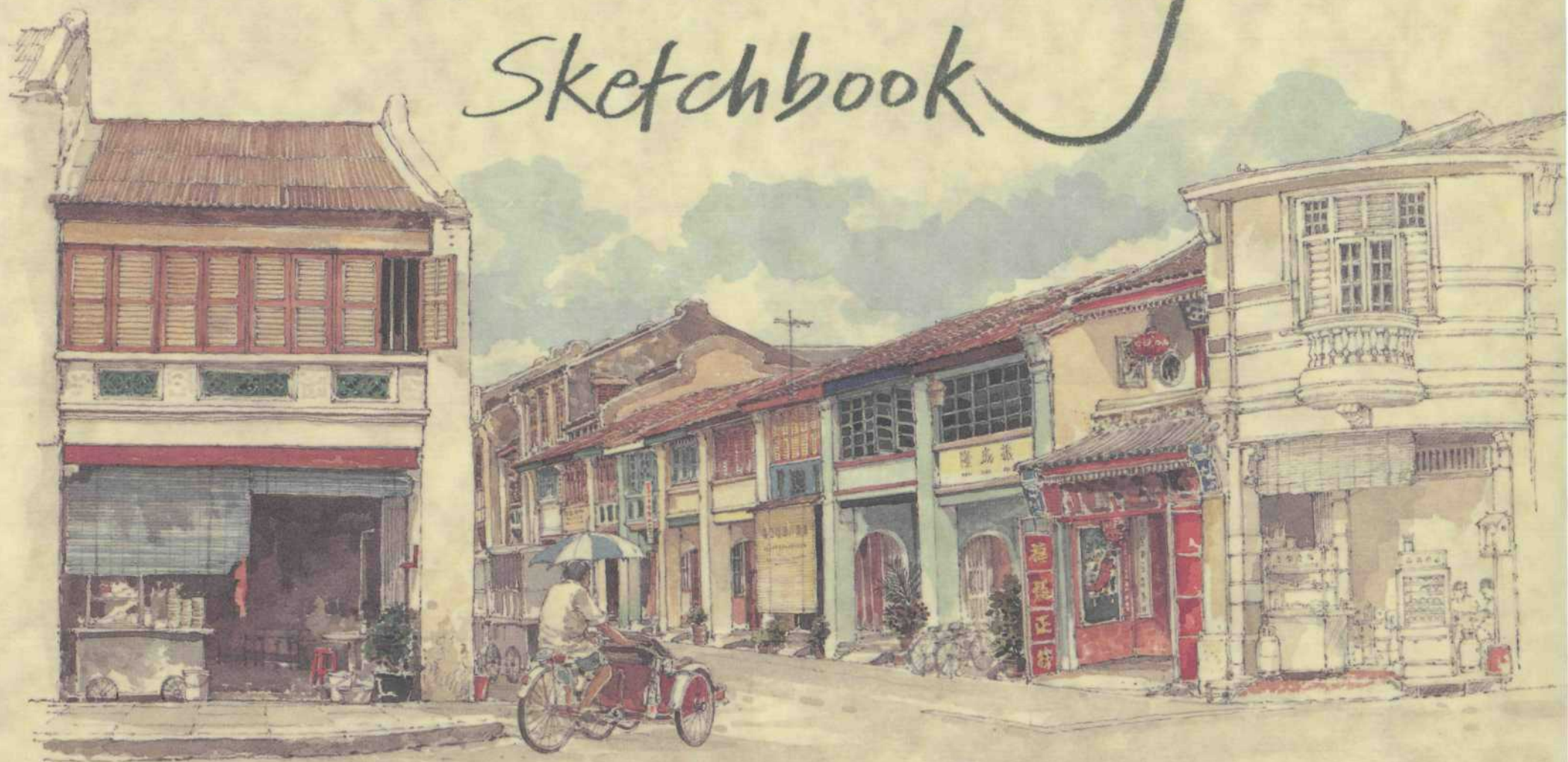


# Penang

## Sketchbook



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Text by Chen Voon Fee

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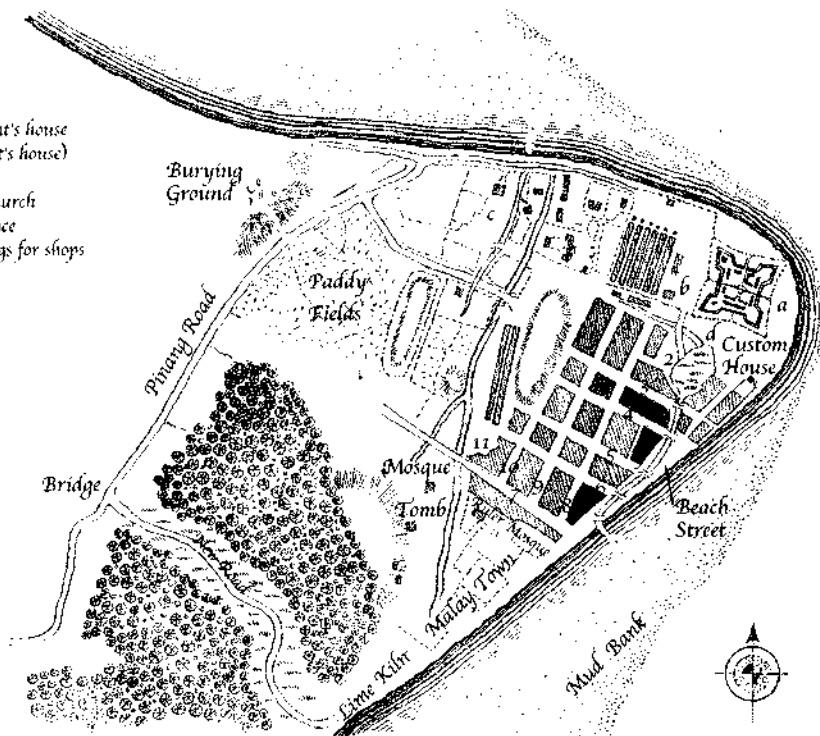
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# Gazetteer

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1. Light Street
2. Union Street
3. Bishop Street
4. Church Street
5. China Street
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7. Chulia Street
8. Penang Street
9. King Street
10. Queen Street
11. Pitt Street



Early map of George Town based on Captain H.R. Popham's 1798 plan.

## THE FOUNDING OF A SETTLEMENT

Page 8

### Francis Light Statue, Lebuh Farquhar

The bronze statue was based on the likeness of Francis Light's son, William Light, as there was no picture of the founder of Penang. It was sculpted by F. J. Wilcoxon, cast at Burton's Foundry, Thames Ditton, and completed in 1939.

### Protestant Cemetery, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah

Besides housing the tomb of Penang's founder, Francis Light (d. 1794), many other Europeans connected with the early settlement were buried here, such as Governors Phillip Dundas (d. 1807), William Petrie (d. 1816) and Colonel John Alexander Bannerman (d. 1819), who all died in office. There is also a group of Chinese graves in the cemetery dating from the 1860s to the 1880s—probably those of Christian Hakkas who came to Penang after the Taiping Revolution in China. Captain H. R. Popham's 1798 plan showed a 'Burying Ground', a mound at the edge of the early town on the northwest of Jalan Penang—at the same site.

Page 10

### Penang Hill Railway, Ayer Itam

Considered an engineering feat at the time, the funicular railway, based on Swiss examples, was designed in 1922 by A. R. Johnson of the Federated Malay States (FMS) Railway. It was opened on 1 January 1924 by the Governor of Penang, Sir Laurence Nunn Guillelard. The 592-metre (647-yard) ride up or down the hill takes about half an hour. A timber carriage from the first train can be seen in the forecourt of the State Museum & Art Gallery, Penang (page 20).

## THE CIVIC SPIRIT

Page 12

### Victoria Memorial Clock Tower, Pesara King Edward

The 60-foot tower was donated by a loyal subject, philanthropist Cheah Chen Eok, in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. It was completed in 1902 after the Queen Empress's death.

Page 13 (map reference c)

### Government House, grounds of Convent Light Street

Francis Light's 'bungalow' was built by Indian convicts after the settlement was made a penal station in 1789. It dates back to 1793. The Governor's Office and Council Chambers were housed here for some years. It was the seat of Penang's government in the early 19th century, and Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore, worked here from 1805 to 1810 as Deputy Secretary to the Governor of Penang. The bungalow was acquired by the convent in 1859 and served as a novitiate in the early years.

Page 14

### Francis Light Memorial

The memorial is built on the original 1-hectare (3-acre) Company's Square and its grounds have remained virtually intact. The memorial's marble plaque carrying the epitaph to Francis Light was erected by the son of James Scott, the founder's friend, and was first placed in St. George's Church. It was removed to its present location when the memorial was built.

### St. George's Church, corner of Lebuh Farquhar and Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling

The two men most responsible for the founding of the church were Reverend H. S. Hutchings, the Colonial Chaplain, and Captain Robert N. Smith of Madras Engineers. It was built entirely by Indian convict labour and completed in 1818 at a cost of 60,000 Spanish dollars.

Page 15 (map reference d)

### State Assembly Buildings (Dewan Undangan Negeri), Lebuh Light

Formerly the Recorder's Courts and Magistrate's Courts, these dignified Anglo-Indian buildings are typical of architecture in the early half of the 19th century in their use of classicism in a pure and unadorned form.

Page 16

### Supreme Court, junction of Lebuh Light and Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling

The present building, completed in 1905 at the cost of 206,678 Straits dollars, replaced an earlier courthouse on the same site dating from 1809. Logan Memorial (page 17) stands at the western end of the park-like grounds.

Page 17

### Logan Memorial

The memorial was erected in 1869 by the people of the Straits Settlements to commemorate the death of James Richardson Logan of the famed *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*. He stood for justice and championed the rights of non-European communities. He and his elder brother, Abraham Logan, fought through the press for the end of Indian rule, which led to the Transfer of 1867. This tribute is inscribed on a marble slab on the memorial: 'He was an erudite and skillful lawyer, an eminent scientific ethnologist and he has founded a literature for these settlements ...'

### Cathedral of the Assumption, Lebuh Farquhar

The cathedral, formerly the Church of the Assumption, founded by Father Garnault at Lebuh Gereja, moved to its present site around

1857, where it occupied a temporary building. The present building was erected by Father Manissol in 1860. Its two wings were added in 1928 during extensive renovations, and the sanctuary was renovated in 1955 after the church was elevated to a cathedral.

Page 18-19

#### **Town Hall, Jalan Padang Kota Lama**

The Town Hall was built around 1880. Its role was more social than administrative, and it had an assembly hall, a ballroom with adjoining supper rooms and a library. It was used to stage dramatic and musical productions. Postcards from 1910 show the Town Hall with a single-storey *porte cochere*.

#### **City Hall (Municipal Council Building), Jalan Padang Kota Lama**

The building of the magnificent edifice commenced in 1900 and took three years to complete, at a cost of 100,000 Straits dollars. The present 24 Municipal Councillors meet regularly in its panelled Council Chamber.

Page 20

#### **State Museum & Art Gallery, Penang, Lebuhr Farquhar**

Reverend H. S. Hutchings founded the Penang Free School on this site in 1816. The present building was constructed in two stages, in 1896 and 1906. The older, symmetrical, eastern half was destroyed by World War II bombs and never rebuilt. In 1961 the Hutchings School, which had taken over the building from the Penang Free School, relinquished it to the government for conversion into a museum and art gallery. The museum opened in 1965. It underwent a major renovation in 1997 and reopened with the present displays. The ground floor shows Penang's major communities and their cultures while the first floor galleries tell Penang's history with rooms displaying the famous oils of Captain Robert Smith and the engravings of William Daniel.

Page 21

#### **Eastern & Oriental Hotel (E & O Hotel), No. 10 Lebuhr Farquhar**

The E & O Hotel was a sister hotel to Singapore's Raffles and Rangoon's Strand, all associated with the legendary Sarkies brothers. The E & O Hotel was managed by Arshak Sarkies, the youngest brother. Sold and resold, the hotel has recently undergone extensive rebuilding and refitting into an all-suite hotel. The old Art Deco, four-storey structure built in 1929 by architect Messrs Brossard Mopin has been retained. Penang's oldest hotel might still be able to claim it has the longest sea front—244 metres (800 feet)!

Page 22

#### **Convent Light Street, Lebuhr Light**

In 1852 three French Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus Mission arrived in Penang to work among the poor. They were joined by Mother St. Mathilde, considered the founder of the Mission. The present 3-hectare (7-acre) site at the end of Lebuhr Light was acquired in 1859. The convent expanded over the decades and a chapel, Sisters' cloisters, a nunnery, a novitiate, an orphanage, a boarding house and classrooms were added.

Page 23

#### **ABN AMRO House, No. 9 Lebuhr Pantai**

The *Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij*, founded in 1824 to promote Dutch overseas commerce, established its Penang branch in 1888 as the bank of the Netherlands Trading Society. Its functions were to 'advise like a chamber of commerce, finance like a bank and trade like a merchant'. The building was designed by architects Wilson & Neubronner. The contractor, Lee Ah Kong, completed it for a sum of \$41,200 Straits dollars and the bank opened in 1905. Modifications were made to the tower design in the early 1900s. Old postcards of 1910-15 showed the corner tower capped with a dome and more elaborate supports above the

roof cornice. Later, it became a flatter, cap-like roof with overhanging eaves. The building was carefully restored for the bank's centenary in 1988. The meticulous work was undertaken by ABN's Head Office in Amsterdam based on original documents from their archives. The original height of the banking hall with its mezzanine gallery was restored, revealing hidden mouldings; partitions were removed, showing the elegant Corinthian columns and cornices. The side elevation on Lebuhr Union can now be fully appreciated.

Page 24 (map reference a)

#### **Seri Rambai, Lebuhr Light**

The Dutch presented the legendary demi-cannon to the Sultan of Johore in 1605. It was captured by the Achehnese Sultan when the Johore capital was sacked in 1613, then given to the Sultan of Selangor in 1795. The Madras Native Infantry from the fort in Kuala Selangor seized it and brought it to Penang in 1871. Today, flowers placed on it by women regarding it as a fertility symbol embellish the Dutch East India Company's logo of heraldic lions and dolphins.

#### **Fort Cornwallis, Lebuhr Light**

Named after the Governor-General of Bengal, the star-shaped fort was built at the tip of Tanjung Penang, where Francis Light landed. The name 'Tanjung Penang' comes from the hardwood *Penaga* tree growing there which Light ordered cut and cleared for the fort. Old postcards of 1900-1905 show the fort with many buildings for the military, surrounded by a water-filled moat, filled in since 1923. Today, only a gunpowder magazine and a chapel survive within the walls. The fort now serves as a landscaped cultural venue for visitors.

Page 25

#### **Suffolk House, Jalan Ayer Itam**

On his deathbed in 1794, Francis Light made a will bequeathing to Martina Rozells '... the pepper Gardens with my Garden house plantations and all the Land by me cleared in that part of this island called Suffolk ...'. All the materials for the house were imported from India and Burma—thin Indian bricks, terracotta, marble floor tiles and Burmese teak beams. The floor plans are mirror images of each other and elevations are perfectly symmetrical. Light's 'pepper Gardens with my Garden house' were bought over in 1805 by W. E. Phillips and served as Governor's Residence for him and Colonel Bannerman, his father-in-law. In 1818 it became Government House. Subsequent modifications and additions were made after 1850 with a large roof over the original parapetted flat 'terrace' and jack roof. Conservation work is in progress to restore Suffolk House to Francis Light's 'Anglo-Indian Garden House'—the country's first and only one surviving of its kind in the country.

Page 26

#### **Mariophane, Tanjung Bungah, St. John's Hill**

The French Seminary of the Holy Angel, better known as College-General, moved to Penang in 1806 from Burma following the move of the French Catholic Mission. It was founded in 1660 and has a long history of training missionaries in Southeast Asia. The hill-top bungalow with its adjoining Chapel served as a retreat, and is still in use by the College-General which relocated its new seminary buildings to the foot of the hill in 1984 after its old complex, which was adjacent to College Square, was sold and demolished.

Page 27

#### **State Religious Council (Majlis Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri), junction of Lebuhr Downing and Lebuhr Pantai**

The building was once a part of an extensive complex housing the old government offices. It was built in 1889 and added to until the last extension in 1907. It now houses the State Religious Council, the Office for Islam Religion and a *syariah* court.

## THE SOUTHERN INDIAN CONNECTION

Page 29

#### **Nagore Shrine, junction of Lebuhr Chulia and Lebuhr King**

The shrine, built in the early 1800s, venerates Syed Shahul Hamid, the famous Muslim saint of Nagore, southern India. The tradition of venerating city saints came to Penang with the Tamil Muslim traders of Tanjore. Feast days are observed by flying flags and distributing food. The alcoves on the side wall house shops.

Pages 36-7

#### **Nattukkottai Chettiar Temple, Jalan Waterfall**

Soon after the Chettiar community established itself in Penang in 1854, it bought the land in Jalan Waterfall to build a *chettinar*. The Nattukkottai Chettiar Temple, dedicated to Thendayathapani, an incarnation of the Hindu deity Murugan, was built within the compound in the temple style of the Chettiars' homeland and consecrated in 1857. The best Burmese teak was used in its superstructure, and it has a magnificent *gopuram* (entrance tower).

Page 38

#### **Mahamariamman Temple, junction of Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling and Lebuhr Queen**

The temple is the oldest Hindu one in Penang. Its founding in 1833 is corroborated by a notice of a consecration ceremony held a hundred years later in 1933, when the temple took its present form. The foundation stone was laid by Justice of the Peace V. Naresam Pillay. In 1979 major repair works were carried out by a sculptor and two assistants from the Academy of Sculptors, Mahalaputram, southern India.

Page 39

#### **Noordin Family Tomb, Lebuhr Chulia**

Mohamed Merican Noordin built the tomb for his mother using Indian masons. He too was buried there after 1870. Noordin was an early Muslim Municipal Councillor and was made a Justice of the Peace. The tomb's vestibule housed a school for the Muslim community which Noordin endowed for the 'learning of English, Hindoostanee, Malay, Tamil, Malabar and the Alkoran. Twenty dollars per month'.

Pages 40-1

#### **Kapitan Kling Mosque, junction of Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling and Lebuhr Buckingham**

The mosque was founded before 1798. Later, Cauder Mydin Merican, as Kapitan Kling, was asked by the community he headed to build the mosque. The 19th-century title Kapitan (headman of the community) has a long history dating back to Melaka under the Portuguese. Kling, a term not used now, refers to Indians. The mosque has undergone various phases of extensions since the early 1800s.

Extensive conservation and development works continue today under the South Australian Heritage Consultants and Contractors Group (SAHCC).

## THE CHINESE LEGACY

Pages 42-3

#### **Khoo Kongsi, Medan Cannon**

The well-established Khoos in Penang formed the Khoo clan association in 1835. In 1850 the association bought the land at Medan Cannon and converted the existing bungalow into the clan temple. All the Khoos in Penang belonging to Leong San Tong Dragon Mountain Hall can trace their lineage back to a common progenitor, Khoo Chian Eng of Sin Kang village, Hokkien province. A grand, new temple built in 1901 was mysteriously destroyed by fire, believed to be a casualty of hubris. The present, more modest one was completed in 1906 at a cost of 100,000 Straits dollars, with master builders, craftsmen and

materials from China. The ensemble of clan temple, association office, stage and terrace houses has retained the social organisation of a Hokkien clan village.

#### **Pavilion Stage, Medan Cannon**

The Pavilion Stage facing the Khoo Kongsi, an integral part of the temple complex, is unaltered from its 1906 original timber and brick structure. Its woodcarving, painting and *chien nien* decorations embody the highest standard of traditional skills.

Page 45

#### **Cheah Kongsi, Nos. 8–8A Lebuah Armenian**

Founded in 1835 by pioneer settler Cheah Yam, this was the earliest of the five great Hokkien clans. The well-endowed clan was run by generations of Cheahs, who originated from Sek Tong village in southern China. The mid-19th century clan temple and office buildings combine a courtyard plan with a porched bungalow plan and townhouse architecture. Its decorations are richly eclectic.

Pages 46–7

#### **Lo Pan Hang (Carpenters' Guild), Lorong Love**

Lo Pan is the patron saint of all builders, engineers and architects, carpentry being pre-eminent in Chinese architecture. He is a historical figure contemporary with Confucius (551–479 BC). He invented many basic tools used by carpenters today such as the right-angle rule, the compass, the nib and the straight thread *bak shau* (an instrument used to draw straight lines with an inked thread), and invested them with moral virtues. He was the 'Chinese Da Vinci', and was also attributed with the invention of the extendable ladder, the collapsible umbrella and the giant kite. Under the old guild system, the craft was passed down from master to apprentice. Lo Pan Hang was the first stop for all immigrant builders before they moved on to other parts of the country.

#### **Kuan Yin Temple (Goddess of Mercy Temple), Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling**

The temple was founded in 1801 by the pioneer Chinese from Kedah, Koh Lay Huan, alias Che Kay, and is shown on a 1803 plan. It is dedicated to Kuan Yin (the Goddess of Mercy), a Buddhist Bodhisattva, that is, one who has attained Nirvana but remains on earth to save lost souls. A second goddess, Ma Chor Poh, patron saint of sea voyagers, is also worshipped here. The temple is one of the edifices of the world's four main religions along the former Pitt Street—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

Page 52

#### **Dr Sun Yat Sen's Penang base, No. 120 Lebuah Armenian**

The building was extant in 1875 as a dwelling house or messuage, and was first owned by Cheah Joo Seang, a trustee of the Cheah Kongsi. From 1901 to 1911, Sun's *Tung Meng Hooi* party was headquartered here. This was where Sun, leader of the Chinese nationalist revolution, held the historic Penang Conference on 13 November 1910 and planned the Canton uprising of spring 1911. Though the latter failed, it led to the Double Tenth Revolution, the eventual overthrow of the Ching dynasty and the establishment of the first republic in Asia.

Page 53

#### **Chung Keng Kwee Temple, Lebuah Gereja**

The private temple, school and ancestral hall, built after 1893, was named after Chung Keng Kwee, who was made Kapitan China and sat on the Perak State Council following the Pangkor Engagement of 1874.

#### **Hai Kee Chan Office-residence**

The office-residence adjoining the temple was built after 1893 by Chung Keng Kwee on the site of the rival Ghee Hin secret society.

The temple and office-residence are of great historic significance. Their ornate ceramic sculptured tableaux and gilded carved wood screens are of the finest Cantonese craftsmanship.

Page 54

#### **Tua Pek Kong Temple, Tanjung Tokong**

Tanjung Tokong (Cape of the Temple) has been there from earliest times as the Malay name of the locale testifies. Taking precedence over Penang's two other Tua Pek Kong temples (pages 50–2), the temple site's favourable geomancy has powerful significance. The Hokkien and Hakka dialect communities have disputed claims to this site for two centuries. Tua Pek Kong, literally 'Great Grand Uncle', is commonly regarded as the God of Prosperity and Protector of the Land. Penang's Tua Pek Kong was Chang Li, an 18th-century Hakka scholar and exile, who settled in Penang with two brothers or close friends. They brought with them the skills needed to build a new society. After their deaths, the last in 1796, they were buried at the temple. Their three tombstones can be seen on the grave mound behind the temple.

Page 55

#### **Ng Fook Tong (Five Luck Villa), No. 407 Lebuah Chulia**

Founded in 1819, it was one of the earliest Chinese schools in the country. It was formerly at the site on Lebuah Gereja that is now occupied by the Chung Keng Kwee Temple (page 53). The current building dates from 1898, and was built by the United Association of Cantonese Districts to serve as a night school.

#### **THE SUMATRAN LINK**

Pages 56–7

#### **Mesjid Lebuah Aceh (Acheen Street Mosque), Lebuah Aceh**

The mosque, also known as Mesjid Melayu (Malay Mosque) or Mesjid Jamek (Friday Mosque) is the oldest one in Penang. It was founded in 1808 by Arab-Achehnese Tengku Syed Hussain Al-Aidid, a royal claimant to the Achehnese throne, whom Light persuaded to move to Penang. The octagonal minaret design reflects the founder's Arab-North Sumatran origin. The mosque was a focal point of the Achehnese revolt against the Dutch in the 1870s war.

Page 58

#### **Gudang Aceh (Achehnese Godown), junction of Lebuah Pantai and Lebuah Aceh**

The building was in existence in 1805 as a gaol, hence its thick lower walls and small windows. *Gudang* (place where goods lie) comes from *gidangi* (Telugu), *gudao* (Portuguese) and *gedong* (Malay).

Page 59

#### **Sheikh Omar Basheer's Residence, No. 69 Lebuah Aceh**

Sheikh Omar Basheer was the *imam* (leader of prayer) of the Mesjid Lebuah Aceh (pages 56–7). The Basheer family arrived in Penang from Aceh around 1792, at about the same time as Tengku Syed Hussain Al-Aidid. Generations of Islamic teachers and *da'wa* (missionaries) have come from the Basheer family, and they have held the coveted positions of *qadi* (magistrate in Islamic law) and *mufiti* (Muslim priest or expounder of the law). The two houses on the grounds of the mosque (Nos. 67 and 69) have survived from the early Malay Town south of Lebuah Chulia in Francis Light's early settlement.

Page 60

#### **Sheikh Zachariah Basheer & Sons, No. 6 Lorong Lumut**

The operational trading base of Sheikh Zachariah Basheer was set up in 1900 to trade in spices and other produce of the region. Sheikh Zachariah continued to lead the Lebuah Aceh Muslim community after the death of his father, Sheikh Omar Basheer, for whom he built the mausoleum in Kampong Melayu, Ayer Itam.

Page 61

#### **Syed Alatas Mansion, No. 128 Lebuah Armenian**

Syed Mohamed Alatas, an Arab-Achehnese, succeeded Che Long as the leader of the Red Flag secret society. He was a supporter of the Sultan of Aceh and smuggled arms from British India for the Sultan's anti-Dutch resistance. He married the daughter of a Chinese pepper trader, who was also a secret society leader, and the union strengthened the Red Flag-Khian Teik alliance. His second house on Lebuah Carnarvon (page 69) is in the Straits Eclectic style, and was a gift from his father-in-law.

#### **THE STRAITS ECLECTIC STYLE**

Page 63

#### **Lebuah Campbell Market, junction of Lebuah Campbell and Lebuah Carnarvon**

The municipal wet market was built around 1900 on grounds that were part of the 7-hectare (18-acre) lot granted to the 'Mohamedan Church for ever' (page 41)—the Kapitan Kling Mosque's burial ground. The graves were removed to a new cemetery in Jalan Perak except for one, a shrine known as Keramat Mustafa Wali and dedicated to the patron saint of poulterers, which still stands on the market grounds.

Page 64

#### **Teh Bunga's House, No. 138 Lorong Hutton**

This was the home of M. Z. Marican, alias Teh Bunga (flower tea), the son-in-law of Wanchee Ariffin, who was a descendant of pioneer Babu Alauddin who came to Penang with Francis Light as a representative of the Sultan of Kedah.

Page 65

#### **Lorong Bangkok Terrace Houses, Lorong Bangkok**

The two rows of 40 terrace houses were built in 1928 by Cheah Leong Kah, a horse carriage repairer who later pioneered motor firms. One of the early Western-trained Chinese architects, Chew Eng Eam, was commissioned to build the terrace houses. Chew also designed the oldest Chinese restaurant, the boat-shaped Loke Thye Kee, in 1919, and the Majestic Theatre, which opened in 1926.

Page 66

#### **Shih Chung School, No. 11 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

Cheah Tek Soon's lofty residence is still known by locals as Goh Chan Lau (five-storey building.) In the 1900s, when Cheah's brother, Cheah Tek Thye lived there, it was called the Chinese Residency. In 1910 it became the Tye brothers' Raffles-By-The-Sea. Tea was served on the lawn opposite rival Runnymede Hotel. After World War II, it was taken over by the P'i Joo Girls' School and finally, the Shih Chung Branch School. Today, it is in a dangerously dilapidated condition.

Page 67

#### **Cathay Hotel, No. 15 Lebuah Leith**

Yeoh Wee Gai's former mansion is now a 53-room hotel favoured by foreign and local visitors seeking a colonial ambience. The hotel was taken over by Loke Yean Peng in 1948. It has kept most of the original features of a heritage mansion including an inner courtyard and grand staircases.

Page 68

#### **Syed Sheikh Al-Hadi's Residence, No. 410 Jalan Jelutong**

A Malay of Arab descent, Syed Sheikh Al-Hadi's friendship with the Riau royalty enabled him to travel to Egypt. After his return he published Jawi magazines at his Jelutong Press in the 1920s. His novel *Hikayat Faridah Hanom* (The Story of Faridah Hanom), the first written in the Malay vernacular, was a bestseller and expressed his modernist Islamic view. The bungalow has since been taken over by nuns and converted into a temple.

Page 69

**Li Teik Seah Building, No. 152 Lebuh Carnarvon**

The second home of Syed Mohamed Alatas was a wedding gift from his father-in-law, Khoo Tiang Poh, a wealthy pepper trader and close associate of the Acehese community.

Page 70

**Kek Lok Si (Pure Land Temple), Ayer Itam**

The Kek Lok Si, also known as the Temple of Supreme Bliss, is the country's largest temple complex and is spread over 4 hectares (10 acres) of rocky hill slope. Construction began in 1893 and was completed in 1905. The Five Great Sponsors were the Hakka tycoons led by Chong Fatt Tze. Three tiers of buildings comprise Halls to Kuan Yin, the Laughing Buddha and Gautama, the founder of the faith. A well-equipped monastery and nunnery are sited among terraced gardens with fish and tortoise ponds. The famous Pagoda of Rama VI, Ban Hood (Pagoda of Ten Thousand Buddhas), was named after the Thai monarch. It has remained remarkably intact.

Page 71

**Penang Buddhist Association, No. 168 Jalan Anson**

The association was founded in 1925 by Straits Chinese Buddhists who wanted to study Buddhism in its pure form free of Taoist beliefs and superstition. The Mahayana Pure Land Sect is followed, but the Theravada School is also encouraged. The temple was built by the association whose income is derived from residential properties developed in the 1930s.

Pages 72-3

**Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, No. 14 Lebuh Leith**

This was the principal home of the illustrious Nanyang Mandarin industrialist. Hakka-born Cheong Fatt Tze (1896-1917). He left China as a poor immigrant in the 1850s for Java, rapidly prospered and expanded his business to Sumatra. In the early 1890s he moved his base to Penang. He represented Nanyang Chinese in both British and Dutch territories, and also served the Ching government first as Vice-Consul in Penang, then as Consul-General in Singapore. He was the director of China's first railway works and modern bank. He advised both the Empress Dowager and Yuan Shih Kai's Republican government.

Cheong built his Eclectic Style courtyard family mansion between 1896 and 1904. Though Chinese in layout it combined both Eastern and Western features—Victorian cast iron columns and balcony panels, Chinese gilded carved wood doors and lattice screens, Art Nouveau stained glass windows, gothic-style framed louvered shutters and the largest single example of *chien nien* porcelain shard decorations in one building. This rare historic mansion has been carefully restored by Architect Laurence Loh and won the UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Heritage 2000 Award for Most Excellent Project.

Pages 74-5

**Leong Yin Kean Mansion, No. 32 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

This was the home of the son of tin-miner Leong Fee, one of the millionaires of 'Hakka Millionaires' Row'. Leong Yin Kean's snug seaside palazzo incorporated the owner's taste for Italian mosaic and marble. The house was designed by Charles Miller of Stark & McNeil architects and built at a cost of a quarter million Straits dollars in 1926. Leong's daughters lived there until the 1980s. It was bought over by Datuk Keramar Holdings Berhad, renamed simply The Mansion, and restored recently.

**Woodville, No. 70 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah is known to locals as 'Hakka Millionaires' Row', and is where the rich and famous have their *Ang Mo Lau* (European buildings). Woodville's owner, Lim Lean Teng, a

wealthy Teochew planter with vast estates in Kedah, built this in 1925. The architect was Charles Miller, who also designed Leong Yin Kean Mansion (pages 74-5).

Page 76

**Hu Yew Seah, Nos. 41-5 Lorong Madras**

Choong Thiam Poo, an early member of the *Tung Meng Hooi*, founded Hu Yew Seah to educate English-speaking Baba or Straits Chinese in their mother tongue, Mandarin. In 1927, the building was inaugurated by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali poet, who was much admired by the English-speaking literati in the region.

Page 77

**Soonstead, No. 46B Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

Originally belonging to Heah Swee Lee, this mansion was later sold to Heah's in-laws and renamed. Heah was a Perak State Councillor. He donated the Penang Polo Ground, and became its first non-European member. Soonstead, like its neighbours, is set in extensive grounds.

Page 79

**Hardwicke Hall, No. 67 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

Khaw Joo Ghee of the famous Khaw family resided in the bungalow at the turn of the 20th century. He was followed by Lim Cheng Ean, an eminent lawyer, who served as the first Chinese Magistrate in Penang. As Legislative Councillor of the Straits Settlements, he championed vernacular education and freedom of the press.

**Homestead, No. 54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

The mansion was designed by architect James Stark of Stark and McNeil originally for *tauwkay* (Chinese merchant) Lim Mah Chye in 1919. It was bought by banker Yeap Chor Ee who provided for its upkeep in a trust. His descendants still live in this well-kept, palatial mansion by the sea.

Pages 80-1

**Ku Din Ku Meh Residence, No. 20 Jalan Penang**

Kedah-born Ku Din began his career as Head of Kedah Prisons at the age of 14. The Sultan of Kedah appointed him High Commissioner of Setul in 1897 when parts of southern Thailand were provinces of Kedah under Thai suzerainty. In 1902 Ku Din took the title Raja of Setul and used the royal name Tengku Baharuddin bin Tunku Meh. He was fluent in Malay and Thai, owned ships and successfully traded in local produce. He married a Penang woman and had his trading office in this town house.

## THE WATERFRONT

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**Koe Guan Godown, Lebuh Pantai**

The early 19th-century godown behind the Koe Guan Company office was originally on the waterfront before the reclamation of the land forming Pengkalen Weld. Immigrant coolies (cheap, unskilled labourers) from the company's boats from China were housed here before being transhipped to the tin mines of southern Thailand. The patriarch founder of Koe Guan (High Source), Khaw Soo Cheang built up his fortune from tin mining and trading after he arrived as a penniless immigrant in the 1810s in Penang.

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**Wisma Kastam (Customs Building), junction of Pengkalen Weld and Gat Lebuh China**

The Wisma Kastam, formerly the Malayan Railway Building, was built in 1907 to mark the completion of FMS Railway. Locals claimed it was 'the only railway station without a rail' as the trains were on the mainland. Passengers bought their train tickets, proceeded to the Railway Jetty at the end of Gat Lebuh China and

boarded the Railway Ferry Steamers to Butterworth to catch their northbound or southbound trains. The building served as administrative offices with ticket booths and a station hotel with a Railway Restaurant, Bar & Grill.

**Wisma Yeap Chor Ee, junction of Pengkalen Weld and Gat Lebuh China**

The office building was named after its owner, Yeap Chor Ee, the founder of Ban Hin Lee Bank, the only Penang-based bank. Yeap built up his financial business by investing wisely and consolidating it during the rubber slump in the 1930s.

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**Former Paterson Simons Building, No. 9 Pengkalen Weld**

The building was developed by Phuah Hin Leong, who was born a Lim and adopted by a Phuah family. He was a legendary rags-to-riches early immigrant from China who started with 'a pair of oars' by ferrying passengers and goods across the Channel, and ended by owning 'a pair of mills'. Phuah invested in godowns and shipping offices along Pengkalen Weld and Lebuh Panrai, renting them to European trading houses such as Paterson Simons.

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**Boustead Block, No. 1 Pengkalen Weld**

Massive land reclamation in the 1880s culminating in Swettenham Pier in 1904 raised Penang to the status of a modern transshipment centre, a fulfilment of the East India Company's original objective. Frederick Aloysius Weld was Governor of the Straits Settlements when the project began and the man-made *pengkalen* (quay) was named after him. Boustead Block was the first building to be built on the reclaimed land in 1893. Boustead, which is still based here, smelted tin ore and exported the ingots with the Boustead imprint. Other trading houses and shipping agencies in the building were Schmidt & Kuesterman, Behn Meyer, Shiffman Heer and Paterson Simons (page 87).

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**Khie Heng Bee Mills, Jalan Jelutong**

The mill is one of the few survivors of the island's first industrial boom in the late 19th century. Sited north of the Penang River, the rice mills were part of the supporting food-processing industry. Rice was milled, boiled and loaded onto boats on the waterfront and sent to feed the workers at the mainland rubber plantations. Another process was the moving of copra and grain from the drying area across the road by an aerial tramway to the mills and godowns on the waterfront. Phuah Hin Leong bought the site to expand his rice and oil mills. Spread over 2 hectares (5 acres) at its height, Khie Heng Bee Mills was one of the largest industrial enterprises of Penang.

**Balai Bomba (Central Fire Station), junction of Gat Lebuh Chulia and Lebuh Pantai**

Fire-fighting in the early days was carried out by the police until 1909 when the first 28 locally trained firemen started a proper fire-fighting service. This fire station was opened the same year.

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**1886 Building, Lebuh Pantai**

Goon Yen & Friends were Chinese *tauwkay* who broke the traditional preserve of European-owned commercial buildings on the northern Lebuh Pantai. These were the first mixed-use commercial buildings with rental offices on the upper floors and retail outlets on the ground floor. The 1886 Building, though Chinese-owned, was run along Western lines. Its ground floor emporium displayed a range of goods which impressed even European customers, while upper floors were let out to offices such as Howarth Erskine Engineers.