LIST OF SARAWAK HISTORICAL SITES, BUILDINGS & MONUMENTS

Gazetted Under The Antiquities Ordinance on 14th June 1972
Niah Cave (Gua Niah), Miri

Gazetted Under The Antiquities Ordinance on 2nd April 1932
St. Joseph Secondary School, Kuching 1894
Lim Fah San Temple, Kuching 1896
Chief Justice Residence, Kuching 1899
Kuching Municipal Council, 1908
Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Kuching 1912
Darul Kurnia [Chung Hua School No. 4], Kuching 1930
Sentral Police Station, Kuching 1931
Segu Bungalow, Kuching 1936
Baru Opar Village, Bau 1952

Monuments:
Sultan Tengah Tomb (Makam Sultan Tengah), Santubong, Kuching

Proposed in 2008 to be gazetted as Sarawak cultural heritage under Sarawak Culture Heritage Ordinance 1993

Sites:
Bung Brakau, Bau, Kuching
Gua Sireh, Serian, Sarawak
Temenggong Tandok Longhouse Site, Saratok, 1833

Buildings:
Masjid Lama, Sibu, 1850
Melanau Longhouse, Kampung Sok, Matu, 1885
Charles Fort, Kabong, Sarakie, 1895
Lio Fort, Mulu, 1911
Atundell Fort, Lubok Antu, 1912
Long Aka Fort, 1929
Muara Tuang District Office, Kota Samarahan, 1933
Brooke Fort, Melau, Sarakie, 1935
Datu Pengiran Haji Matusin Old House, Kampung Datu, Kuala Lawas, 1952
Sri Aman House, Sri Aman

Monuments:
Air Raid Shelter, Park Lane, Kuching, 1940
Serombong Kilang Sagu Lama, Mulu, 1880
Makam Pengiran Matusin, Sibu Laut, Kuching
Batu Datu Merpati, Kampung Tembawang Tump, Serian, 1880
Batu Penada Sempadan, Batu Taman Demong, Ulu Krian, 1500AD
Lumbong Rentap, Juluk, 1989
Makam Rosli Dato
Terawong Perang Jepun, Miri, 1941

For more information, refer to
http://www.mudtour.sarawak.gov.my/

Acknowledgement:
We thank the following for contributing photographs, drawings and articles for this edition of SHS Newsletter (in no specific order):
Wixen Photography, Celine Ling, students of English Language Centre, Bong Siak Khiun, Bong Say Chiung, Mike Boon, Lim Min Wee, Peggy Weing, Voon Joon Peng, Astley Arnold, Jason Wee, Anthea Liew

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since SHS's inception on 14th February 2006, public awareness and education on the diverse heritage of Sarawak have always been the main objective of the Society.

In addition to the numerous talks, education based on our “Sarawakiana Talks” module, to education institutions and other organizations, we have introduced a monthly Heritage Site Visit to places with significant cultural heritage values.

The committee members take effort to research on specific sites and conduct the site visits for members and public. We have received tremendous support from our local press which reported on all our site visits.

Our supporters from Talents & Arts Performing Group and Wixen Photography also introduced these sites through Traveltmate Magazine, a national Chinese Travel publication.

The enthusiasm from the local residents also shed lights in our pilot community based heritage conservation project in Siniawan old town. The heritage walks and stories of Siniawan old town became popular study tour destinations for educational institutions.

Together with our project partners, Talents and Arts Performing Group, a team of senior secondary school students residing in Siniawan have been selected to be trained as local facilitators for the project. This is a first step to let the local community take ownership of the heritage conservation effort.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, one of the major supporters of this project is Blescape Lysaght, who contributed RM10,000 for the first 6 months of this project.

There are increasing instances where technical advice and assistance were sought from the society. With very limited resources, there is a dire need for the society to look into a way to provide this sort of services in future.

With the help of some dedicated members and volunteers, we are helping to document and manage an old timber house for conservation and relocation to a new site. This team of volunteers have also managed to compile Level 2 measured drawings inventory of all the old timber shophouses in Siniawan.

After a fire that destroyed 6 units of old shophouses at Gambier Street, SHS was asked to advise on the ‘rebuilding’ of these shophouses. Going beyond the advisory role, the team of volunteers had gone to the extend of proposing a sensitive design solution for the ‘rebuidling’ committee. The proposal was agreed by all of the shop owners and it’s in the process of submission to the relevant authorities for approval.

Another fire on Wayang Street old shophouses, just days after the Gambier Street fire is alarming. It is necessary for the shop owners, relevant government departments, professional bodies and N.G.O.’s to get together to initiate guidelines and preventive measures for the historical structures in the Historical Precinct of the old Kuching.

The Society will pursue this subject matters, with the relevant governing agencies in heritage issues. We look forward to cooperation and contributions from all sectors to formulate a policy for the conservation of our heritage.

SHS can be contacted at 082-453344 or through email at sarawakheritagesociety@gmail.com. We are looking forward to your encouragement and continual support.
**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2008-2010**

Immediate Past President
Datu Abang Janalok @ Aloysius b. Abang Dris
President
Ar. Mike Boon Chee Khan
Vice President
Joseph Ingai Gasing
Secretary
Bong Sik Khun
Treasurer
Peggy Wong Bik Kay

Committee members
Hong Boon Kheng
Ian Thomas Parker
Rahah Haji Hassan
Chiong Sik Ing (Member to replace Chai Phay Yung who had resigned from the committee in April 2009)
Florence Teo Lee Wei (Member to replace Tan Wee Boon who had resigned from the committee on 05th June 2009 due to other commitments overseas)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Since the inception of the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) on 14 February 2006, the Society has 27 registered members to date.

Since March 2008, SHS membership categories had been redefined to include:
- **Life Member** (Joining fee RM500)
- **Corporate Member** (5-year membership fee RM10,000)
- **Ordinary Member** (Joining fee RM100 & Annual membership fee RM100)
- **Affiliate Member**
  - for non Sarawakians residing in Sarawak (Joining fee RM100 & Annual membership fee RM100)
- **Student Member**
  - submission to be accompanied with letter from institution to verify student status.
  - (Joining fee RM50 & Annual membership fee RM50)

**SHS’S 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SHS’s 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 5th March 2010 at M&M House 828D Lorong Stampin S. The AGM will start at 6pm and to be followed by the SHS Annual Dinner at 7.30pm, which will be attended by members, supporters & volunteers of the Society. Invitations had also been extended to media partners, Professional Associations and other associated organizations.

During the dinner, committee member Chiong Sik Ing will present a talk “Gardens & Recreational Facilities in Old Kuching”. She is also a practicing Landscape Architect.

**OUR NETWORKS**

SHS continue to receive support from professional bodies. The Talent & Art Performing Group (Wujiao), other heritage conservation organization in Malaysia and the community of Siniawan Township.

Recently, our networks with associated organizations had included Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Jabatan Muzium Sarawak (JMS), Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) and other government authorities.

Joint activities with MNS includes the upcoming hike on 18th April 2010 to Mount Serambo at Peninjau, to survey the archaeological site of the Brooke’s resthouse. It is also the site where Arthur Russell Wallace collected specimens in the 1850s upon the invitation of the 1st White Rajah, James Brooke.

**GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY LIAISONS**

Ministry of Tourism and Heritage (MOTH) (formerly known as Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism) had recently set up the State Tourism Coordinating Committee and had invited SHS to be represented as a committee member.

SHS is also a member of the State Heritage Committee and had been instrumental in the set up of this Conservation advisory body.

Being the authority and custodian of heritage conservation matters in Sarawak, Jabatan Muzium Sarawak is in continual working relationship with SHS, with regular discussions.

SHS has also been invited to be an advisor on the Gambier Street Old Shophouse Rebuilding Committee, which concerned the highly publicized 6 units old shophouse which was razed to ground on 22nd December 2009.

Revising that Darul Kurnia is a listed building under Sarawak Cultural Heritage Ordinance 1993, the Sarawak Chinese Charitable Trust Board has sought advice from SHS on conservation matters for their on-going maintenance and usage of this heritage building.

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTATION OF SINIAWAN CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT**

Various discussions and cultural activities
- Measured drawing documentation in progress over several weekends
- Some sketches for measured drawings
- Level I inventory of some shophouses in Siniawan town centre
- Scenes and sights of Siniawan old town centre
- Various discussions and cultural activities
- RTM Sarawak RedFM’s Heritage Walk
  - In collaboration with SHS, RedFM of Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) Sarawak, had produced a series of heritage talks called “RedFM’s Heritage Walk” which is aired fort nightly, since February 2010.
  - The English versions are aired on every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30noon, hosted by Hendrick Foh, while Celine Ling will host the live Mandarin Heritage Walk on every last Thursdays of the month at 8pm.

SHS has also been invited to be an advisor on the Gambier Street Old Shophouse Rebuilding Committee, which concerned the highly publicized 6 units old shophouse which was razed to ground on 22nd December 2009.

**RTM Sarawak RedFM’s Heritage Walk**

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CURRENT COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT

"Reminiscing forgotten treasures ... SINIAWAN"

This is a joint project implemented by Sarawak Heritage Society & The Talent & Art Performing Group, for Swee Gek Kung Siniawan Sarawak & Supported by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.

Siniawan Town Cultural Heritage Project

From the last issue of newsletter, The Siniawan Cultural Heritage Project, the first community based project that SHS had collaborated with other organisation with, had continued to receive support from the town locals and interested public at large.

In efforts to raise awareness and appreciation of our cultural heritage, SHS’s education programmes has also been focusing on the younger generation, like school children. Since the last newsletter, SHS has conducted the heritage education activities with various school children:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>3rd November</td>
<td>Lecture series to English Language Centre’s PMR students with a field trip to Siniawan</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th November</td>
<td>Heritage Walk of Old Kuching conducted to SMK Kuching High’s Scout group on 20th September 2009</td>
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To promote this heritage site, to the interested public at large.

I would promote this place through the media so that everyone will know about the importance of conserving and preserving old buildings because I feel that heritage can be an income generator for Malaysia

By – Tay Guan Yen, SEC3T

The trip to Siniawan was a memorable one as I got to know an ancient site that still exists in Sarawak. This is made possible because the Sarawak Heritage Society has made this a heritage site. Before this trip, I had never been to Siniawan. Upon our arrival, we were greeted warmly by the locals. Later, Mr. Mike gave a short briefing and told us the history of Siniawan. After that, we got a chance to taste some local delicacies. I really enjoyed the delicacies as they did not have any artificial colouring. The colour of the black-coloured "kuih" came from the vines of ‘smelly tar’ (a direct translation from the Hakka name for the vine which could only be found in Siniawan).

Then we visited the bird’s nests processing shop. There, we could see workers removing the feathers to produce high quality bird’s nests for sale. We also visited the Old Kuching limit, we got to know how they slaughtered the animals in the past. I was amazed to meet an 80-year-old teacher because they didn’t look that old. Our group even visited the old shop houses and Mr. Mike explained some of the architecture to us. Next, we went to the Old Gang’s family mansion. The house was special especially the living room and the dining room. As soon as we entered these rooms, we felt cool even though it was hot and sunny outside. The Chinese temple beside the mansion was our last destination before we had our lunch.

I would recommend my friends to try the local delicacies which are delicious and healthy as the food does not contain any artificial colouring. They should also observe the unique architecture of the buildings that were built without using nails. If I have a chance, I will definitely visit this place again. As a Sarawakian, I am proud of this heritage site.

I will create awareness among all my friends so that they know that places of great heritage is important to us. They will also learn the meaning of conservation and try to practise it in our society. When they learn about the importance of conserving places of interest, they will try their best to protect the heritage sites so that these sites can be passed down to the next generation.

By – Jaw Ph Ying, SEC3T

On 3rd November 2009, my tuition class SEC3T with OX3T, PMRT and PMRM went on a Heritage Walk around the historic town of Siniawan, a trip organised by English Language Centre. There, we learnt a lot that we did not learn at school. We watched people processing birds’ nests, we enjoyed the architecture of the old town and the local ‘kuih’ (cakes) which were delicious. We also saw how people lived in that town. I had so much fun on this trip which was the most memorable one because it will not happen again in the future or so I think. I will encourage my friends to visit.

In the next term of events, SHS aims to identify and carry out conservation works to a local historical building for public usage as an information centre and communal place for cultural activities.

This project continues to aim of providing sustainable economic opportunities to provide the quiet dying town a new lease of life, and by staying on to continue the
PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Heritage Site Visits

Since August 2009, as an outreach to the general public and activities for members, SHS had started a series of regular site visits to heritage buildings, conducted by SHS’s Committee Members. All site visits are well attended by both the members and publics alike. With positive feedbacks from participants and the growing media coverage of these site visits, there was a growing interest in the general public on heritage buildings and sites in Kuching.

- On 16th August 2009 to Fort Margherita by Chai Phay Yung & Square Tower with was under conservation works by Mike Boon
- On 13th September 2009 to Air Raid Shelter & Segu Bungalow by Joseph Ingai Gasing
- On 17th October 2009 to Bishop’s House & Anglican Mission Grounds by Ian Thomas Parker
- On 22nd November 2009 to St. Joseph’s Cemetery, by Peggy Wong
- On 23rd January 2010 to “Darul Kurnia”, the library block of Chung Hua Middle School No.4 by Bong Siak Khiun

Before midnight on 22nd December 2009, about 6 pre-war shophouses were destroyed in a massive fire that was speculated to have started from a 2-unit fabric store. This struck a massive sentimental cord in a lot of Kuching citizen who grew up with memories of this place, and especially for the traders. Thus, almost immediately a ‘Rebuilding Committee’ was set up to assist the shopowners.

SHS was invited to be the ‘Advisor’ on Heritage Conservation and Design matters pertaining to the ‘rebuilding’ exercise. Architects from 3 local firms (i.e. Design Network Architects, I-Jong Architect and Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd) volunteered their time to brainstorm on the concept for ‘rebuilding’.

A design proposal was developed by a team of volunteers from JFN’s staff, led by Ar. Mike Boon.

All the owners agreed to the design proposal. The same will be submitted by the ‘Rebuilding Committee’ Chairman Mr. Wee Hong Seng to State Planning Authority (SPA) on behalf of the owners.

The design proposals addressed the following issues:

1. How to meet Government Regulations and at the same time satisfy Owners’ Requirements?
2. How to establish ‘existing conditions’ as there are no records of Approved Building Plans?
3. What is ‘original’? How far can we trace back?
4. What is Authenticity and how is it relevant?
5. What are the Government Policy, Guidelines and Procedures relevant to this rebuilding situation?

Subsequently a 1937 surveyed plan was found in Land & Survey Department Kuching. It gave the basis for tracing the earliest footprint in record to develop a plan for rebuilding.

The proposed plan reinstated traditional airwells to let in light and ventilation for shophouses that is minimum 120ft long. Party wall and rear-yard are introduced as fire breaks.

It is a contemporary interpretation of the past rather than a replica of what was lost. The proposed ‘rebuilding’ of the shophouses once completed, will tell the story of their past, responding to the present conditions and as a bridge to the future.

REBUILDING SIX UNITS OF GAMBIER STREET OLD SHOHPHouses DESTROYED BY FIRE ON 22ND DECEMBER 2009

Before midnight on 22nd December 2009, about 6 pre-war shophouses were destroyed in a massive fire that was speculated to have started from a 2-unit fabric store. This struck a massive sentimental cord in a lot of Kuching citizen who grew up with memories of this place, and especially for the traders. Thus, almost immediately a ‘Rebuilding Committee’ was set up to assist the shopowners.

shophouses up in smoke

It took 47 hours for the fire to burn Gambar Street block to the ground.}

Before

After

Re-built

Proposed ‘rebuilding’ footprints overlaid on 1937 surveyed plan

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