

GROW

the tree of heritage

The **Singapore Heritage Society** (SHS) is a non-profit, non-government organisation. Since 1987, SHS has initiated and funded many conservation, research and public education projects. Without money, and time and labour from its volunteers, SHS cannot function. Your donation will enable the Singapore Heritage Society to continue its efforts in the preservation, transmission and promotion of Singapore's history, heritage and identity.

SHS is a registered charity and an Institution of Public Character (IPC) and Singapore tax residents are entitled to 2.5 times tax deduction. This means that if you donate \$100 to SHS, you are entitled to \$250 of deduction from your taxable income. Donors who wish to enjoy the tax deduction will have to submit their NRIC/FIN or UEN to us so that we can submit details of the donation directly to the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).


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 Website: <http://www.singaporeheritage.org> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sgheritage>



SINGAPORE HERITAGE SOCIETY
Research • Education • Advocacy

April 1987 The Singapore Heritage Society is registered as an official society. William Lim becomes the first President of the Society. Founding members included Kwa Chong Guan, Geraldene Lowe-Ismael and Sharon Siddique.

1988 Appearance of the inaugural SHS newsletter, *Roots*.
 One-day conference "Unity in Diversity" in March. The conference illustrated the capacity of SHS to enlarge the space of public debate. It concentrated on minority communities in Singapore obscured by the "Chinese-Malay-Indian-Other" state management of ethnicity, and involved presentations on 17 minority communities, including the Dawoodi Boras, Jews, Parsis, Arabs, Syrian Christians and Chinese Muslims. The conference attracted some 150 participants, and featured as its guest of honour David Marshall, Singapore's first Chief Minister and himself a member of a small Iraqi-Jewish minority group.

1989 Publication of first monograph by SHS, Lee Geok Boi's *Pages From Yesteryear: a look at the printed works of Singapore, 1819-1959*, which looks at the history of Singapore's publishing industry

1992 The second publication, *Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese* was produced in 1992 as part of commemoration of the 50th anniversary of British Surrender of Singapore. Designed and produced by Goh Eck Kheng of Landmark Books, an active committee member, it won a 1992 Best Book Design Award, and was subsequently translated into Chinese and Japanese.

SHS produced a report, by William Lim and Kwa Chong Guan, on the establishment of a Heritage Trust prepared at request of the Minister for Information and the Arts, which led to the establishment of the National Heritage Board in 1993.

William Lim and Kwa Chong Guan represented SHS at an Institute of Policy Studies closed door forum on Heritage and Contemporary Values, and members participated at a larger public forum held at the National University of Singapore the following week. Later, the society moved to taking a more active role in organising such events.

1994 Conference on "Our Place in Time," held at the Substation in September

Publication of Robert Powell's *Living Legacy: Singapore's Architectural Heritage*, a book that highlights and celebrates heritage buildings in Singapore which had been restored and renovated

1995 Publication of *What If? ... The Choice of Post-War Singapore* to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II

1998 Kwok Kian Woon becomes the second President of the Society.

Responding to the Singapore Tourist Board's final proposal to redevelop Chinatown, a group of SHS members wrote a letter to *The Straits Times* decrying a redevelopment plan that seemed more focused on tourism in attempting to transform Chinatown into a theme park. This led to the publication of *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore*, the SHS's official documentation of the controversy.

1999 Seventh printing of *Pastel Portraits: Singapore's Architectural Heritage*. First published in 1984 with the support of several of the founding members of the Singapore Heritage Society

1990s Other advocacy work included:

- opposition to the demolition of Eu Court for road widening
- an initiative to save Kampung Wak Selat, one of the last kampungs in Singapore, involved cooperation between SHS and the Association of Muslim Professionals
- an initiative to save the Haw Par Villa theme park
- the conservation of Clarke Quay
- the conservation of the Ford Factory site of the 1942 British surrender to the Japanese
- the preservation of the Capitol Theatre

SINGAPORE HERITAGE SOCIETY MILESTONES

2000 Public forum on "Memories and the National Library: Between Forgetting and Remembering" in March 2000, conceived as an intervention in public debate about the future of the original National Library, which was threatened by demolition because of road realignment

Three-day conference "We Asians: Past and Future" jointly organised by SHS, the National Archives of Singapore, and the Japan Foundation Asia Centre, which brought together a number of internationally prominent Asian intellectuals and arts practitioners.

2001 Kevin YL Tan becomes third President of the Singapore Heritage Society.

2000s Advocacy efforts included:

- The preservation of the original Changi Prison. Dr Kevin Tan managed to persuade the land authorities to preserve the architectural structure of the prison as it provided the linkage between the present and the past.
- Raising awareness about the lack of sensitivity to Singapore's multicultural heritage shown in the naming of MRT stations on the New North East Line. One concrete result of this is that the consultation process on names for the new Circle Line has been much more open and prolonged.
- Former KTM Railway land
- Bukit Brown Cemetery

2009 "Teaching History in Singapore: The State of the Craft"
 A roundtable presented by the Singapore Heritage Society

2010 "Students at Centrestage": A seminar on learning history in Singapore

2011 Conference: "History as Controversy"

Dahlia Shamsuddin is elected the first female (and the fourth) President of the Society.

2012 The Singapore Heritage Society celebrates its Silver Jubilee anniversary.

Exhibition: "Four Days in February: Adam Park, The Last Battle"

Public Forum

SUPPORTERS of the SHS Silver Jubilee Dinner

- APD Singapore Pte Ltd
- Haw Par Corporation Limited
- National Heritage Board
- Betel Box Living Bistro
- Jack Tsen-Ta Lee
- Select Books
- Dr Lim Boon Keng Trust Fund
- Khir Johari
- Shamsuddin H Akrib
- Eu Yan Sang Internation Ltd
- Maya Gallery
- Singapore Chinese Orchestra
- Geraldene Lowe-Ismael
- Mediashock Productions
- Unlisted Collection



SILVER JUBILEE

SINGAPORE HERITAGE SOCIETY
 25th Anniversary 1987 - 2012