ANNEX C

Recently conserved buildings

Orchard Road Presbyterian Church

Background

Completed in 1878, Orchard Road Presbyterian Church is a longstanding religious and community landmark along Orchard Road. The building's origins date to 1875, when the colonial government agreed to grant land for the construction of a Presbyterian church. The foundation stone was laid on 1 August 1877. The church was historically known as the "Scots Church", reflecting the predominantly Scottish origins of its early congregation, and "Greja Kechil", or "small church" in Malay.

Architectural and heritage significance

As Singapore's oldest surviving purpose-built Presbyterian church, the church represents an important part of the country's religious and architectural heritage. Built in the neo-classical style, its distinctive entrance portico, arched openings and tower topped by a cupola give the building a recognisable presence along Orchard Road.

Situated at the foot of Fort Canning Hill, the church contributes to the character of its surroundings with its harmonious scale and proportion. While its side facades have been adapted over the years to meet growing needs, the church continues to serve as a cherished place of worship and physical identity marker along Orchard Road.

The building was gazetted for conservation in February 2026.

319 Pasir Panjang Road (Starpoint)

Background

Pasir Panjang was historically a coastal residential area, home to affluent families in the 1900s who lived in seaside bungalows. Over time, the area's character evolved as urban development transformed its coastline and surroundings.

Architectural and heritage significance

Completed in 1974, the bungalow reflects the design principles and technical ambition of the era. It was designed by one of Singapore's and Malaysia's pioneer architects, Datuk Sri Lim Chong Keat, as his personal residence. A representative of post-independence Modernist residential design, the bungalow is known for its distinctive hexagonal design and integration of indoor and outdoor spaces. Beyond its architectural significance, the bungalow also facilitated international artistic and cultural exchanges in the 1970s and 1980s by serving as an informal gathering place for artists and creative thinkers.

Completed at a time when Pasir Panjang underwent urban transformation, the bungalow also bears witness to the precinct's transformation from a low-rise, semi-rural enclave into a modern urban landscape.

The building was gazetted for conservation in July 2026 and is the first post-independence bungalow to be conserved in Singapore.

1 Bedok Avenue (Villa Haji Kahar)

Background

Built in the 1920s, Villa Haji Kahar is a bungalow associated with the social and cultural life of Kampong Bedok. The villa was built by Haji Kahar Abdul Ghani, a prominent businessman and landowner, and subsequently acquired by Dr Lee Choo Neo, Singapore's first female doctor. Over the years, the villa served as a venue for community gatherings, cultural activities and celebrations. Today, the villa remains remarkably intact and well-maintained.

Architectural and heritage significance

The villa is a distinctive example of a historic bungalow that combines traditional Malay architectural influences, including the *rumah limas* typology with its raised timber upper storey, alongside Western decorative elements, such as rare pink-coloured Muranese-patterned glass, plaster festoons, and encaustic tiles. The house also features a symmetrical layout with a pair of staircases leading to the raised upper floor, reflecting the traditional Malay house design where the main living space (*rumah ibu*) connects to the guest reception area (*anjung*).

The building was gazetted for conservation in October 2026.