dum Briyani* which is a local Indian favourite of meat cooked with *basmati rice*.

Nearby along Jalan Jurong Kechil, the last remaining row of pre-war shophouses has been gazetted for conservation as part of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Master Plan 2003.

Banana Roads

Behind Chun Tin Road are a series of connected roads named after different banana varieties (*pisang* in Malay) since 1965. These include Lorong Pisang Batu, Lorong Pisang Udang, Lorong Pisang Hijau, Lorong Pisang Emas, Lorong Pisang Raja and Lorong Pisang Asam.

King Albert Park





Collection of F.W. York, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

A "Mosquito Bus" along Bukit Timah Road, 1935



Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

A strike round-up, and a Green Bus Station at Bukit Timah, 1963

King Albert Park McDonald's Place, 11 King Albert Park

Opposite Bukit Timah Plaza, at the corner of Clementi and Bukit Timah Road is King Albert Park. Here one can find the McDonald's Place, headquarters of the international fast food chain, McDonald's. It is also a popular haunt for students in the vicinity and one of the few fast food outlets with a 24-hour drive-through in Singapore.

This very site at 6½ miles Bukit Timah Road used to be the terminal and service depot for the Green Bus Company. Buses were first introduced in Singapore around 1930 as a replacement to the trolleybus. The main operator was the colonial establishment known

as the Singapore Traction Company. However, at the same time in the early 1930s, small Chinese family-owned companies began operating private bus services known as the "mosquito buses" which were nicknamed for the way they weaved in and out of traffic. The Green Bus Company was one of them. It was well known for its bus service from its Queen Street terminal to Johor Bahru, Malaysia via Bukit Timah Road. It served largely the rural areas north of the city with many of its bus services catering to the Bukit Timah area. However, the reign of the Chinese bus companies came to an end in the 1970s when the government created the Singapore Bus Services (SBS) to centralise the public transport system in Singapore.

Lim Chin Siong

"My fondest memories of the Green Bus was when the bus broke down with steam coming out of the radiator and we had to change bus at the King Albert Park depot. The bus entered from Clementi Road and stopped at the workshop area for us to alight and switch buses. The new bus would exit via Bukit Timah Road."

*- Peter Chan,
Bukit Timah resident, 53 years old*

Lim Chin Siong (1933-1996) was a trade unionist, politician and the youngest elected assemblyman in Singapore's history when he won the 1955 elections for the Bukit Timah Constituency as a PAP candidate. Unfortunately that same year, Lim Chin Siong, along with Fong Swee Suan, instigated a labour strike that resulted in the Hock Lee Bus Riots. Originally an attempt to seek higher wages and better working conditions, it became a pro-communist confrontation against the government and subsequently, students from Chinese schools joined the protest, resulting in four persons being killed and 31 injured. In 1956, Lim led thousands of students from Chinese schools to protest against the deregistering of the Singapore Chinese Middle School Students' Union following the bus riot. This resulted in a crowd of 4,000 gathering outside the Chinese High School at one point along with 7,000 workers joining them in a sympathy strike.

Bukit Timah Railway Station





Bukit Timah Railway Station

The Bukit Timah Railway Station was opened in 1915 as part of the Singapore-Kranji Railway, also known as the Singapore Government Railway. Constructed between 1900 and 1902, the line ran from the terminal at Tank Road towards Woodlands via Cuppage Road, Newton Circus, Cluny Road (where Adam Flyover is today) and finally to Bukit Timah, before proceeding to Kranji and Woodlands where it continued to Malaysia via the former Federated Malay States Railway. Before the causeway was opened in 1923, passengers had to take a ferry across the Straits of Johor to continue their train ride. In 1918, the government of the Federated Malay States purchased all the properties and lands of Singapore Railway for \$4,136,000 and was renamed as the Federated Malay States Railway. Today the Malayan Railway is known as Keretapi Tanah Melayu



Berhad, a Malaysian corporation wholly-owned by the Malaysian Government.

In 1932, the new Tanjong Pagar terminal station was completed and the original line from Tank Road to Bukit Timah was dismantled around seven years later due to dwindling passenger flow. Due to changes in immigration policies in 1993 when the immigration checkpoint at Tanjong Pagar was moved to Woodlands, the Bukit Timah station is now only used for crossings and there are no longer boarding of passengers or collection of cargo at this station. However, there is an interesting daily routine here where the exchanges of key tokens take place. The exchange of tokens serves as proof of authority for the train to proceed further from Bukit Timah. A worker on the train would throw the key packed in a bag to a staff on the platform. The station master would then return a new key token in a bag to another worker on the train. These tokens would later be sent to

the relevant authorities for immigration purposes. The presence of the station today is often indicated by the classic cast iron bridge spanning above Bukit Timah Road and Dunearn Road.

In the early 1900s, one of the Swiss Club members successfully requested for a stop along the railway 50 yards, or about 46 metres, from the Swiss Club Road. The stop came to be known as Holland Road Halt and existed for 30 years. In 1932, the rails were relaid to the present route that now runs from Tanjong Pagar via Holland Village to Bukit Timah Village. Up till about the First World War, members of the Swiss Club would take the railway to Holland Road Halt and then hop on the bullock carts to travel to the Bukit Tinggi clubhouse. After the war, cars became available and the Halt became neglected and finally had to give way to the new Dunearn Road built on the old rail track.

The European Connection



Since the 1800s, Bukit Timah Hill and its surrounding areas have been regarded as the perfect sanctuary and getaway for the European expatriates in Singapore.

Today, Bukit Timah continues to serve a strong expatriate community due to its proximity to the city, availability of private housing and the variety of international schools in the area. At the same time, the area has always been a colourful mix of European and local communities that is distinctive of Singapore's multicultural society.

Swiss Club 36 Swiss Club Road

The Swiss arrived as early as the late 19th century as merchants, watchmakers and later joined the hotel industry. The Swiss Club was established as the Swiss Rifle Shooting Club of Singapore in 1871 at a valley near Balestier Road. However, after 30 years there, it was discovered that the land was actually part of famous Chinese businessman, Whampoa's Bendemeer Estate when bullets ripped some orchids in Whampoa's garden!

Thus, in 1901, a new club property was bought on Bukit Tinggi, sharing the hill with some French Missionaries. However in 1909, the clubhouse and shooting range burnt down and in 1926, a new

clubhouse was built which remains to date. Swiss Club Road was built through the surrounding tapioca and coffee estate owned by Leopold Chasseriau, a French-Mauritian sugar and tapioca plantation owner well-known for employing workers of multiple nationalities. Later, part of the Chasseriau Estate was bought by the Municipality for the construction of MacRitchie Reservoir.

During the Battle of Bukit Timah, the Japanese Army occupied Bukit Tinggi and used it as their headquarters to direct the last phase of the Battle of Singapore. While many Swiss fled to Java, Australia and India during the war, a number stayed behind and continued going to the Club for its swimming pool. During the Japanese Occupation, the Swiss Club was taken over by the Japanese Army and those who remained learned to mix with the Asian population who extended their friendship freely. In place of clubs and hotels which had played an important role in pre-war Singapore, they visited Chinese coffee shops instead.



Did you know?

The main water pipe from Johor to Singapore was built across the Swiss Club grounds in 1925. The pipeline runs approximately 20 to 30 feet wide north of the two pillars at the entrance of the Club area, which was erected in 1940.

International School Cluster

The European Connection



International Schools

The cluster of international schools consisting of the German European School, the Dutch School and the Swiss School located along Bukit Tinggi Road makes up the international educational community in Bukit Timah.

Prior to the establishment of the **Swiss School** in 1967, Swiss families had to relocate away from Singapore due to the lack of educational facilities for their children. What began at the former

bowling alley of the Swiss Club with just 20 students is now a school premise that caters to its 31 teachers and 190 students today.

The **German European School**, established in August 1971 in Maryland Drive with only 5 children and 1 teacher soon found itself in need of bigger premises. As its population grew, the German European School moved three times before settling down in its first official school house on Chatsworth Road in 1973. However, the premises became too small by 1979 and

the school began to negotiate with the Swiss Club to lease a plot of land from them for a new school and relocated to its current location along Bukit Tinggi Road in 1989.

The **Hollandse School**, established in 1920 also moved to Bukit Tinggi in 1984 after moving its premises from Cairnhill Road to Orange Grove Road before settling in its current location. Today, it offers a Dutch education to children of expatriates in Singapore with more than 170 students enrolled in the school.



Former Singapore Turf Club at Bukit Timah





“Race days used to be on Wednesdays and Saturdays but was later changed to weekends only. On race days, traffic jams were very massive but on non-race days, you can always find Malay boys flying kites (wan) in the field.”

*- Tan Tuan,
Bukit Timah Resident, 60 years old*

(left) Singapore Turf Club
at Bukit Timah, 1983

Former Singapore Turf Club at Bukit Timah 200 Turf Club Road

William Henry Macleod Read and a group of racing enthusiasts founded the first race club in Singapore in 1842. The Old Race Course was at Farrer Park and it was renamed the Singapore Turf Club in 1924. In 1933, it moved to its new premises at the Bukit Timah Race Course. It was opened by Sir Cecil Clementi, the Governor of Singapore from 1887 to 1893, who also lent his name to the nearby Clementi Road. In 1999, the Turf Club moved to Kranji while the Bukit Timah site was then converted into Turf City, a complex of retail, automobile market, restaurants, furniture mall and sports complex.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Turf Club was converted into hospitals and military car parks. During its heyday, movie tycoon Tan Sri Dr Runme Shaw owned Shaw Stables with 70 horses. Mr Lim Nee Soon and his son Mr Lim Chong Pang, were also familiar faces at the Turf Club. For the first time, in 1960, the Bukit Timah Race Course broke with tradition and opened its doors to non-members who were allowed into the site for a fee of \$5. The Bukit Timah Race Course also witnessed the presence of illustrious visitors like HM Queen Elizabeth II, HRH Prince Philip and HRH Princess Anne in their first visit to Singapore in 1972. Since then, the annual Queen Elizabeth II Cup race held at the Singapore Turf Club was renamed in the Queen's honour to commemorate her visit.

Lim Nee Soon and Son

Often known as a Rubber and Pineapple King, Lim Nee Soon (1879-1936) was a prominent Teochew leader, as well as one of the founders of Chinese High School and a member of the Raffles College Committee who lent his name to Nee Soon Road, now more commonly known as Yishun. His son, Lim Chong Pang (1904-1956) was a successful racehorse owner and businessman, as well as a leader of the Teochew community. Chong Pang Village which is now Sembawang New Town was named after him.

Bukit Timah Saddle Club 51 Fairways Drive

A remnant of the glory days of horse racing at Bukit Timah, the Bukit Timah Saddle Club continues to be located near the former Singapore Turf Club (current Turf City) off Eng Neo Avenue. Established with the support of the Singapore Turf Club in 1951, Bukit Timah Saddle Club offers friendly and easy access to horse riding for all so as to ensure horse riding is affordable and accessible to Singaporeans and expatriates alike. In the 1970s, the founder of the Equestrian Federation of Singapore, Captain Tabbits, established a riding section with aims to make riding available for those without horses of their own.

Local Communities



Although Bukit Timah today is associated with the rich and famous, many are not aware that it has a rural past and that it evolved into an industrial hub after World War II as part of British efforts in rebuilding the economy.

This continued till the last decade when land use zoning changed the area into prime real estate for luxury homes in the 1990s. Still, Chinese villages, Malay kampongs and Indian cowherds continue to remain in the hearts of residents in the area.

Masjid Al-Huda 34 Jalan Haji Alias

This mosque was first built in 1925 to serve the residents living in the Malay kampong near Sixth Avenue off Bukit Timah Road. The wooden structure was built with donations from the residents while the land on which the

mosque stands was gifted to the trustees of the mosque in 1905 by an Indian Hindu land owner, Navena Chooona Narainan Chitty. The mosque was later rebuilt in 1966 and still stands today. This old style village *masjid*, or mosque in Malay, is one of the last remaining physical reminders of the Malay kampongs in Bukit Timah. In fact, the road on which the mosque stands was named after a prominent and respected resident of the kampong, Pak Haji Alias. With the village resettlement, the mosque now serves workers in the Bukit Timah area and some residents nearby.

Mosques have a central role in the Muslim community as they



provide a place for daily prayers and the communal prayers held every Friday, as well as other important days in the Islamic calendar. Five times daily, there will be a call to prayer at the mosque but in this multicultural society of Singapore, these calls to prayers are broadcasted through inward-facing speakers so as to show consideration to residents of other faiths living in the vicinity.



Collection of Singapore Press Holdings, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Floods at Bukit Timah, 1963

Bukit Timah Floods

Almost every longtime resident in Bukit Timah will recall the floods that constantly plagued the area, sometimes almost fondly as schools were closed due to the floods. A news report in 1963 observed enterprising members of public offering assistance in pushing cars stalled in floods by charging as much as \$10 per car for services rendered! Other residents recall standing on tables in schools along Bukit Timah during floods while waiting for evacuation helpers to arrive.

In 1967, the government launched the Bukit Timah Flood Alleviation Scheme to relieve flooding in the Bukit Timah area by diverting floodwater into Sungei Ulu Pandan. Over the years, a comprehensive drainage network was put in place by the Public Utilities Board (PUB), which succeeded in bringing down the flood-prone areas by 95% from 3,200 hectares in the 1970s to 147 hectares as of 2005. The entire project took \$1.5 billion over the past 20 years to improve drains all over Singapore. Since its completion in the 1990s, flooding has not occurred in the Bukit Timah Road area.

Local Communities



Kampong Houses

Within the compounds of Masjid Al-Huda, there are two kampong houses built according to traditional Malay architecture. These houses, along with the mosque, were part of the original *wakaf* in 1905, which means that it was donated to the mosque through the previous owner's will for religious or charitable reasons recognised by Islamic

law. These houses are built in the *Bumbung Lima* Style, which is believed to be influenced by the architecture of colonial Dutch and British houses. The house has a higher ceiling and was popular with the newer and more modern families as it allows the use of modern furniture that requires higher headroom.

These houses also provide a window to Bukit Timah's past

kampong communities. In fact, it is proof that racial harmony was always present in Singapore's early history. Residents in this predominantly Chinese-Malay kampong off Bukit Timah lived harmoniously together where Muslim families lived in the same village as their Hokkien neighbours.

Hoon San Temple 27 Jalan Lim Tai See

Built in 1903, this temple located off Sixth Avenue has intricate, interlocking wooden beams typical of Hokkien architecture. The temple is also admired for its complete set of 24 traditional Chinese filial piety stories depicted on wall murals. On the door of the temple is a large mural of the Eight Immortals which tells the story of eight Chinese deities. Well-known and frequently visited by the residents in the area, the temple is dedicated to a Hokkien deity, Lim Tai See, after whom the road is also named. Residents recall Chinese operas being performed on festival days at the temple. Today, the temple stands amongst an enclave of luxurious bungalow homes as the village that the temple used to serve has since been resettled. It is also a strong reminder of the presence of the Hokkien community in the area. Many of the schools, estates and villages in Bukit Timah used to have a strong Hokkien association and even some road names in the area are dedicated to prominent Hokkien figures such as Tan Kim Cheng.



Thematic Road Names

There are several thematic clusters in the naming of roads off Bukit Timah. Many of these are named after various trees or plants such as the evergreen temperate tree species which lent their name to roads such as Redwood Avenue and Cypress Avenue. This area was previously known as Eden Park. Other clusters include the Jambu roads such as Jalan Jambu, Jalan Jambu Batu and Jalan Jambu Ayer which are names of various local fruits in Malay. There is also a cluster of roads with alliterating flower names beginning with the letter L such as Lotus Avenue and Lily Avenue.

Malay Road Names

Many of the roads off Bukit Timah have Malay origins which indicate a vibrant Malay community in the past. Some roads are named after popular Malay cakes or kueh such as Jalan Bingka and Jalan Keria. Others are named after plants such as Jalan Siantan, Jalan Gaharu and Jalan Pandan.

Local Communities



Tan Kim Cheng Road

Named after Tan Kim Cheng (1829 - 1892), the eldest son of prominent philanthropist, Tan Tock Seng. Tan Kim Cheng was appointed the first Siamese Consul in Singapore in 1863 as well as being one of Singapore's leading Chinese merchants and the first leader of the Hokkien Huay Kuan Clan Association in 1860.



Collection of Singapore Press Holdings,
courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Runme, Run Run Shaw and family, 1964

Illustrious Residents

Round the corner from Jalan Lim Tai See is Queen Astrid Park where many prominent figures of Singapore used to live.

EW Barker

Edmund William Barker (1920 - 2001) was a prominent local politician. Trained as a lawyer, EW Barker gave up law to enter politics. He was elected as assemblyman in 1963 for the constituency of Tanglin before becoming Minister of Law and National Development. He was also a member of the First Cabinet and retired from politics in 1988 after 25 years in service. A resident of Bukit Timah, EW Barker was also active in the area, being chairman of the former Singapore Turf Club at Bukit Timah from 1989 to 1994 and opened the Adam Food Centre in 1974.

Shaw Brothers

Runme Shaw and brother, Run Run Shaw were famous movie moguls in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. They founded the Shaw Organisation which operated cinemas and produced their own movies at the Jalan Ampas Film Studios in Balestier. The Shaws also operated several amusement parks such as New World in Jalan Besar and Great World in River Valley. Born in Zhejiang, China, the Shanghainese brothers came to Singapore in 1923 and 1926 respectively and are both well-known philanthropists with their charitable work through the Shaw Foundation.

Road Names

Adam Road

Named in 1922 after Frank Adam, the former Managing Director of Pulau Brani Tin Smelting Works and one-time President of the St Andrew's Society. The road is the only WWII battlefield that has survived almost intact.

Denham Close

Named after G.C. Denham, the Inspector General of Police in the 1920s.

Garlick Avenue

Dato George Herbert Garlick (1886-1958), a resident of Bukit Timah, lent his name to this road where he lived. He was the Principal Medical Officer in Singapore and Johor after WWII and was buried at the Bidadari Cemetery.

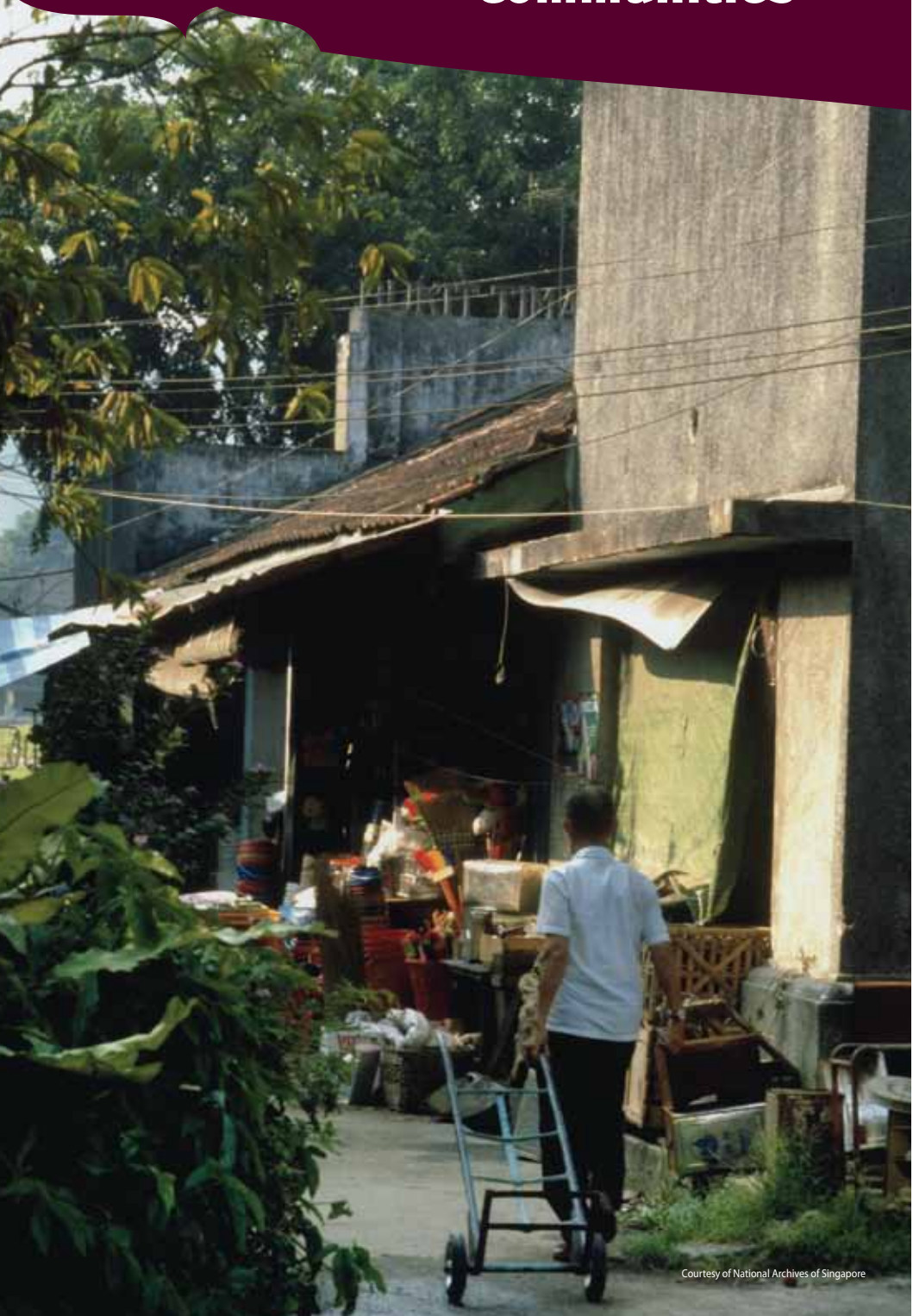
Shelford Road

In 1941, the road was named after Thomas Shelford, Municipal Commissioner and long-term member of the Legislative Council during the late 1800s.

Vanda Road

Named after Singapore's national flower - Vanda Miss Joaquim which was first discovered by Agnes Joaquim (1854-1899) in 1893 behind her home.

Local Communities



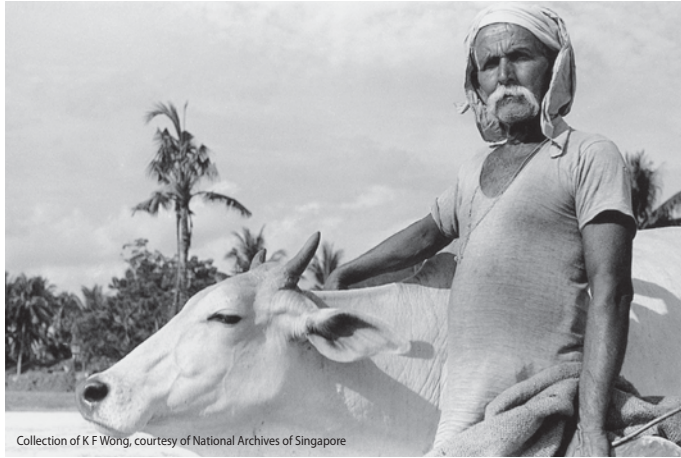
Cattle Owners

In 1929, the Cold Storage Company bought a 24 hectares stretch of forested land along Upper Bukit Timah. This area became known as the Dairy Farm Estate, named after the company's dairy farm, which supplied the supermarket with locally produced fresh milk. It was also the only European dairy farm with a herd of Friesian cattle specially brought in from Europe. Most of the workers on the farm were Indian cowherds and their children were educated at the *Suthanthrothayam* Tamil School located at Bukit Timah specially catered to these children. There were also Tamil dramas and entertainment shows staged around the 7th milestone, which were popular with the Indian community.

In addition to the Cold Storage dairy farm, there were also fresh milk "sold on the hoof" by cowherds with cow in tow. These Tamil and Hindustani (or Uttar Pradesh) cowherds would go from home to home peddling milk fresh from the source! They could also be seen with their grazing cattle in the open grassland between Sixth Avenue and Coronation Road behind the Chinese High School. However this ended in the 1970s when agricultural activities were rezoned by authorities away from Bukit Timah.

Church of St. Ignatius 120 King's Road

A Jesuit-led Catholic church founded in 1961, the Church of St. Ignatius is named after Saint Ignatius Loyola, the Spanish cleric founder of the Jesuits who



Dairy farm in Bukit Timah, 1962

died in 1556. The Jesuits are a religious order of priests, also known as the Society of Jesus. The church is dedicated to serving the Bukit Timah residents with designated Ministers and Pastoral Care representatives for different streets and estates within the area.

International Baptist Church 81 King's Road

In 1965, a group of American Southern Baptist missionaries living in the Holland Village area started to meet in a missionary residence at Jalan Pelangi. This church was initially known as the "Holland Road Baptist Church". It soon grew among the international community living in the district and in 1968, it was renamed the International Baptist Church. In 1969, the church finished the construction of its own building at King's Road where they have been since. Today, this multinational congregation consists of over 35 different nationalities as well as local Singaporeans.

Cemeteries

Bukit Timah had many small private plots of cemeteries, partly due to its prime location according to Chinese geomancy. One particular cemetery located at Lorong Panchar was called Hock Seng Cemetery where numerous Chinese patriots from WWII were laid to rest here. Unfortunately with the redevelopment of Bukit Timah, the cemeteries in the area were exhumed and Hock Seng Cemetery, likewise, was exhumed in the early 1990s.

Another prominent cemetery in Bukit Timah was the Fong Yun Thai Clan Hakka cemetery located at Holland Link, near Brizay Park. It was founded in 1885 by the clansmen of three Hakka counties in China and refurbished from 1901 to 1902. It ceased to operate in 1971 after being acquired by the government. The exhumed remains from the cemetery have been re-housed in the columbarium of the Fong Yun Thai Association.

Local School Clusters



One of the most distinctive qualities about Bukit Timah is the presence of an entire cluster of historically distinguished schools with long and illustrious histories.

Many of these schools started in a small compound in town and later moved to Bukit Timah when their student numbers grew. Another interesting fact to note is the concentration of Chinese schools here. They left an indelible mark in Singapore's history with their support of the pre-war Chinese Nationalism movement, involvement with the Communist Party and their role in the 1950s Hock Lee bus riots.

Hwa Chong Institution 661 Bukit Timah Rd

In 1919, famous Hokkien philanthropist and businessman, Mr Tan Kah Kee, bought 32 hectares of land in Bukit Timah from the former Sultan of Johor, Sultan Abu Bakar, for \$80,000 to establish a school. The land was originally part of the Sultan's villa property at Bukit Timah. The Chinese High School was subsequently founded as the first Chinese school for boys in Singapore. It soon became one of the premier schools for the Chinese community in Singapore.

In the turbulent political scene of the 1950s and 1960s, the Chinese communists made

use of the school as a platform to promote communist ideas. As a result, the school became involved in a series of riots and protest movements against the colonial government.

In 1974, Singapore's first government-aided junior college, Hwa Chong Junior College (HCJC), was established. In 1988, The Chinese High School became the first independent school in Singapore and one of the few premier schools under the Special Assistance Plan (SAP) programme that taught both English and Chinese as the first language. In 2004, as part of the government's Integrated Programme, Hwa Chong Junior College and The Chinese High School merged

Tan Kah Kee (1874-1961)

A prominent leader of the Chinese Hokkien community, Tan Kah Kee came to Singapore penniless in 1891 to work at his father's sundry shop. Within the next 50 years, he made his fortune in the rubber business and was known as the "Henry Ford of Malaya". He was also known for his philanthropy, especially in his dedication to the education sector. He founded many schools, including The Chinese High School (1919), Tao Nan School (1906), Ai Tong School (1912) and Nan Chiau High School (1947) amongst others. He also set up the Amoy University, now known as Xiamen University in China. His son-in-law, Lee Kong Chian who founded the Lee Foundation was also the Chairman of Chinese High School (1931-1956) and Chancellor of the University of Singapore at



to form Hwa Chong Institution. Today, Hwa Chong Institution continues to be one of Singapore's premier schools offering classes from secondary to junior college levels to students from Singapore and other parts of the world.

Local School Clusters

Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School

7 Pei Wah Ave

Named the Road End Free School and established in 1889 by the Glory Presbyterian Church, the school was later renamed Pei Hwa Presbyterian Primary School. The church is the third oldest Chinese-speaking Presbyterian congregation in Singapore, formed in 1881 by Reverend JAB Cook. He was appointed by the Presbyterian Church of England to oversee missionary work among the Chinese in Singapore. His work with the Chinese at Bukit Timah eventually led to the founding of the Glory Presbyterian Church.

Starting out as a small community school in a wooden structure located

next to the church to serve the village children, the school expanded over the years. During WWII, the school was destroyed but was rebuilt after the war with the help of local residents. One endearing story about this school is that during the frequent Bukit Timah floods in the 1960s, teachers would carry their pupils in their arms one at a time so that they would not slip and fall into the waters.

Methodist Girls' School

11 Blackmore Drive
Located at Mount Sophia for more than a hundred years since its founding in 1887, Methodist Girls' School moved to its current location at Blackmore Drive in 1992. Realising the need for girls' education in

Singapore, Reverend William Oldham, the founder of Anglo-Chinese School, requested the Women's Foreign Missionary Society to send a woman volunteer for this cause. As such, Sophia Blackmore, an Australian missionary, arrived in Singapore in 1887 and subsequently founded the school. It was the first educational institution for girls established in Singapore by the Methodists. Its started as the Tamil Girls' School (1887) and was later renamed Methodist Mission Girls' School in the 1890s and during WWII, it was known as the Mount Sophia Girls' School.

Blackmore Drive

This new road off Bukit Timah Road was opened in 1992 to give access to the Methodist Girls' School, which moved here from Mount Sophia in the same year. Ironically, while many mistakenly believed that Mount Sophia was named after the school's founder, it was actually its current location at Blackmore Drive that was named in honour of its founder, Sophia Blackmore, who died in 1946. She was the first single female missionary to be sent to Singapore by the Methodist Episcopal Church. She founded several Methodist schools for girls, including Methodist Girls' School and Fairfield Methodist Girls' School. Mount Sophia was instead named after both Sir Stamford Raffles' second wife and his niece who were named Sophia.



St Margaret's Secondary School

111 Farrer Road

With its humble beginnings in a shophouse along North Bridge Road in 1842, St Margaret's School was founded by Mrs Maria Dyer, a missionary from London. Like Methodist Girls' School, St Margaret's called Mount Sophia home from 1861 to 1959 where it was a full school serving students from primary one to secondary four, complete with boarding house.

Originally named the Chinese Girls School, it was renamed in 1900 by the Church of England Zenanah Missionary Society (CEZMS) as the CEZMS School. During WWII, the school building was severely damaged and after the war, the Bishop of Singapore renamed the school St. Margaret's School after Queen Margaret of Scotland. In 1960, the secondary section separated from its junior section and St Margaret's Secondary School moved to its current location at Farrer Road.

Nanyang Primary School

52 King's Road

Originally the primary section of the The Singapore Nanyang Girls' School, the co-ed school broke away from Nanyang Girls' High School in 1978 and became an independent entity. This helped to cope with the growing student population

and ensured more effective management.

It was first located in a shophouse in Dhoby Ghaut in 1917 before the two schools moved to King's Road in 1927. However, upon breaking away, Nanyang Primary School found a new home nearby at 51 Coronation Road. When the Nanyang Girls' High School moved to its current location at Linden Drive, Nanyang Primary School moved back to its original home at Bukit Timah on 52 King's Road.

Nanyang Girls' High School

2 Linden Drive

Founded by a group of Chinese businessmen led by Mr Tan Chu Nan, Mr Teo Eng Hock and other Chinese businessmen, the school aimed to provide the daughters of Chinese immigrants with a proper education. Lessons were initially taught mainly in Hokkien until the 1930s when they switched to Mandarin.

When the school relocated to King's Road, it was renamed Nanyang Girls' High School in 1927. It later moved to its current location at Linden Drive in 1999 with the late Mrs Ong Teng Cheong, the wife of Singapore's first elected President as the main architectural designer for the new school building.



Raffles Girls' Primary School

21 Hillcrest Road

Raffles Girls' Primary School, together with Raffles Girls' School, were originally established on 4 March 1844 as a girls' section within Raffles Institution, focusing on moral development and vocational training. However, in 1881, Raffles Girls' School separated from Raffles Institution to become an educational institution on its own. In 1928, together with its primary section, Raffles Girls' School moved to Queen Street but Raffles Girls' Primary School eventually separated from Raffles Girls' School in 1959. In 1979, Raffles Girls' Primary School moved to Holland Grove Road due to a need for more space and finally moved to its current location along Hillcrest Road in 1999.

Local School Clusters



National Junior College 37 Hillcrest Road

National Junior College (NJC) is Singapore's first junior college. Established in 1969 with the aim of centralising the two-year pre-university course with maximum utilisation of specialist personnel and resources, Bukit Timah was chosen as it was considered to be a more centralised location that would be convenient for all students. Previously located at Linden Drive where Nanyang Girls High School now stands, its present campus at Hillcrest Road was opened in 1997 by then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

In the 1960s, education was provided by schools conducted in four different languages. By admitting students from all four streams, NJC pioneered the process of educational integration at post-secondary level. Today, NJC continues this tradition by maintaining no affiliation with any secondary school, thus ensuring that all students will have equal opportunity.

Singapore Chinese Girls' School 190 Dunearn Road

Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) is a full school comprising both primary and secondary levels. The school was founded by a group of educated Straits Chinese gentlemen including Sir Song Ong Siang and Dr Lim Boon

Keng. The school started in 1899 at Hill Street and later moved to a one-hectare site located along Emerald Hill Road belonging to Dr Lim Boon Keng in 1923. Originally catered to the Straits Chinese or Peranakan community, the school is very rich in Peranakan culture. In 1994, the school moved to its current location along Bukit Timah Road to accommodate the growing student population. Today, SCGS is one of the premier schools offering one of the best dance programmes in Singapore.

Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) 60 Barker Road

The Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) was founded by Bishop William Fitzjames Oldham in 1886 at a shophouse in Amoy Street. Starting with 13 students, the school aimed to provide an education for the many boys Bishop Fitzjames saw wandering aimlessly in the streets. ACS (Barker Road) was established in 1994 as a full government-aided school catering to both primary and secondary students and is one of the six units of the ACS Family of Schools. As the school grew, plans to redevelop the campus were made and in 1999, the school splitted into ACS Primary and ACS (Barker Road). In January 2003, ACS Primary and ACS (Barker Road) moved back to its newly renovated Barker Road Campus.

Dunearn Road

Dunearn Road is named after Dunearn House, a huge mansion that was later converted into Oldham Hall Boarding School at ACS (Barker Road). The origins of the word Dunearn are not known. Originally a new road parallel to the Singapore-Kranji Railway running from Chancery Lane to the Municipal Boundary, the road was officially named in 1928.

Former Raffles College, NUS Bukit Timah Campus, 469 Bukit Timah Road

In 1929, Raffles College was founded on this site to provide an institution of higher education for students from Singapore and Malaya. This idea of establishing a College of Arts and Science was mooted as early as January 1902, supported by Dr Lim Boon Keng. At first, the college only awarded diplomas to its graduates, including prominent figures in Singapore like Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Dr Goh Keng Swee. During the Battle for Singapore in 1942, Raffles College was used by the British forces. After the British surrendered, the Japanese Commander, Lieutenant-General Yamashita moved his headquarters from the Ford Factory to Raffles College. After the war, the college reopened in October 1946 and together with King Edward VII College of Medicine, Raffles College was incorporated as the University of Malaya three years later. In

Chronology Of Schools

1929	Raffles College
1949	University of Malaya
1959	University of Malaya - Singapore Division
1962	University of Singapore
1980	National University of Singapore
1982	National Institute of Education
2000	Singapore Management University
2006	National University of Singapore Bukit Timah Campus



1980, the school was renamed the National University of Singapore (NUS) when it merged with Nanyang University and the name

remained till today. When NUS moved to its current location on Kent Ridge, several other institutions called the campus home.



Oei Tiong Ham (1866-1924)

An Indonesian Chinese businessman who made his fortunes in sugar trading, Oei Tiong Ham was known as the “Sugar King” and was one of the richest men in the region when he died. He moved to Singapore in 1921 and contributed substantially to the Raffles College. Oei Tiong Ham, together with Jewish businessman Manasseh Meyer, were the largest donors towards the college with \$150,000 and the two buildings at Bukit Timah campus named after them still stands today.

Food and Entertainment



Coronation Plaza 587 Bukit Timah Road

Built in the late 1970s, Coronation Plaza is a mixed development building well-known for having a petrol station on the ground floor integrated with the commercial and residential building.

The building was possibly named after Coronation Road adjacent to the building. Coronation Road, along with Empress and King's Roads in 1905 were originally three private roads in a prominent Hokkien Chinese merchant, Choa Lam Tiong's estate off Bukit Timah Road. The roads



in this area were later renamed with royalty-related names in 1912 to commemorate King George V's coronation.

Prior to the building of Coronation Plaza, the area consisted of a row of shophouses that frequently flooded in the 1960s. Today, Coronation Plaza is one of the three major shopping centres established along Bukit Timah Road. Due to its proximity to the school clusters, it serves the needs of the students and families in the area.



Serene Centre 10 Jalan Serene

Across the road from Coronation Plaza, Serene Centre is today a family-oriented shopping centre frequented by students in the area. However, during the Vietnam War (1959-1975), the building was known as Serene House and used for servicing US Army soldiers on rest leave in Singapore until 1968. Many residents of the area recall prostitutes being specially recruited and freely entering and leaving the building. There were also other such facilities off Bukit Timah Road for US Army soldiers at Shelford Road, across the road from Coronation Plaza, and Newton Road during that period.

Cluny Road Conservation Area

These shophouses that demarcate the entrance into Cluny Road along Bukit Timah Road was given conservation status in 1994 under Urban Redevelopment Authority's voluntary conservation scheme. It contains 10 units of two-storey shophouses of the Late Shophouse Style built around 1900 to 1940.

Food and Entertainment



Adam Food Centre

2 Adam Road

On 28 September 1974, Mr E W Barker officially opened Adam Food Centre at its present location on the corner of Adam Road and Dunearn Road. The original food centre had entrances constructed with raised platforms and steps to prevent floodwater from entering the centre due to frequent Bukit Timah floods and its proximity to the Bukit Timah Canal. However, in 2002, the food centre was closed for five months for a \$1.73 million upgrading and the entire food centre was raised higher and lit with solar energy powered lights. Many of the stalls such as Teck Kee



EW Barker at the opening of Adam Road Food Centre, 1974

Hot and Cold Dessert stall and the Nasi Singapura stall have been there since the food centre was built.

However, in the early 1970s, before relocating to its current location, the food centre was known as the Adam Road Hawker Centre. Originally located by the Bukit Timah

Canal beside the A & W Restaurant, the food centre was moved across the road to its present location due to the construction of the old Adam Road flyover. Later, the old flyover was knocked down to build the present underground pass in its place with a new Adam Road flyover linking Adam Road.



"When we studied at the Union House of the University of Singapore Students Union, we used to walk over to A & W at night for the food. There used to be a pedestrian path through the Bukit Timah Campus, leading from the Union House to A & W's"

- Lam Chun See, 55 years old

First A & W Restaurant

A & W was the first American fast food chain to set up operations in Singapore in 1966. Its flagship outlet was along Dunearn Road facing the former University of Singapore campus. Known for its root beer in huge frosted glass mugs, A & W also introduced to Singaporeans novel American staples – hamburgers, hot dogs and drive-ins as well as its signature A & W Bear. In the 1960s and 1970s, this was a place where parents brought their children for special treats of Pa-Pa Burgers, Ma-Ma Burgers, Baby Burgers and Coney Dogs to name a few.

This outlet was especially popular with the students at the University of Singapore across the road. Unfortunately, due to the construction of the old Adam Road flyover, the restaurant, along with the old Adam Road Hawker Centre had to be moved. Over time, due to poor business, A & W shut down its operations in Singapore in 2003.

Nature Areas



On opposite sides of the canal near the 4th milestone point, two areas remain popular sites for nature lovers and nature appreciation over the years. These are the Bukit Brown Cemetery and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Bukit Brown is one of the oldest Chinese cemeteries left in Singapore.



Bukit Brown Cemetery *Kheam Hock Road*

Bukit Brown was named after its owner, George Henry Brown, a ship-owner who arrived in Singapore in the 1840s. The area was later bought over by Ong Kew Ho (d.1889), Ong Ewe Hai (1830-1889) and Ong Chong Chew, and turned into a cemetery around the 1870s for Chinese of the Ong clan surname. In 1918-1919, a large portion of the Ong burial site was purchased by compulsory

acquisition by the Municipality for the purpose of establishing a municipal cemetery for the Chinese community as a result of active lobbying by Municipal Commissioner, Tan Kheam Hock (1862-1922). As such, when the Bukit Brown Municipal Cemetery opened in 1922, the new road leading to the cemetery was named in honour of him. The cemetery closed in 1973 but has so far avoided redevelopment. It is also a popular site for nature lovers who enjoy bird watching and other wildlife.



Ong Sam Leong and Sons

At this original Ong clan cemetery, one of the biggest tombs found here belongs to an Ong family – that of influential Straits Chinese merchant Ong Sam Leong (1857-1918) and one of his sons, Ong Boon Tat (1888-1941) along with their wives. Ong Sam Leong made his fortune as the sole contractor to the Christmas Islands Phosphate Company and Sam Leong Road in Jalan Besar was named after him. His son Ong Boon Tat was also a prominent businessman, as well as a Municipal Commissioner and Boon Tat Street was named after him. Together with his brother Ong Peng Hock, they started the New World Amusement Park at Jalan Besar before selling it to the Shaw Organisation in the 1930s.

This family tomb spans the size of 10 three-room HDB flats and is situated high on the hill surrounded by a moat with statues of Sikh guards and Chinese lions standing watch over the graves. Relief plasters depicting Chinese deities line the walls of the tomb. Original old floor tiles of the “Chinese Baroque” period can still be found at the tomb today.

Nature Areas





Feng Shui Of Chinese Cemeteries

Feng shui, or Chinese Geomancy, is defined as the art of divination through understanding the natural environment. It is said that fortunes of men are directly affected by the ancestral tombstones as the dead are considered to be able to directly affect the lives of the living. Thus tombs are to be built where the *feng shui* is most favourable in terms of geographical features of the area in which a tomb is located. Building and architectural features, as well as influences by natural processes are also considered.

According to *feng shui*, the best burial sites are the ones that accumulate the most *qi*, a vital energy that traditionally flows through underground. In order to do so, the ground that *qi* flows through has to be protected from wind, making sheltering mountains a key requirement. A south facing slope is preferred as it is believed to be rich with *qi* while slow moving water around the burial ground is believed to bring good luck. Conversely, flat, waterlogged sites not backed by a hill and without wind are considered unsuitable.

In some of the older cemeteries like Bukit Brown, there are clusters of very old tombstones that were constructed according to traditional geomancy designs. It is likely that *feng shui* was widely taken into account for burials in earlier times.

Geomancers refer to mountains or hills with *qi* running through the ground as “dragons” and Bukit Timah lies on one such dragon. The dragon’s head is located at the Singapore River area which is the main recipient of *qi* for the island and therefore very auspicious. Thus the affluence and importance of Bukit Timah is often attributed to the influence of this dragon.

Singapore Botanic Gardens

Nature Areas



Singapore Botanic Gardens 1 Cluny Road

Sir Stamford Raffles set up the first Botanical Garden at Fort Canning in 1822. The Gardens at their present site was founded in 1859 by an Agri-Horticultural Society, and later maintained by the government as an ornamental garden. These 32 hectares were originally the property of Chinese merchant Whampoa and was obtained by the government in exchange for land at Boat Quay where Whampoa built his Ice House.

In 1874 when the Society was in debt, the government took

over the Botanic Gardens and opened it to the public while adding an additional 51 hectares of land. This was later developed into the campus of Raffles College in 1924. A part of the campus is now the National Parks Boards headquarters based in the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

In 1888, the first director of the Gardens, Henry Nicholas Ridley led the pioneering of the rubber industry through his successful experiments with planting rubber in Singapore. A single-storey bungalow which served as Ridley's office and named Ridley Hall after the former Director was built in 1882. It remains preserved today as

the Visitor Management and Education offices. Cluny Road, which connects the Botanic Gardens to Bukit Timah Road, is also said to be named after a rubber estate. In 1986, another 15 hectares of gardens were added along Cluny Road up to Bukit Timah Road.

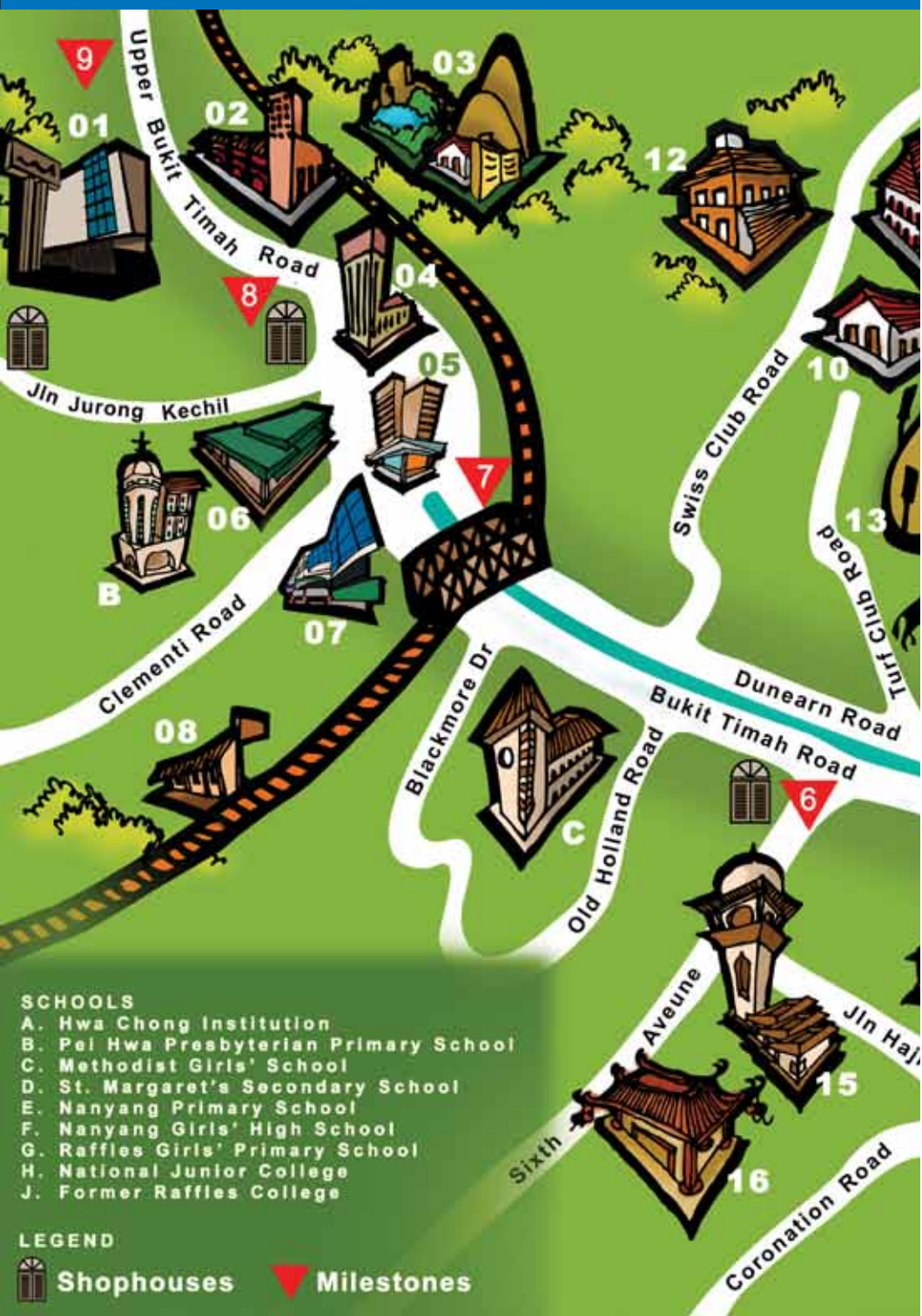
Today the 148-year old equatorial botanical garden of 52 hectares is a star visitor attraction for tourists and locals alike. Educational programmes are organised for children and recreational programmes such as park performances are regularly organised at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.



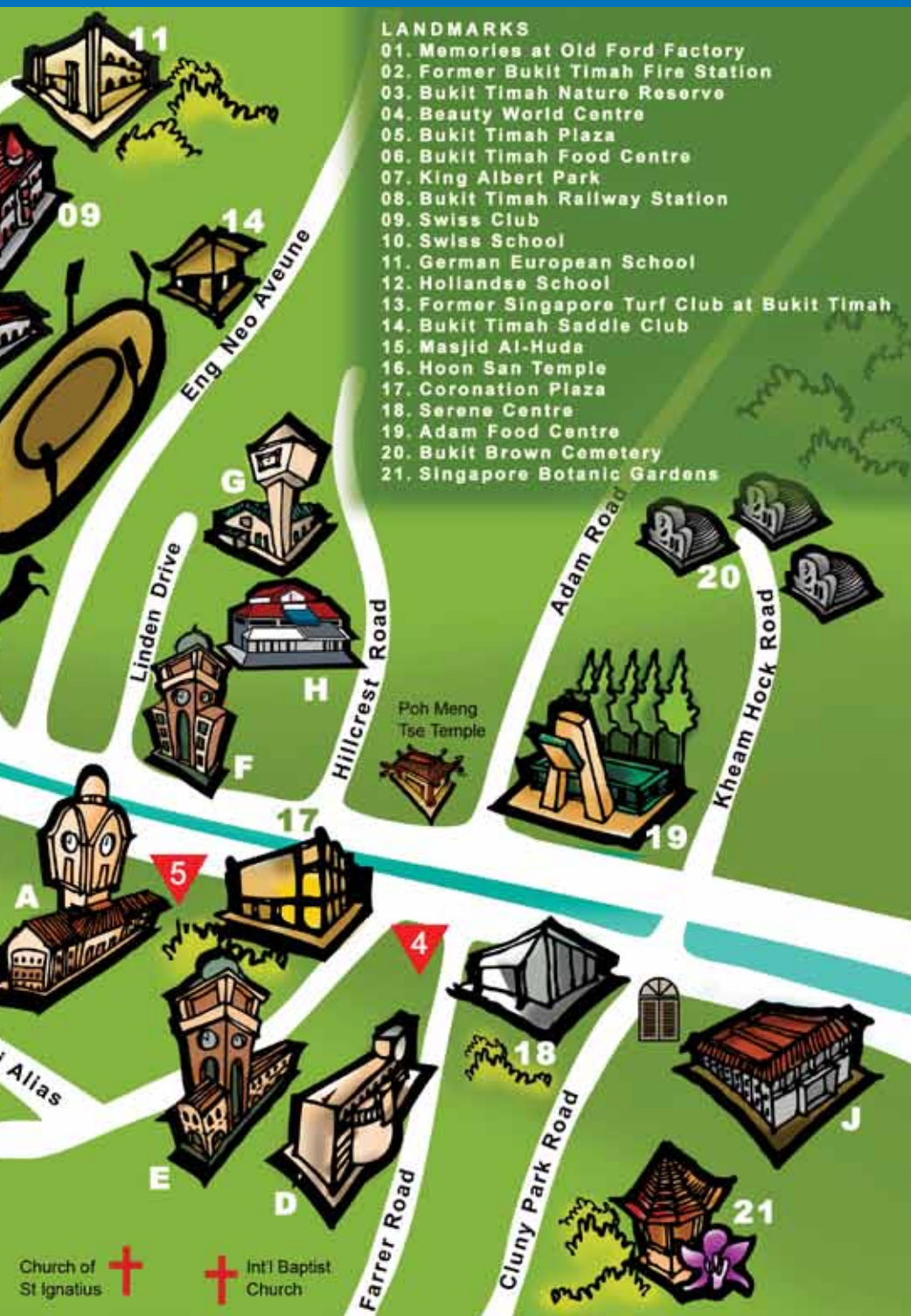
✨ You have come to the end of the Bukit Timah Community Trail. We hope you have enjoyed yourself exploring these Bukit Timah highlights.

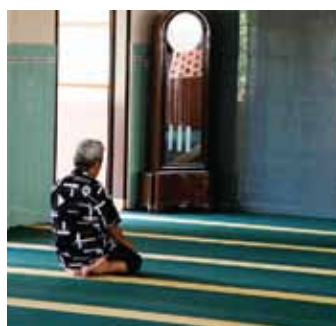
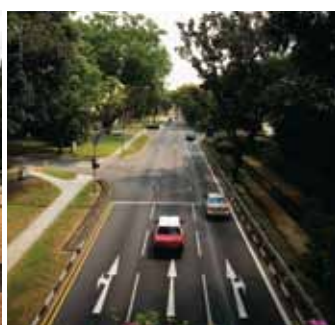
The background is a solid bright blue color. It features several large, organic, leaf-like shapes in a darker blue and a lime green color. These shapes are positioned in the corners and along the edges, creating a sense of movement and natural form.

Bukit Timah Community Trail Map



This map is not drawn to scale





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