



RESEARCH

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THE STORY OF QUEENSTOWN

The story of Queenstown began on 27 September 1953 when British officials from the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) named the new town after Queen Elizabeth II to mark her coronation a year ago. The colony suburb was the most ambitious project initiated by SIT to tackle overcrowding woes in Chinatown. Bounded by Ridout Road, Tanglin Road, Alexandra Road, Holland Road and the Malayan Railway, the self-contained estate would comprise of 11,000 apartment flats housing 70,000 people, and cost some \$80,000,000.

Construction of the new satellite town began at the former Buller Camp in Princess Estate. The former burial ground and farmland at *Boh Beh Kang* village (Hokkien: 无尾港; No Tail River) were later cleared to make way for public housing. When the Housing and Development Board (HDB) took over from the colonial government's Singapore Improvement Trust in February 1960, work has begun in three out of the five planned neighbourhoods in Queenstown, namely Neighbourhood 1 (Princess Estate), Neighbourhood 2 (Duchess Estate) and Neighbourhood 5 (Queens' Crescent). The Board added two more neighbourhoods in Mei Ling and Buona Vista.

There were seven neighbourhoods with distinct identity in Queenstown. As a satellite estate, each neighbourhood came with its own amenities while larger facilities such as the library and sports complex were shared by the entire town.

A myriad of social institutions were pioneered in Singapore's first satellite town. In 1956, the first technical school was opened to equip future generations of Singaporeans with technical knowledge and skills to ride Singapore through industrialisation. In 1963, Singapore's first polyclinic was built along Margaret Drive to provide access to subsidised healthcare. In 1970, the first branch library and sports complex were ushered in the estate.

By 1980, Queenstown's oldest flats were 30 years old. Sparse and offering scant niceties, the estate were mirroring the greying of their original occupants. The next generation of residents who grew up in Queenstown, were heading towards newer estates due to a lack of development and various restrictions to own flats in mature estates. Demolition works in the aging residential estate commenced in the 1990s and 2000s and many iconic landmarks such as Tah Chung Emporium, Queenstown Japanese Gardens, Queenstown Remand Prison and Margaret Drive Hawker Centre were torn down.

Rejuvenation in Queenstown takes place in the form of Selective Enbloc Redevelopment Scheme (SERS) where high-density precincts are inserted in Queenstown's older neighbourhoods. In 2005, Queenstown emerged as Singapore's costliest estate. Once again, Queenstown has become a desirable address for Singaporeans.



MY QUEENSTOWN HERITAGE TRAIL

My Queenstown Heritage Trail recounts the story of Queenstown and visits the iconic landmarks which define the Queenstown skyline for the past 60 years. As the first satellite estate, the trail also tells you about the evolution of public housing in Singapore through personal stories of older residents.

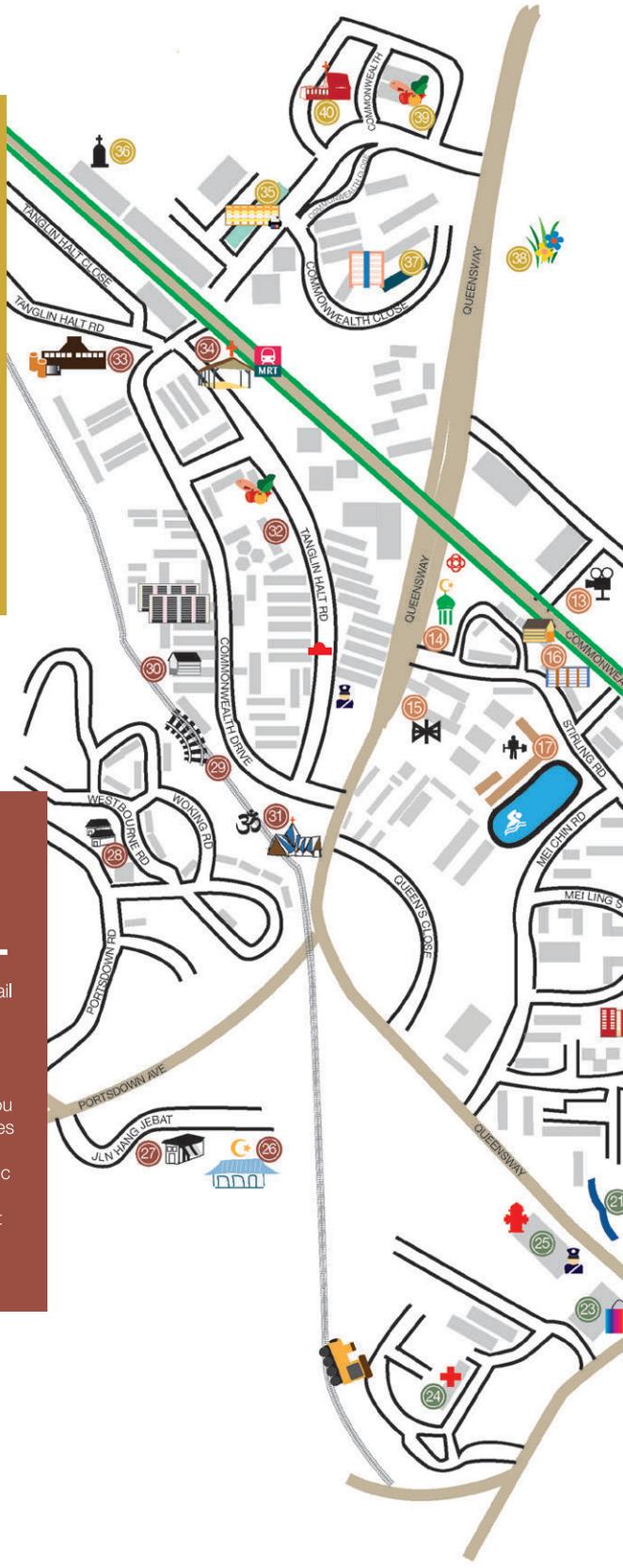
So come in comfortable footwear and a camera to capture the majestic landmarks along the trail. The trail begins at Queenstown MRT Station and covers a huge area which stretches from Tanglin Road to Portsdown Road. Hence, My Queenstown Heritage Trail is broken down into 5 smaller trails based on location clusters and you may wish to complete them individually at your own pace and convenience instead of the full trail. The five smaller trails are:

COMMONWEALTH TRAIL

The Commonwealth Trail covers the historical sites in Queenstown's third neighbourhood within the Commonwealth Estate. In this trail, you will visit the 129-year old Shuang Long Shan Wu Shu Ancestral Hall, the Japanese-influenced Ridout Tea Garden and the Art and Deco styled Queenstown Lutheran Church.

TANGLIN HALT & WESSEX TRAIL

The Tanglin Halt & Wessex Trail covers the historical sites in Queenstown's fourth neighbourhood within Tanglin Halt Estate and the nearby Wessex Estate. In this trail, you will come across historical sites such as the iconic Black and White Bungalows, the majestic Church of the Blessed Sacrament and the exuberant Tanglin Halt Neighbourhood Centre.



DUCHESS TRAIL

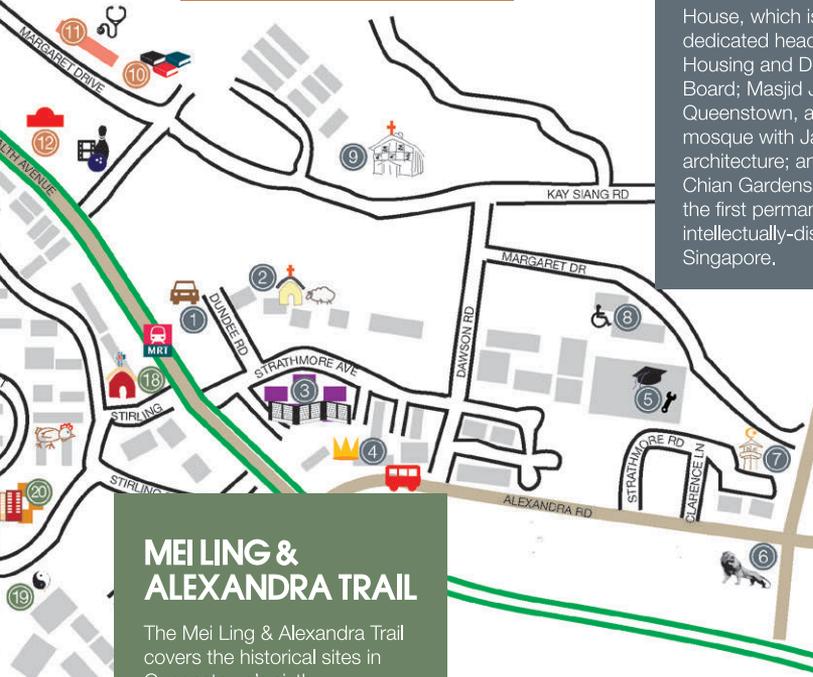
The Duchess Trail covers the important landmarks in Queenstown's second neighbourhood, the Duchess Estate. In this trail, you will come across historical sites such as Queenstown Public Library, Former Queenstown Polyclinic and Former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market at the Town Centre as well as the First HDB Blocks and First Sports Complex along Stirling Road.

PRINCESS TRAIL

The Princess Trail covers the interesting landmarks in Queenstown's first neighbourhood, the Princess Estate. In this trail, you will visit historical sites such as Princess House, which is the first dedicated headquarters for the Housing and Development Board; Masjid Jamek Queenstown, a beautiful mosque with Javanese architecture; and Lee Kong Chian Gardens School, which is the first permanent school for intellectually-disabled children in Singapore.

MEI LING & ALEXANDRA TRAIL

The Mei Ling & Alexandra Trail covers the historical sites in Queenstown's sixth neighbourhood within Mei Ling Estate. In this trail, you will visit historical sites such as Tiong Ghee Temple located at the former Boh Beh Kang village; Alexandra Hospital, an important military installation established by the Royal British Armed Forces in 1938; and the Former Archipelago Brewery Company, which was Singapore's 2nd brewery.



FORMER QUEENSTOWN DRIVING TEST CENTRE

① 15 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE,
SINGAPORE 149725

Exit the MRT Station from the escalators and you will notice an abandoned three-storey building on your right.

The former Queenstown Driving Test Centre was Singapore's 2nd Driving Test Centre. Built at a cost of \$285,000, the Driving Test Centre was officially opened on 23 February 1969 by then Minister for Communications, Yong Nyuk Lin, to alleviate the workload of testers at Maxwell Driving Test Centre and relieve the traffic congestion along Maxwell Road. The Queenstown Driving Test Centre also replaced the Maxwell centre in providing tests for applicants of vocational licenses to operate buses and taxis.



The Driving Test Centre in 2013



The Driving Test Centre was converted into a Neighbourhood Police Centre in 1997 (Courtesy of Doris Koh)

The state-of-the-art Driving Test Centre was a spacious ground-level building which had 14 testers to conduct a daily average of 150 tests on the Highway Code and another 150 on the Highway Code. Doris Koh, 63, completed the Highway Code and obtained her provisional license from the Driving Test Centre. She recalled, "Unlike the theory tests conducted in driving centres today, candidates had to move a miniature-sized car on a model in response to questions asked by the tester. For instance, if the tester asked the candidate for the proper procedure to stop a car at pedestrian crossings, the candidate had to manually 'slow down' the speed of the 'car' before the 'pedestrian crossing' in the model."

By the late 1980s, three more driving test circuits were constructed in Ang Mo Kio, Jurong and Bukit Batok. These new test circuits were equipped with modern facilities which allowed learner drivers to drive "under all kinds of conditions."

In 1995, the Queenstown Driving Test Centre ceased operations and its premises were taken over by Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre in 1997. In 2005, the Neighbourhood Police Centre relocated to a brand new \$30.6 million complex at Queensway.



Rows of L-plated cars at the former Block 27A Commonwealth Avenue, which is located next to the Driving Test Centre (Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)



A provisional license from Queenstown Driving Test Centre (Courtesy of Doris Koh)



The Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

② 2 DUNDEE ROAD,
SINGAPORE 149454

From the Driving Test Centre, turn left into a pedestrian footpath. The church is located at the end of the pavement.

The Church of the Good Shepherd at Dundee Road is Queenstown's first Anglican Church. Built at a cost of \$60,000, the Church was officially opened on 31 January 1960 by then Bishop of Singapore, The Right Reverend Henry Wolfe Baines. The Church comprised of a main sanctuary which could accommodate 360 worshippers and an administrative office.

Services were initially held in Cantonese and Mandarin due to a large number of Chinese worshippers. English speaking services and a youth congregation were started later in 1963.

Since its establishment, the Church has played an important social role in the community. In January 1972, the Church started the Boys' Brigade 9th Singapore Company to provide youths with meaningful activities. William Tham, a long-time worshipper with the Church, recalled, "The smartness of the uniform, the discipline, life-skills and hymns prompted me to sign up for the Boys' Brigade. I was later raised as a youth leader and officer serving in the Boys' Brigade Ministry."



An Extension to the Church was completed in 1973
(Courtesy of Church of the Good Shepherd)



The Boys' Brigade 9th Singapore Company
(Courtesy of Church of the Good Shepherd)



Forfar House, circa around 1990s
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



A modern sanitary system in Forfar House, 1959
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Sze Nam, now 41, and his relative standing outside their apartment flat, circa around 1990s (Courtesy of Chee Sze Nam)

FORMER FORFAR HOUSE

③ 48 STRATHMORE AVENUE,
SINGAPORE 140048

Walk along Dundee Road, you will notice a 40-storey skyscraper in front of you.

The former Forfar House was Singapore's tallest public residential building. Built at a cost of \$585,000, the 14-storey block of Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) flats were officially opened on 24 October 1956 by then Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing, Inche Abdul Hamid bin Haji Jumat, as the apex of architectural massing in Queenstown estate. The block comprised of 106 rental apartments and 4 shops which were served by two fast lifts that could take occupants to the top floor in 45 seconds.

Designed in the Modern style, *Chap Si Lau* (Hokkien: 十四楼 14-storey) had a distinct zigzag appearance which played an important structural role in resisting wind pressure. The building was constructed with a reinforced concrete frame where its foundation of strip footings ran transversely across the block and held by longitudinal beams to give rigidity to the structure. The building also had a modern sanitary system where each unit was served by built-in asbestos cement refuse chutes running the full height of the block and discharging into removable bins at ground level. Water supply to Chap Si Lau was pumped to tanks at roof level and fed to each flat by gravitational force.

Chee Sze Nam's family resided in Forfar House between 1978 and 1999. He recalled, "There was a Consumers Cooperative Club which was extremely popular among the residents. The Club was opened to Queenstown residents only and it operated like mini-supermarkets, where essential items such as sugar, rice and canned food were sold at 20 cents or 30 cents cheaper than market prices."

The first Selective Enbloc Redevelopment Scheme (SERS) introduced in 1995 brought an end to the iconic landmark. Residency was offered to occupants of the former Forfar House, Block 6A & 6B Margaret Drive and Block 172 to 175 Stirling Road. Forfar House was subsequently demolished and made way for the 40 storey Forfar Heights cluster.



Princess House in 1957
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

PRINCESS HOUSE

④ 332 ALEXANDRA ROAD,
SINGAPORE 159945



Aerial View of Princess Estate with Princess House at the foreground, 1970 (Courtesy of Karen Lum)

Turn into Commonwealth Avenue from Strathmore Avenue. The 7-storey building to your left is the Princess House

Princess House is a 7-storey building along Alexandra Road which was designated as the new office for the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) and later, as the first dedicated headquarters for the Housing and Development Board (HDB). Built at a cost of \$478,000, Princess House was opened in 1957 as a multi-purpose office building which housed the Social Welfare and Licensing departments in the western wing and offices to be rented to the public in the eastern wing.

The overall form of Princess House follows the aesthetics of 1950s Modern architecture where its simple design, economic use of materials and decoration, adheres to the “form follows function” dictum in the articulation of the building elements. The building also features an innovative shallow “U-shaped” roof which can be used as a viewing deck. Various foreign dignitaries such as Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh; Princess Margaret; Edward Heath, then Prime Minister of Australia, had visited Princess House to learn about Singapore’s housing programme.

After Singapore gained internal self-governance in 1959, the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) was dissolved and the Housing and Development Board (HDB) was subsequently established. In May 1960, the HDB moved its main offices from Upper Pickering Street to Princess House. At Princess House, the HDB launched its “Home Ownership” scheme in 1964, which allowed Singaporeans purchase a residential apartment using their Central Provident Fund (CPF).

In 1972, the Ministry of Environment took over the premise and an adjacent 4-storey complex. Phoon Hon Sum, 65, a hawker at the former Commonwealth Avenue Cooked Food Centre for 38 years, recalled applying for a hawker license at the Hawker and Licensing Department, “There were long queues in the room. When I collected my hawker license, I was extremely thrilled. I was allowed to rent a proper stall at a hawker centre.”

Princess House was gazetted for conservation in 2007 after the Ministry of Environment vacated the premise in 1989. As the surrounding blocks of flats around Princess House are developed, the conservation of Princess House serves as a lasting reminder of Queenstown’s history.



Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Lim Kim San, then Minister for National Development, at Princess House in 1965 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Princess Margaret and her husband Lord Snowdon calling on President Benjamin Sheares at Princess House in 1972 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

HOCK LEE BUS RIOTS

JUNCTION OF DAWSON ROAD AND ALEXANDRA ROAD



The Hock Lee Bus Riots started at the bus depot opposite Dawson Shopping Centre, 1955 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

The Hock Lee Bus Riots, which started at a bus depot located at the junction of Dawson Road and Alexandra Road, was one of the major riots in Singapore during the 1950s.

The riots began as a peaceful demonstration on 23 April 1955 by disgruntled bus drivers from the Hock Lee Amalgamated Bus Company against long working hours, poor working conditions and low pay. These bus drivers locked themselves in the bus depot at the junction of Dawson Road and Alexandra Road and stopped buses from leaving the depot. Students from several Chinese middle schools joined in the protests by offering food and money to these bus drivers.

The riots became violent when the Riot Police attempted to break up the riots using water cannons and tear gas on 12 May 1955. The infuriated rioters threw stones at the policemen and torched vehicles along Alexandra Road. Two police officers died as a result, including a Detective Corporal, who was burned to death, and a Constable who was severely beaten by the rioters. Hundreds of protestors were also injured.

The violent commotion ended the next morning when Hock Lee Bus Company and the Singapore Bus Workers' Union reached an agreement to reinstate the bus drivers and increased their monthly remuneration.



Queenstown Secondary Technical School, circa early 1960s
(Courtesy of Queenstown Secondary School)



Workshop sessions at Queenstown Secondary Technical School, circa early 1960s (Courtesy of Queenstown Secondary School)

QUEENSTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL

5 1 STRATHMORE ROAD,
SINGAPORE 148800

Take a stroll along Alexandra Road and turn into Strathmore Road. The school is located at the end of the road.

Queenstown Secondary School (former Queenstown Secondary Technical School) was Singapore's first technical school. Built at a cost of \$1,000,000, the all-boys School was opened in 1956 to answer the "desperate need" for skilled workers as Singapore diversified its entrepot economy in the mid -1950s.

The original technical school consisted of three main blocks. The first block was a 2-storey building with 7 classrooms, 2 laboratories, a library and an administrative office. The second block contained the Assembly Hall, the Recreation Hall and a tuck shop. The third block was used as workshops for Woodwork and Metalwork.

Tan Wee Tin, 74, was one of the 92 students from the pioneer batch who studied at Queenstown Secondary Technical School. He recalled, "When the School started in January 1957, there was a library but there were neither books nor periodicals. One of the teachers, Mr A.W. Basapa, brought magazines, periodicals and daily papers and they were properly indexed and ready for issue in the second term."

In 1965, a Pre-University class was started to equip students for entry into the Singapore Polytechnic. In 1971, girls were admitted to the School. In 1993, the school was renamed as Queenstown Secondary School when both academic and technical education was offered at the school.



THE QUESTS

The Quests were a popular band in Singapore during the 1960s. The band was formed by Jap Chong, Henry Chua, Raymond Leong and Lim Wee Guan in 1961 and later included guitarist Reggie Verghese and singer Vernon Cornelius. The band was named after the school magazine of Queenstown Secondary Technical School, where Jap Chong and Raymond Leong were students.

The Quests first shot to fame at a Talentime programme while studying Queenstown Secondary Technical School. Inspired by music acts such as the Shadows and Cliff Richard, the quartet clinched a recording contract with EMI in 1964 and produced two original compositions, "Shanty" and "Gallopin." "Shanty" became the first single by a local band to reach the top of the Singapore charts, displacing The Beatles "I Should Have Known Better" and staying at No.1 for 12 weeks.

By the mid-1960s, the band was extremely popular in Southeast Asia. In 1964, the Quests toured Malaysia with Maori-Hi Five, followed by tours in Brunei and the Philippines. Their appearances in some countries caused near riots where hysterical fans ripped the clothing off band members. The Quests disbanded officially in 1971.



The conical lion statue (middle) and the torch trademark (left) at the entrance of Thye Hong Biscuit Factory, circa around 1960s. (Courtesy of Tay Cheng Tar)

FORMER THYE HONG BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONARY FACTORY

6 2 LENG KEE ROAD, SINGAPORE 159086



Workers emptying sacks of flour into a huge dough mixer, 1968 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

Walk along Alexandra Road towards the traffic junction. You will notice a modern office building, Thye Hong Centre, on your right. This is the site of the former Thye Hong Biscuit and Confectionery Factory.

The former Thye Hong Biscuit and Confectionery Factory at the junction of Alexandra Road and Tiong Bahru Road was one of the oldest biscuit manufacturers in Singapore. Built at a cost of \$250,000, the 40,000 square feet factory was opened in March 1935 to modernise biscuit manufacturing and expand production through automation.

The factory comprised of two fully automated plants which weighed 65 tonnes each and measured 300 feet long. In this stretch, conveyor belts would pass the carpets of dough from which the biscuits were stamped, baked, cooled and packed in tins. In the 1960s, the factory employed more than 200 workers and produced 1,500 tonnes of biscuits every month.

Turned out from the factory each day was a wide variety of biscuits ranging from Marie Cream Crackers, Horlicks biscuits to Jam De Luxe cookies, a popular shortcake with pineapple jam sandwiched in between. The factory also



Tay Cheng Tar, 97, was a long serving accountant at the factory. (Courtesy of Tay Cheng Tar)

produced the famous Torch brand sweets which were served to air travellers abroad Malaysian Airways flights. The factory exported biscuits and confectioneries to Hong Kong, Fiji, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and even Mauritius.

Tay Cheng Tar, 97, had worked as an accountant at Thye Hong from 1947 to 1981. He recalled, "There were many departments within the factory - production, packaging, marketing and so on. The machines would operate through the night so as to meet the massive demand from overseas markets."

In 1981, a British firm Huntley and Palmer bought up Kuan Enterprises, which owned Thye Hong, for \$12 million. The factory ceased operations on 7 January 1982.

JAMEK QUEENSTOWN MOSQUE

7 946 MARGARET DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149309

With its distinct minaret and blue-coloured roof, it is impossible to miss Jamek Queenstown Mosque at junction of Tanglin Road and Margaret Drive

Masjid Jamek Queenstown is the second mosque constructed in Queenstown. Built at a cost of \$35,000, the Mosque was officially opened on 25 December 1964 by then Malayan Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, Mohamed Khir Johari, to house a growing number of devotees in the estate.

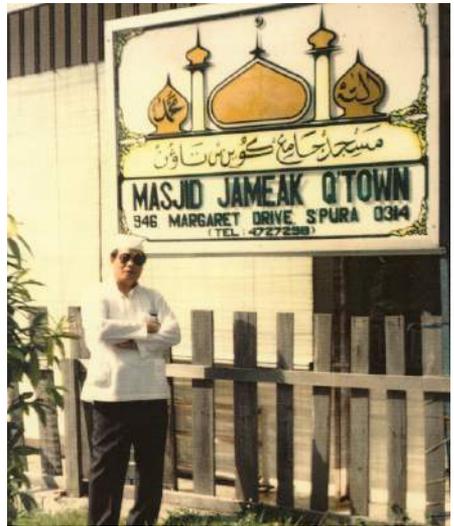
Designed in the traditional Javanese style, the single-storey Mosque is characterised by its imposing minaret and pitched roof above the prayer hall. The Mosque had a miniature garden filled with tropical decorative plants and wooden fences which ran along its perimeters.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Mosque was particularly susceptible to flooding because it was located in a low lying area next to Alexandra Canal. The stretch of road next to the Mosque was subsequently raised 6 times and the garden had to make way for a larger drainage system. Johari bin Pardi, 61, a long-time worshipper at the iconic mosque, recalled, "The area surrounding Margaret Drive was extremely prone to flooding. There was once when the flood was knee-deep and animal carcasses were floating around."

Today, Masjid Jamek Queenstown remains an important religious and social centre for Muslim residents in Queenstown.



Masjid Jamek Queenstown, 1964
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Haji Ahmad posing at the garden in front of the Mosque
(Courtesy of Haji Ahmad)



Johari bin Pardi and his friends clearing the floods at the Mosque, 1977 (Courtesy of Johari bin Pardi)



Prayers at the Mosque, 2007
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Lee Kong Chian Gardens School, 1969
(Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)

LEE KONG CHIAN GARDENS SCHOOL

8 946 MARGARET DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149309

Take a stroll along Margaret Drive and you will notice big and tall rain trees on the both sides of the road. The school is located near a bend on your left

Lee Kong Chian Gardens School is Singapore's first permanent school for intellectually-disabled children. Built at a cost of \$250,000, the School was officially opened on 29 November 1969 by then Patron for the Singapore Association for Retarded Children (SARC) and First Lady, Puan Noor Aishah, to provide employment training for intellectually-disabled children. The School replaced three centres at borrowed premises in Ah Hood, Outram and Sims Avenue.

The School comprised of three octagonal workshops, a tuck shop and an administrative office. One of the workshops had a small industrial assembly operation where students would assemble flexes for Philips electric irons. At each work station along the assembly line, every student was required to perform a specific task ranging from taping to soldering. Leong Chee Weng, 57, an ex-student at the School, was responsible for the coiling which was the last and most difficult step. He recalled, "I was a fast learner. Besides attending to my own station, I would move around the assembly line to help my fellow workers. Though our earnings



An assembly line at the Centre, 1974
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Christmas celebration at the Centre, 1974
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

were low, we derived satisfaction from taking money home to our families."

In 1981, the school was extended to accommodate four new classrooms and increase intake from 60 to 248. In 1985, the SARC changed its name to Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS). In 2000, the School had a facelift. Today, there are 5 MINDS centres including Lee Kong Chian Gardens School.



The old chapel of the Church, 1964
(Courtesy of Queenstown Baptist Church)

QUEENSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

9 496 MARGARET DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149305

Turn right into Dawson Road from Margaret Drive, before making another left turn at the next junction. You will notice a four-storey building on your right.

Queenstown Baptist Church is one of the 9 churches in Queenstown. Built at a cost of \$60,000, the old chapel was dedicated on 3 August 1958. The Church comprised of a main sanctuary which could accommodate 120 worshippers, a pastor quarter and an administrative office.

Queenstown Baptist Church first started as a Sunday school in 1955 when Lora Clement, a missionary from the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States of America, held services in Cantonese and English at her home in Barbary Walk. In 1956, the Sunday school was moved to Birkhall Primary School. In 1958, the Malaya Baptist Mission of the Foreign Board, an affiliate of the Southern Baptist Convention, purchased a plot from the Singapore Improvement Trust to construct the chapel. The Church was organised with 33 charter members in 1962.

The Church underwent major renovations in 1981 and 1992 to cater to its growing congregation. In 2011, the old chapel was demolished to facilitate the construction of an \$8.2 million building which could house two 600-seater worship halls and 19 classrooms.



Christmas celebration at the Centre, 1974 (Courtesy of Queenstown Baptist Church)



Walk along Margaret Drive. You will notice a two-storey building with an austere front facade

The Queenstown Library is Singapore's first branch library. Built at a cost of \$595,000, the library was officially opened on 30 April 1970 by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to "provide access to books to books which most people could not afford to buy" and offset a severe shortage in van drivers for the National Library's mobile library services. These mobile libraries used to ply along Margaret Drive and the former Queenstown Community Centre at Dawson Road.

Designed in the Modern style, the Queenstown Public Library is a two-storey building with an austere front façade relieved by a refined "bow-tie" motif along the parapets and a pre-assembled sun-shading block on its concrete frame. The building also uses glass panels generously which allows the reading rooms to be naturally lit.

The first level of the library was originally catered to the children and the Chinese collection while the second level was devoted to the adult and reference collection. The library was large enough to accommodate 280 visitors and 200,000 volumes of print materials. The installation of air-conditioning in 1978 provided additional comfort to the library users.

The Queenstown Public Library was a sanctuary with students and working adults. There were 13 schools along Margaret Drive in the 1970s and students from the neighbourhood would visit the library for research and leisure reading. The library was also known for its extensive collection of teenage fiction. Popular series such as Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew were placed at

QUEENSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 53 MARGARET DRIVE, SINGAPORE 149297

the front of the children section and there were always long queues at the loaning desks. At the loan desks, library patrons would present their library card (red for children and brown for adults) and librarians would record the titles borrowed by the users manually before filing them accordingly to their due dates.

The first major renovation in 2003 made Queenstown Public Library more user-friendly. Elevators were installed, the lighting system was improved and a cafeteria was introduced. The library was gazetted for conservation in 2013.



Norsiah Binte Abdul Sukoi, a librarian at Queenstown Library since 1982, recalled -

"Throughout the years, many ex-residents have returned to the library and bought us kueh kueh even though they have shifted out of the estate. Besides being an identity marker, the library certainly holds fond memories for past and present residents."



The adult and reference section of the library in 1984 (Courtesy of the National Library Board)



The children section of the library in 1984 (Courtesy of the National Library Board)



The information counter of the library in 1984 (Courtesy of the National Library Board)

FORMER QUEENSTOWN REMAND PRISON



Queenstown Remand Prison along Jalan Penjara, an offshoot from Margaret Drive, 2011

The former Queenstown Remand Prison was Singapore's largest prison complex. Built at a cost of \$2,000,000, the prison complex at Jalan Penjara was officially opened on 23 September 1966 by then Minister for Culture and Social Affairs, Othman Wok, to replace the old Prison at Outram Road, which was demolished to make way for the development of Pearl's Hill Apartments. The site at Jalan Penjara was chosen for its close proximity to the Subordinate Courts in Havelock Road as remand inmates had to be ferried daily to appear in court and returned to the prison.

The prison complex comprised of a four-storey accommodation block for about 300 inmates and short-term detainees; a single-storey building with facilities for visitors and special rooms for lawyers to meet the remand prisoners; staff quarters comprising two four-storey blocks for officers and wardens, a three-storey block for wardresses and a bungalow for the superintendent; four courtyards for exercise and recreation; a 25-foot high perimeter wall; and four watch towers.

K.C. Vijayan, a prison officer for 26 years, recalled, "Up till the late 1970s, the prison cells did not have sanitation facilities within and inmates were each issued with a pumpkin shaped toilet bowl. Early each morning when the doors were unlocked, the inmates would duly line up and empty the waste in the communal toilet and wash area at the far end of the corridor of each level."

Queenstown Remand Prison is home to a number of high profile inmates over the years. In 1994, an American teenager, Michael Fay, was locked up at the Prison, for vandalising vehicles and public property. More than 50 photographers, television crew and reporters from Singapore and abroad swarmed the gates to get close to him as he emerged on the day of his release. In 2007, local actor, Christopher Lee, served his four-week long sentence at the Prison for drunk-driving.

In 2010, Queenstown Remand Prison was demolished to make way for future housing projects.



QUEENSTOWN POLYCLINIC

11 51 MARGARET DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149296

Turn right from the entrance of the Library. The Polyclinic is located adjacent to the Library.

The former Queenstown Polyclinic at Margaret Drive was Singapore's first polyclinic. Built at a cost of \$400,000, the polyclinic was officially opened on 13 January 1963 by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to provide Queenstown residents with access to subsidised healthcare. The polyclinic combined an outpatient clinic, and a maternity and child health centre which offered domiciliary midwifery and immunisation services. A dental clinic, Oralgiene Dental Surgery, was added in 1984.

In 1986, Queenstown Polyclinic was expanded to incorporate more consultation rooms and centralise registration for both outpatient, and maternity and child health services. Lee Lai Koon, 68, a former resident at Mei Ling Street, recalled bringing her son for immunisation at the polyclinic. "The fee for consulting a doctor was \$2.50 a visit and 50 cents more for every item of medicine prescribed. Immunisation, which was free, was a popular service at the polyclinic. The nurses would also issue a blue book which recorded my son's progress."

The combined clinic's spacious interiors and extensive greenery made it very popular among the staff and patients. Carol Wong Yoke Kwai, 62, a nurse at the polyclinic since 1999, recalled, "There was a two-storey tall durian tree behind room 18. We would often share the durians among ourselves every June or July."

In December 2007, the polyclinic shifted to a new location in Stirling Road. Its previous compound was converted into a dormitory.



Top Left: Cholera Inoculation Programme at Queenstown Combined Clinic, 1963 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

Top Right: Crowd Gathering outside Queenstown Combined Clinics on its official opening in 1963 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Interior of Queenstown Polyclinic in the 1990s (Courtesy of Queenstown Polyclinic)



Registration Counter, early 2000s (Courtesy of Queenstown Polyclinic)



The former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market in 1969
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

FORMER COMMONWEALTH AVENUE WET MARKET

12 38 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE,
SINGAPORE 149738

Across Margaret Drive, there is a red distinctive building which features a bold, parabolic-vaulted roof.

The former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market is the only remaining market in Singapore that is designed by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT). Built at a cost of \$240,000, the market was officially opened on 23 October 1960 by then Assemblyman for Queenstown, Dr Lee Siew Choh, to “keep the housing estate free of roadside hawkers.” These itinerant hawkers used to ply along Margaret Drive, Commonwealth Crescent and Tanglin Halt Road. Alongside the former Commonwealth Avenue Cooked Food Centre (built in 1970 and demolished in 2011), the wet market stood prominently along the main artery road through Queenstown and served as a well-known landmark to residents and visitors.



Itinerant Hawkers along Margaret Drive, 1960s
(Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)

The Wet Market features a bold, parabolic-vaulted roof that allows rainwater to drain quickly and high internal spaces for effective air flow. Other design features such as the honeycomb screen wall at ground level allows air to pass while providing shade from the sun. The dome-shaped façade earns the Wet Market a morbid colloquial name from the residents, “the Coffin Market,” for its striking resemblance to a traditional Chinese coffin.

The first level of the Wet Market was originally catered to fresh produce and cooked food stalls whereas sundry and provisions shops could be found at the second level. Desmond Wong, 43, a former resident at Strathmore Avenue, recalled witnessing a “live’ poultry slaughtering at the Market. “There was a large metallic cage filled with chickens which you could choose from. Then, the hawker would grab the chicken by its neck, slit the throat and leave the chicken there to die. Next, they would immerse the chickens into a large container filled with warm water so that the feathers could be plucked off easily. Within minutes, the chickens would be ready and placed in a paper bag.”

The Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market was closed in 2005 and the hawkers were relocated to other wet markets within the precinct. As an icon of Queenstown’s past, the former Wet Market was gazetted for conservation in 2013 to foster familiarity and identity as the estate undergoes renewal.



Cooked food stalls at the former Wet Market, 2000
(Courtesy of Lim Thiam Choo)

FORMER COMMONWEALTH AVENUE COOKED FOOD CENTRE



The former Commonwealth Avenue Cooked Food Centre, 1970
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

The former Commonwealth Avenue Cooked Food Centre (or Margaret Drive Hawker Centre) was one of the most popular hawker centres in Singapore. The two-storey food centre was opened in 1970 by then Minister for Culture, Jek Yuen Thong, to “keep the housing estate free of roadside hawkers.” These itinerant hawkers used to ply along Margaret Drive, Commonwealth Crescent and Tanglin Halt Road.

The food centre was home to many popular food stalls. They include Queenstown Poh Pia, Shanghai Dimsum, Sin Kee Chicken Rice and Hai Kee Cha Kwa Teow. These food stalls had relocated to other hawker centres when Commonwealth Avenue Cooked Food Centre was demolished in 2011.

NEW LOCATIONS FOR THE FOOD STALLS*

Hai Kee Teochew Cha Kuay Teow	Telok Blangah Crescent #01-102 Telok Blangah Crescent Market and Food Centre
Hup Kee Teochew Fishball Mee	159 Mei Ling Street #02-38 Mei Chin Market and Food Centre
Queenstown Dessert, Sugarcane Juices	- 29 Bendemeer Road #01-16 Bendemeer Market and Food Centre
Queenstown Poh Pia (Skin)	119 Commonwealth Crescent #02-99 Commonwealth Crescent Market and Food Centre
砂煲小菜饭	159 Mei Ling Street #02-13 Mei Chin Market and Food Centre
Sin Kee Chicken Rice	159 Mei Ling Street #02-22 Mei Chin Market and Food Centre
Special Shanghai Tim-Sum	1 Kadayanallur Street #01-92 Maxwell Road Food Centre
Tai Liok Claypot Rice	120 Bukit Merah Lane 1 #01-66 Alexandra Village Food Centre
Tong Kee Chicken Rice	1 Commonwealth Drive #01-25 Tanglin Halt Hawker Centre

*This is a non-exhaustive list.

FORMER QUENSTOWN CINEMA AND BOWLING ALLEY



The former Queenstown Cinema and Bowling Alley was a well-loved entertainment spot, 1977
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board).

Located next to the former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market, the former Queenstown Cinema and Bowling Alley was one of Queenstown's favourite entertainment spots in the 1980s and 1990s. The former Queenstown Cinema and Bowling Alley was opened in 1977 as one of the several amenities built on a 1.4 hectare extension site of the Town Centre. The four storey entertainment complex comprised of two cinema halls, a bowling alley, KTV lounge, fast food restaurant and an arcade.

The former Queenstown Cinema had two halls named Queenstown and Queensway which could accommodate 1,200 and 515 cinema-goers respectively. They were the first cinemas in Singapore which incorporated soundproofing features in its design. Seats were arranged hexagonally so that the audience could have an unrestricted view of the movie screen.

The 18-lane Bowling Alley was located at the basement of the complex. Scoring boards at the Bowling Alley were manually recorded on pieces of paper in the 1970s before they were replaced with monotonous electronic boards in the mid-1990s. A Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was situated on the second floor of the complex overlooking the bowling alley, so that diners could watch the bowlers as they had their meals.

The bowling alley and the karaoke lounge continued to operate even though the cinemas ceased operations in 1999. The Queenstown hall was converted into a billiard and LAN centre for 2 years before the entire building was vacated. The complex was subsequently demolished in 2013.

FORMER TAH CHUNG EMPORIUM AND GOLDEN CROWN RESTAURANT



The shopping complex which housed the Tah Chung Emporium and Golden Crown Restaurant, raised Queenstown's cool factor by several notches. (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Located next to the former Commonwealth Avenue Wet Market, the former Tah Chung Emporium and Golden Crown Restaurant in the shopping complex along Commonwealth Avenue was one of Queenstown's favourite entertainment spot during the 1970s and 1980s. Opened in 1967, the shopping complex was constructed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB) to provide recreation options to Queenstown residents.

The first level of the shopping complex comprised of a coffee shop and several bank branches. The second level of the complex is home to the Tah Chung Emporium whereas the third level is dedicated to the Golden Crown Restaurant and nightclubs.

TAH CHUNG EMPORIUM

Built at a cost of \$450,000, the former Tah Chung Emporium was officially opened on 9 September 1967. The air-conditioned departmental store sold a variety of goods ranging from food to fashion. Tan Aik Leng, 57, a long time resident, recalled, "The Tah Chung Emporium was the first air conditioned

emporium in a housing estate. The emporium sold many kinds of merchandise which we had never seen before. Hence, my father would bring my family to the emporium once in a while to walk around."

GOLDEN CROWN RESTAURANT AND NIGHTCLUB

Built at a cost of \$400,000, the former Golden Crown Restaurant and Nightclub was officially opened on 10 November 1967 by then-managing director of Asia Commercial Bank, Chu Pho Tiong. The restaurant could provide accommodation for about 500 guests while the night club could accommodate about 300 people. The air conditioned restaurant was popular for its delicious food and famous dim sums and wedding dinners were often hosted there.

Brian Richmond's wedding dinner was hosted at the restaurant. He recalled, "The Golden Crown Restaurant was a popular place for wedding dinner. It was a nice and big restaurant which served Chinese food. More importantly, it was close to my place at Strathmore!"



The former Venus and Golden City Theatres, 1972
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

FORMER VENUS & GOLDEN CITY THEATRES

13 130/132 MARGARET DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149300



Queues outside Golden City Theatre after a screening, 1972
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Located next to the Wet Market, the former theatres were converted into churches.

The former Venus and Golden City Theatres were Queenstown's first two cinemas. On one hand, the former Venus Theatre was officially opened on 29 September 1965 by then President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Soon Peng Yam. The \$750,000 theatre was owned by Kong Ngee Co. Ltd and it could accommodate around 1,200 cinema goers. On the other hand, the former Golden City Theatre was opened a month later in November 1965. The \$500,000 theatre was owned by Golden Star of Malaysia.

Both cinemas screened popular Cantonese, Teochew and Hokkien films. Tan Siew Tho, 75, frequented the cinemas with her husband and family during the 1970s. She recalled, "I was a big fan of Li Lihua. I would always watch her movies at the cinemas."

In the early 1980s, both Venus and Golden City Theatres were facing dwindling returns in the face of competition from videotapes and colour television. Golden City's monthly net collections, after



Tan Siew Tho and her daughter standing in front of the fountain located next to the theatres (Courtesy of Tan Siew Tho)

entertainment tax, had steadily deteriorated from a high of \$70,000 in 1979 to only \$20,000 in 1984. Initial plans to convert the cinemas into theatres for "live" stage shows were rebuffed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB) and the cinemas' respective shareholders.

Golden City ceased operations in August 1984 whereas Venus shut down a month later. Both cinemas were converted into churches in 1985.



Masjid Mujahidin, 1979 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Walk across Commonwealth Avenue and turn right right into Stirling Road. You will notice a majestic mosque with a round dome at the junction of Stirling Rd and Queensway.

Masjid Mujahidin is Singapore's first mosque designed by the Housing and Development Board. Built at a cost of \$800,000, the Mosque was officially opened on 9 October 1977 by then Acting Minister for Social Affairs, Dr Ahmad Mattar, to house a growing number of devotees and provide adequate facilities to conduct religious classes and workshops. Classes were previously conducted at the nearby Police Reserve Unit as the *surau* or prayer halls within the estate were not large enough.

The architects from Housing and Development Board (HDB) faced difficulties while building the mosque. According to Islamic principles, prayer halls must face Mecca. Since the building was located at the corner of Stirling Road, it was structurally challenging to align the mosque to Mecca and adjoin roads concurrently. Eventually, they found a clever solution by housing a rectangular prayer hall within a circular building.

MUJAHIDIN MOSQUE

14 590 STIRLING ROAD,
SINGAPORE 148952

The Mosque was the result of 11 years of hard work in planning and fundraising by the Muslim community in Queenstown who collaborated with Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS) and the Housing and Development Board (HDB). The Building and Construction Committee of the Mosque was first established in 1967 to organise fund-raising through the sale of calendars islandwide and food bazaars conducted in nearby housing estates. In 1977, specialised departments in education, youth, religion and welfare were established. In 1981, an annex building was built to house the administration office, board room and computer room.



Masjid Mujahidin, 2012



Friday prayers at the rectangular prayer hall in Masjid Mujahidin, 1979 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)



Baharuddin Vocational Institute, circa early 1970s
(Courtesy of Institute of Technical Education)

At Stirling Road, you will notice a university campus opposite the Mosque. This is the site of the former Baharuddin Vocational Institute.

The former Baharuddin Vocational Institute along Queensway was Singapore's first tertiary school dedicated to manual and applied arts in Singapore. Named after the late Inche Baharuddin bin Mohammed Arif, a PAP assembly who died in April 1965, the Institute was officially opened by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on 20 June 1965 to nurture skilled, local designers and craftsmen in advertising, fashion and printing trades.

The school marked a radical change in Singapore's education policy into one which geared students for better jobs in the increasingly industrialised city-state and upgraded the skills of apprentices and craftsmen who were already in the industry. Courses conducted at Baharuddin Vocational Institute included commercial art, dressmaking, furniture design, pottery and shell crafts. Low Yee Ming, 50, was a former student at the Institute. She recalled, "The graphic design (commercial art) programme was extremely popular among students and it had a large intake. I enrolled in the course so that I could

FORMER BAHARUDDIN VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE

15 501 STIRLING ROAD,
SINGAPORE 148951

learn 'more' practical skills. The lecturers at the Institute were markedly different from those at academic schools as they accommodated more freedom and creativity in their class."

The Institute relocated to its new site at Stirling Road in 1969. For the next two decades, Baharuddin Vocational Institute was the main institute which helped nurture graphic designers and craftsmen in Singapore. In 1990, the entire applied arts department from Baharuddin Vocational Institute moved to Temasek Polytechnic to start the School of Design. This led to the closure of the Institute.

In 2004, the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) took over the premise.



Pottery Classes at Baharuddin Vocational Institute, 1970
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Sewing lessons at Baharuddin Vocational Institute, 1970
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



The 7-storey blocks with shops at the ground level, 1960.
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Explore the area along Stirling Road. These 7-storey buildings and terrace houses were the first HDB Blocks.

THE FIRST HDB BLOCKS

Blocks 45, 48 & 49 Stirling Road are the first public housing blocks constructed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). Completed in October 1960, the First HDB Blocks contained 331 one-room, two-room and three-room rental apartments with shopping provision at ground floor. The dominant presence of the seven storey blocks standing on an undeveloped piece of swampland earned the neighbourhood an amusing colloquial name, *Qik Lao* (Hokkien: 七楼; 7 storey).

The three 7-storey blocks were among the first batch of public housing projects launched under the Housing and Development Board's First Five-Year Programme. The Board, which took over the role of eliminating squatters and providing low cost public housing from the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) on 1 February 1960, had embarked on an ambitious five-year target to build 52,842 units in order to alleviate overcrowding in the city centre quickly. Lim Kim San, then Chairman of HDB, commented, "We will try to attain a position where we can build the most efficient unit at a minimum cost so that public housing can be brought within means of the lower income group, as well as to ensure that the cost of

THE FIRST HDB BLOCKS & THE HDB TERRACES

16 41 - 53 STIRLING ROAD,
SINGAPORE 141044

maintenance and repairs of these units will be reduced to a minimum over the years."

Among the cost-efficient features of the First HDB Blocks were the installation of cheaper, but slower lifts which stopped on every fourth floor to compensate for the slow speed; the positioning of refuse chutes at both ends of the residential blocks instead of having them built-in for every apartment; and the usage of prefabricated construction materials.

Chua Soo Heng, 59, and her family were one of the first occupants at Block 48 Stirling Road. The Chuas were survivors of the devastating Bukit Ho Swee Fire in 1961 and they were resettled into the two room apartment. She recalled, "The fire at Bukit Ho Swee spread very quickly and we lost our home overnight. The government brought us here in army trucks. We were lucky to get a flat."

Today, the seven storey blocks are home to rental residents.

HDB Terraces along Stirling Road, 2013



THE HDB TERRACES

The HDB Terraces along Stirling Road are the remaining terrace apartments in Queenstown that are designed by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT). Completed in the years between 1959 and 1961, there are 13 blocks of HDB terraces containing over 150 two room and three room apartments.

These low-rise terrace apartments were the brainchild of the Singapore Improvement Trust's New Towns Working Party, who stipulated an optimal residential density of 200 persons per

acre. This recommended density was achieved by building high rise apartments housing 400 persons per acre and low rise terrace units housing 150 persons per acre. This variation would produce variety in Queenstown's skyline. Mahmood, 62, was one of the long-time residents at the HDB terraces. He commented, "I could grow vegetables, rear chickens and fruit trees at the open space in front of my house. My neighbour would then rear tilapia, goldfish – all types of fishes. He used to have a Christmas tree that was around 10 metres tall!"

Mahmood's sisters outside their HDB Terrace apartment, circa around 1960s
(Courtesy of Mahmood)





Queenstown Stadium, 1977
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

QUEENSTOWN STADIUM

The Queenstown Stadium was a premier location for national day parades and regional sporting competitions in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1973, the stadium played hosts to the Singapore Armed Forces' first Colour Parade where 3,000 soldiers took part in a 10-kilometre route march from Jalan Besar to Queenstown Sports Complex. In 1975 and 1983, decentralised parades of the National Day were held at the stadium to allow more Singaporeans participate in the festive occasion.



Many schools held their Sports' Days at the Queenstown Stadium, 1977 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

QUEENSTOWN SPORTS COMPLEX

17 473/473A STIRLING ROAD,
SINGAPORE 148948

Walk along Stirling Road. You will notice a stadium and a swimming complex on your right.

The Queenstown Sports Complex is Singapore's first neighbourhood sports complex. Built at a cost of \$1.65 million, the Sports Complex was officially opened on 15 August 1970 by Lim Kim San, then Minister for Education, to provide more recreational facilities for residents in Queenstown. Standing on ten acres of land lying between Stirling and Mei Chin Road, the Sports Complex has a 400-metre 8-lane bitumen running track enclosing a football field. An elevated gallery with seating capacity for 3,000 spectators runs along the athletic field. There are five swimming pools, one of which is a 50-metre Olympic-size pool.



QUEENSTOWN SWIMMING COMPLEX

The five turquoise pools at Queenstown Swimming Complex were where residents took their baby steps at mastering their breaststrokes and freestyles. Koh Wee Meng, 46, had fond memories of his first experience at the pool. He said, "Initially, I was extremely afraid of drowning because I could not swim. So, I kept clinging onto my uncle's neck and begging to go home. Ten lessons later, I could swim as fast as a fish!"

Wee Meng's chief motivation in mastering swimming came from the tanned, wiry boys at the 25m square pool. Established in 1971, Queenstown's water polo team comprised of

students from neighbouring secondary schools. Under the tutelage of Kenneth Kee, members of the Queenstown water polo club formed the backbone of the national water polo team in the 1970s and 1980s. The national team, which won gold at the 1979 Southeast Asian Games, was entirely composed of Queenstown stalwarts.

The immense success of the water polo team could be attributed to Kenneth Kee's tough training methods. Tony Koh, 44, was a Queenstown club member who played for the national team between 1985 and 1994. He said, "In every training session, we were asked to swim 10 laps and do 1000 push-ups. It was just like a military training!"



Members of the Queenstown Water polo Club formed the backbone of the national water polo team in the 1970s and 1980s (Courtesy of Kenneth Kee)



Koh Wee Meng learned swimming at the Swimming Complex (Courtesy of Koh Wee Meng)

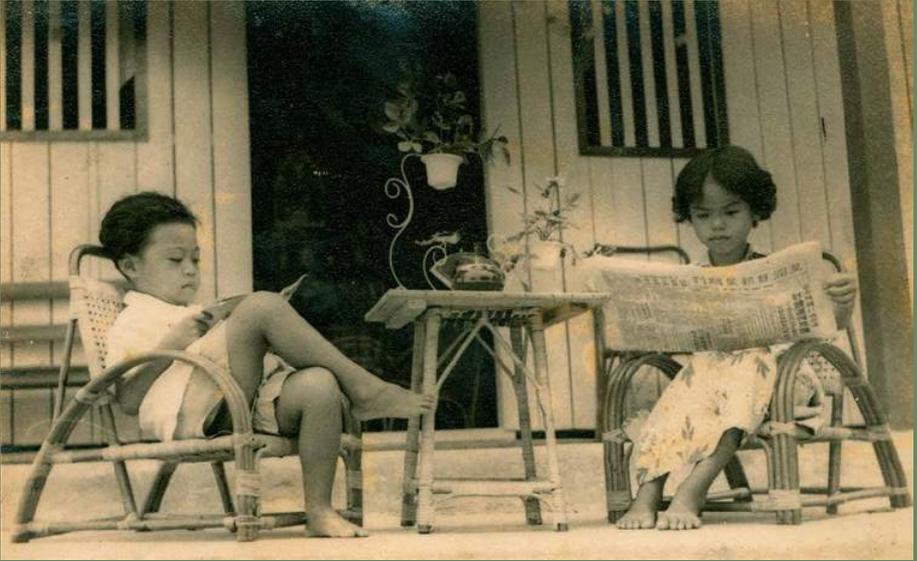


Chingay Procession in front of Queenstown Sports Complex, 1975



National Day Parade at the Stadium, 1982

BOH BEH KANG



Reading newspapers was a pastime for Sze Chin Chet (left) and his sister (Courtesy of Sze Chin Chet)

Before Queenstown was conferred with the title as Singapore's first satellite estate, swampland, plantations and burial grounds dominated the hilly rural landscape at *Boh Beh Kang* village (Hokkien: 无尾港; No tail river). The village was named *Boh Beh Kang* because the villagers were unable to determine the source of river which flowed through the two hills named *Hong Lim* and *Hong Yin*. *Hong Lim* hill was a burial ground for over 100,000 Chinese graves whereas *Hong Yin* hill was covered with orchards and rubber plantations.

Boh Beh Kang village was a respite for its earliest residents who sought to escape the chronic congestion in the city centre. There were around 300 households in the village and they were mainly Chinese from the Hokkien, Teochew and Hakka dialect groups. Many *Boh Beh Kang* villagers lived in two-storey and three-storey *attap* huts located at the foot of *Hong Lim* hill.

Electricity was powered by a generator located at the communal centre of the village and public water mains were found near Queensway.

Boh Beh Kang village had its own school, *Da Hua* School (Chinese: 大华). The school taught in Chinese and followed the syllabus in China. Students were taught the teachings of Confucius, simple mathematics and Chinese history. There were 2 classes for each level and over 240 students at the school.

Life at *Boh Beh Kang* village was simple and carefree. Ang Teck Kuan, 54, was one of the former residents at the village. He recalled, "We played marbles and shot at birds with our home-made catapult. Sometimes, my brothers and I would climb the rambutan tree at my neighbour's kampong and pluck the unripe fruit. My dad would often spank us when we were caught stealing the rambutans!"



Life at the *Boh Beh Kang* was carefree and enjoyable for Ang Teck Kuan (left) and his brother (Courtesy of Ang Teck Kuan)



A kitchen at *Boh Beh Kang* (Courtesy of Sze Chin Chet)

The idyllic life at the village was interrupted when the Japanese invaded during World War II. As *Boh Beh Kang* was located right next to the former British Military Hospital (now Alexandra Hospital), many villagers were brutally killed by the oncoming soldiers. Lee Ah Chong's father was one of the victims of the massacre. He recalled, "When the sirens bellowed, my brothers, uncles and aunts rushed into self-made air raid shelter covered with wooden planks and dried hay. However, my father was *kaypoh* (Hokkien: 鸡婆; Nosy) and he stood at the entrance of the village waiting for the soldiers. He was then shot by a Japanese troop."

When the war ended in 1945, the British government made plans to acquire land at the *Boh Beh Kang* village for development. The colonial officials and later, the Housing and Development Board, offered very little compensation to the villagers. Many villagers joined the Singapore Attap Dwellers' Association and demanded better compensation from the authorities. By 1968, the burial hill was exhumed and flattened to make way for the construction of the Mei Ling estate.



True Way Presbyterian Church, 2014

TRUE WAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

18 156B STIRLING ROAD
SINGAPORE 148947

Walk along Stirling Road. You will notice a church building on your left.

True Way Presbyterian Church is one of the nine churches in Queenstown. Built at a cost of \$82,000, the Church was opened in 1961 to replace the old Church located at Tras Street. In the Church compound stood a main sanctuary

which could accommodate around 150 worshippers, a pastor quarter, classrooms and an administrative office.

Services were initially held in Hokkien and Mandarin because early members of the congregation composed of coolies and their families from Tras Street in Kreta Ayer. English speaking services and a youth congregation were started later in 1970 when the English Youth Fellowship was established.

The Church underwent major renovations in 1989 and 1997 to cater to its growing congregation. Today, the Church continues to play an important social role in the neighbourhood by providing counselling and education services.



The church compound with Singapore Improvement Trust units in the background, circa around 1970s
(Courtesy of True Way Presbyterian Church)



TIONG GHEE TEMPLE

19 1085 STIRLING ROAD
SINGAPORE 148953

Along Stirling Road is a Chinese temple located amidst lush green rain trees.

Tiong Ghee Temple is Queenstown's oldest Taoist temple. The current temple at Stirling Road was built in 1973 to replace the old village temple at *Boh Beh Kang* village (Hokkien: 无尾港; No tail river) which was demolished in 1968 for the development of Mei Ling estate.

Designed in the traditional Chinese architectural style, the Temple features a gabled roof with a sweeping curvature that is topped with a ridge of tiles and ceramic figurines for both decorative and structural purposes. In addition, the pair of dragon figurines and lion statues at the entrance of the Temple are meticulously carved and arranged so that they are bilaterally symmetric. The main deity, *Guan Gong* (Chinese: 关公), is located in the main hall and the lesser deities are placed in the back hall and at the side of the temple.



Demolition of the village temple, 1968
(Courtesy of Tiong Ghee Temple)

The history of Tiong Ghee Temple can be traced to 1931, when an altar was installed in an *attap* hut of a villager living in *Boh Beh Kang* village. A few years later, a storage house in the village was converted into a temple and was named *Ghee Tiong* Temple (Chinese: 义; righteousness and 忠; loyalty). Dedicated to the Taoist deity, *Guan Gong*, the Temple provided an avenue for villagers to seek spiritual comfort and consult mediums on health and husbandry matters. During festive occasions, troupes were invited to perform puppet shows in Hokkien and Teochew. After World War II, the villagers constructed a bigger temple at *Hong Yin Hill*. The Temple was later renamed Tiong Ghee Temple in 1966.

Today, the Temple remains a gathering point for former *Boh Beh Kang* villagers and serves as a lasting reminder of Queenstown's past.



A night view of the point blocks, 1970.
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

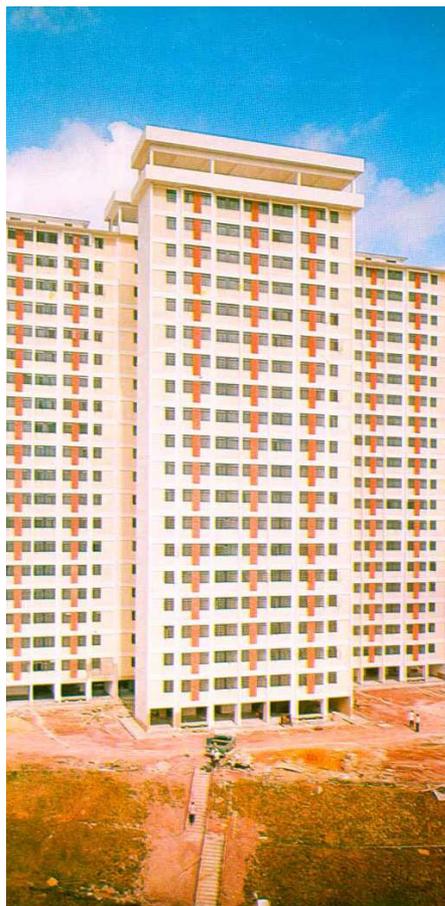
THE FIRST POINT BLOCKS

20 160 / 161 MEI LING STREET,
SINGAPORE 140160 / 1

Behind Stirling Road is Mei Ling Street. In the centre of this estate are the first two point blocks in Singapore.

Blocks 160 & 161 Mei Ling Street are the First Point Blocks constructed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). Built at a cost of \$2,500,000, the sale of the 20-storey Point Blocks were presided by then Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, Ho Cheng Choon, on 8 April 1970. The two blocks contained a total of 456 units consisting of 342 three-room and 114 four-room apartments.

Before the Point Blocks were constructed, early HDB residential blocks conformed to a standard slab design of uniform height and were arranged equidistant from one another. Within the block, each row of apartments was served by a common corridor on every storey. These Point Blocks were designed with an eye to reduce homogeneity in public housing and “provide”



Block 160 Mei Ling Street, 1970
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

more privacy to cater to different tastes and preferences. Instead of a long common balcony, the tower blocks had 4 units on each level and contained a central staircase on every storey.

Karen Lum, 42, and her family live in an apartment at Block 160 since 1970. She recalled, “The point blocks are built on a small hill. Hence, we can enjoy an unobstructed view of downtown Singapore from my house. On every National Day, we can even see fireworks from my window!”

Following the success of the pilot project at Blocks 160 & 161 Mei Ling Street, the Housing and Development Board went on to build more point blocks across the country. Point Blocks are extremely popular with younger Singaporeans and they set the trend for more privacy in public housing.



Facade of Block 168A, 1973 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Turn into the covered shelter from Stirling Road. At the end of the shelter is the First Curved shape HDB block.

Block 168A Queensway is the first curved-shape block constructed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). The sale of the 20-storey Curved Block was inaugurated by then Member-of-Parliament for Alexandra Constituency, Dr Wong Lin Ken, on 18 October 1973. The curved-shape façade earns the Block an interesting colloquial name from the residents, “the Butterfly Block,” for its striking resemblance to the holometabolous insect.

Before the Butterfly Block was constructed, early HDB residential blocks conformed to a uniformed slab design that was devoid of any aesthetics. The first two Five-Year Building Programmes focused on the elimination of squatters and the provision of low cost public housing. Hence, the first curved-shape block was designed with the intention to reduce uniformity in public housing and provide more aesthetically pleasing design features to cater to

THE FIRST CURVED BLOCK

21 168A QUEENSWAY,
SINGAPORE 140168

the different tastes and preferences. Instead of building a long and drab housing block, fanciful curvatures were added to the design of the Butterfly Block.

Following the success of the pilot project at Block 168A Queensway, the Housing and Development Board went on to build more curved shape blocks across the country. Curved shape blocks break the monotony of homogeneity in housing estates and they start the trend for more aesthetics to be incorporated in public housing.



The main building of the Archipelago Brewery Company with the brew master house in the foreground, 1937. (Courtesy of Asia Pacific Breweries)

Walk down the stairs from Block 168A Queensway and turn left into Alexandra Road. You will notice a two-storey building with a high hipped and pyramidal roof. This is the brewmaster's office of the Former Archipelago Brewery Company.

The former Archipelago Brewery Company at Alexandra Road was Singapore's second brewery. Built at a cost of \$2,250,000, the brewery complex was opened on 3 November 1933 by then President of the Municipal Commissioners, W Bartley, to produce the well-known Anchor Beer. The site at Alexandra Road was chosen for its close proximity to the former Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) railway tracks, which provided convenient transportation for the export of its beer.

Designed by Heinrich Rudolf Arbenz, the brew master building is characterised by the streamlining of classical motifs into simple geometric patterns where its roof is high-hipped and pyramidal. The complex, which comprised of the main factory, brew master house, canning line and a warehouse, was capable of producing 450,000 gallons of beer a year. Brewing took place at the main plant where Anchor Point Shopping Centre now stands. Bottled beer was then transported via a wooden conveyor belt across an overhead bridge to the canning line, where IKEA stands today.

In 1939, the Archipelago Brewery Company was annexed by the British Government as enemy property. In 1941, Malayan Breweries, a joint venture between Fraser & Neave and Heineken, took over the assets of Archipelago Brewery



Ng Moey Moey was in charge of the boiler room at the Archipelago Brewery Company, 1980s (Courtesy of Ng Moey Moey)

FORMER ARCHIPELAGO BREWERY COMPANY



368 ALEXANDRA ROAD,
SINGAPORE 159952

Company and the Anchor Beer brand. However, during the Asia-Pacific War, the Japanese Army expropriated all the production facilities of Fraser and Neave, and ordered Dai-Nippon Breweries to produce beer at the Company.

The Archipelago Brewery Company expanded rapidly in the 1950s when Fraser and Neave came under the control of the Oversea-Chinese and Banking Corporation (OCBC). An additional plant was added and procedures were gradually mechanised. Production ceased in 1990 when operations were relocated to Tuas. The brew master house was gazetted for conservation in 1993.

The Archipelago Brewery Company was popular among job seekers for its employee welfare and good work culture. Ng Moey Moey, 79, who had worked in ABC for 38 years, recalled, "My father was extremely thrilled when my application to work in ABC was approved. The company paid well and there were many recreational activities after work."



The bonded store of the Archipelago Brewery Company was connected to the main building via two raised conveyors, 1957 (Courtesy of Asia Pacific Breweries)



Queensway Shopping Centre, 1977
(Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)

At the junction of Queensway and Alexandra Road is a four storey hexagonal shopping complex, the Queensway Shopping Centre.

Queensway Shopping Centre is one of Singapore's first multi-purpose shopping complexes alongside Golden Mile and Katong. Built at a cost of \$15 million, the shopping complex was opened in 1974 to provide shopping and recreational options for residents in Queenstown. It comprised of a four-storey shopping centre, a basement car park, offices, and a 13-storey apartment tower.

Designed in the Modern style, the shopping centre is characterised by its octagonal façade and central sunken concourse which offers maximum and dual frontage shop units with display windows at two levels. There were also provisions for over 200 shops, a large emporium, an exhibition hall, a coffee house and a night club. Singapore's first public escalators were also installed at the shopping centre.

A mention of the name "Queensway Shopping Centre" and rows of sports equipment shops immediately come to mind. Today, the Shopping Centre continues to be a favourite haunt for students, families and bargain hunters from all over Singapore searching for sporting goods, engravers, photocopiers and men's tailor shops.

QUEENSWAY SHOPPING CENTRE

23 1 QUEENSWAY,
SINGAPORE 149053



Interior of Queensway Shopping Centre, 1975
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Photograph of Alexandra Hospital, courtesy of the Trustees of the Wellcome Trust, London.

Located adjacent to the Queensway Shopping Centre, Alexandra Hospital was an important military installation during the colonial period.

Established in 1938, Alexandra Hospital (former British Military Hospital) served as the principal hospital for Britain's Far East Command during World War II. Built at a cost of \$265,900, the hospital was the most advanced and best equipped medical institution in Singapore and Malaya. The 32-acre site was chosen for its close proximity to the Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) railway tracks so that the wounded could be transported to the hospital quickly.

Designed in a stripped-down hybrid of Modern and Classical styles typical of hospitals of the 1930s, the hospital compound comprised of the main block, which could accommodate 356 beds with various medical, surgical and officer wards, and a number of ancillary buildings such as laboratories, barracks, mortuary and living quarters for staff.

On 14 February 1942, a day before the surrender of Singapore, Alexandra Hospital was violated by "the largest and most awful massacre of British troops in World War II." Within a short 30-minute span, the Japanese battalion comprising 3 platoons rained bullets at the hospital and captured more than 200 hospital personnel and patients.

After the war, the Military Hospital continued to play an important role by providing emergency healthcare services to the wounded soldiers

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

24 378 ALEXANDRA ROAD, SINGAPORE 159964

fighting against communist guerrillas in the Malayan jungles during the State of Emergency. In 1954, a helipad was constructed at the hospital and the time taken to transport a soldier from the Malayan jungles was drastically reduced from 96 hours to about 10 hours.

In 1971, the British troops announced a decision to pull out from their ex-colonies due to rising costs of maintaining troops overseas. The hospital was handed over to the Singapore Government for a nominee fee of £1 and later converted into a civilian hospital. As a civilian hospital, Alexandra Hospital performed Singapore's first ever limb re-attachment surgery in April 1975, and handled 55 severely burned patients from the Spyros Disaster in October 1978.

Today, Alexandra Hospital is well known for its extensive greenery and serene environment. Affectionately known as the "Hospital in a Garden," Alexandra Hospital was gazetted for conservation in 2013.



Medical and Maternity Block, 1947
(Courtesy of the Trustee of the Wellcome Trust, London)



Ambulances and Military Vehicles at the Hospital, 1947
(Courtesy of the Trustee of the Wellcome Trust, London)

THE MYSTERIOUS TUNNELS AT ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



Entrance to one of the tunnels at Alexandra Hospital



It was a well-known fact that a network of tunnels existed beneath Alexandra Hospital. Rumours were rife that these tunnels were escape routes from the Hospital to Labrador Park or Sentosa Island.

In 1992, a team of explorers from the Ministry of Defence and Alexandra Hospital found old medicine jars and bottles which dated back to the pre-war period, suggesting that the tunnels were built in the late 1930s and used during World War II.

In 1996, a popular local television show, *Hey Singapore!*, ventured into the three tunnels at Alexandra Hospital and found no physical evidence that the tunnels extended beyond the hospital's main block. These tunnels burrowed for hundred metres along the administrative block, suggesting that they were a means of getting from one end of the hospital to another. Medical supplies were stored in the vault-like spaces at regular intervals along the tunnels so that they were kept away from bomb blasts. The tunnels also served as air raid shelters.



The exterior facade of Alexandra Fire Station with the 164-foot tall tower in the background, 2002 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

ALEXANDRA FIRE STATION & QUEENSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE

25 3 QUEENSWAY, SINGAPORE 149073

Turn into Queensway from Alexandra Road. The complex which houses Alexandra Fire Station and Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre is located on your left.

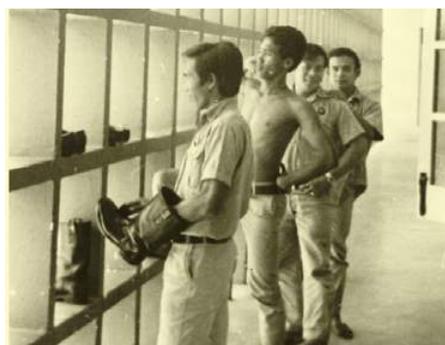
ALEXANDRA FIRE STATION

Alexandra Fire Station is Singapore's third fire station. Built at a cost of \$1,500,000, the Fire Station was officially opened on 25 February 1954 by then Governor of Singapore, Sir John Nicoll, to serve a rapidly expanding industrial area in Alexandra and train future firemen for the Singapore Fire Brigade. The station replaced the colonial Auxiliary Fire Brigade which had 15 officers and 60 firemen stationed at the nearby Archipelago Brewery Company.

The station comprised of a garage for four fire engines and an ambulance; repair workshops to replace the ageing facilities at Hill Street Fire Station; staff quarters for one officer-in-charge, 2 senior officers, 12 sub-officers, 50 married firemen and 24 single firemen; an imposing 164 feet fire tower used for hose drying, radio communication and as a look-out post to locate fires; a 20-foot deep well for testing the lifting powers of engine pumps; and recreational facilities for both firemen and their



Opening of the New Alexandra Fire Station, 1954 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



Haji Ahmad and his platoon mates polishing their boots, circa around 1960s. (Courtesy of Haji Ahmad)

families. The curved frontage of the station was also specifically designed to give an easy turnout to engines rushing out to answer fire calls.

Haji Ahmad, 68, was one of the ex-fire fighters at Alexandra Fire Station. He recalled, "The Fire Station was the biggest in the 1960s. Nevertheless, my favourite spot in the station was a small pantry where all of us would gather for lunch every day. We would share jokes and polish our boots there!"



QUEENSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE

The Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) is Singapore's first neighbourhood police centre. Based similarly on the concepts of community policing and modelled after the koban system in Japan, the original Police Centre at Commonwealth Avenue was officially opened on 20 December 1997 by then Minister for Home Affairs, Wong Kan Seng, to replace the Singapore Police Force's Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP) system. The centre had 150 police officers.

Before Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre (NPC) was established, community policing lied under the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Police Post. Although the NPP has helped reduce crime rate since its initiation in 1983, its high number entailed extensive resources to spread over many installations. Pooling the NPPs into larger entities known as NPCs ensured "faster response, more immediate investigation, better counter service, more frequent patrols and a sharper community focus."

In 2002, Alexandra Fire Station relocated to a temporary site at Tanglin Halt to facilitate the construction of a \$30.6 million complex to house both the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Singapore Police Force. This complex is the first of its kind which houses both the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Singapore Police Force so as to provide a more integrated response against threats.



Doris Koh and her friends at the former Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre along Commonwealth Avenue, 1998. (Courtesy of Doris Koh)



Haji Ahmad and his platoon mates at the fire station's pantry, 1960s (Courtesy of Haji Ahmad)



Masjid Hang Jebat, 2012

HANG JEBAT MOSQUE

26

100 JALAN HANG JEBAT,
SINGAPORE 139533



Friday prayers at the Mosque, 2012

Turn left into Queens' Crescent from Queensway. At the end of Queens' Crescent, you will notice a single-storey building with a blue, distinctive roof.

Masjid Hang Jebat is the second mosque constructed in Queenstown. Built at a cost of \$30,000, the Mosque was opened in 1973 to replace the old *surau* (Malay: small prayer hall). The Mosque comprised of two prayer halls, administrative offices and classrooms for religious classes. The Mosque was named Hang Jebat for two reasons. Firstly, it was in recognition of the Hang Jebat Regiment of a nearby military installation. Secondly, it was in commemoration of Hang Jebat, who was one of the five legendary warriors in the Malay folklore.

Masjid Hang Jebat first started as a *surau* in 1952 for the Malay Regiment soldiers who were living in the vicinity. When the British Armed Forces withdrew in 1971, the Malay Regiment was dissolved and the *surau* was handed over to the Singapore Government. The *surau* was opened to the public later.

The iconic Mosque was known for its close proximity to the former Malayan Railways. In order to get to the Mosque, worshippers had to trek along a decrepit concrete pavement along the former



Syed Ali bin Abdul Hamid Alkaff is a long-time worshipper at the Mosque, 2014

Queens' Crescent and pass through the railway tracks. Syed Ali bin Abdul Hamid Alkaff, 55, was a former resident at Queens' Crescent Estate and a priest with the Mosque. He recalled, "There were a few gruesome accidents in the 1970s and 1980s when the trains hit onto the residents. Although we had many wonderful memories playing along the train tracks, we were relieved that the Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) had ceased operations in 2011."

Today, the Mosque continues to play an important social role in the neighbourhood by providing counselling services and tuition classes.



A typical colonial terrace house at Jalan Hang Jebat



COLONIAL TERRACES AT JALAN HANG JEBAT

27 104-111 JALAN HANG JEBAT,
SINGAPORE 139530

Explore the area along Jalan Hang Jebat. These are 2-storey colonial terraces which dated back to the 1930s.

The Colonial Terraces along Jalan Hang Jebat were constructed by the British from 1930s onwards to house British personnel working in the nearby military installations at Alexandra and Pasir Panjang. Unlike the Black and White Bungalows at the nearby Wessex Estate, these colonial terraces housed junior ranking officers from the British Armed Forces.

The overall form of the Colonial Terraces follows the aesthetics of the Tudor revival architectural styles. Similar to the Black and White Bungalows, these terrace houses feature a high pitched roof and a veranda which extends across the sides of the house to cut off heat and glare from its interior. Rattan blinds were installed in many of the terrace houses and they perform the same function when drawn down.

With the withdrawal of the British military forces in 1971, these terrace houses became vacated. Today, they are rented out to foreign expatriates who worked in Singapore.



A typical Black and White Bungalow at Wessex Estate, 2012

BLACK & WHITE BUNGALOWS

28

WOKING ROAD / WHITCHURCH ROAD

Turn into Whitchurch Road from Portsdown Road and explore the area from Whitchurch Road to Woking Road. Along these roads are bungalows dating from the colonial period.

Coined “black and white” after their distinct black timber frames and white walls, these Black and White Bungalows in Wessex Estate were constructed by the British from 1930s onwards to house British personnel working in the nearby military installations at Alexandra and Pasir Panjang. The term “bungalow” derives from a Hindi dialect word “bangala” which means “of or from Bengal.”

Designed in the Black-and-white Revival architectural style, these Anglo-Indian bungalows feature a thatched roof with long eaves protruding from the top of the exterior walls that are common in that part of India. Supported by timber pillars, the eaves form a veranda which shelters the house from rain and prevents its interior from overheating. The British beautify the traditional Indian bungalows with Classical columns and tall shuttered windows, and furnish the walls with bricks and tiles. This unique architecture, which created a cooler living environment for the British in tropical colonies, was brought into Singapore.

With the withdrawal of British military forces in 1971, these bungalows became vacated. Today, they are used as art galleries and residences.



The bungalows are named after landmarks and places in the British Empire. Chitral is a town in Pakistan.



Colbar, 2011

The Black and White Bungalows or *Ang Moh Chus* (Hokkien: 红毛屋) were playgrounds for some Queenstown residents. Tan Teck Wah, 62, recalled, “My brothers and I would always walk across the railway tracks and make our way to the *Ang Mo Chus*. These houses were big and beautiful and it seemed like a paradise. We would play catching and hide-and-seek there.”

COLBAR - Opened in 1948, Colbar (or Colonial Bar) was a popular restaurant along Jalan Hang Jebat which catered for the British troops who resided in Wessex Estate. In 2003, the Colbar restaurant was closed to make way for a flyover linking two of the main highways in Singapore. The previous building was carefully dismantled and its parts were used to reconstruct a new restaurant at Whitchurch Road so that it resembled the old bar.



Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) trains travelling along Tanglin Halt, 1969
(Courtesy of Harry & Hercules Lim)

29 FORMER MALAYAN RAILWAYS

Walk down the flight of stairs from the Black and White Bungalows. You will notice a stretch of greenery known as the Green Corridor which demarcates the Wessex Estate and the Tanglin Halt Estate. This is the location of the former Malayan Railways

The former Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) Railway along Tanglin Halt is a dismantled segment in the West Coast Line of the Malayan Railway. Built at a cost of \$1,967,495, the railway line between Kranji and Tank Road was first opened in 1903. The line was extended to Woodlands in 1907, then to Johor in 1923 and Tanjong Pagar Station in 1932. The Malayan railways were built to service the booming tin and rubber industries in Malaya and the port at Keppel.

The Malayan Railways had two stations in Queenstown. The first station was located at a warehouse in the former Archipelago Brewery Company where IKEA now stands whereas the second station was located at Tanglin Halt Industrial Estate. Hence, the boisterous honking sound from the KTM trains was a common feature in Tanglin Halt. Nawawi, 20, a resident at Block 55 Tanglin Halt, recalled, "Our family moved into Commonwealth Drive fifteen years ago. For the first six months or so, we were extremely irritated by the unpredictable bellows from the oncoming trains. They caused us numerous sleepless nights!"

Jimmy Ng, 62, an ex-resident at Tanglin Halt, added, "There were boys who would throw stones at the oncoming trains, lie flat between the tracks or



Jimmy Ng (left) and his brother in front of the tracks, 1962
(Courtesy of Jimmy Ng)



Nawawi (middle) and his siblings posing at the tracks, 2011

jog along the railway line towards Queens' Crescent. The railway seemed to be a part and parcel of our lives."

In 2010, the Malayan Railway tracks were removed after an agreement was struck between leaders of Singapore and Malaysia to jointly develop 'the KTM land.' Today, the dismantled stretch known as the "Rail Corridor" is a popular recreation site for families and friends.



Singapore Improvement Trust designed flats along Commonwealth Drive, circa around 1960s
(Courtesy of Jasmine Chong)

FLATS DESIGNED BY THE SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST

30 57, 61, 67-73 COMMONWEALTH
DRIVE, SINGAPORE 140057

Explore the area beyond the Green Corridor. These 3-storey buildings were flats designed by the Singapore Improvement Trust.

Blocks 47, 51 & 67-73 Commonwealth Drive are the remaining apartment flats in Queenstown that are designed by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT). Completed in the years between 1961 and 1964, there are 10 such blocks containing 120 three-room apartments.

Designed in the Modern style, these three-storey flats feature clean and rational architectural façades such as thin horizontal slabs and ventilation holes. Furthermore, the general public can stroll along footpaths through the spacious backyards maintained by residents on the ground level. Similar to the HDB Terraces at Stirling Road, these low rise terrace apartments were conceived by the Singapore Improvement Trust to reduce uniformity in public housing.

Lim Ang Ah, 71, was one of the ex-residents at the flats. She recalled, "I lived on the ground floor with my family. There was a huge field in front of my house and my daughter would always play hide and seek with our neighbours there."



The Muniandy Temple in the 1930s
(Courtesy of Sri Muneeswaran Temple)

Turn right into Commonwealth Drive. You will notice a Hindu Temple with a beautiful gopuram.

The Sri Muneeswaran Temple at Commonwealth Drive is believed to be Southeast Asia's largest shrine for the Sri Muneeswaran deity. Built at a cost of \$2,000,000, the Temple was consecrated on 1 February 1998 to replace the old Queensway Muneeswaran Temple, which was demolished for a road widening project. In the Temple compound stood a 3-storey multi-purpose hall, administrative offices and a prayer hall.

SRI MUNEESWARAN TEMPLE

31 3 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149594

Sri Muneeswaran Temple first started as a shrine in 1932 when Malayan Railway employees living in Queenstown planted a sulam (or trident) and a triangular stone in an attap hut under a banyan tree. This wooden hut was known as the Muniandy Temple where Hindu devotees would congregate for daily prayers. In January 1970, a new \$7,000 Temple was constructed along Queensway to replace the shrine. Statues of deities such as Muneeswaran, Vinayagar, Mariamman and Murugan were imported from India.



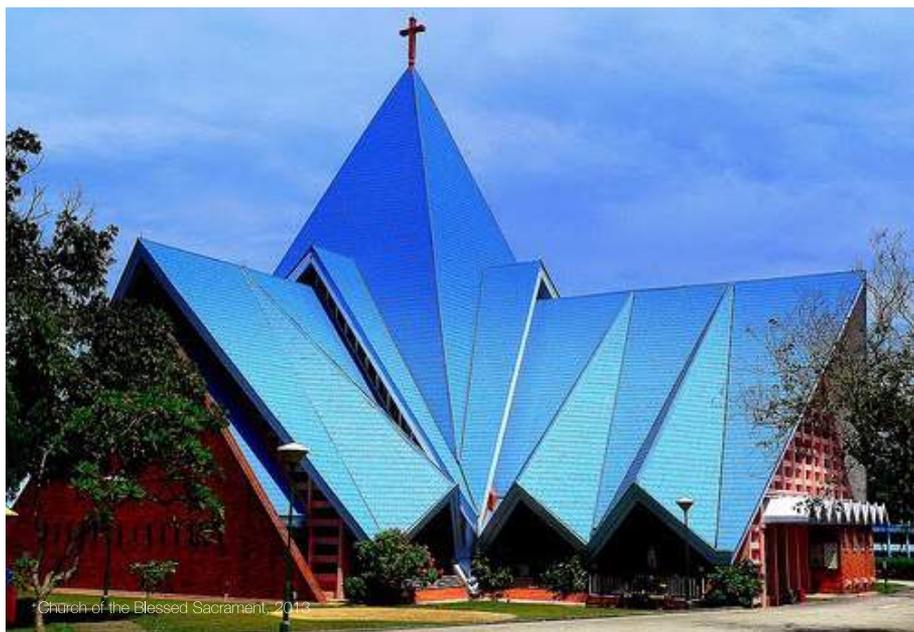
Queensway Muneeswaran Temple, 1970
(Courtesy of Sri Muneeswaran Temple)

The Queensway Muneeswaran Temple was known for its close proximity to the former Malayan Railways. Anantha Sayanam, 48, was a long time worshipper at the Temple. He recalled, "The Temple stood on land belonging to the Malayan Railways. When the trains travelled past the Temple, they would sound their horn and the children would dash towards the tracks."



Sri Muneeswaran Temple's 4th consecration ceremony, 2011

After relocating to Commonwealth Drive, the Temple underwent several renovations in 2004, 2008 and 2011 to expand its facilities so as to cater to the growing congregation of Hindu devotees in Queenstown. The Temple held her 4th consecration ceremony on 10 July 2011.



Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 2013

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

31

1 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149603

At the junction of Commonwealth Drive and Queensway is a building that looks like a folded origami.

The Church of the Blessed Sacrament is Queenstown's first Catholic church. Built at a cost of \$200,000, the Church was officially opened on 9 May 1965 by then Archbishop, Michael Olcomendy. The Church comprised of a parish hall which served as a religious instruction centre, a kindergarten and a presbytery to house the priests.



Adaline Teo and the miniature farm
(Courtesy of Adaline Teo)

Designed by YG Dowsett in the Modern style, the Church's most striking feature is the dramatically structured slate roof, which was constructed in folds in the shape of a tent that symbolised the "tent of meeting" in the Old Testament of the Bible. The roof dipped downwards to wrap the interior with portions touching the ground, reminiscent of anchoring pegs. In addition, the slits of glass panes between the cruciform "create a dramatic play of light and shadow" that brings light into the sanctuary. The multicoloured strips of glass panels inserted within the triangular concrete grids at the three main entrances further create an air of vibrancy when viewed from the inside of the hall.

Besides its attractive façade, the Church was popular for its miniature farm which kept animals such as monkeys, goats and dogs. Adaline Teo, 36, recalled, "The cassowary would always spread its feather and the dog would wag its tail whenever there were visitors to the church." The farm was removed in 2003.

In November 2005, the Church of the Blessed Sacrament was gazetted for conservation.



Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 1966
(Courtesy of Church of the Blessed Sacrament)

FORMER QUEENSTOWN POLICE STATION

55 QUEENSWAY
SINGAPORE 149058



The former Queenstown Police Station has since been converted into a dormitory (Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)

Located at the junction of Tanglin Halt Road and Commonwealth Drive, the former Queenstown Police Station was the first of the five divisional headquarters constructed in Singapore after World War II. Built at a cost of \$400,000, the two-storey police station was officially opened on 7 September 1963 by then Minister for Home Affairs, Ong Pang Boon and then Acting Commissioner of Police, J Le Cain, to take over the functions of the former Tanjong Pagar Headquarters Station

The station was situated on 3.7 acres of land and comprised of a two-storey office building and a canteen. Behind the station were two

ten-storey blocks of flats for housing the policemen and their families. The station was staffed by 3 gazetted officers, 18 inspectors, 250 rank & file and 80 members from the Special Constabulary.

In 1988, Queenstown Police Station was renamed as Clementi Police Station and officially relocated to Clementi Avenue 5 on 3 July 1988. The station was converted into a temporary site for Alexandra Fire Station in 2002 while a \$30.6 million complex was constructed to house both the Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre and Alexandra Fire Station. The police station was converted into a dormitory in 2007.



Newly completed shopping centre and car parks, 1967
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

TANGLIN HALT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

32 48A TANGLIN HALT ROAD,
SINGAPORE 148813



Tanglin Halt Hawker Centre, 1982
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

Turn right into Tanglin Halt Road from Commonwealth Drive. You will notice a stretch of two-storey shop houses and a wet market on your left.

Built at a cost of \$160,000, the Tanglin Halt Neighbourhood Centre was opened in 1962 by then Assemblyman for Queenstown, Dr Lee Siew Chor. The Neighbourhood Centre comprised of 26 shop units arranged around a quadrangle and 84 stalls in the wet market. A shopping centre which composed of a hawker centre and three rows of shop houses was added later in 1967.

In this Neighbourhood Centre, there are several pioneer businesses which you can explore:



Thin Huat is one of the oldest provisions shops in Queenstown
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)

THIN HUAT

The sundry shop at Tanglin Halt, “Thin Huat,” has a long history which dates back to the 1920s. Ang Kah Hee’s grandfather had owned a provision shop at *Boh Beh Kang*, the village which preceded Queenstown. Sundry shops or ‘*chap hui diam*’ in Hokkien literary means shops selling a mixture of goods. Alongside with his brother, Ang Kah Tiong, 66, Kah Hee has kept traditions alive by selling a wide assortment of goods ranging from spices to canned food to cater to the needs of their customers.

KIAN SENG

Kian Seng is another provision shop in the Neighbourhood Centre which sells groceries and religious paraphernalia. Lim Ang Ah, 74, the white-haired lady proprietor, recalled that her shop offered personalised services such as free delivery and shopping on credit in the 1970s. She said, "Shopping on credit was fashionable then. Families would pick their groceries up from us and pay at the end of the month. My husband would record them down on a note book."



Lim Ang Ah – the proprietor of Kian Seng
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)

POH ONN TONG

Poh Onn Tong is an established traditional Chinese medicine shop operated by the Chongs who moved to Singapore from Johor in 1964. An iconic feature of the shop must be the wooden cabinet which stores herbs. Each rectangular drawer holds nine tins of herbs, with the names of the herbs carved on the lid.



Jasmine Chong of Poh Onn Tong
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)

TANGLIN HALT DELICIOUS DUCK NOODLE

For the past 45 years, Chua Ngen Leng, 64, and his wife, Ngern Kah Cheng, 64, would arrive at his hawker stall in Tanglin Halt Wet Market at 2am every morning to prepare the ingredients and spices for braising duck. Thereafter, Chua would immerse the uncooked duck into a metallic container containing herbs and duck bones to be simmered for three hours. The Chuas started out as itinerant hawkers peddling along North Bridge Road selling delicious braised duck noodles to coolies working at warehouses along Singapore River. They relocated to the Wet Market in 1969.



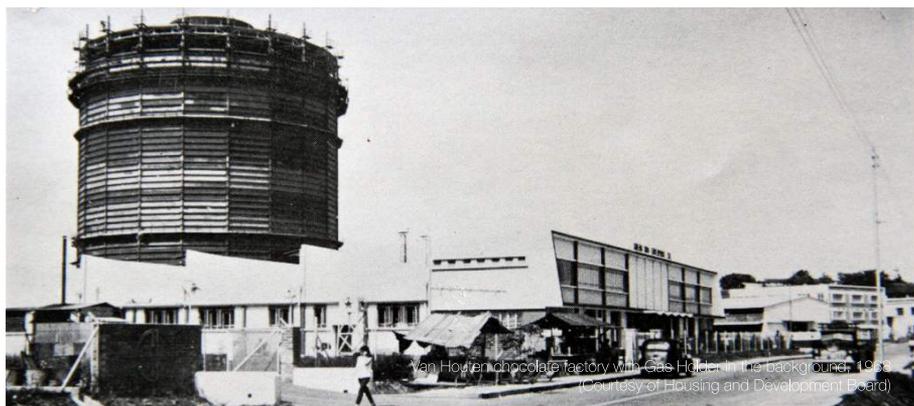
Chua Ah Nan and his wife, Ngern Kah Cheng
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)

TANGLIN HALT ORIGINAL PEANUT PANCAKE

Teng Kiong Seng's traditional peanut pancake (Chinese: 面煎糕; Hokkien: *Min Jiang Kueh*) is crispy on the outside and awesomely chewy inside. Doused with roasted, finely ground peanuts, sugar is added to give the pancake a perfect mixture of sweet and savoury. For the past 45 years, Tanglin Halt Original Peanut Pancake has been serving Tanglin Halt with tasty pancakes which are fresh from the wok. Look out for other flavours from the stall!



Teng Kiong Seng and wife
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)



Van Houten chocolate factory with Gas Holder in its background, 1933 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

FORMER TANGLIN HALT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

33 401 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149598



The Unitex garment factory, 1967
(Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)

At the junction of Tanglin Halt Road and Commonwealth Drive stands a modern office building, the Haw Par Corporation, which provides scant reminder of the sprawling industrial estate which existed in the 1970s and 1980s.

The former Tanglin Halt Industrial Estate was one of the first industrial estates in Singapore. Measuring some 20 acres of land and comprising a total of 38 factory lots for cottage industries, the establishment of the Industrial Estate marked Singapore's drive into industrialisation and diversification from a declining entrepot economy. Tanglin Halt was chosen for her close proximity to the former Malayan Railways and large labour catchment.

Managed by the Jurong Town Corporation (JTC), the former Tanglin Halt Industrial Estate was developed in the 1960s to house light and medium

industries. Land was leased to budding industrialists on easy repayment terms and tax incentives were given generously to multinational corporations. By the end of the decade, Tanglin Halt was home to a smorgasbord of factories. Among these factories were Singapore Electronics (Setron), Van Houten chocolate factory, Diethelm aluminium factory and Unitex garment factory. The Setron factory at Tanglin Halt rolled out Singapore's first black and white television in 1964.

In the late 1980s, factories at the former Tanglin Halt Industrial Estate began to relocate to bigger industrial estates and industrial clusters in order to enjoy external economies of scale. Today, high-rise offices such as Haw Par Corporation and One Commonwealth replaced these labour intensive factories, indicating a shift in the structure of the Singapore's economy.



Stacking and storage of finished products at the Diethelm aluminium factory, 1968 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)



Chocolate factory manufacturing process, 1968 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)



Faith Methodist Church, 1967 (Courtesy of Faith Methodist Church)

FAITH MEHODIST CHURCH

34 400 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149604

Located opposite the Haw Par Corporation building is Faith Methodist Church.

Faith Methodist Church is Queenstown's first Methodist church. Built at a cost of \$350,000, the Church was officially dedicated on 26 June 1967 by Bishops Robert Lundy and Hobart Baumann Amstutz. The Church is named in memory of Faith Goh, whose parents Dr and Mrs Goh Kok Kee were gracious donors to the Church's building fund.



Worship services were held in a temporary shed while the Church building was being constructed, 1965 (Courtesy of Faith Methodist Church)

Before the sanctuary was completed, worship services were conducted in the open field and later, in a temporary shed. The first open-air worship service was conducted on the Easter Sunday, 18 April 1965. Gerald Liew, 85, was a long-time worshipper at the Church. He reflected, "Everything was very primitive then and there were around 40 of us standing in the middle of a field. There was neither a public address system nor musical accompaniment. So, we sang the hymns from memory."

The founding pastor, Nga Tieng Chieng, added, "The church trustees first purchased this plot of land in 1964 and it was surrounded by farms and swamps. I recalled losing one of my shoes to the swampland when I visited the site!"



Groundbreaking ceremony for the church building, 1965 (Courtesy of Faith Methodist Church)

Faith Methodist Church underwent major renovations in 1976 and 1986 to cater to its growing congregation. In 2002, the old sanctuary was demolished to facilitate the construction of a \$12 million building that could house a 1000-seat sanctuary, kindergarten, library and columbarium.



Block 115 Commonwealth Drive, circa around 1970s
(Courtesy of James Lim)

THE FIRST FLATTED FACTORY

35

115A / 115B COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, SINGAPORE 149596

Walk across Commonwealth Avenue. You will notice a 5-storey building on your left.

Block 115 Commonwealth Drive is Singapore's first Flatted Factory. Built at a cost of \$1,500,000, the groundbreaking ceremony of the five-storey factory was inaugurated on 30 May 1965 by then Minister for National Development, Lim Kim San. The Flatted Factory had a gross floor area of around 240,000 square feet and comprised of 30 operating factories.

The idea of flatted factories was first mooted by the Economic Development Board (EDB) to recognise the role of light industries and their requirements. Firstly, small industrial

establishments in the metal trade, shoemaking or apparel manufacturing were important sources of employment, accounting for 40% of total workforce. Secondly, these small developers were in better position than large companies in providing customised services and fulfilling orders of smaller quantities. Hence, the establishment of flatted factories provided a relatively inexpensive work accommodation at rentals within the means of small enterprises. Furthermore, the location of flatted factories within housing estates allowed for a ready supply of labour and encouraged women to enter the labour force.

Noorsia Binte Abdul Gani, 49, was an employee at an electronics factory in the Flatted Factory. She recalled, "It was very convenient for me to work here because I lived nearby at Block 82 Commonwealth Close. I could return home and prepare lunch for my children every afternoon."

Following the success of the pilot project at Block 115 Commonwealth Drive, the Economic Development Board went on to build 38 more flatted factories across the country. Today, the First Flatted Factory at Commonwealth Drive is managed by Mapletree Investments.



Block 115A & 115B Commonwealth Drive, 2014



Shuang Long Shan Wu Shu Ancestral Hall, 2014

SHUANG LONG SHAN WU SHU MEMORIAL HALL

36 9 COMMONWEALTH LANE, SINGAPORE 149551

Turn into Commonwealth Lane from Commonwealth Drive. At the end of the road, you will notice a single storey structure with strong Chinese architectural elements.

The *Yin Fo Kun* cemetery (Chinese: 应和管) at Shuang Long Shan Wu Shu Ancestral Hall is Singapore's last remaining Hakka cemetery. The Ancestral Hall and its surrounding cemetery was established in 1887 for Yin Fo Fui Kun clansmen from *Jia Ying* (Chinese: 嘉应) prefecture in Canton, China, to have a place for burial and ancestral worship. The compound comprised of a 1.8 hectare cemetery with over 3,000 tombstones, an ancestral temple, a memorial hall for the clan and a stand-alone columbarium.

Designed in the traditional Chinese architectural style, the Ancestral Temple features a gabled roof with a straight, inclined curvature that is topped with a ridge of ceramic tiles. At the entrance of the Ancestral Temple, a pair of lion statues is arranged

in bilateral symmetry to "ward off evil spirits" and a sky well with enclosing halls on four sides is used for temperature regulation. Furthermore, the Ancestral Hall incorporates concepts from Chinese cosmology such as *feng shui* (Chinese: 风水; geomancy) by placing Five Element stones in the middle of the altar located right behind the main hall. The Five Element stones are believed to possess mystical powers to keep the devils away.

The Shuang Long Shan Wu Shu Ancestral Hall, which was located at the foot of *Shuang Long Shan* (Chinese: 双龙山; Double Dragon Hill), houses the ancestral tablets since the early 20th century. In 1926, *Ying Xin School* (Chinese: 应新学堂) was established at the Ancestral Hall to provide education for the village children. The school had 5 classes and wooden boards were used as makeshift partitions to create classrooms. The school closed in 1969 in the face of declining enrolment.

In 1966, the Singapore Government acquired the burial ground around Shuang Long Shan Wu Shu Ancestral Hall for the development of the Commonwealth and Buona Vista estates. After the remains in all the graves were identified, exhumed and cremated, the ashes were transferred to urns and placed under the headstones, or at the columbarium in the old Ancestral Hall or the newer *Ying Fo Fui Kun Memorial Hall* (completed in 1988). Today, the Ancestral Hall remains a gathering point for former *Shuang Long Shan* villagers and serves as a lasting reminder of Queenstown's past.



Villagers of *Khek Lang Sua* (Courtesy of Yeo Yia Hoe)



The remains in the once-larger cemetery were identified, exhumed, cremated and placed under individual headstones in 1969 for reburial



THE VIP BLOCK

37

81 COMMONWEALTH CLOSE,
SINGAPORE 140083

Turn into Commonwealth Close from Commonwealth Drive. At the end of the road, you will notice a 16-storey building which gives the estate its unique identity as *Chap Lak Lao* (Hokkien: 十六楼; 16 Storeys)

Block 81 Commonwealth Close is known as the VIP Block in Queenstown. Completed in September 1964, the 16-storey block contained 192 three-room and 64 two-room apartments. The commanding presence of Block 81 and neighbouring blocks 82 and 83 earned the neighbourhood a colourful colloquial name, *Chap Lak Lao* (Hokkien: 十六楼; 16 storey).

Block 81 was also the fourth block of flats under the Housing and Development Board's (HDB) "Home Ownership for the People" scheme. The

scheme was introduced in February 1964 by then Minister for National Development, Lim Kim San, to encourage a "property-owning democracy in Singapore" and enable Singaporeans in the lower middle income group to purchase their own homes. Singaporeans earning an individual income not exceeding \$800 per month were eligible to purchase a flat under the scheme. The scheme was piloted in Commonwealth where 2,068 two and three-room apartments were made available on 99 year leases.

The success of Singapore's public housing where 82% of Singaporeans reside in HDB apartments and 81% of the population own their homes today can be attributed to the "Home Ownership for the People" scheme. In the 1960s and 1970s, foreign dignitaries were brought to the VIP Block for a panoramic view of Queenstown which showcased Singapore's success in public housing. Among these distinguished guests include Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1965; Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India, in 1968; then Crown Prince of Akihito in 1970; and Spiro Agnew, then Vice President of the United States of America, in 1970.



Spiro Agnew, then Vice President of the United States, visited the VIP Block, 1970 (Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore)



Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, talking to a resident at the VIP Block, 1965 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



The original Queenstown Japanese Garden (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

RIDOUT TEA GARDEN

38

580 QUEENSWAY,
SINGAPORE 149066

Walk down the flight of stairs from the VIP Block and climb the overhead bridge. You will notice a single-storey structure with strong Japanese architectural elements.

Ridout Tea Garden (former Queenstown Japanese Garden) was Singapore's first Japanese-themed community garden. Built at a cost of \$500,000, the landscaped garden was opened in 1970 to provide more recreational facilities for flat dwellers in Queenstown. The original garden comprised of a large pool with lights and fountain, a U-shaped row of shops housed in three verandas and a series of wooden bridges and pavilions.

On 26 June 1978, a huge blaze began at a furniture shop located in the middle of the U. The architectural layout of the shops prevented firemen from containing the fire and the entire garden was soon engulfed in flames. As most of the shops were closed when the fire broke out, there was no casualties.

Out of the ashes of the former Queenstown Japanese Garden, the Housing and Development Board built a new garden in May 1979. Reopened under its new name, Ridout Tea Garden, the 1.38 hectare recreation site comprised of a single-storey eating house pavilion, a tea kiosk and a Japanese-styled garden.

Ridout Tea Garden was one of the focal points of Queenstown housing estate. Every weekend, Tay Ah Keow, 69, and her husband would bring her 3 children to the gardens for a stroll. "My son will prepare a bag of breadcrumbs at home and feed the giant terrapins and fishes in the pond."



Hercules Lim and her sister at the entrance of Queenstown Japanese Gardens (Courtesy of Hercules Lim)



The huge blaze which razed the original Japanese Garden, 1978 (Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings)



The revamped gardens after the blaze, 1980 (Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)



Commonwealth Crescent Wet Market, 1965
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

COMMONWEALTH CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

39 31 COMMONWEALTH CRESCENT,
SINGAPORE 149644

Walk across Queensway and turn into Commonwealth Drive. You will notice a stretch of shop houses arranged around a quadrangle.

Built at a cost of \$180,000, the Commonwealth Crescent Neighbourhood Centre was officially opened on 29 May 1965 by then Minister for Labour, Jek Yuen Thong. The Neighbourhood Centre comprised of 26 shop units arranged around a quadrangle and 84 hawker stalls in the wet market.

In this Neighbourhood Centre, there are several pioneer businesses which you can explore:



Commonwealth Crescent Neighbourhood Centre, 1972
(Courtesy of Housing and Development Board)

SIN PALACE HAIR DRESSING AND BEAUTY SALOON

Sin Palace Hairdressing Saloon has been grooming the neighbourhood's male residents for the past 49 years. Ong Choon Kwee, the bespectacled proprietor of the saloon, is one of Singapore's last experts in the traditional art of ear cleaning.

Ong begins his grooming service with a comfortable haircut. Next, he uses his assortment of tools ranging from tweezers, brushes and picks to fish out the ear wax. Then, a small fluffy brush is swished around the idle ear before he wipes his customer's eye and nose. Thereafter, the tongue is scrapped gently with a special knife to rid of its white coating.



Ong Choon Kwee - the proprietor of Sin Palace
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)



Lim Thiam Choo (left) and his protégé son, Lim Cheng Poh
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)

QUEENSTOWN POHPIAH (SKIN)

Popiah or spring roll is a popular snack which originates from southeastern China. Lim Thiam Choo's Queenstown Poh Pia has tickled the taste buds of numerous Queenstown residents for the past 49 years. He first started out as an itinerant hawker, peddling along the streets at Tanglin Halt, Margaret Drive and Commonwealth Crescent. After 'retiring' in 2011, his eldest son Lim Cheng Poh carries on the tradition of making popiah skins by hand.

HONG KEE CONGEE

Simmered over low heat with constant stirring for over an hour to get the right consistency, Mr Hui's congee at Commonwealth Crescent Market is a popular way to start the day for many residents. The congee's smooth texture is typical of Cantonese cooking, as are its ingredients, such as century eggs, pork innards, minced meat and raw fish.



Delicious porridge from Hong Kee Congee
(Courtesy of Caroline Chia)



QUEENSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 709 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE,
SINGAPORE 149601

Turn left from the market. You will notice an iconic church with a pyramidal roof.

Queenstown Lutheran Church is the second Lutheran Church in Singapore. Built at a cost of \$150,000, the Church was opened on 13 March 1966 and dedicated on 1 May 1966 as an extension to the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer at Duke Road. The Church was built with funds from the United Lutheran Church in America.

Designed in the Art Deco style, the Church features a bold, pyramidal roof that allows rainwater to drain quickly and high internal spaces for air to flow effectively. Other design features include a sanctuary with striking geometry and multicoloured strips of glass panels inserted next to the cruciform, which bring light into the sanctuary.

Queenstown Lutheran Church first started as a Sunday school in 1965 when founding pastor,



Recreational sports such as basketball were held within the Church premises, 1967 (Courtesy of William Wong and Richard Khoo)

Reverend John Nelson, started evangelistic work in Queenstown. Services were held in both Mandarin and English. After the Church building was completed, a number of other ministries were started to serve the neighbourhood. Among these were cooking, sewing and language classes, the Boys' Brigade and recreational sports.

William Wong, 55, was a long time worshipper at the Church. He recalled, "There were few forms of entertainment in the 1960s and children from the neighbourhood would gather at the basketball court for a friendly match every evening. When Bill Bolm, a youth missionary, started the Boys' Brigade in 1967, my mother enrolled me into the Company so that I could learn to be self-disciplined."

The Boys' Brigade 26th Singapore Company from Queenstown Lutheran Church took part in many parades and ceremonies over the years. On 13 May 1967, the Company was part of the Singapore Battalion Boys' Brigade which held their first church parade at Queenstown. Richard Khoo, 76, was an officer with the Company. He remembered, "There were around 1,500 officers and boys at the parade. We marched from the Lutheran Church at Commonwealth Crescent to Faith Methodist Church at Commonwealth Drive before ending at the former Baharuddin Vocational School."

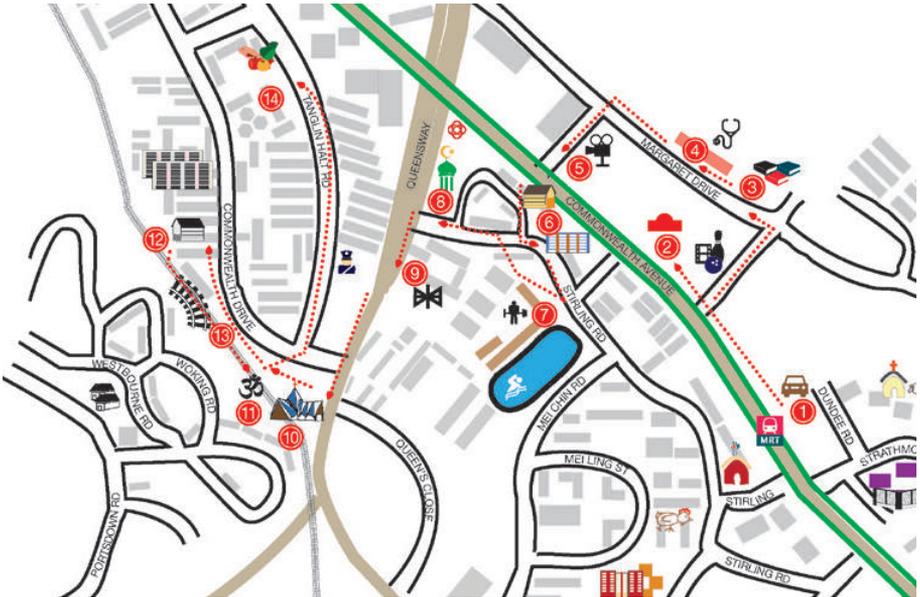
Today, the Church continues to play an important social role in the neighbourhood by providing counselling services and tuition classes.



Weekly drills for the Boys' Brigade were conducted at the Basketball Court, circa around 1970s. (Courtesy of William Wong and Richard Khoo)

INFORMATION ON GUIDED TOURS

Free, guided tours take place at the last Sunday of every month. The tours are conducted by volunteers from civic group, My Community, and they cover important landmarks from My Queenstown Heritage Trail. Each guided tour is about 2 hours long and starts punctually at 9am sharp from Queenstown MRT Station.



You can register yourself and your friends for the tours by leaving your name, NRIC or Passport number and contact details with myqueenstown@gmail.com. A confirmation phone call or email will be sent to successful applicants.

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Guided tours are limited to 25 participants per session, on a first come, first served basis.
- Participants are advised to wear comfortable clothes and shoes and bring along a bottle of water, and an umbrella. You may also wish to bring along a bottle of insect repellent.
- Tours are conducted in English and Mandarin only.

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www.facebook.com/myqueenstown



www.queenstown.org.sg



DESTINATIONS

PRINCESS TRAIL

- FORMER QUEENSTOWN DRIVING TEST CENTRE 1
- CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2
- FORMER FORFAR HOUSE 3
- PRINCESS HOUSE 4
- QUEENSTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL 5
- ANG BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONARY FACTORY 6
- JAMEK QUEENSTOWN MOSQUE 7
- LEE KONG CHIAN GARDENS SCHOOL 8
- QUEENSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH 9

DUCHESS TRAIL

- QUEENSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY 10
- QUEENSTOWN POLYCLINIC 11
- FORMER COMMONWEALTH AVENUE WET MARKET 12
- FORMER VENUS AND GOLDEN CITY THEATRES 13
- MUJAHIDIN MOSQUE 14
- FORMER BAHARUDDIN VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE 15
- THE FIRST HDB BLOCKS & HDB TERRACES 16
- QUEENSTOWN SPORTS COMPLEX 17

MEI LING AND ALEXANDRA TRAIL

- TRUE WAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 18
- TIONG GHEE TEMPLE 19
- THE FIRST POINT BLOCKS 20
- THE FIRST CURVED BLOCK 21
- FORMER ARCHIPELAGO BREWERY COMPANY 22
- QUEENSWAY SHOPPING CENTRE 23
- ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL 24
- ALEXANDRA FIRE STATION & 25
- QUEENSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE

WESSEX & TANGLIN HALT TRAIL

- HANG JEBAT MOSQUE 26
- COLONIAL TERRACES AT JALAN HANG JEBAT 27
- BLACK AND WHITE BUNGALOWS 28
- FORMER MALAYAN RAILWAYS 29
- FLATS DESIGNED BY THE SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST 30
- SRI MUNEESWARAN TEMPLE 31
- CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 31
- TANGLIN HALT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE 32
- FORMER TANGLIN HALT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 33
- FAITH METHODIST CHURCH 34

COMMONWEALTH TRAIL

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MY QUEENSTOWN Heritage Trail





Princess Margaret Estate, 2012

