

Historical Places within Melaka

No 8 Heeren Street Model Restoration Project Officially Opened
Monday 21 March 2005



The No 8 Heeren Street Model Restoration Project was officially opened recently by the Chief Minister of Malacca, YAB Datuk Seri Hj Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam. In attendance were the [President](#) of Badan Warisan Malaysia YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and the US [Ambassador](#) to Malaysia, HE Christopher J LaFleur and other distinguished guests.



In conjunction with the launch, an education workshop was held with a group of students and teachers from SMK(P) Methodist, Tranquerah. The aim of the workshop was to raise their awareness of the cultural, historical and architectural values of the early shophouse building type in Malacca.



HISTORY OF NO. 8 HEEREN STREET



No. 8 Heeren Street is a fine example of a two-storey building constructed in the mid-late 1700s. It is typical of early shophouses and modest residential structures built in Malacca between the mid 1600s and late 1800s. In Malaysia, this building type is unique to Malacca, and represents a development of an earlier shophouse from the Portuguese era preceding it.

These shophouses are integral to the evolution of the city's streetscapes and also demonstrate the comprehensive building and planning regulations during Dutch rule, which dictated the building lines, foundations, party walls, fenestrations and the sizes of bricks and tiles conformed to standards which were strictly controlled.

These buildings commonly served as shop, residence, stable and animal yard all at the same time and are important for the understanding of the city's social environment, and a significant period of the city's growth. They are the oldest extant urban dwellings in the country. Yet, a lack of recognition and protection for this building type has led to its rapid demise and the loss of an important part of Malacca's built heritage.

MODEL CONSERVATION PROJECT



As part of Badan Warisan Malaysia's (Heritage of Malaysia Trust) Model Conservation Project, No. 8 Heeren Street serves as a practical example of conservation of its building type, the early shophouse, and at the same time demonstrates a successful adaptation to new uses.

No. 8 Heeren Street also functions as a venue for exhibitions, workshops, seminars and corporate events, an interpretative and heritage resource facility for Malaccans and visitors. We intend to begin an advisory centre to disseminate information on Malacca's heritage environment and proper conservation techniques for the building type in the near future.

We have also produced a walking tour of Malacca's living heritage focussing on endangered trades. This handy booklet is available on sale at our Centre for RM8 each.

Our daily opening hours are from 11am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday and admission is free.

Contact:

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