

In Celebration of the 16th Anniversary of
George Town's UNESCO World Heritage Site Inscription

George
Town

Heritage Day

City Walk

20
24

07 July
7:00am

Lebuh
Pantai



PERJANG
2030

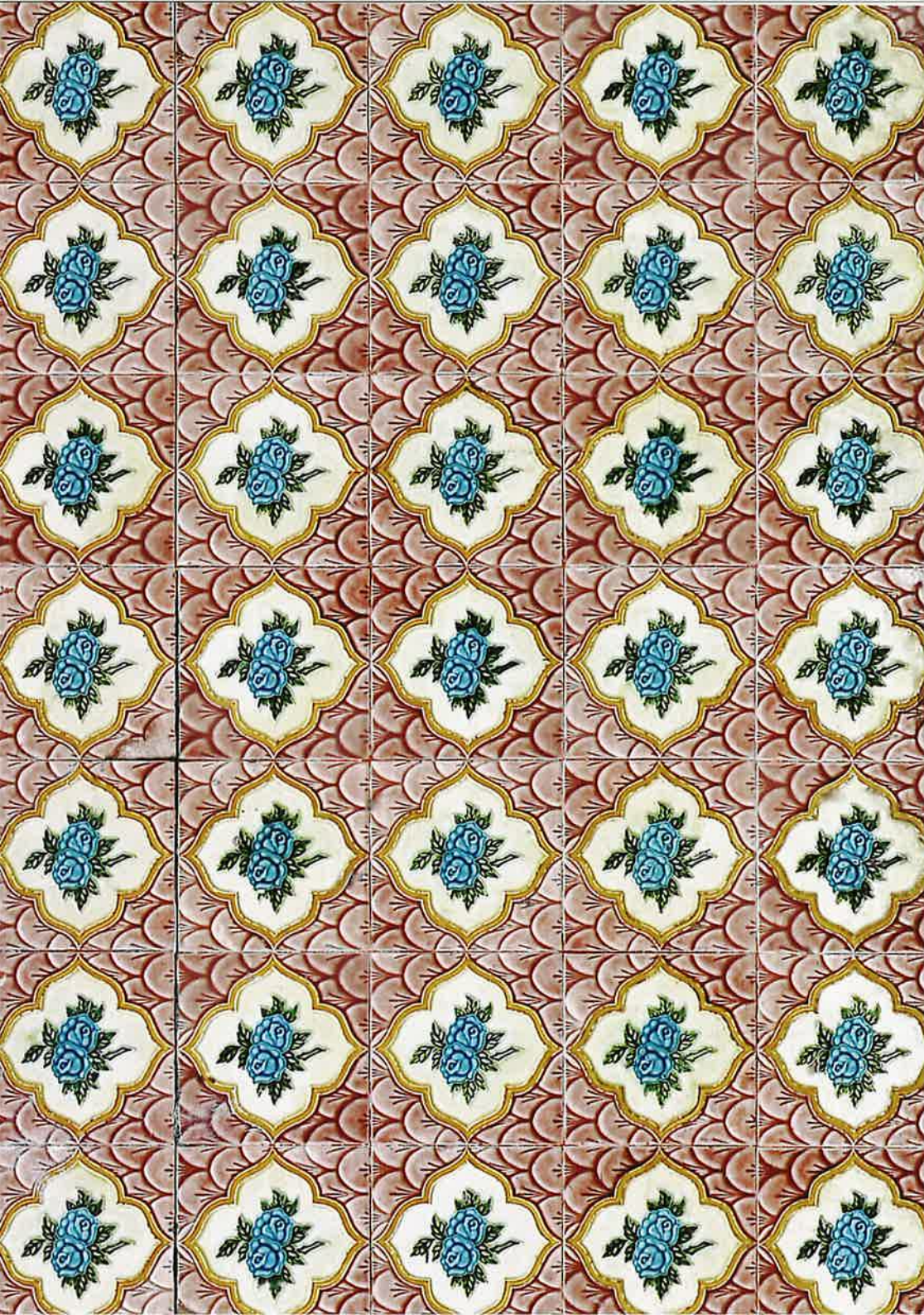
IR GEORGE
TOWN
INSTITUTION
OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE



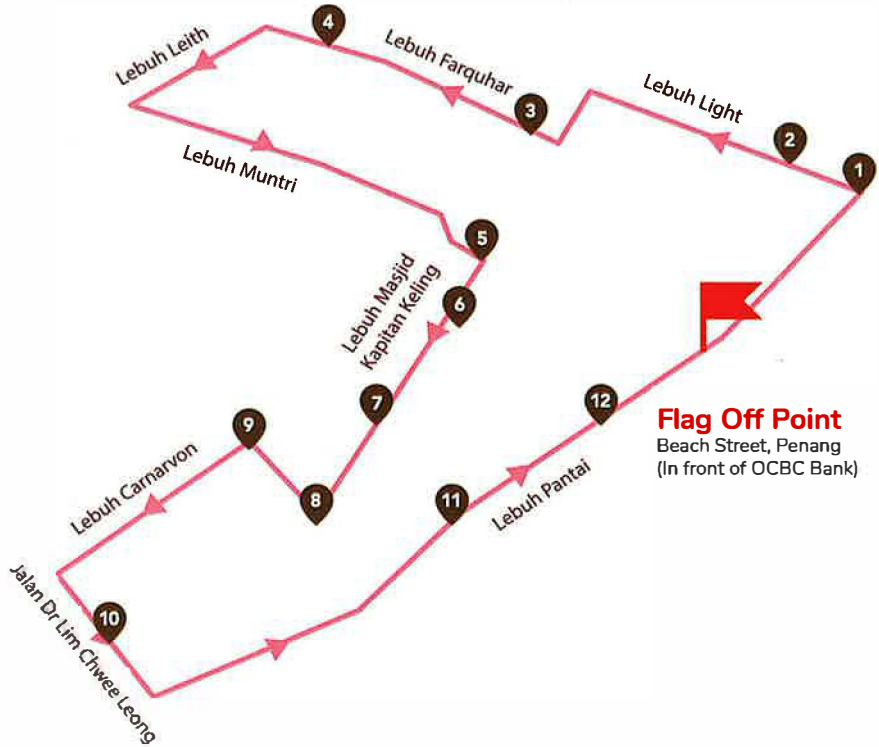
George Town
Heritage
Celebrations 2024

TLM

**OCCUPY
BEACH
STREET**



ROUTE

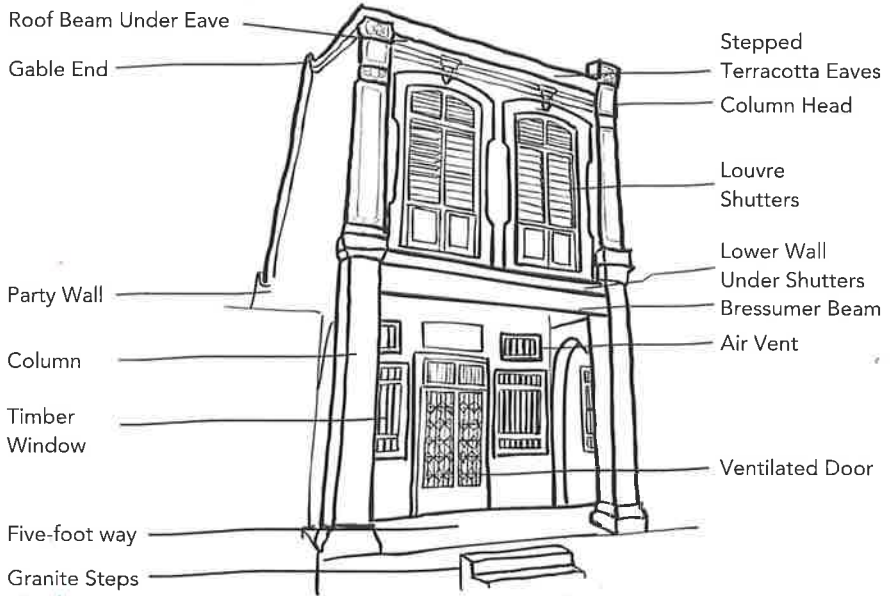


Flag Off Point
Beach Street, Penang
(In front of OCBC Bank)

1. Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower
2. Dewan Undangan Negeri
3. St. George's Church
4. St. Xavier's Institution
5. Goddess of Mercy (Kuan Im) Temple
6. Sri Maha Mariamman Hindu Temple
7. Kapitan Keling Mosque
8. Acheen Street Malay Mosque
9. George Town World Heritage Incorporated
10. Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park
11. Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi Ancestral Temple
12. Beach Street Central Fire Station

SHOPHOUSES IN GEORGE TOWN

In Melaka and George Town, the Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, the 'shophouse' is the building form that dominates the built cultural landscape. Some of these shophouses date back to the 18th century and they continue to function as they were originally intended, playing a dual role as a place of business and residence.



Do not miss out the street furniture when walking around in the town too!



Street Name Information Board



Heritage Buildings Interpretation Board



Steel Art - Marking George Town

6 MAIN SHOPHOUSE STYLES IN PENANG

Most of the shophouses were built using clay bricks.

The thick brick walls keep out the midday sun.

Lime-plastered walls and terracotta floors disperse the cool moisture from the swamps beneath.

Louvred shutters keep out the glaring sunlight but allow the cool breeze in.

The earlier shophouses are small, with just a pitched roof and a kitchen at the back under a single storey terrace and open airwell.

The shophouses became longer, separating each pitched roof with an airwell to cool the building.

New technologies and building forms were brought to Penang by European architectural and engineering professionals in the 1900s.

Owners of traditional shophouses refashioned their facades to the latest styles, whilst maintaining the strict hierarchical use of space within the shophouse.



EARLY PENANG STYLE
(1790s - 1850s)



SOUTHERN CHINESE
ECLECTIC STYLE
(1840s - 1900s)



EARLY STRAITS
ECLECTIC STYLE
(1890s - 1910s)



LATE STRAITS
ECLECTIC STYLE
(1910s - 1940s)



ART DECO STYLE
(1930s - 1960s)



EARLY MODERN STYLE
(1950s - 1970s)

剪黏 JIAN-NIAN (CUT-AND-PASTE)

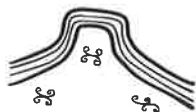
Temples and some of the shophouses in George Town are often besprinkled with colourful figures and their animal seats, creatures, mountains and trees, and even green vegetables and radish, all of which are called "Jian Nian" in Chinese, also known as "Jian-Hua" (剪花).



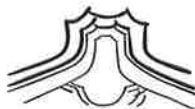
GABLES AND GABLE ENDS

The gable wall is the pitch-shaped side wall that follows the slope of the roof and acts as a firebreak between two neighbouring buildings. The upper part of the wall is known as the gable end. It is usually higher than the roof in order to seal the roof's edge.

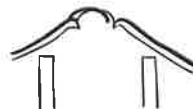
Gable ends come in a variety of shapes which represent gold, wood, water, fire and earth - the five elements in Chinese philosophy - as well as an inverted V.



Gold 金



Wood 木



Water 水



Fire 火



Earth 土



Inverted V 人

1.



Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower

Lebuh Light, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower, located at Light Street Roundabout, is an iconic landmark in George Town. The monument was commissioned by a local millionaire, Cheah Chen Eok, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (60th year of her reign) in 1897. He donated \$30,000 for the purpose. The Municipal Commissioners accepted his proposal and launched a design contest with a prize of \$150, which was won by Mr. Pierce, the municipal engineer for the Municipal Commissioners. The construction only started in 1900 and was carried out by Messrs Barnett and Stark.

The clock tower stands 60 feet tall from the base to the centre of the clock tower, complying with Cheah's wish that each foot would represent one year of Queen Victoria's reign. The monument's height becomes 97 feet if the cupola at the top is included. The clock was imported from Europe and has windows made of opal glass, while the belfry above the clock contained five bells that chimed the Westminster quarters.

During World War II, the bombardments by Japanese and allied forces on George Town damaged the clock tower, causing it to be slightly tilted. The clock and chimes were repaired after the war and continued to be maintained until today by the Penang City Council.

2.



Dewan Undangan Negeri (State Assembly Building)

Lebuh Light, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Penang State Assembly Building was constructed in the 1820s. It originally served as the Recorder's Court and Magistrates' Court, and also formed part of the Central Police Station that housed the Police Court. It was renovated in 1874, and again in 1890 with the addition of a new block to house the administrative offices of the Straits Settlements Police Force. The block is now used separately as the Immigration Department Building.

The building was designed in the Anglo-Indian classical style and contains elements of classical Greek and Palladian architecture. It can be distinguished by its expanse and a faint resemblance to Greek temples with massive white colonnades supporting a large pediment. The building was used as the Japanese headquarters in Penang during World War II.

The building retained its judicial function until 1959, when it was converted into the chambers for the Penang State Assembly until today.

3.



St. George's Church

1, Lebu Farquhar, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The St. George's Church, completed in 1818, is the oldest Anglican church in South-east Asia. Its present location was formerly known as Company's Square. Before its establishment, services were conducted mainly at the Fort Cornwallis or the Court House, and sometimes at the residence of the Governor. The first service at the new building was held on Christmas Day of 1818, and the first wedding that took place there was between William Edward Phillips, the acting Governor at the time, and Janet Bannerman, the daughter of his predecessor, Colonel John Alexander Bannerman in the same year.

The church was designed by Captain Robert N. Smith of Madras Engineers in a hybrid architectural style, combining the Neoclassical and the Georgian Palladian style, featuring a portico of Doric-style columns along its facade. The original roof was flat. However, it was modified to its present gable shape in 1864, after the original flat roof was found to be unsuitable for the weather in Penang.

The building was severely damaged during World War II. It was reopened to the public in 1948 after two years of reconstruction, which followed the original design. On 4 April 1996, the church and its two-acre grounds were gazetted as a historical site by the Museum Department and subsequently listed as one of Malaysia's 50 National Heritage Treasures on 31 Aug 2007. The church underwent full restoration in 2010 and was fully restored to its former glory in 2011.

4.



St. Xavier's Institution

Lebuh Farquhar, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

St. Xavier's Institution (SXI) is the oldest Lasallian School in Asia and the oldest Roman Catholic school in Malaysia. Although the official establishment date used for the school is 1852, its history began much earlier. The school was first established in 1787 by a French Catholic priest, Father Arnaud-Antoine Garnault who sought asylum in George Town. It was first a Malay language school in an attap shed built on a stretch of mangrove swamp that later became Church Street.

In 1824, Monsignor Jean-Baptiste Boucho of the Paris Foreign Missions turned it into an all-boys English school known as St. Francis Xavier's Free School. It was only in 1852 that the school was renamed St. Xavier's Institution when the De La Salle Brothers took over its administration and remains so till today.

The building's original façade which evoked 'a *grandiose Baroque European palace*' was simplified in the 1920s. The Imperial Japanese Navy took over the school as its naval base during World War II. The original building was destroyed in the bombing by Allied Forces in 1944. The reconstructed new building survives until today and was officially opened in 1955.

The school's Board created a Heritage Centre to celebrate SXI's grand history and heritage. The Centre spans over 3,400 square feet, is richly endowed with panels depicting SXI's illustrious journey and numerous historic artifacts that have been professionally curated for the viewing pleasure of visitors.

Note: It is open every Sunday from 10.00am to 1.00pm and on other days after 3.30pm by appointment (charges apply).

5.



Goddess of Mercy (Kuan Im) Temple

30, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Kuan Im or Goddess of Mercy Temple, dating back to 1800, is reputedly the oldest Chinese temple in Penang, set up by early Chinese settlers as their centre of religious and community activities. The temple was built on a plot of land granted by the British with a cost of nearly 4,000 Spanish Dollars, contributed by the Chinese settlers.

The whole building was planned according to *feng shui* principles. The temple was built on a small mound at the end of China Street and facing the seafront, where the location of the temple is regarded as the head of a dragon. There are three hexagonal wells, all regarded as the "eyes of the dragon". One is located in the courtyard, while the other is located within the temple specially for monks. The last well is said to be hidden right beneath the front altar, regarded as the "third eye of the dragon".

The temple was originally dedicated to the goddess Mah Chor Poh, the patron saint of seafarers, who had protected them on their hazardous journeys sailing through the South China Sea from China. Over the years, the goddess was supplanted by Kuan Im or the Goddess of Mercy as the main deity of the temple

The temple is also known as Kong Hock Keong. The "Kong" and "Hock" in Kong Hock Keong derived from Guangdong and Fujian provinces respectively, where most of the Cantonese and Hokkien-speaking settlers to Southeast Asia originated from. These two dialect groups would share equal representation in the Kong Hock Keong board of trustees and until today, influential Hokkien and Cantonese leaders in Penang continue to play active roles in the committee.

6.



Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

Lebuh Queen, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, located at Queen Street, George Town, is the oldest Hindu temple in Penang, dating back as early as 1801 or probably older. It began as a small shrine for the Indian migrants in the town. The land was granted by Sir George Leith, the Lieutenant-General of Penang at the time, to Betty Lingam Chetty, the Kapitan of the Tamils and South Indians, in 1801.

To accommodate the growing Indian community in the town, the shrine was enlarged into a proper temple in 1833. At the time, it was known as the Sri Muthu Mariamman Temple. The temple continued to undergo several renovations until today. In 1980, the name was changed to Sri Maha Mariamman Temple after extensive renovation work.

The temple was built in the South Indian Dravidian style, marked by its most outstanding feature, which is the impressive *gopuram* (tower). Mariamman is an ancient Goddess of Rain, Disease and Fertility that is predominantly worshipped in South India and predates the Vedic teachings. Originally a village deity, today Mariamman can be found in various countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and many other countries as she travelled along with the Tamil diaspora.

7.



Kapitan Keling Mosque

14, Jalan Buckingham, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Kapitan Keling Mosque is the largest mosque in George Town. It was built in 1801 on a plot of land granted by Sir George Leith, then the Lieutenant-Governor of Penang, to the growing Indian Muslim community in George Town. The mosque is named after Caudeer Mohideen, referred to as 'Kapitan Keling', leader of the South Indian "Keling" community and founder of this mosque. "Kapitan" is the corruption of the word "Captain", while "Keling" refers to Indian Muslims who hailed from Coromandel Coast, South India (its ancient name was Kalinga).

The original rectangular brick building, completed in 1803, had a pyramidal tiled roof and minarets at each corner, a colonaded veranda, and low stone benches that enclosed the immediate compound. In 1910, Kapitan Keling Mosque received a major facelift in the Mughal or Indo-Saracenic style designed by N. A. Neubronner. The renovation, completed in 1916, saw the expansion of the mosque proper, the addition of Mughal domes and turrets, a large minaret, and a madrasah.

In the 1930s, the Kapitan Keling Mosque was further expanded until it assumed its present form. The major works during this period included doubling the height of the central prayer hall, improvement of the ventilation system, and allowing more natural light to enter. A somewhat simpler and more weatherproof hip roof was added and a perimeter wall was built. The exterior is ochre yellowed while the interior has white marble floors, while the aisles are formed by a series of horseshoe arches, crowned with King Edward's plaques.

8.



Acheen Street Malay Mosque

Lebuh Aceh, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Acheen Street Malay Mosque provides one of the earliest records of a growing Muslim community in George Town. The mosque was built in 1808 by Tunku Syed Hussain Iddid, a wealthy and politically influential Acehnese merchant-prince, who was invited by Francis Light shortly after the establishment of George Town in 1786. The mosque was originally known as Masjid Melayu Lebuh Aceh, following the population enclave, and the area was an early Malay township, documented as 'Malay Town' on Popham's map of 1798.

The mosque was built on land donated by Tunku Syed Hussain to facilitate the performance of congregational prayers by his community. The external brick walls were plastered and lime-washed with a succession of coatings. The design is a mixture of different architectural elements, such as Moorish-style parapets, Chinese and Malay outer walls, Neoclassical columns, Acehnese roof tiles, and Egyptian minaret.

The cemetery standing next to the mosque includes the mausoleum of Tunku Syed Hussain and his family members. Tunku Syed Hussain was believed to have died in 1826. Following his death, the Lebuh Aceh Muslim settlement continued to thrive and was at one time referred to as the Second Jeddah, as pilgrims from nearby congregated here before departing for Mecca by sea.

9.



George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI)

116 & 118, Lebuh Aceh, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

George Town World Heritage Incorporated is the **Site Manager** for George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was established on 21 April 2010 to spearhead efforts in managing, safeguarding and promoting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site.

GTWHI collaborates with local and international partners such as the Penang State Government, Majlis Bandaraya Pulau Pinang (MBPP), National Heritage Department, and UNESCO. GTWHI also works closely with local communities to develop a sustainable heritage culture in George Town.

This building was designed by the late Ar. Chew Eng Eam in 1921 in Art Deco shophouse style for the Universal Pharmacy as well as providing maternity facility services in a later time, which continued to operate until the 1960s. In the 2000s, the building was used as the office for Penang Heritage Centre (2005-2009), before serving as GTWHI's office since 2010. The building was restored from 2020 to 2022 and rebranded as GTWHI Heritage Excellence Centre in 2022.

GTWHI's logo features the five-foot way, a key feature of the shophouse which makes up most of historic George Town's built environment. The shophouse is also an Outstanding Universal Value of the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site.

10.



Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park

50, Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong, 10100 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

This area is a significant landmark of George Town as it was a busy trading hub centred around the canal, which was used to transport goods from the pier to the inner part of the city. The Prangin Canal, built in 1804, marked the physical boundary of George Town. The name *Sia Boey* in Hokkien and *Ujong Pasir* in Malay both mean “the end of town”, while the Tamil name *Kaalai Kadai Alluru* refers to the end of the river.

The canal was originally 50 to 80 feet wide, allowing small vessels to transport goods into town, but was gradually narrowed to its current width in the early 1900s. A lock was built in the mid-1880s, around the same time the cast iron Sia Boey market hall and drinking fountain were constructed. The canal also showcases remarkable engineering prowess, serving as a crucial flood mitigation method. Sia Boey remained a bustling market until it was relocated to the newly constructed market in Macallum Street Ghaut in 2004.

In October 2015, a granite structure was uncovered at the Sia Boey site, identified to be the Old Prangin Canal Basin by USM’s Centre for Global Archaeological Research, which subsequently conducted a two-year archaeological study of the site (2016-17). In 2017, GTWHI in collaboration with PDC initiated a project to transform Sia Boey into an area that facilitates the coexistence of development and heritage conservation.

The Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park, completed in 2019, provides added value to George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site by enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value with programming and space for the local people, serving as its urban green lung.

11.



Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsí Ancestral Temple

8, Lebu Armenian, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Cheah clan association was established in 1810 to look after the welfare of clansmen who came from the Seh Tong Seah ancestral village in the Fujian Province of China. The Cheah clan association, along with the Khoo, Lim, Tan, and Yeoh clan associations, formed the five major clans of the Hokkien community, also known as the Hokkien Hoay Kuan, that are responsible for overseeing the five local Chinese temples.

The temple site was purchased by the clan's trustees in 1828. The construction of the temple began in 1858, and completed in 1873. The main prayer hall is on the upper floor of the two-storey main building, which is flanked on both sides with auxiliary halls and storage chambers. The temple is an eclectic mix of a Chinese mansion, Chinese temple, and European bungalow. The surrounding complex uniquely integrates a European double-storey plan and a distinctive Chinese courtyard layout.

The entrance to the double-storey Cheah Kongsí is through a narrow alleyway off Lebu Armenian. In 2013, the Cheah Kongsí built a new front wall and gate after clearing the row of shophouses facing Beach Street, providing an uninterrupted view of the clan temple from Beach Street. Cheah Kongsí is the first association in Penang to establish their own Interpretation Centre.

12.



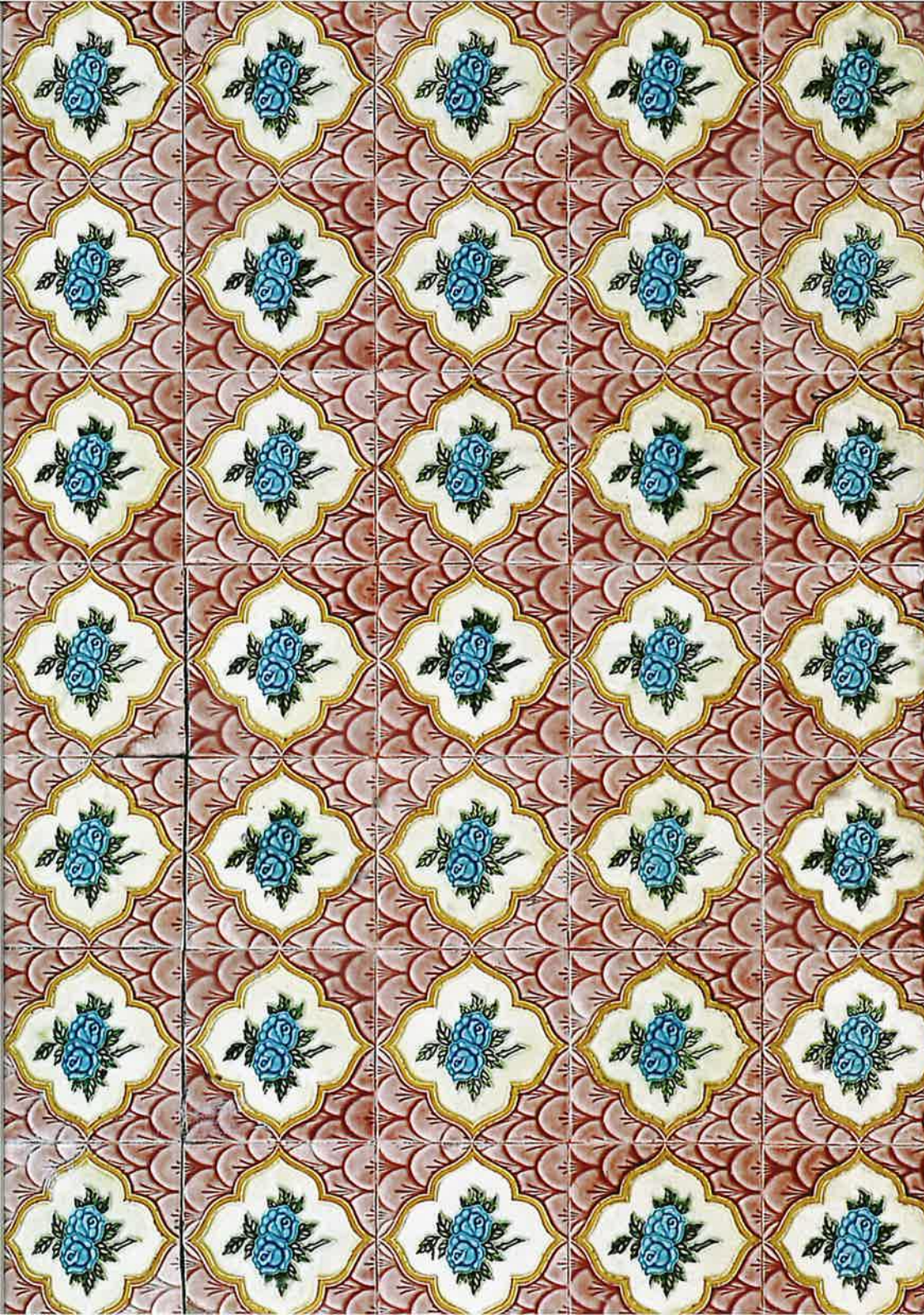
Beach Street Central Fire Station

Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Beach Street Central Fire Station was established in 1908, becoming the first fire station to be run by dedicated, full-time firefighters on Penang Island. Prior to its establishment, the firefighting task was shouldered by policemen who had to double up as firefighters, splitting time between patrol and putting out fires. After its completion in 1909, the station was manned by 28 trained firefighters.

The Station is iconic for its design, which serves as a classic example of colonial civic architecture within George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Station employs a mix of Mughal and Edwardian architecture. Mughal architecture is a blend of Persian, Turkish, and Indian styles and is known for its decorative and symmetrical characteristics, as prominently showcased by its four-storey tower. The building features a Classical-style façade, lined with double-storey pilasters, above the rusticated columns at the front entrance facing Beach Street. The section behind the main station was destroyed in a bomb raid during World War II, killing 19 auxiliary firemen. Since then, it has been rebuilt as living quarters for firefighters until today.

In 2019, the Station reverted to its original name, from “Lebuh Pantai Fire and Rescue Station” to “Beach Street Central Fire Station”.





*All information is accurate at time of printing.