

Annex D

Details on buildings proposed for conservation gazette

Proposed conservation of pre-war bungalows at Adam Park

1. The site at Adam Park is home to 19 pre-war bungalows which were built in 1929 by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) as housing for families of officers from the Municipal Council and SIT. The site and bungalows have remained largely intact since World War II (WWII). The bungalows are representative of the residential typology built by the municipal government in the late 1920s. The site serves as a significant reminder of the events of WWII, having been a battlefield site in the days leading up to the fall of Singapore as well as a Prisoner of War (POW) camp during the early days of the Japanese Occupation.
2. URA is proposing to conserve the bungalows as physical reminders of Singapore's rich history, and to enable future generations to appreciate their architecture and the stories behind them.



*Aerial view of Adam Park site
Credit: URA*



*The estate is a largely intact pre-war British colonial bungalow clusters in Singapore, in terms of its topography, layout and building stock
Credit: URA*

Significance

3. Adam Park was named after the former managing director of Pulau Brani Smelting Works, Frank Adam. Several notable personalities were known to have lived within the estate, such as Philip Cooper Sands, a Municipal Engineer and nephew of the famous Frank Cooper Sands, founder of scouting in Singapore.
4. Designed and built by architects and planners of the SIT, the origins of the estate differ from other colonial estates that were built primarily by the British Royal Engineers for government officers from the military and the Public Works Department and their families.
5. There are two typologies of bungalows within the Adam Park estate. The first comprises 14 one-and-a-half storey bungalows of the Black and White¹ typology partly embedded in the slopes of the hill, creating partial basements. These are accompanied by single-storey outhouses.
6. The second typology comprises five large two-storey bungalows sited on higher ground with more modernist architectural expression. They are characterised by a grand entrance porch and encircling verandahs, with bedrooms on the second storey and living spaces on the first. An outhouse is connected via a linkway and an external staircase. There are also standalone garages shared between neighbouring units.

¹ Black and White Bungalows: These are characterised by a particular architectural style from the early 1900s and are visibly recognisable by the black timber structural frame with white infill plastered walls. Hipped tiled roofs with wide overhangs and extensive verandahs are also common features.



*One-and-a-half storey bungalow of the Black and White typology, partially embedded in the slopes of the hill creating partial basements
Credit: URA*



*Two-storey bungalow in pre-war Modern style, characterised by a grand entrance porch, and verandahs on the second storey
Credit: URA*

7. During WWII and a few days before the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, heavy fighting ensued between the 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment and the invading Japanese forces in the estate and surrounding areas. After the British surrendered, Adam Park became a POW camp, housing up to 3,000 British and Australian POWs, many of whom were put to work on the Syonan Jinja shrine at nearby MacRitchie Reservoir.
8. After November 1942, following the relocation of the POWs to the Sime Road Camp, the houses were repaired by the Japanese and used to house staff of major Japanese companies. This continued until the end of the Occupation in 1945. With the return of the British, the Municipal Council rehabilitated the estate, and a staff

resident community was re-established. Subsequently, the bungalows were leased out to private tenants or companies who used them to house their employees.

9. Evidence of the POW camp still exists at Adam Park today, including the remnants of a POW calendar etched into the wall at the outhouse of 5 Adam Park, and a painted chapel wall mural on the upper storey of 11 Adam Park. Previous small-scale investigations conducted in the estate had provided additional information on the role of the estate in relation to the war and unearthed a sizeable number of wartime artefacts, including ammunition and regimental badges.

Proposed Conservation of Mun San Fook Tuck Chee Temple (万山福德祠) at 124 Sims Drive

1. Mun San Fook Tuck Chee Temple (MSFTCT) was established in the 1860s by migrant communities of mainly Cantonese origin. In 1902, its trustees purchased land to construct the temple at Sims Drive, along the bank of Kallang River. The temple likely derived its name from the river which was also known as “Mun San Kong” (万山港). As one of the oldest surviving Cantonese temples in Singapore, it is also a rare tangible marker of the early settlement known as “Sar Kong” (沙冈) village where the inhabitants worked in nearby brick kilns, sago processing workshops and tanneries.

Significance

2. In addition to being a spiritual refuge for devotees, the temple also performed societal functions in the 1950s and 1960s. The Sar Kong Vigilante Corps conducted patrols to guard and protect the community. The temple also set up the Mong Yang Chinese School and the Sar Kong Athletic Association. While the school no longer exists, the Athletic Association still operates from the temple, actively promoting the traditional arts of lion and dragon dancing.
3. The original temple was built in typical Cantonese temple architecture – a three-bay construction with triple gable end walls expressed on each side, and with three halls within. Each bay is divided into three spaces consisting of an entrance hall, an antechamber in the main bay and courtyard in the side bays, as well as the main hall. Characteristic of Cantonese architecture, it is simple in form with minimal ornamentation compared to other heritage temples. Although the temple had undergone some repair works over the years, the fundamental qualities of the Cantonese style of architecture is still evident, such as the flat roof ridge and calligraphic panels at the sides of the door.
4. The temple serves as a significant local identity marker that promotes its heritage to the wider community through its heritage gallery (set up in 2014), publications, and cultural practices such as Cantonese opera and fire dragon dance held during the birthday celebrations of the God of the Earth.



*The Mun San Fook Tak Chee temple is built in a typical Cantonese temple architectural style with a three-bay hall. The pair of Angsana trees at its entrance are said to be at least 100 years old.
Credit: URA*



*Gable end walls with circular windows.
Credit: MSFTCT*



*Interior of the temple's main hall with original altar table.
Credit: URA*



*Main entrance plaque and couplets framing the front door of the temple.
Credit: URA*