

Godden Mackay Logan

Heritage Consultants

# **CIVVIH Symposium, 8 April 2010**

## **Development and Sustainability— Can it be a Happy Marriage?**

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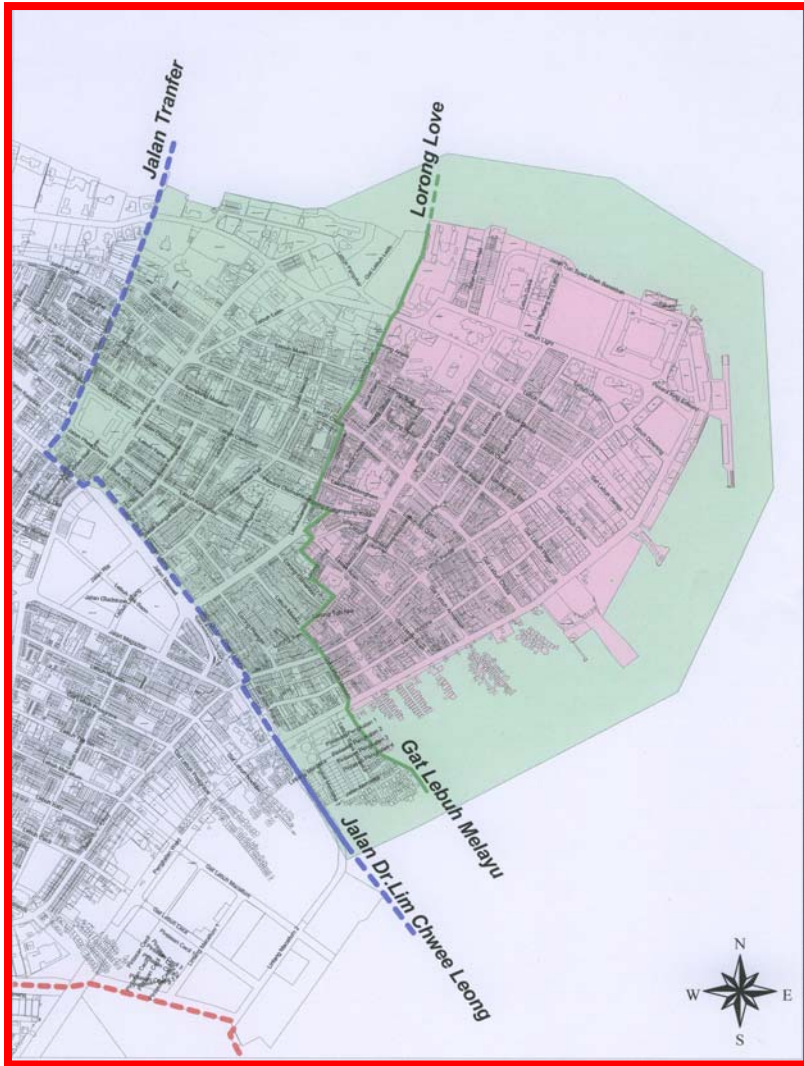




If 'townscape' is a key heritage value of an historic town or area then the potential impacts of new development on views and setting must be analysed and carefully managed for sustainability of that value.











Lebuh Muntri & Lorong Love form a charming residential neighbourhood with fine examples of late 19th century shophouses. Cantonese guilds and associations can be found in this quarter.

## Historic Port Cities of the Straits of Malacca

Melaka and George Town .... 'bear testimony to a living multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, where the many religions and cultures met and coexisted. They reflect the coming together of cultural elements from the Malay Archipelago, India and China with those of Europe, to create a unique architecture, culture and townscape. ... This multi-cultural tangible and intangible heritage is expressed in the great variety of religious buildings of different faiths, ethnic quarters, the many languages, worship and religious festivals, dances, costumes, art and music, food, and daily life.'



UNESCO World Heritage inscription, 2008.



### SHOPPING

- 1 Chocolate Boutique \$\$ C5
- 2 Chowrasta Market, local products \$ E3
- 3 De Silva's, Ceylonese jewellers \$\$\$ E10
- 4 Ghee Hiang biscuits \$\$ G9
- 5 Habib, Indian Muslim jewellers \$\$\$ F7
- 6 Hup Loong, Penang cuisine premises \$ F6
- 7 Maison le Poupee, designer clothes \$\$\$ B6
- 8 Nam Loong, Cantonese jewellers \$\$\$ F6
- 9 Penang Bazaar/Jual Murah, textiles \$ E3
- 10 Royal Selangor \$\$-\$\$\$ C9
- 11 Sam's Batik, Indian cotton clothes \$ D4



## INTANGIBLE HERITAGE: people – rituals, social practices, cuisine, c



### SIGNBOARD ENGRAVER

No. 41, Lebuh Queen (11am-5pm)

Masterfully chiselled, these Chinese name plaques bore the signature of gifted hands that is keeping this traditional art well into the 21st century.



### COFFEE MAKER

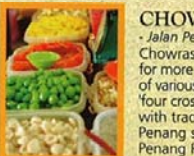
Literally home-brewed, the aromatic and rich-bodied local coffee is prepared over wood fire in a home factory setting. The final product can be found in most sundry shops in George Town, while the brew can be savoured at most local coffee shops within the historic city.



### WOODEN & BAMBOO BLIND MAKER

No. 231 Lebuh Chulia

At the narrow alley behind this shop comes the colourful wooden/bamboo blinds, hand-painted by Mr. Chen of Ngai Sun that adorn the many outlets in George Town. These multi-coloured blinds not only serve as shelters from the scorching sun, but as advertising modules as well.



### CHOWRASTA MARKET

No. 1, Jalan Penang (opposite Police Headquarter)

Chowrasta Market has served the people of George Town for more than a century, providing its denizens with groceries of various kinds since 1890 by South Indian Muslims. Meaning 'four cross roads' in the Urdu tongue, the present Chowrasta, with traders selling dried pickles, nutmegs and other exotic Penang specialties, was built in 1981, with the front facing Penang Road, built in 1920, serving as its facade.

### CLAN JETTIES - Pengkalan Weld

Clan Jetties are unique Chinese settlements along Weld Quay, with homes built along wooden piers that extend to the Penang Channel. It has been in existence since the 19th century. The residents of each clan jetty are descendants of Chinese immigrants that reflect the distinct historical, geographical and lineage of its populace. There are eight clan jetties along Weld Quay (Chew Jetty, Koay Jetty, Lee Jetty, Lim Jetty, Peng Aun Jetty, Tan Jetty, Yeoh Jetty, Mixed Clans Jetty).



## Living Heritage

### ▲ TRADITIONAL TRADES TRAIL

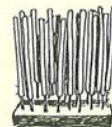
This trail is designed as a 2-hour walk. On arrival at each destination, please request for a free brochure from the trader which details each trade.



### 1 Coffee Maker

No. 53, Lorong Stewart (8am-2pm)

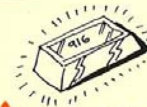
"Local coffee" preparation, roasted and ground in traditional style over a wood fire in a dramatic home factory setting.



### 2 Joss Stick Maker

No. 1, Lorong Muda (off Stewart Lane) (8am-10am)

Fragrant, handmade incense sticks produced by Mr. Lee at his shophouse front. These joss sticks are used by the Buddhists for religious worship at home and at the temple.



### 3 Indian Goldsmith

No. 38, Lebuh Queen (9am-5pm)

Bent over a work table under an incandescent lamp, the traditional goldsmith fashions fine jewellery from 22-carat gold using traditional methods.



### 4 Signboard Engraver

No. 41, Lebuh Queen (11am-5pm)

One of the Penang's last wood engravers, Mr. Kok produces classic Chinese name plaques and signboards found over entrances of homes and shop-houses, a practice adopted from China.



### 5 Ottu Kedai

Shop Against The Wall, opposite no. 75, Lebuh Market (8am-7pm)

Box-like sundry store, attached to the side wall outside of a shophouse. It sells a wide array of items for the daily needs of local residents.



### 6 "Songkok" Maker

No. 157, Lebuh King (10am-5pm)

'Songkok', a Muslim headgear which is usually worn by men for religious and ceremonial purposes. Learn how to make a 'Songkok' from Haji Mohidin, whose shop is set in an alcove next to the Nagore Shrine.



### 7 Fortune Teller

Corridor of "Eu Yang Sang" bird's nest shop, No. 156, Chulia Street (12pm-6pm)  
Auntie Sim - one of the last sidewalk fortune tellers. For a few ringgit, she will read your face, palms and cards!



### 8 Rattan Weaver

No. 102, Lebuh Armenian (9am-5pm)

Mr. Yin, a master weaver carries on his father's trade, weaving the seats of the chairs from the skin of rattan (cane) and repairing cane furniture which is still favoured by the older generation.



### 9 "Nyonya" Beaded Shoes

No. 4 Lebuh Armenian (9am-5pm)

Mr. Oo and Mr. Ng are no ordinary cobblers. They are master craftsmen who craft gorgeous beaded shoes of the most intricate designs!



### 10 Tombstone Engraver

No. 11 Lebuh Aceh (10am-12pm)

Lebuh Aceh, known as 'phak cheek khay' in the Hokkien dialect, literally means the noisy street of tombstone makers! Visit the last remaining tombstone engraving shop 'Teik Hin', in Lebuh Aceh, owned by Mr. Koay.

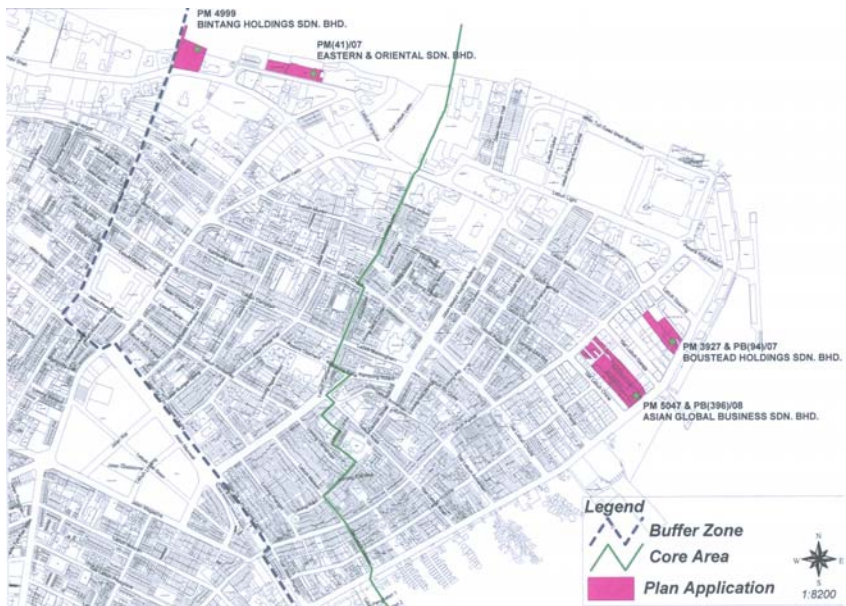






















*F.M.S. Railway Building and Sampan Harbour*

## 1907 - FMS Railway building

The low scale context around the clocktower shown in this historic view largely remains today.  
(Illustration taken from material provided by AGB).





















Sustaining  
heritage values in  
historic towns  
and areas relies  
on the adoption  
of planning  
controls that are  
commensurate  
with the desired  
sustainability  
outcomes



## LOOK AND LEARN ABOUT THE SHOPHOUSE

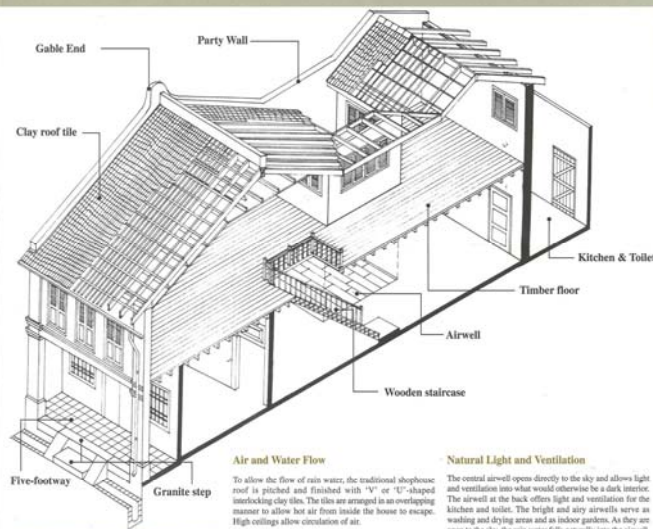
### What is A Shophouse?

Those of us who grew up in George Town, have probably lived in a shophouse before. The shophouse is an urban terrace house characteristic of Asian towns in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The shophouse may be used as dwelling quarters or more commonly incorporate a shop or business premise on the ground floor while the family resides on the top floor. This was very ideal for small scale family-based businesses as family and relatives could live as well as work in the same building, providing both convenience and security.

Shophouses are built in rows and these rows are arranged blocks within a grid of roads and back lanes. Each row is framed by a continuous five-foot way while each house is linked to each other by a 'party' wall.

A shophouse is usually two or three storeys high and is long and narrow. Special features are terracotta roofs, thick party walls and internal air wells. The attractive facade is made up of a door flanked by windows on either side on the ground floor and shuttered windows upstairs.

George Town has the greatest number of traditional shophouse rows in the Southeast Asian region. The preservation of the traditional houses and the traditional trades operating within these shophouses gives Georgetown a special character that attracts visitors and tourists. Shophouses in Penang will continue to be functional and livable if they are properly maintained and cared for. The future of Georgetown as a heritage city depends on the correct conservation of the traditional features of the shophouse.



### Key Elements of a Shophouse

In Malay, Chinese and Indian culture the basic elements of wind, water, fire and earth are often linked to creation, body functions, health, living environment etc. One of the exciting aspects of the traditional shophouse design is how it harmonizes the elements of heat, light, water and air flow to minimise the problems of a tropical climate and provide maximum comfort, health and happiness for its residents.

#### Air and Water Flow

To allow the flow of rain water, the traditional shophouse roof is pitched and finished with 'V' or 'U' shaped interlocking clay tiles. The tiles are arranged in an overlapping manner to allow hot air from inside the house to escape. High ceilings allow circulation of air.

Earlier shophouses without gutters allowed water to flow off the roof into open drains cooling the air with a certain of water. Gutters and down pipes on later shophouses, made of galvanized iron, helped to discharge water from the pitched roof. Often this water is carried by a drainage system running through the house that helps to cool the house.

A shared 'party' wall separates one house from the next. The party walls protrude about 30 cm above the roof acting as a noise and fire breaker. They also take the weight of beams the upper floor and roof.

The walls are made of clay bricks and lime mortar and are painted over with lime wash. Since old buildings do not have water proofing, the lime mortar and lime wash which allow moisture to evaporate are more suitable than modern cement and paint.

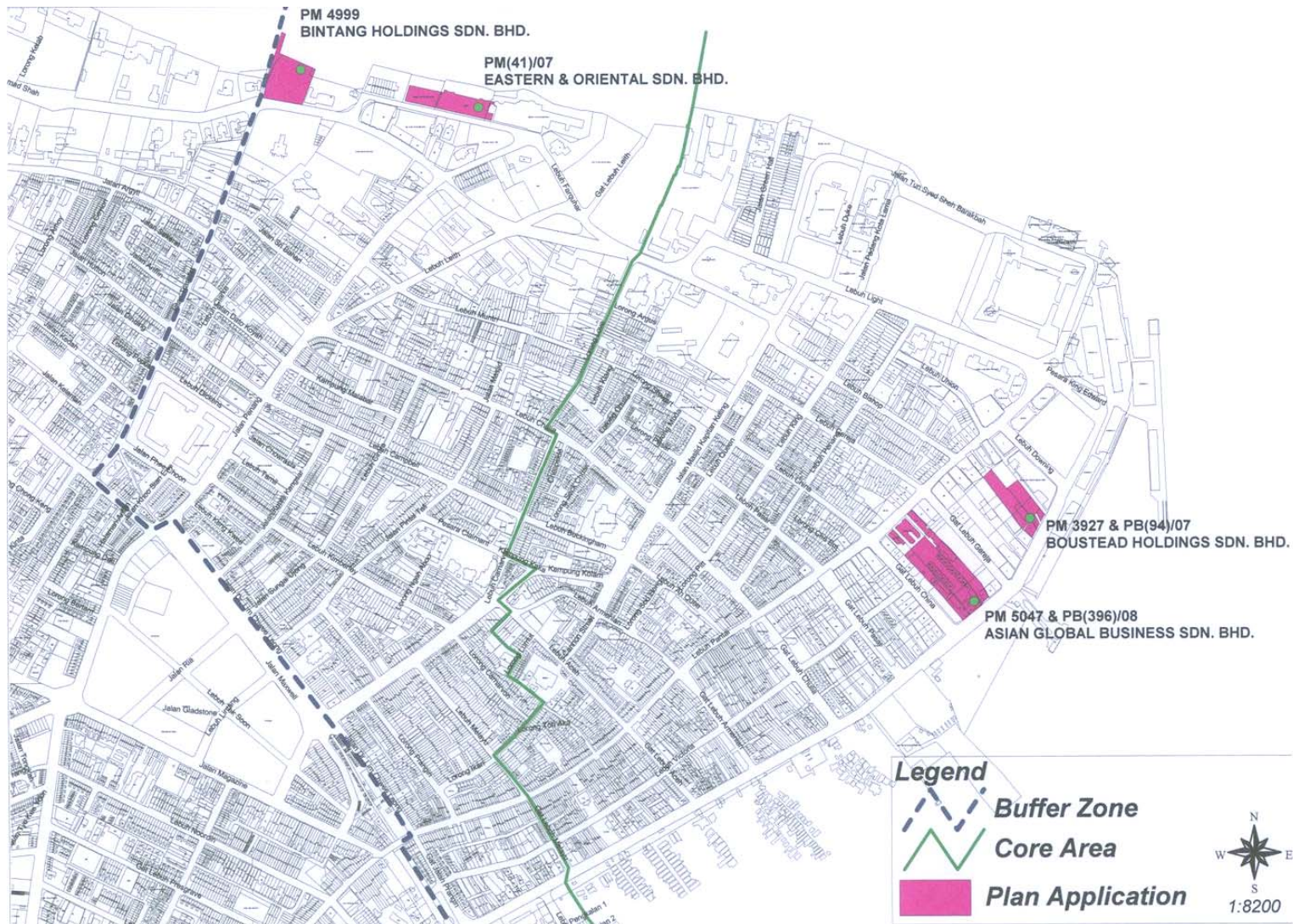
#### Natural Light and Ventilation

The central airwell opens directly to the sky and allows light and ventilation into what would otherwise be a dark interior. The airwell at the back offers light and ventilation for the kitchen and toilet. The bright and airy airwells serve as washing and drying areas and as indoor gardens. As they are open to the sky, the rain water falls naturally into the airwell.

As the upper floor projects over the 5-foot way in front of the house, it provides a sheltered and cool walkway for pedestrians as well as a semi-public space for residents' social activities.

The pavement and lower floor uses plain terracotta tiles or cement tiles decorated with geometric patterns, both of which are very cooling to walk on. Granite slabs are used to edge the 5-foot way, with an additional granite piece placed across the open drain as a step. The granite edge serves to demarcate and protect the semi-private 5-footway from the public road.



























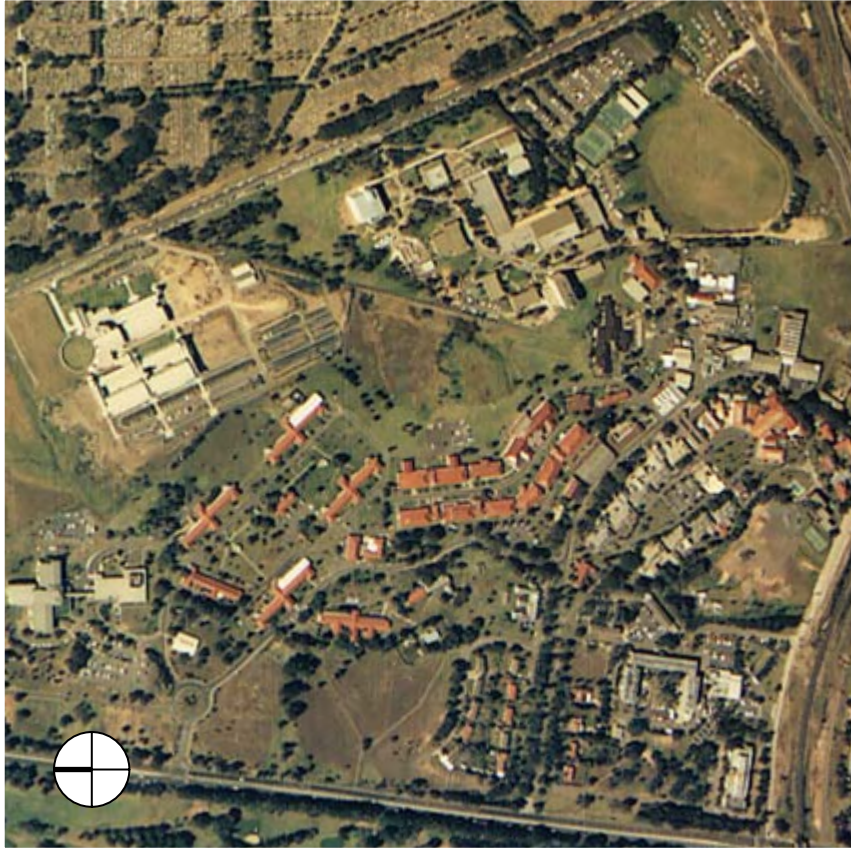
Susan Duyker 2009

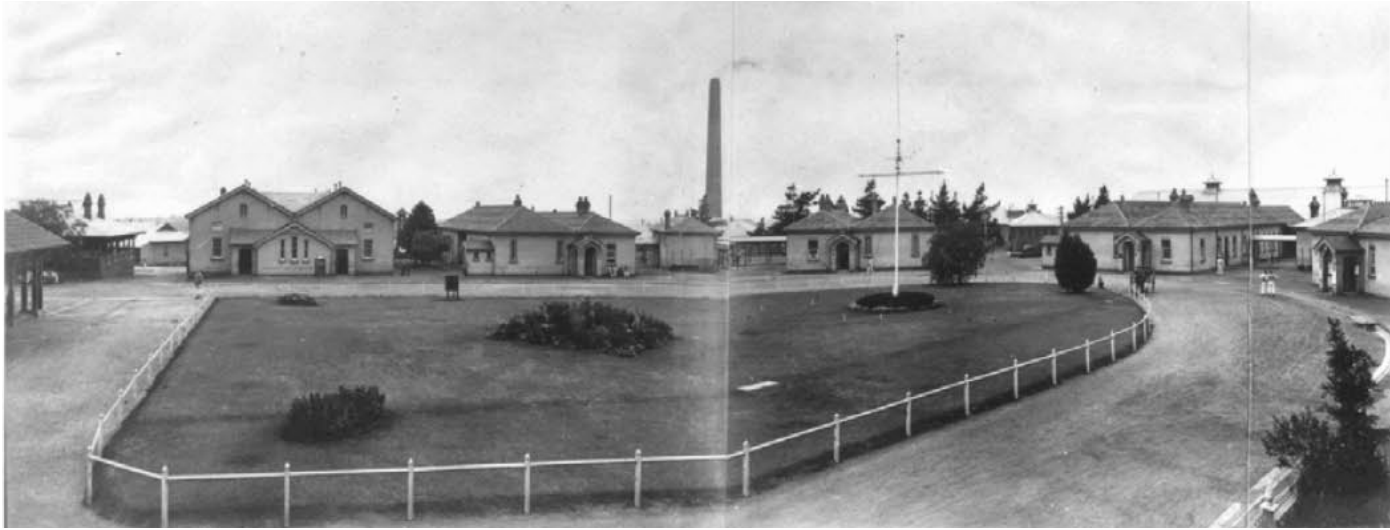




Planning for sustainability of heritage values needs to occur early in the masterplanning / development process











Redundant complexes, such as former hospitals, military bases, industries etc, are best managed as urban conservation areas/precincts, rather than as a series of individual buildings and landscape elements.

This can achieve more sustainable outcomes for the historic relationships, views, settings, intangible values and interpretation.