

The History of Ipoh

Ipoh is the capital of Perak. It is located in the Kinta District, 205 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur and 170 kilometres south of George Town, Penang. Ipoh is the fourth largest city in Malaysia with an estimated 2009 population of 702,464 (Source: Wikipedia).

Ipoh developed from the Malay village of Palau along the banks of the Kinta River. The tin rush of the 1880's caused the town to boom. By this time, Ipoh consisted of about 340 houses and about 4,000 people. On 1 June 1892 a fire broke out and destroyed over half the town. The damage was estimated at \$100,000 Straits Dollars.

The Great Fire of Ipoh gave planners the opportunity to lay out the streets in a more orderly grid pattern, and the town was rebuilt in time for the second tin rush. Vast numbers of people, especially Chinese miners, descended upon Ipoh, transforming it into a business and social centre. The town that tin built became known as the "City of Millionaires".

When Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the capital of the newly formed Federated Malay States (FMS) in 1896, the residents of Ipoh expressed their great displeasure over the decision. However, Ipoh continued to flourish.

Between 1905 and 1914, Yau Tet Shin expanded the town across the Kinta River. By 1908, he had built 216 houses in this "New Town" of Ipoh, including a theatre and food market.

By 1914, the town was beginning to take on its current appearance. Ipoh's population was also increasing – from 23,978 in 1911 to 27,500 in 1914.

Ipoh's geographic location in the rich tin-bearing valley of the Kinta River made it a natural centre of economic growth. Throughout the 1920's and 1930's the town continued to grow rapidly, largely as a result of tin mining and rubber production in the surrounding region.

Ipoh was invaded by the Japanese on 15 December 1941. During the Japanese Occupation, Ipoh was made the capital of Perak, in place of Taiping. In March 1942, St. Michael's Institution became headquarters of the Japanese administration. After liberation in 1945, Ipoh remained the capital of Perak.

Ipoh gained Municipal status on 31 May 1962 and was granted City status on 27 May 1988.

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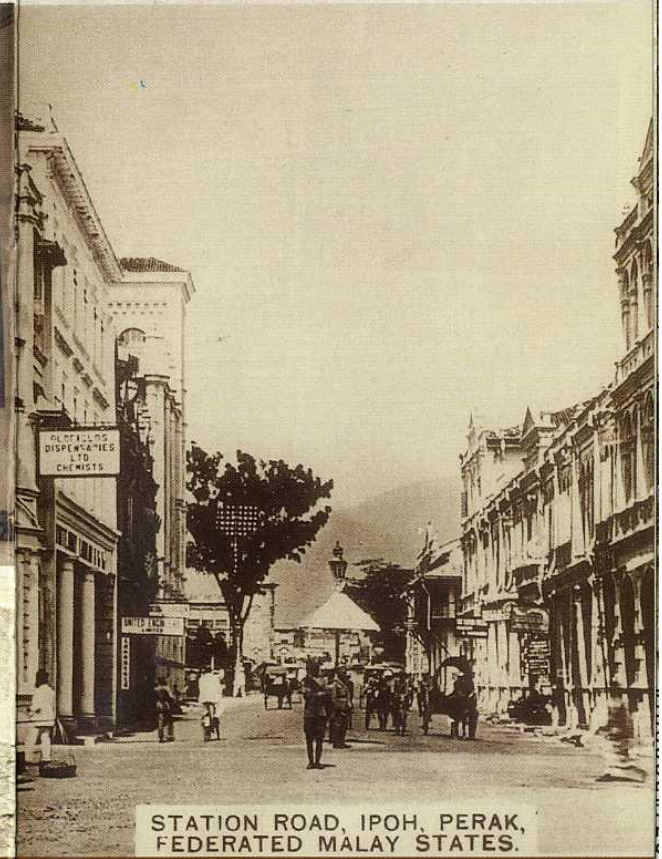
PERAK ACADEMY
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With Special Thanks To
Mark Lay,
Khoo Salma & AR Lubis



IPOH HERITAGE TRAIL MAP 1



STATION ROAD, IPOH, PERAK,
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

PERAK, MALAYSIA

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Ipoh's Living Heritage...



Ipoh Sar Hor Fun (Kong Heng, 75 Leech Street)

"Ipoh Sar Hor Fun" (Cantonese) refers to silky-smooth flat rice noodles served in a clear chicken soup topped with strips of chicken and prawns. The noodles are said to originate from Sar Hor in Guangzhou, China and are made from rice flour, water and palm oil. They are referred to as "Kway Teow" in Hokkien.



Ipoh Bean Sprouts

Ipoh Bean Sprouts ("Ngah Choy" in Cantonese, "Taugeh" in Hokkien) are famous for being plump, juicy and especially crunchy. The beans are grown in moist conditions and watered every 5 hours until they are 5 days old. They are ready for sale on the sixth day. The bean sprouts are produced in Buntong where the rich calcium carbonate underground water adds to their unique taste.



Ipoh White Coffee (Sin Yoon Loong, 15A Leech Street)

Ipoh White Coffee ("Bak Kopi" in Cantonese) is differentiated from black coffee in that the beans are roasted without the addition of sugar. White coffee powder is brewed in a sock sieve using boiling hot water. Condensed and evaporated milk are then added and the coffee is stirred until frothy.



Biscuits and Pastries (145 Hugh Low Street)

Ipoh biscuits and pastries date back to the early 1900's where they were traditionally given during Chinese festivals and as wedding gifts. The dough is still made by hand although today healthier ingredients such as vegetable oil are used instead of lard.



Sar Kok Liew

Sar Kok Liew refers to deep-fried turnip fritters wrapped in a beancurd skin. The turnip gives a sweetish flavour while the beancurd provides a slightly salty taste. Sar Kok may be dipped in curry or added to noodle soup. It may be considered the Hakka version of the "hashbrown".



Satay (Thean Chun, 73 Leech Street)

Satay are pieces of marinated meat skewered on sticks and barbecued over a charcoal fire. It is served with cucumber wedges and a spicy peanut sauce. The Chinese version at Thean Chun includes pork satay.



Rattan Weaver (31B Market Street)

While rattan furniture remains fairly popular in Malaysia, rattan craftsmen are hard to come by these days. These craftsmen specialise in binding, weaving, repairing and producing fine pieces of rattan furniture.



Tin Smith (29 Jalan Othman Talib)

Tin Smiths specialise in fabricating metal wares such as pots, pans, funnels, watering cans and other custom-made utensils. Many of these skilled sheet metal workers have mastered their craft over generations.



Signboard Engraver (13 & 15 Lorong Bijeh Timah)

These engravers carve and gild Chinese calligraphy onto signboards which are found above the entrances of Chinese homes and shop houses. They also carve congratulatory phrases and ancestors names onto wooden plaques. Bamboo chick blinds are also produced along this lane.

IPOH HERITAGE TRAIL MAP 1

Walking Duration: Approx 2 hours



Selamat Datang (Welcome) to Ipoh Old Town.



Railway Station

Ipoh's Railway Station was built from 1914 to 1917 in the Neo-Classical style and designed by government architect A. B. Hubback. Often referred to as the "Taj Mahal" of Ipoh, the building is similar to the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station (also designed by A. B. Hubback).



War Memorial

The War Memorial is located in Station Square in front of the Railway Station. The memorial commemorates Perak's war dead and bears the words "Sacred to the memory of the men from the state of Perak who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 and to those who died in the 1939-1945 War".



Town Hall and Old Post Office

The Town Hall and Old Post Office building, located back to back, were constructed from 1914 to 1916 in the Neo-Classical style and designed by A.B. Hubback. The Malay Nationalist Party, the first political party formed in Malaya, held its inaugural congress here in late 1945.



High Court

The High Court was built from 1926 to 1928 in the Neo-Classical style and replaced the older courthouses in service from 1888 to 1909. The building was opened by the then British Resident in Perak, R.W. Thompson on the 14 July 1928. It was used as a High Court by the Japanese during the Occupation.



Royal Ipoh Club

The Royal Ipoh Club was founded by a group of Europeans in 1895 and has the distinction of being the oldest club in Ipoh. During the Occupation the building was used by the Japanese Army as a laundry house for officers based at nearby St. Michael's Institution.



Church of St. John The Divine

Consecrated in 1912, St. John the Divine was, when built, the largest church in Malaya. During the Japanese Occupation the church was converted into a noodle factory for a short period of time.



St. Michael's Institution

Established in 1912, St. Michael's Institution was founded by Father J.B. Coppin and built in the Gothic style. The current buildings were constructed over a period of 30 years commencing from 1922. During the Occupation, St. Michael's Institution became the headquarters of the Japanese Administration in Perak.



Town Padang Mosque

Constructed by Indian workers in 1908, in the Mogul style, the square-shaped Mosque was built at a cost of about \$500,000. The Mosque was built by Shaik Adam, a wealthy Tamil Muslim, following a dispute with Muslims in the Malay Community.



F.M.S. Bar & Restaurant

Founded in 1906 by a Hainanese immigrant, the F.M.S. (Federated Malay States) is reputed to be the oldest restaurant in Malaysia. The main clientele were European miners and planters. It moved to its current premises in 1923.



Hongkong And Shanghai Bank

Built in 1931 in the Neo-Renaissance style, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank building was the tallest in town until post-Independence. It was built to attract and impress both bank clients and tenants which included professional, business and mining companies.



S.P.H. De Silva Building

Built at the turn of last century in the Renaissance style, this is one of Ipoh's oldest commercial buildings. S.P.H. De Silva was for decades known as silversmiths and for the manufacture of trophies, shields and medals.



Chung Thye Phin Building

Built in 1907 by Chung Thye Phin (the last Kapitan Cina of Perak), this building has long been associated with medicine. It first housed Dr RM Connelly's Medical Hall, then Oldfields Dispensaries Ltd and finally Georgetown Dispensary.



Straits Trading Building (OCBC)

The Straits Trading Company erected this building in 1907, in the Italian Renaissance style, with a corner tower. Straits Trading bought tin ore from the miners and at its peak handled half of all sales of tin produced in the State.



The Chartered Bank

The Chartered Bank originally opened its Ipoh branch in 1902 and provided credit to the Straits Trading Company and later the Eastern Smelting Company. The current building dates from 1924.



Mercantile Bank

Built in 1931, this Art Deco building was built for the Mercantile Bank of India. Although the ownership has changed the words "Mercantile Bank" and "1931" remain on the front of the building.



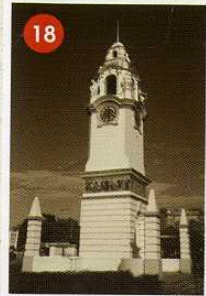
Residence & Law Office of the Seenivasagam Brothers

Located on the southern edge of Ipoh Padang, this row of pre-war townhouses housed many legal and professional firms including the Seenivasagam Brothers at No. 7. The Brothers also founded the Perak Progressive Party in 1953.



Perak Hydro Building

The Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company was formed in London in 1926 to supply power to the mines and dredges in the Kinta Valley. The company was located at these premises from the 1930's.



Birch Memorial

This clock tower was built in 1909 as a memorial to J.W.W. Birch, the first British Resident of Perak. Birch was assassinated in Pasir Salak in 1875. The panels portray famous figures from world history.



Jan Sahib's Office

Originally a block of commercial buildings built in the early 1930's, No. 128 Belfield Street was the office of Jan Sahib, son of Shaik Adam, founder of the Town Padang Mosque. Jan Sahib came to Ipoh to join his father's business, the Kinta Ice Aerated Water and Bakery Company.



Mikasa Photo Shop

By 1911, Mikasa Photo Studio occupied these premises at No. 93 - 95 Belfield Street. A Japanese spy, Masaji Fukabori alias Masaji Hosaka, once worked at Mikasa sending information about Malaya back to the Japanese Army.



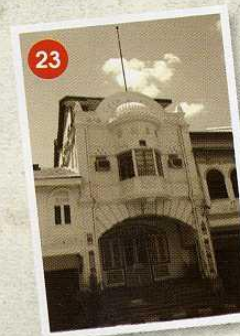
Dramatists' Hostel

Built in the 1920's, this building was constructed as a hostel for the actors who performed next door at the Chinese opera theatre. The original theatre dated back to 1891 and was rebuilt in 1906. The theatre has since been demolished.



Perak Ku Kong Chow Association

This Chinese association building was built in 1928 for the Cantonese community living in the Kinta Valley. At one time it was home to the largest Cantonese community in Malaya. The facade is in the form of an imperial arch.



Han Chin Pet Soo

Han Chin Pet Soo was founded as a miner's club by Yau Tet Shin and Leong Fee. The current building dates from 1929. It was the only club exempt from registration under the "Exemptions Under The Registration of Societies Order" dating back to 1895.



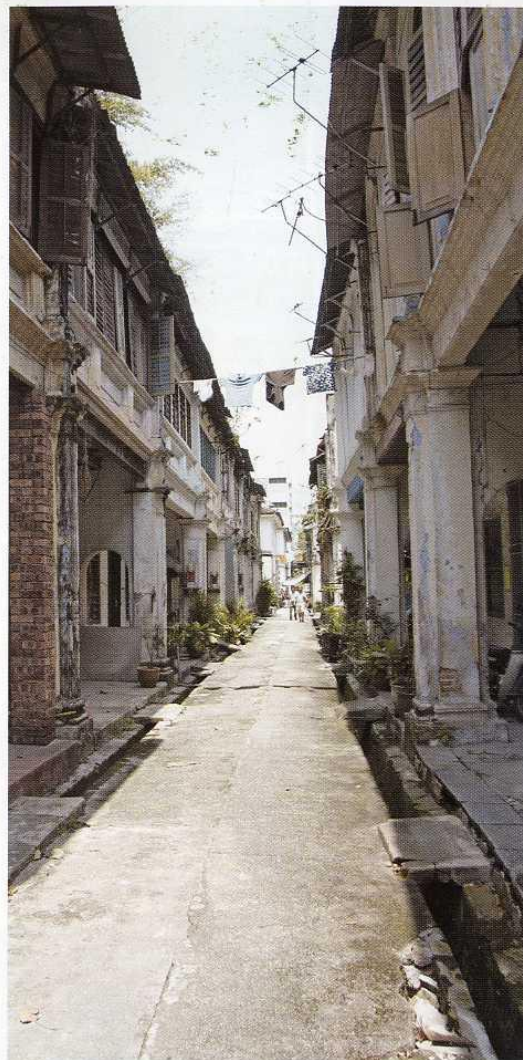
Panglima Lane (Concubine Lane)

Known as 'Second Concubine Lane' this street dates back to the turn of the last century. At that time, the town houses were renowned for opium, gambling and brothels. The lane later developed into a residential area where the concubines of rich Chinese tycoons were reputedly kept.

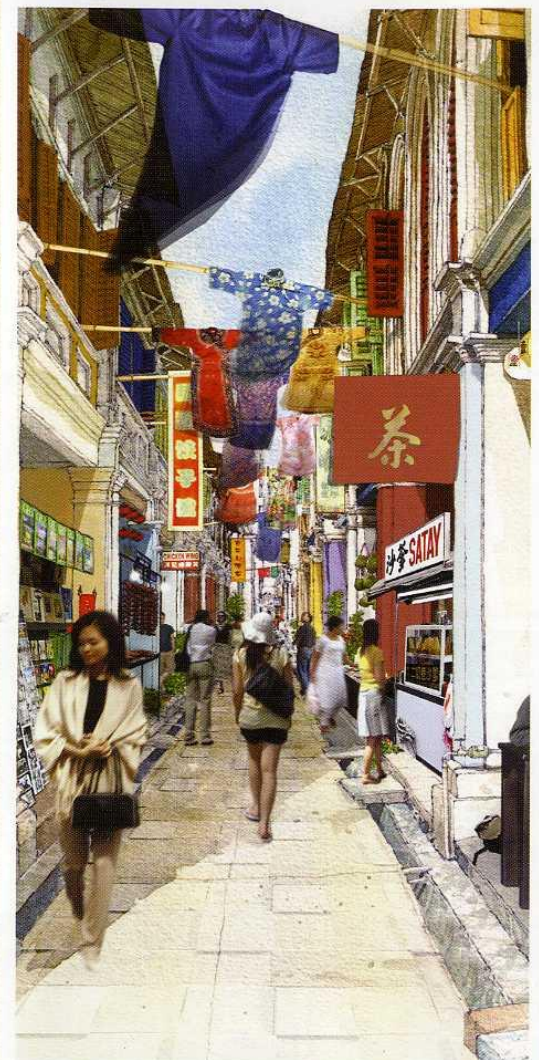
24 Panglima Lane (Concubine Lane)



Past



Present



Future...