

GILLMAN BARRACKS

Final Report



Date of Issuance

6th July 2026

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Project Reference
2406/GMBHIA

Date of Issuance
6th July 2026

For the Client
Housing & Development Board (HDB)

Lead Consultant
Studio Lapis Conservation Pte Ltd

With regards to
CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR GILLMAN BARRACKS SITE (L/293/24)

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Executive Summary

Overview

This Final Report has been prepared to evaluate the heritage attributes and significance of Gillman Barracks Study Area including her built structures and landscapes. The Study Area consists of Core and Non-Core areas, the boundary of which forms only a section of the larger historical Gillman Barracks broadly characterised by the early period of development into a military complex by the colonial Government in 1935.

The Final Report includes a matrix devised for the systematic evaluation of significance and elaborates on the historical contexts that produced this unique landscape, the characterisation of each of the seven clusters identified, and dives into the character defining attributes of a few select examples to illustrate the types of values observed in different typological forms and from different periods of development.

Evaluation Approach for Significance

This study adopts a values-based approach to assess significance, focusing on four key indicators: Historical Value, Architectural Value, Social and Communal Value, and Group and Setting Value. These dimensions consider the extent to which each structure or element embodies, reflects, or communicates important aspects of Singapore's military, architectural, and social history. The study also considers three additional dimensions that inform each value indicator - Intactness, Legibility, and Representation.

The assessment of significance is also informed by the Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework (co-published by Getty Conservation Institute and ICOMOS ISC20C). Contextual themes common to the twentieth century in the spheres of social, political, economic and geographic conditions are woven into the historical analysis of the site. This explains both the influences that produced the landscape of Gillman Barracks and the impacts it in turn had on other places, economies and communities.

These criteria provide a robust framework to identify and differentiate the heritage significance across the various elements of the site. Each structure is thus assessed not only for its individual merit, but also in terms of its contribution to the collective significance of Gillman Barracks as a historic military precinct and evolving cultural landscape.

Study of Communities

The study of communities of Gillman Barracks explores how the site continues to hold meaning for communities through collective identity, memory, and shared experience. Social value is understood from community perceptions of identity, distinctiveness, and belonging, expressed through lived experience and collective memories evolved over time.

Findings highlight that social significance at Gillman Barracks arises from its role as a highly structured and planned compound, where regimented training, education, and communal living fostered enduring bonds. The site has historically nurtured “structured communities”—organised groups formed through shared institutional experiences and a common ethos—whose networks and collective identities often extend far beyond the site itself.

Gillman Barracks holds layered social significance as a reference point for identity, a place of social interaction and cohesion, a formative environment shaping values and practices, and a locus of collective memory. Recognising these enduring attachments affirms its continuing importance within Singapore's social and cultural landscape, guiding future conservation and engagement efforts.

Heritage Significance of Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks is a historically and architecturally significant former military complex constructed in the 1930s by the British War Office. Originally serving as a self-contained cantonment, it is a rare and well-preserved example of colonial military planning in Singapore, reflecting both strategic defence roles and a focus on welfare provision for service families. The site remained in institutional use until the 1990s, most notably as the headquarters of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) School of Combat Engineering. Architecturally, it comprises a cohesive ensemble of colonial-era buildings adapted to the tropical climate, with distinctive planning that reflects military hierarchies and environmental considerations. Its strategic location near the Southern coastline and its role in broader defence operations further contribute to its contextual value. Today, the barracks has been adaptively reused as a contemporary arts and lifestyle cluster, maintaining its historical resonance while contributing to Singapore's cultural landscape.

Subsequent landscape changes and redevelopment pressures from the 1970s to 1990s have resulted in the loss of significant portions of the original built fabric and landform, including the former barracks cluster and parade square, now largely subsumed within the wooded

area east of Malan Road. The former married quarters and Railway Hill have also been demolished and levelled respectively. This has fragmented the spatial coherence of the original military compound, where built and landscape elements once operated as an integrated system. The remaining military landscapes and structures are therefore important in understanding the site's original organisation and should be carefully considered in future planning, with opportunities to recall lost elements through heritage interpretation where appropriate.

Heritage Significance of the Clusters

Collectively, these clusters embody the layered military, architectural, and social histories of Gillman Barracks. Their varying functions, forms, and states of preservation contribute richly to the site's overall heritage significance and present strong cases for continued conservation and sensitive adaptive reuse.

Lock Road Cluster

Lock Road represents one of the most intact sections of the original 1935 development and served a multifunctional role, housing administrative offices, officer and sergeant messes, and stores. The continuity of military use until 1993—by British forces, Royal Engineers, and later the SAF—has helped preserve the site's authenticity and legibility. The spatial layout and architectural expression of buildings such as Blocks 5, 6, 7, 9, and 22 reflect institutional hierarchies and thoughtful siting that adapted to the natural terrain. Lock Road also holds strong communal value, with its messes and workspaces serving as important venues for regimented social interaction, camaraderie, and operational life.

Malan Road Cluster

Malan Road also retains significant vestiges of the original garrison and was historically organized around key functions: the elevated Barrack Hill housed single-men's accommodations and a parade square, while the southern lowlands supported industrial and logistical operations. Although some structures have been demolished, remaining buildings continue to convey the planning logic and functional zoning of a hierarchical military complex. The area's social significance is reinforced through its communal workspaces and the structured living arrangements that defined life in the camp for generations of servicemen.

Executive Summary

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Preston Road comprises a rare and well-preserved group of 1930s semi-detached houses that exemplify colonial-era military family housing. Likely used by non-commissioned officers with families, these homes demonstrate a high level of architectural intactness and were thoughtfully designed for tropical living. Their siting along 'Friendly Hill' reflects both practical and symbolic considerations, offering commanding views and proximity to the former garrison school. The cluster remains a tangible and evocative representation of the family-oriented dimension of Gillman Barracks' original planning intent.

Preston Road School Cluster

The former Alexandra School is a rare and significant example of a purpose-built garrison school complex in Singapore, with an exceptional continuity of educational use from the pre-war period to the present day. It is the oldest surviving military children's school complex on the island and embodies both architectural and social heritage value. Its development reflects early efforts by the British War Office to support military families through formal education infrastructure, predating post-war education reforms. The site's layered architectural evolution, from pre-war T-shaped classroom blocks to post-war quadrangle layouts, mirrors pedagogical shifts over time. The school also fostered strong connections with the wider Gillman Barracks, reinforcing its role in shaping childhood experiences within the garrison community.

(Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster

Established in 1979 as a joint effort by Christian denominations and integrated into the Telok Blangah New Town plan, St. Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) is a notable example of modernist institutional architecture in a tropical setting. Designed by DP Architects, the campus layout emphasized informality, openness, and responsiveness to topography. Though subsequent alterations have reduced some legibility, key features such as the central plaza, auditorium, and main block remain as landmarks with strong social memory for past students and educators. Today, the site continues its educational legacy as home to the Academy of Singapore Teachers.

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

The Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (PPVI) represents Singapore's early nation-building efforts in technical education during the post-independence era. Established in 1972 within repurposed military infrastructure, it exemplifies pragmatic, rapid deployment of training

institutions to meet urgent industrial manpower needs. Strategically located near port and shipyard industries, PPVI was central to training skilled workers—especially in metal trades such as welding—for the burgeoning maritime and offshore sectors. Its prominence as the largest and best-equipped metal trades training school in the region underscores its pivotal role in Singapore's industrial transformation.

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

The Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster represents an ensemble of critical infrastructure established in the late 1960s and early 1970s to support the development of Telok Blangah New Town. Comprising an electrical substation, pumping station, and the former Public Utilities Board (PUB) Telok Blangah Complex, the cluster reflects Singapore's rapid urbanization and the coordinated delivery of utilities for a planned township intended to house 70,000 residents.

Heritage Significance of the Buildings and Landscape Elements

Please refer to map and table in the following page.

Heritage Impact Assessment

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was carried out for the Gillman Barracks area, which is being studied by agencies for future redevelopment into a residential estate. Based on a proposed conceptual plan provided by agencies, the HIA seeks to identify potential heritage impacts on the site and recommend measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects while supporting future development objectives. Agencies are studying to retain all 4 buildings scored as 'Exceptional' and 21 of 27 buildings scored 'High'.

The assessment adopts common approaches drawn from HIA studies conducted internationally that evaluates how proposed interventions may affect the heritage significance, character and legibility of the site. Given the concentration of historically and thematically related buildings within Gillman Barracks, the assessment is undertaken at the cluster level to better understand the cumulative heritage value of groups of structures and their surrounding context.

Each cluster is assessed through a framework comprising four planning themes: Fabric & Form, Function, Access and Context. A Tolerance for Change appraisal is assigned to each based on its characteristics. The framework is then used to identify potential heritage impacts associated with the conceptual plan, as well as opportunities, recommendations and mitigation measures.

Heritage Interpretation Plan

The Heritage Interpretation Plan for Gillman Barracks sets out a framework to reveal, connect, and communicate the site's layered histories through an interpretive approach rooted in its physical and cultural landscape. Responding to the site's context, the plan includes strategies that enhance access and connectivity linking existing green corridors with new parks, making use of topographical high points for panoramic interpretation of the wider terrain, and establishing integrated, intuitive wayfinding networks that guide visitors through narratives embedded in the landscape itself.

A key aim of the interpretation plan is to recall lost structures and landscapes throughout the site and conveying how the site used to be used historically in its more holistic configurations, revealing former spatial relationships and stories that convey the historic daily rhythms of the site. It includes recommendations for stakeholders to consider in future planning for the site. These recommendations may also evolve over time in response to changing needs, available technologies, stakeholder priorities and site-specific constraints.

The interpretive framework is structured around three interrelated heritage themes that together trace Gillman Barracks' transformation from a colonial military enclave to a civic and cultural landscape of contemporary Singapore.

1. Terrain and Military Strategy

Explores the former landscapes of Gillman Barracks in connection with its strategic use as a military site and the extent of changes in the landscape.

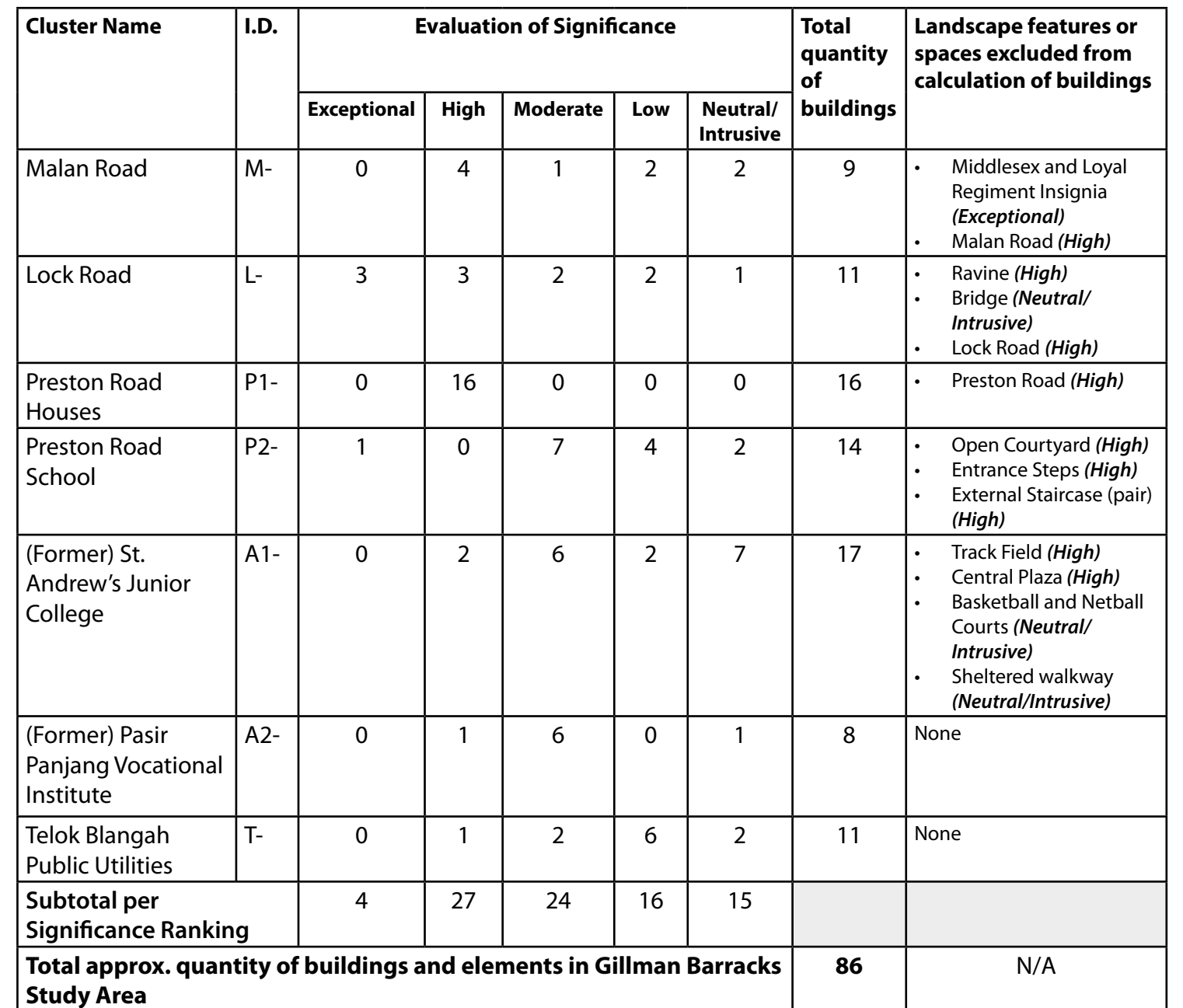
2. Military Welfare and Wellbeing

Explores the daily life and rhythms of the military communities of the site as well as the extant and lost structures where the social lives used to play out.

3. Evolving Educational Pedagogy and Curricula

Explores the history and landscape of schools and other educational institutions across the entire site.

Summary of Heritage Significance of Buildings and Landscape Elements in Study Area



[LEFT] Fig. 1 Overview of Study Area with indication of Neutral/Intrusive, Low, Moderate, High, and Exceptional Significance assessment of extant structures and landscape features. Source: Studio Lapis

	Study Area	
	Core Study Area	(Non-building)
	Exceptional Significance	
	High Significance	
	Moderate Significance	
	Low Significance	
	Neutral/ Intrusive	

1. Introduction

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction & Scope

Studio Lapis Conservation Pte Ltd is engaged by the Housing & Development Board (HDB) to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment of the Study Area within the former Gillman Barracks site. This Final Report presents the findings from desktop research, field survey and investigation of buildings and landscape elements in the Study Area conducted from September 2024 to May 2025, consolidated under the following chapters:

1. Introduction

2. Site History & Periodisation

3. Study of Building Typology

4. Study of Communities

5. Heritage Assessment of Gillman Barracks and Its Structures

6. Heritage Impact Assessment

7. Heritage Interpretation Plan
- with four appendices for,
1. Building Inventory

2. Non-Building Inventory

3. List of Figures

4. List of Tables



Fig. 1.1 Boundary of Study Area with annotations - [1] Preston Rd School cluster, [2] Preston Rd Housing cluster, [3] Lock Road cluster, [4] Malan Road cluster, [5] (Former) St Andrew Junior College cluster, [6] (Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute cluster, [7] Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster.
Source: Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Master Plan 2025, annotations by Studio Lapis.

Brief Data of Study Area

Site	Core Area	Non-Core Area
Approx. site area (Ha)	~13 (Source: HDB)	~34
Approx. no. of existing buildings	Total number of buildings: 86 (estimated from desktop research and current fieldwork findings)	
Original Use	Gillman Barracks (War Office) Alexandra School	Gillman Barracks (War Office)
Year of Construction	1935 (Lock and Malan Rd Structures) 1939 (Preston Rd Structures)	1950-1980s
Current use	- International School - Residential (State properties) - Creative lifestyle, arts and F&B uses	- Academy of Singapore Teachers - Office, retail, F&B, sports & recreation uses - Electrical substation - Telok Blangah pumping station
Conservation Status	None	None

Table 1.1.1 Brief data of the Study Area. Source: Studio Lapis

1.2 Overview of Study Area

Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks was constructed in 1935, prompted by the post-1921/22 Washington Conference on the militarisation of Singapore and named after Lieutenant General Sir Webb Gillman, head of the commission in Singapore and Master General of Ordnance. The set up of the site was completed in just nine months.

The newly established encampment boasted eight barrack blocks, 48 married quarters to house servicemen and their families and other office blocks, rooms and stores connected by three miles of new roads. The site was built on high ground across a range of hills and offered pleasing views overlooking the island's southwest shores and western entrance to Singapore Harbour. Its completion boosted Singapore's reputation of being one of the most pleasant overseas military stations.

Gillman Barracks was first occupied by the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment who arrived in Singapore in March 1936, and subsequent occupants would rotate every year or two depending on the postings of overseas battalions. Following the Japanese Occupation, the British Royal Engineers became the main site occupants and stayed there until the British Withdrawal in 1971. Thereafter Gillman Barracks became home to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Combat Engineers (1971), and SAF Transport Unit (1984). Following the Ministry of Defence's (MINDEF) return of the land in 1993, the site was renamed Gillman Village and opened as a lifestyle enclave managed by the Land Office in 1996. In 2012, the site was opened again as Gillman Barracks as a premier arts cluster for contemporary art galleries and research centres, jointly managed by the Economic Development Board (EDB), National Arts Council (NAC) and JTC Corporation (JTC). In 2020, the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) took over management of Gillman Barracks, who rejuvenated and transformed the precinct into a vibrant creative lifestyle enclave.

For the purposes of this Heritage Impact Assessment Study, the entire site is divided into the following clusters:-

Malan Road Cluster (ID: M-)

Malan Road is located on the southern half of the existing Gillman Barracks along lower lying grounds of the site. Structures found along Malan Road were mostly constructed between 1935 and the 1950s and served the Gillman Barracks and Infantry Camp, the Royal Engineers after the war and the SAF Combat Engineers Headquarters after British withdrawal. From the layout, often column-free structures, and architectural elements of the building, the buildings here were likely to serve more functions of utility - workshops, garages, stores with a few others for medical purposes. These buildings housed the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Centre for Contemporary Art

Singapore's (NTU CCA Singapore) exhibition hall and residential studio spaces before moving out in 2021, and are mostly used as restaurants today.

Lock Road Cluster (ID: L-)

Lock Road is located on the mid to north section of the existing Gillman Barracks. As the road proceeds northwards, it slopes up to higher ground. Structures found along Lock Road were mostly constructed between 1935 and the 1950s and served the Gillman Barracks and Infantry Camp, the Royal Engineers after the war and the SAF Combat Engineers Headquarters after British withdrawal. Historically, the structures located along Lock Road were used for sergeants' mess, quartermaster's supply and provision stores, orderly room for company organisation, Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) facilities, and a cinema. Today, these structures mostly house Gillman Barracks' main art galleries and other F&B establishments.

Preston Road Housing Cluster (ID: P1-)

The Preston Road Housing Cluster is made up of garrison-style semi-detached accommodations built between 1935 and 1939. The oldest two units are 1 & 2 Preston Road built along with the first wave of Gillman Barracks development in the area. These are set further away from Preston Road and feature flat concrete roofs. The other 14 units were built by 1939 along with Alexandra School located at the top of the hill. These units are almost identical - two-storey, pitch roof structures, each pair with a mirrored layout and accompanying outhouse. The earliest occupants of these modest but well-appointed accommodations are likely Alexandra School staff since they were built in the same period and located in close proximity. Archival research shows generally these living quarters were constructed and managed by the British War Office.

Preston Road School Cluster (ID: P2-)

The garrison school at the end of Preston Road, Alexandra School, was originally constructed and opened in 1939. It had a main block (presently Block 3), "a green two-storeyed building, [surmounting] the highest hill-top in the area," (The Straits Times, 1939) with classrooms enough for 250 children aged between five to eight years old. It also had playing fields for sports. The leaving age was eventually raised to 15 years of age and in 1954, after the junior and infant cohort was moved out to a new premises at Pasir Panjang, Alexandra School was expanded to include Alexandra Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools. This restructuring was accompanied by the construction of new blocks and facilities within the compound.

In 1964, the institution was once again reorganised into Bourne School which operated two compounds - Alexandra and Gillman

Sections - up until 1971. It was used subsequently by Henderson Secondary School from 1974-1976, Friendly Hill Primary School from 1976-1978 (which would eventually be merged into today's Gan Eng Seng Primary), and Friendly Hill Vocational Institute until 1982. ISS International School moved into the premises in 1983 and is still the present occupant today.

(Former) St. Andrew's Junior College Cluster (ID: A1-)

SAJC, the sixth junior college opened in Singapore, was built and opened in 1976 on the site of the former Gillman Barracks recreational fields to the west of Malan Road. The school was designed by DP Architects and featured 11 blocks that could accommodate 600 students in its first year. The open field and track largely overlapped with the British-era recreational grounds of the Barracks. SAJC moved out in 2005 and the premises came to be used by River Valley High School as an interim campus between 2006 and 2010. It was then taken over by the present users, Academy of Singapore Teachers, in 2011.

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (ID: A2-)

Prior to the opening of PPVI in 1972, reports make mention of the area being used as a military transport depot with large workshops and possibly other shed and hangar-type facilities. In his opening speech, Dr Lee Chiaw Meng, Minister of State for Education, made explicit mention of the government adaptively reusing "the army transport depot [...] and [turning] it into the biggest and best institution offering training in the metal trades in this region." (Singapore Ministry of Culture, 1972) The campus was eventually renamed as Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Pasir Panjang and closed its doors in 2000. One extant structure dating back to pre-1950s still remains (991C Alexandra Road), whilst at least four others from the Vocational Institute era (1970s) have also been retained for present-day commercial, F&B, and office spaces at 991 Alexandra Road.

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster (ID: T-)

The Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster located at the junction of Telok Blangah Road and Telok Blangah Street 31 consists of various structures erected from the late 1970s. This includes the former PUB Telok Blangah Complex made up of various large and small structures as well as the Telok Blangah Substation designed by the local firm Kumpulan Akitek. The infrastructure here was important for the service of the Telok Blangah Satellite Town conceived from 1968. The collection of structures that make up the pumping station are likely to be reconstructed or have undergone extensive additions & alterations in more recent years.

1.3 Methodology & Limitations

A. DESKTOP RESEARCH

Research materials, including maps, building plans, archival photos, institutional archives, government records and publications archived in Singapore and other domains such as collections in the United Kingdom (UK) relating to the Study Area have been consulted in parallel with the field surveys to verify the findings and observations. Archival drawings and maps have also been found which yield valuable information on site transformations, periodisation and implication to the changes in building or land profiles.

The methodology is underpinned by post-processing and file organisation of research materials, field notes, photographs to build up a comprehensive reference database, serving to facilitate information sharing within the team, and for easy location of data for analysis work, report compilation and impact assessment. The Final Report also provides findings based on cartographic site analysis across the various phases of development. Heritage impact assessment based on a concept plan as well as a proposed Heritage Interpretation Plan has also been included in this report.

Besides the particular history of Gillman Barracks, the identification of typologies is also informed by the Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework (co-published by Getty Conservation Institute and ICOMOS ISC20C). Historical developments in the spheres of social, political, economic, geographic conditions played an important role in producing differentiated and unique twentieth century cultural landscapes such as Gillman Barracks. The most relevant topics are discussed in Section 5.1 of this report.

B. FIELDWORK DOCUMENTATION

Field survey and photographic documentation were conducted base on initial desktop research findings to provide an overview of the existing features and site context and to identify key structures for detailed study. The main objective of the field survey is to identify and document attributes which contribute to the heritage significance of the clusters, buildings, spaces, individual structures and the overall Study Area. Field assessments of accessible sites were cross-verified with desktop research to provide an understanding of key aspects, which in turn informed the heritage assessment and significance banding exercise carried out for this study.

The key aspects include:

- a) age/ period of construction
- b) typology/ use
- c) design features
- d) developmental history
- e) location/ setting
- f) intactness/ general condition

Qualitative photo documentation of the heritage and spatial character, interrelations, architectural and environmental qualities in the high resolution were conducted using digital single-lens reflex (DSLR).

Synthesising field and research findings, an inventory list of buildings and landscape features has been compiled based on visited locations, and grouped into clusters for better understanding of group relations and historical planning/ functions.

C. ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Oral history interviews draw from the voices of those who lived, worked, studied, and created in Gillman Barracks. Their stories animate the buildings and landscapes not as static heritage but as active participants in the site's journey from colonial garrison to cultural precinct. This forms a repository of institutional and individual memories of the site to illustrate the social significance and contemporaneous relevance of the site. A total of 22 oral history interviews were conducted with individuals with ties to the Gillman Barracks site across various periods of its development.

List of Completed Oral History Interviews

I. Alexandra Cantonment (pre-1930s)

- No interviewees identified

II. Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks (1935-1942)

- No interviewees identified

III. World War II (1942-1945)

- Reference: "In Defence of Singapore", sketched (in 1943) by Sergeant S. Strange of the Loyal Regiment and with notes by Lance Bombardier A. V. Toze of 122 Field Regiment Royal Artillery

IV. Return of the British Military (1945-1968)

1. James McGrane, Royal Engineers (RE) Officer based in Singapore who has conducted research on Gillman Barracks' development

V. British Withdrawal (1968-1971)

2. Linda Attridge, Bourne School

VI. Post-independence Development of Gillman Barracks (1971-present day)

3. Winston Wong, Combat Engineer Officer at Gillman Camp, 1971 to 1975
4. Lam Chun See, Junior Officer Engineer Trainee (4th Batch) at Gillman Camp, 1977
5. Khor Sing Hong, Combat Engineer Officer at Gillman Camp, 1972 to 1981
6. Albel Singh, first National Serviceman and Combat Engineer Officer at Gillman Camp, 1972 to 1983
7. John Lynn Chien Yu, Combat Engineer Officer at Gillman Camp, 1978 to 1984
8. N Sivasothi, St Andrew's Junior College alumnus, 1983 to 1984
9. Subhas Chandran, Chapel of the Resurrection
10. Pastor Loke Chi Shyan, Chapel of the Resurrection
11. Dr Charles Chew, Academy of Singapore Teachers
12. Manogaran Suppiah, Academy of Singapore Teachers
13. Sundaram Tagore, Sundaram Tagore Gallery
14. Theresia Irma, Gallery Manager, Mizuma Gallery
15. Jodi Tan, Director, Ota Fine Arts
16. Lim Ze-Tian, ShanghART Singapore
17. Robert Zhao Renhui, Artist-in-Residence alumnus at NTUCCA
18. Jeffrey Tan, Friends of the Museums Singapore (FOM) Docent
19. Srivalli Sastry-Kuppa, FOM Docent
20. Laetitia Paoli, FOM Docent
21. Tabitha Manresa, FOM Docent
22. Virginie Labbe, FOM Docent

1.3 Methodology & Limitations

LIMITATIONS

This Final Report has been prepared based on the best available information, research, site observations and interview anecdotes at the time of the report preparation. However, several limitations should be noted which may affect the comprehensiveness, analysis and recommendations compiled herein:

1. **Access restrictions to site:** Many sections of the buildings within the Study Area are presently tenanted for highly-specialised uses with fit-out requirements ranging from aesthetic to performance (e.g. sound insulation, lighting, temperature and humidity control). Each tenant also has their own particular set of opening hours, and operational black-out requirements. Gaining full access to building interiors was often hampered or altogether not possible and gave rise to implications such as limited visual inspections which affected comprehensiveness of building investigations.
2. **Access to historical records:** Throughout the stages of the study, a wide range of archival collections have been consulted including those from the National Archives (United Kingdom), Royal Engineers Museum, National Army Museum, British Library, and the Imperial War Museum to further investigate primary source material pertaining to Gillman Barracks. However, the quantities of useful documents and photographs have turned up to still be rather scant thus leaving some still significant gaps in the specific knowledge of some periods of the history. This potential pitfall is addressed through alternative methods such as corroboration with oral history accounts where applicable, and formulating a better appreciation of the broad contexts that may have affected actors during such phases.
3. **Oral histories:** Interviews with previous or present users of Gillman Barracks has illuminated some specific limitations particular to this method of data collection. There was difficulty gleaning breadth and variety from anecdotes as many respondents tended to focus on particular high key structures. Most personal experiences at the site have also been brief as stays in Gillman Barracks such as training cycles have mostly been for short tenures or their activities and movements were contained to certain buildings or clusters. In some cases, potential interviewees were not responding to initial contact or were challenging to establish sustained contact with. Furthermore, it is important to note that while interview-based insights are valuable in capturing intangible heritage aspects, recollections may be subjective, sometimes inconsistent or inaccurate, and not all perspectives may be fully represented. Oral history accounts therefore need to be regarded in combination with other research methods and data for a more comprehensive appreciation of the heritage significance of Gillman Barracks.

Information presented on the buildings and landscape components within the Study Area is substantiated by a combination of recce photographic documentation, desktop research, and satellite imagery. The comparative evaluation and banding of site, cluster, and building significance has been reviewed and refined with feedback from relevant agencies and stakeholder engagements.

1.4 Significance Evaluation & Banding

A. A VALUE-BASED FRAMEWORK

The exercise of assessing heritage significance draws upon the pre-existing literature and applications of international standards to inform the evaluation used in this study, with adjustments made in consideration of the local context. The assessment criteria used for the study mainly stem from the Guides and Charters listed below:

- Australia’s ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter, 1999)
- Practice Note: Understanding and assessing cultural significance (Australia ICOMOS, 2013)
- Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England, 2019)
- Twentieth-Century Military Sites: current approaches to their recording and conservation (Historic England, 2003)
- Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework (co-published by Getty Conservation Institute and ICOMOS ISC20C, 2021)

In particular, the *Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework* distils pertinent themes and topics arising from historical processes that shaped the twentieth-century and its built heritage. It is a key tool for assessing the cultural and historic significance of a site on a thematic level. Historical developments in the spheres of social, political, economic, geographic conditions played an important role in producing differentiated and unique twentieth century cultural landscapes such as Gillman Barracks.

Four of the most relevant themes from the framework have been identified to better understand the historical contexts that have contributed to the spatial production of Gillman Barracks and the myriad of heritage values contained within.

This includes:

- War and Its Aftermath
- Accelerated Scientific and Technological Development
- Internationalisation, New Nation States, and Human Rights
- Religious, Educational, and Cultural Institutions

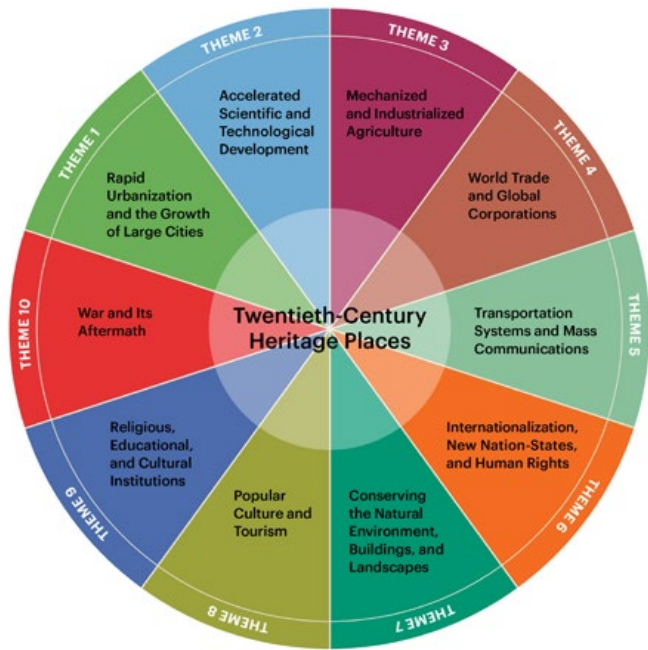


Fig 1.4. The 20th Century Historic Thematic Framework. Source: Getty Conservation Institute

B. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The assessment of significance is applied at two scales - 1) per building/ structure, and 2) per cluster. This is to account for the range of specimens (including artefacts and landscape/ natural elements) as well as to provide a characterisation at both individual and group scale. The assessment of significance is based on the following:

Heritage Significance

Heritage significance relates to how the site may be instructive as a physical representation/ material and spatial embodiment of knowledge relating to significant historic phases, milestones, achievements, architectural/ technological attributes, distinctive setting and associative groupings, and/or association with key personalities, communities, organisations or events.

The structure is deemed to possess heritage significance if it exemplifies or demonstrates real and valuable embodiment of the following value indicators:

- Historical Value
- Architectural and Technological Value
- Social and Communal Value
- Contextual Value

Other factors of evaluation of *intactness, legibility and representation* are woven into the four main indicators of heritage significance specified for this study.

Intactness refers to the degree of physical integrity of the subject’s character-defining attributes - a gauge of whether or how much these have been lost, irreversibly modified, or deteriorated. It also refers to the degree of authenticity of a structure’s material and formal characteristics. Structures are often subject to change over time and modifications are evaluated based on sensitivity, reversibility and the level of impact they have imposed onto the historic character of the structure and wider site.

Legibility refers to the degree which the historic significance, character defining attributes of the subject, in its extant condition and context, is visually, spatially, or materially comprehensible.

Representation is included as a factor to ensure adequate representation of significant periods or developmental phases during heritage evaluation, and that accrued layers of the site’s history are recognised. This includes building and developmental transformations, changes in use and user groups, and developments in different historical phases. The subject’s rarity and uniqueness are also taken into consideration.

Value Indicator	Description
Historical Value	Historical value is a measure of how well the subject bears physical testimony to historic periods, socio-cultural practices, milestones or developmental phases, or how well-associated it is to historical personalities, organisations or events. It often underlies other values, encompassing wide ranging aspects of history including politics, economics, society, culture, technology, etc.
Architectural and Technological Value	Architectural and technological values relate to the aesthetic, architectural and technological merits expressed in the design and mechanical properties of the subject, which may be an infrastructural system of built parts; how representative it may be of any architectural or technological milestones or construction phases; its merits as a design product of particular architects, engineers, builders, developers, or planners; its quality of execution in terms of craftsmanship and detailing; and how well the design is adapted to local climate and conditions. The intactness of these character-defining historic attributes, including form, scale, spatial layout, materiality, aesthetics or even machinery is factored in as well.
Social and Communal Value	Social and communal value relates to the degree to which a site may serve as a source of identity, a community touchstone, a site that engenders social connections or structured communities, or a repository of collective memory, knowledge, or practices. It also considers if it has been in continued use for similar purposes, or even by successive generations of the same communities.
Contextual Value	Contextual value relates to the subject’s role as a component of a cluster of surrounding structures and spaces; the intactness and significance of its cluster in relation to the historic masterplan; whether it is shaped by or connects to its historic natural or manmade setting and the wider ecosystems beyond; and how much its built configuration reflects the historic systems and hierarchies of its occupant organisations.

Table 1.4.1. Definition of Heritage Values. Source: Studio Lapis.

1.4 Significance Evaluation & Banding

Scoring Mechanic and Other Considerations

The evaluation exercise uses a scoring mechanism as explained in Table 1.4.2 to establish the score and corresponding level of significance. Using evidence from visual survey from site fieldwork, desktop research, and oral history accounts, the structures/ features/ sites are evaluated and assigned heritage significance based on the aforementioned factors and considerations. **As long as the structure/ feature/ site demonstrates one of the attributes within the highest grade for the respective value, it will score the corresponding grade to which the attribute belongs.**

While the scoring mechanism is applied at the individual building level, the assessment of clusters is undertaken qualitatively to capture the collective character, relationships, and heritage significance.

Each building is assessed independently based on its own merits according to the scoring matrix. The value significance level accorded is therefore not determined or limited by the proportion of the total buildings in the study area.

It is worth highlighting that the existing buildings and structures represent only a small fraction of the original extensive Gillman Barracks site, much of which has since been demolished.

Value Significance Level	Definition	Score (%)
Exceptional	Essential to the heritage of Gillman Barracks Exceptional level of heritage significance High degree of intactness and legibility Rare or outstanding example	91- 100
High	Very important to the heritage of Gillman Barracks High level of heritage significance High degree of intactness and legibility Key or important representative example of its type	71-90
Moderate	Appreciable contribution to the heritage of Gillman Barracks Fair to good level of heritage significance Fair to good level of intactness and legibility Is a representative example of its type	41-70
Low	Basic to some contribution to the heritage of Gillman Barracks Basic level of heritage significance Basic level of intactness and legibility Is a basic to typical representation of its type	1-40
Neutral*	Neither contributes nor detracts from the heritage of Gillman Barracks	0
Intrusive*	Does not contribute to and in fact detracts from or adversely impacts the heritage legibility of Gillman Barracks	0

*The bands of 'neutral' and 'intrusive' have been combined for the purposes of this report.

Table 1.4.2. Definition of each level of significance. Source: Studio Lapis.

1.4 Significance Evaluation & Banding

Value Significance	Historical Value (20%)	Architectural and Technological Value (40%)	Social and Communal Value (20%)	Contextual Value (20%)
High [5 points]	The specimen demonstrates <u>pioneering status or outstanding representation of milestone periods or development patterns of Gillman Barracks and Singapore's history as a military base relating to key historical, political, cultural or economic phases.</u>	The specimen is an <u>outstanding or rare representation of historic architectural or technological phase, architectural or engineering typology, function, design aesthetics, or key technological phase</u> of Gillman Barracks or other similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is an <u>outstanding or rare representation</u> of a historic development that is designed to promote social cohesion, engender structured communities, or facilitates connection , networks and other relations on a <u>national, regional or international scale.</u>	The specimen plays a <u>critical or major role in and has strong interconnection</u> with its extended surroundings comprising a historic cluster of neighbouring structures and spaces, in terms of functional, operational, spatial or architectural relations . It is a <u>critical and major contribution</u> to the cluster's heritage legibility .
	The specimen is <u>strongly associated with significant historical personalities, organisations, institutions or events of national, regional, or international significance.</u>	The specimen is an <u>outstanding or rare representation of historic materiality or craftsmanship</u> of Gillman Barracks or similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is an <u>outstanding demonstration of symbolic value</u> , for example, as a unique repository of collective memory or as a marker of identity for a locally, regionally, or internationally situated community as a result of historic use and association.	The specimen demonstrates <u>outstanding and highly legible connections and associations to its historic natural or manmade setting</u> , in terms of functional, operational, architectural/ engineering design relations, or its connectivity to other natural or manmade ecosystems.
	The specimen features character defining elements and attributes that are <u>rare, or outstanding representations of expressions associated with socio-economic and cultural conventions of key historical phases in Gillman Barracks' development and Singapore's military history.</u>	The specimen demonstrates <u>moderate to high intactness</u> ; it is largely unmodified with few non-detractive or mostly reversible latter-day interventions.	The specimen constitutes an <u>outstanding or rare repository of historic knowledge, traditional, institutional, and spiritual practices</u> of a cultural group or structured community.	The specimen is an <u>outstanding or rare exemplar with characteristic attributes and patterns of use reflecting historic organisational or functional systems or hierarchies.</u>
		The design, detailing or spatial layout of the specimen is an <u>outstanding or rare representation of local adaptations in design, planning and organisation.</u>	The specimen has <u>maintained to a large extent its role through continuity of use</u> similar to its historic programme, and/ or continued contribution to the same, or subsequent generations of the same, community.	The specimen is a <u>major component of a cluster with high intactness</u> of its configuration of built and open spaces , that is an <u>outstanding or rare representation</u> of the site's historic masterplan intent and development history.
Moderate [3-4 points]	The specimen demonstrates a <u>good or strong representation</u> of milestone periods or development patterns of Gillman Barracks and Singapore's history as a military base relating to key historical, political, cultural or economic phases.	The specimen is a <u>good representation of historic architectural or technological phase, architectural or engineering typology, function, design aesthetics, or key construction phase</u> of Gillman Barracks or other similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is a <u>good or strong representation</u> of a historic development that is designed to promote social cohesion, engender structured communities, or facilitates connection , networks and other relations on a <u>local, regional or international scale.</u>	The specimen plays an <u>important role in and has good interconnection</u> with its extended surroundings comprising a historic cluster of neighbouring structures and spaces, in terms of functional, operational, spatial or architectural relations . It is an <u>important contribution</u> to the cluster's heritage legibility .
	The specimen is <u>moderately well-associated with historical personalities, organisations, institutions or events of national, regional, or international significance.</u>	The specimen is a <u>good or strong representation of historic materiality or craftsmanship</u> of Gillman Barracks or similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is a <u>good or strong demonstration of symbolic value</u> , for example, as a unique repository of collective memory or as a marker of identity for a locally, regionally, or internationally situated community as a result of historic use and association.	The specimen demonstrates <u>good and legible connections and associations to its historic natural or manmade setting</u> , in terms of functional, operational, architectural/ engineering design relations, or its connectivity to other natural or manmade ecosystems.
	The specimen features character defining elements and attributes that are <u>good or strong representations of expressions associated with socio-economic and cultural conventions of key historical phases in Gillman Barracks' development and Singapore's military history.</u>	The specimen demonstrates <u>moderate intactness</u> ; it has undergone <u>some modifications with some non-detractive or mostly reversible interventions.</u>	The specimen constitutes a <u>good or strong repository of historic knowledge, traditional, institutional, and spiritual practices</u> of a cultural group or structured community.	The specimen is a <u>good or strong example</u> with characteristic attributes and patterns of use reflecting historic organisational or functional systems or hierarchies.
		The design, detailing or spatial layout of the specimen is a <u>good representation of local adaptations in design, planning and organisation.</u>	The specimen has <u>maintained to a some extent its role through continuity of use</u> similar to its historic programme, and/ or continued contribution to the same, or subsequent generations of the same, community.	The specimen is an <u>important component of a cluster with moderate intactness</u> of its configuration of built and open spaces , that is a <u>good representation</u> of the site's historic masterplan intent and development history.

Table 1.4.3. Heritage values matrix and scoring (continued on the following page). Source: Studio Lapis.

1.4 Significance Evaluation & Banding

Value Significance	Historical Value (20%)	Architectural and Technological Value (40%)	Social and Communal Value (20%)	Contextual Value (20%)
Low [1-2 points]	The specimen demonstrates a <u>typical representation</u> of milestone periods or development patterns of Gillman Barracks and Singapore's history as a military base relating to key historical, political, cultural or economic phases.	The specimen is a <u>typical representation</u> of historic architectural or technological phase, architectural or engineering typology, function, design aesthetics, or key construction phase of Gillman Barracks or other similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is a <u>typical representation</u> of a historic development that is designed to promote social cohesion, engender structured communities, or facilitates connection , networks and other relations on a <u>neighbourhood to community/ district-wide scale</u> .	The specimen plays a <u>typical or minor role</u> in and has <u>some interconnection</u> with its extended surroundings comprising a historic cluster of neighbouring structures and spaces, in terms of functional, operational, spatial or architectural relations . It is a <u>basic contribution</u> to the cluster's heritage legibility .
	The specimen is <u>broadly associated with historical personalities, organisations, institutions or events of national, regional, or international significance.</u>	The specimen is a <u>typical representation</u> of historic materiality or craftsmanship of Gillman Barracks or similar establishments in Singapore.	The specimen is a <u>typical demonstration</u> of symbolic value , for example, as a repository of collective memory or as a marker of identity for a <u>local/ district-level community</u> as a result of its historic use and association.	The specimen demonstrates <u>some connections and associations</u> to its historic natural or manmade setting , in terms of functional, operational, architectural/ engineering design relations, or its connectivity to other natural or manmade ecosystems.
	The specimen features character defining elements and attributes that are <u>typical representations</u> of expressions associated with socio-economic and cultural conventions of key historical phases in Gillman Barracks' development and Singapore's military history.	The specimen demonstrates <u>low to moderate intactness</u> ; it has been significantly modified with largely irreversible and detractive interventions.	The specimen constitutes a <u>typical repository</u> of historic knowledge, traditional, institutional, and spiritual practices of a cultural group or structured community.	The specimen presents a <u>typical example</u> with characteristic attributes and patterns of use reflecting historic organisational or functional systems or hierarchies.
		The design, detailing or spatial layout of the specimen is a <u>typical representation</u> of local adaptations in design, planning and organisation.	The specimen has <u>maintained only limited extent</u> of its role through continuity of use similar to its historic programme, and/ or continued contribution to the same, or subsequent generations of the same, community.	The specimen is a <u>component</u> of a cluster with <u>moderate to low intactness</u> of its configuration of built and open spaces , that is a <u>typical representation</u> of the site's historic masterplan intent and development history.
None [0 points]	The specimen does not appear to be representative of historical milestone periods, development patterns, phases; nor known to be associated with significant historical personalities, organisations, institutions, events; and does not have observable attributes characteristic of historical periods and associated expression of Gillman Barracks' development.	The specimen does not appear to be representative of historic architectural and technological phases, typology, design, materiality, craftsmanship, nor demonstrate local adaptations. It is a latter-day construction or with detractive design incompatible with the historic character of the site.	The specimen is only minimally or not associated with any historically situated communities, does not appear to demonstrate any symbolic value, nor constitute a repository of historic knowledge and practices.	The specimen does not contribute to, or detracts from, its cluster's heritage legibility. It does not relate to its surrounding historic structures and spaces; nor its historical natural or manmade settings; nor reflect any historic systems and hierarchies in its attributes or use pattern. It constitutes an insensitive or incongruous intervention that adversely impacts on the heritage setting, presentation or significance of the cluster.

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2. Site History & Periodisation

2 SITE HISTORY & PERIODISATION: SITE HISTORY OVERVIEW

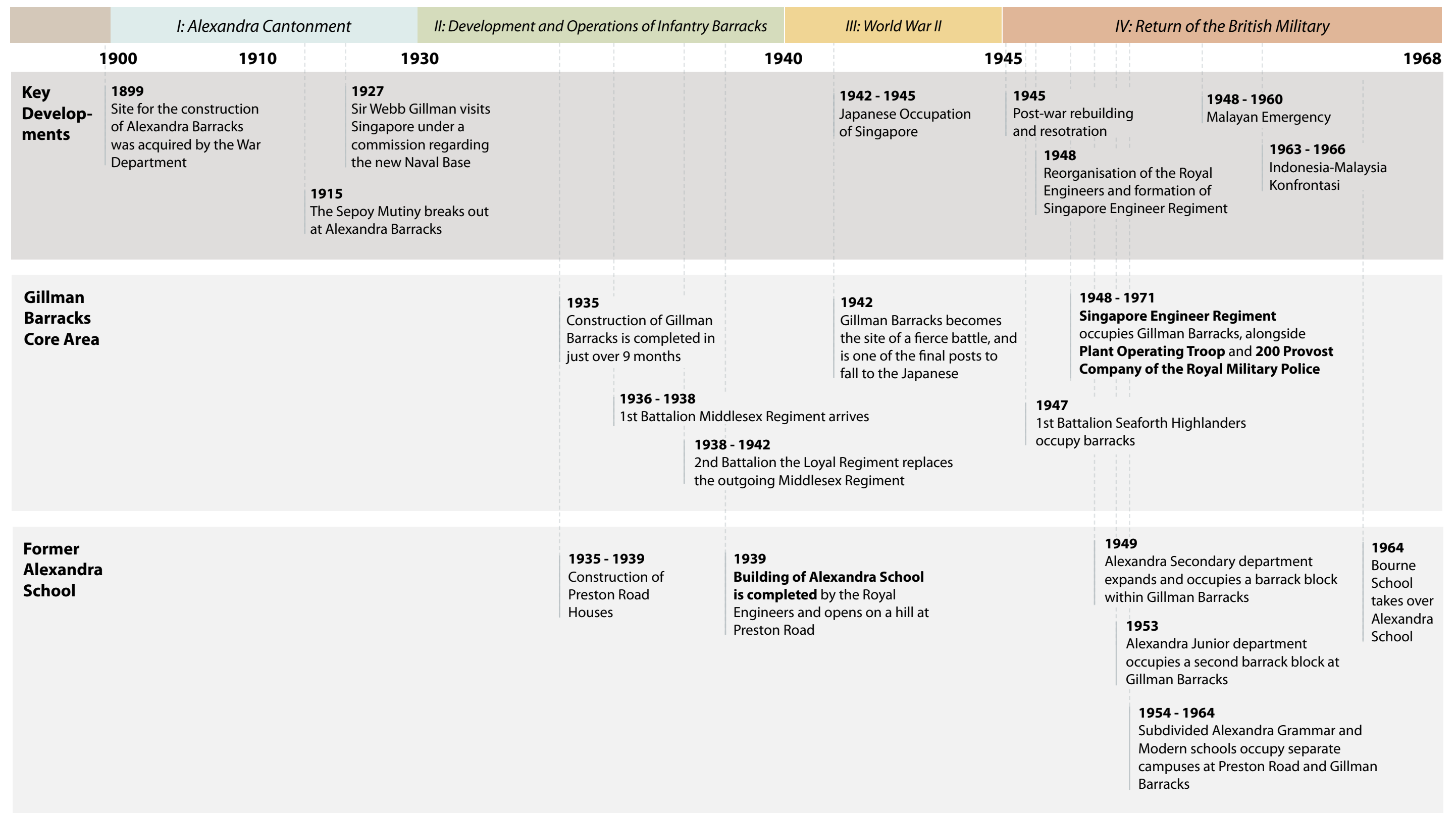


Fig 2.1: Overview timeline of the site history of Gillman Barracks (continued on the following page). Source: Studio Lapis

	V: British Withdrawal		VI: Post-Independence Development of Gillman Barracks														
	1968	1971				1980			1990			2000			2010		2020
Key Developments	Late 1960s Planning of Telok Blangah satellite town and Gillman Heights estate					1979 Adult Education Board (AEB) and Institute Training Board (ITB) merge to form Vocational Institute Training Board (VITB)						2002 Gillman Village is recognised by URA under the Identity Plan					
Gillman Barracks Core Area		1971 SAF Combat Engineers set up Gillman Camp		1972 Construction of Telok Blangah satellite town commences			1980 - 1984 Demolition of married quarters at former Railway Hill for the construction of Gillman Heights by the Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC)	1984 SAF Transport Base HQ and SAF 2nd and 3rd Transport Battalions take over Gillman Camp	1993 - 1996 SAF Transport leaves Gillman Camp; MINDEF returns the site to the government		1996 - 2010 Development of the barracks as a lifestyle enclave under the name Gillman Village		2009 Demolition of Gillman Heights	2012 Gillman Barracks opens as a new arts cluster	2013 The Interlace is built	2020 SLA takes over management of Gillman Barracks	2022 Planned rejuvenation of Gillman Barracks into a creative lifestyle enclave is announced
Former Sports Ground			1974 St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) is built at Malan Road		1979 Construction of the Chapel of the Resurrection		1986 - 1993 Upgrading of SAJC facilities to accommodate a growing student population					2005 SAJC relocates to St Andrew's Village at Woodsville	2006-2010 River Valley High School temporarily occupies the campus at 2 Malan Rd		2010 Academy of Singapore Teachers occupies the former SAJC		
Former Transport Depot			1972 Official opening of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute	1975 Nissen huts are replaced by new administrative and classroom blocks			1986 Upgrading works are completed to accommodate an increasing student body	1992 Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute is renamed ITE Pasir Panjang		2000 Closure of ITE Pasir Panjang	2007 Land is leased out to SLA and is tenanted a mix of offices, fitness gyms and restaurants						
Former Alexandra School		1971 - 1973 Singapore American School moves in temporarily	1974 - 1976 Henderson and Mei Chin Secondary Schools occupy the campus before relocating	1976 - 1978 Friendly Hill Primary School closes due to poor access	1978 - 1982 Site is given to the new Friendly Hill Vocational Institute	1983 Official opening of International School of Singapore (ISS) at Preston Road									2019 Major renovation works are completed following the unification of the ISS' campuses		
	1971 Closure of Bourne School																

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2.2 Site Development

Before 1930s: Alexandra Cantonment

Pre-Militarisation

The site of Gillman Barracks is bounded today by Alexandra Road to its west, Depot Road to its north, Telok Blangah Housing Estate to its east and Telok Blangah Road/ West Coast Highway along its south. **The site lies along a section of the Southern Ridges west of Mount Faber** – originally Telok Blangah Hill, part of which was an estate assigned to the Temenggong in 1823.

An **1894** survey provided one of the early maps of Singapore showing the **elevations and low-lying swampy grounds** of the future Gillman Barracks site. Alexandra Road, intended as a road that connected Pasir Panjang to Tanglin, was laid and named in 1864, although it was only metalled in 1877.

While a section of Mount Faber was acquired for a signal station and flagstaff which was re-sited from Pulau Blakang Mati (Sentosa) in 1845, much of the area including the future Gillman Barracks site remained in private hands and was **cultivated with pineapples and later coffee**. Maps just before the development of Gillman Barracks, show it as a site containing **several Chinese villages and a Chinese cemetery**.

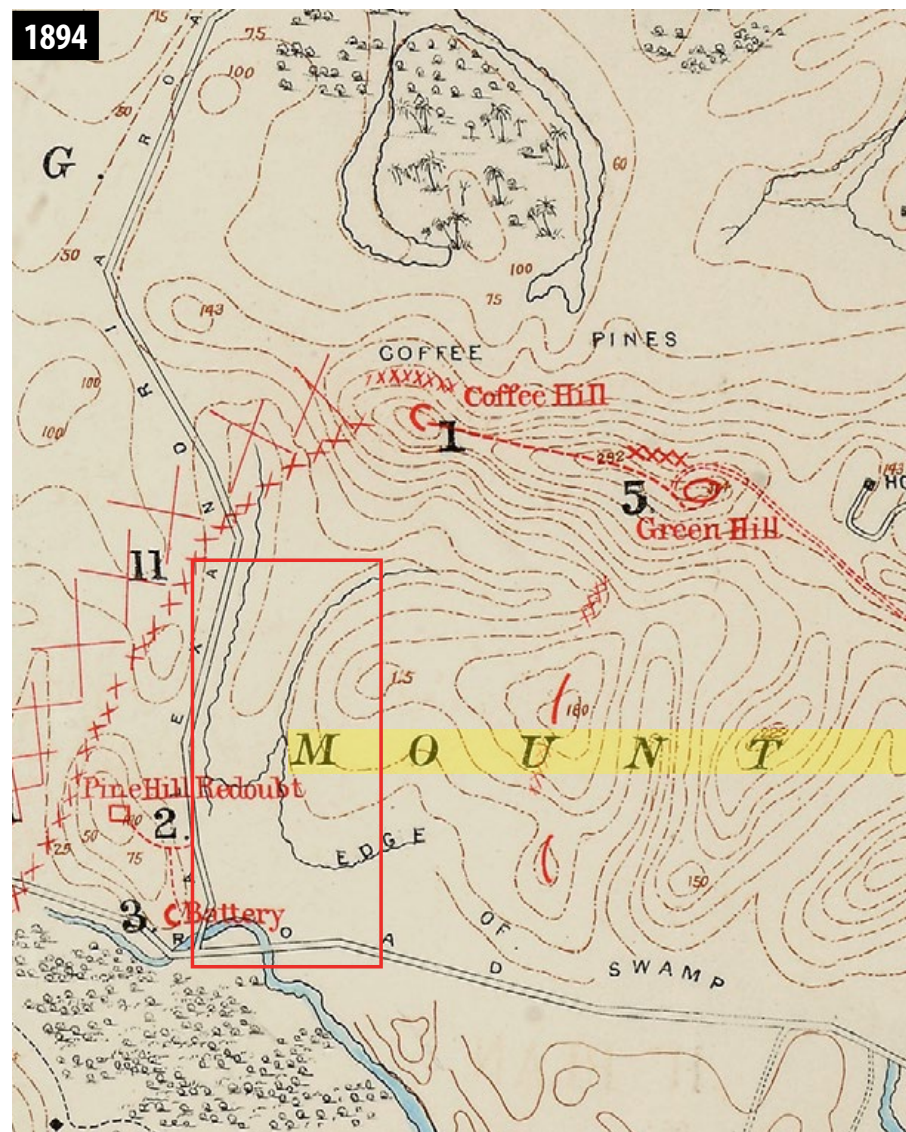


Fig. 2.2.1 1894 Survey map highlighting the topography of the Mount Faber range, including the site of the future Gillman Barracks. Source: The National Archives UK

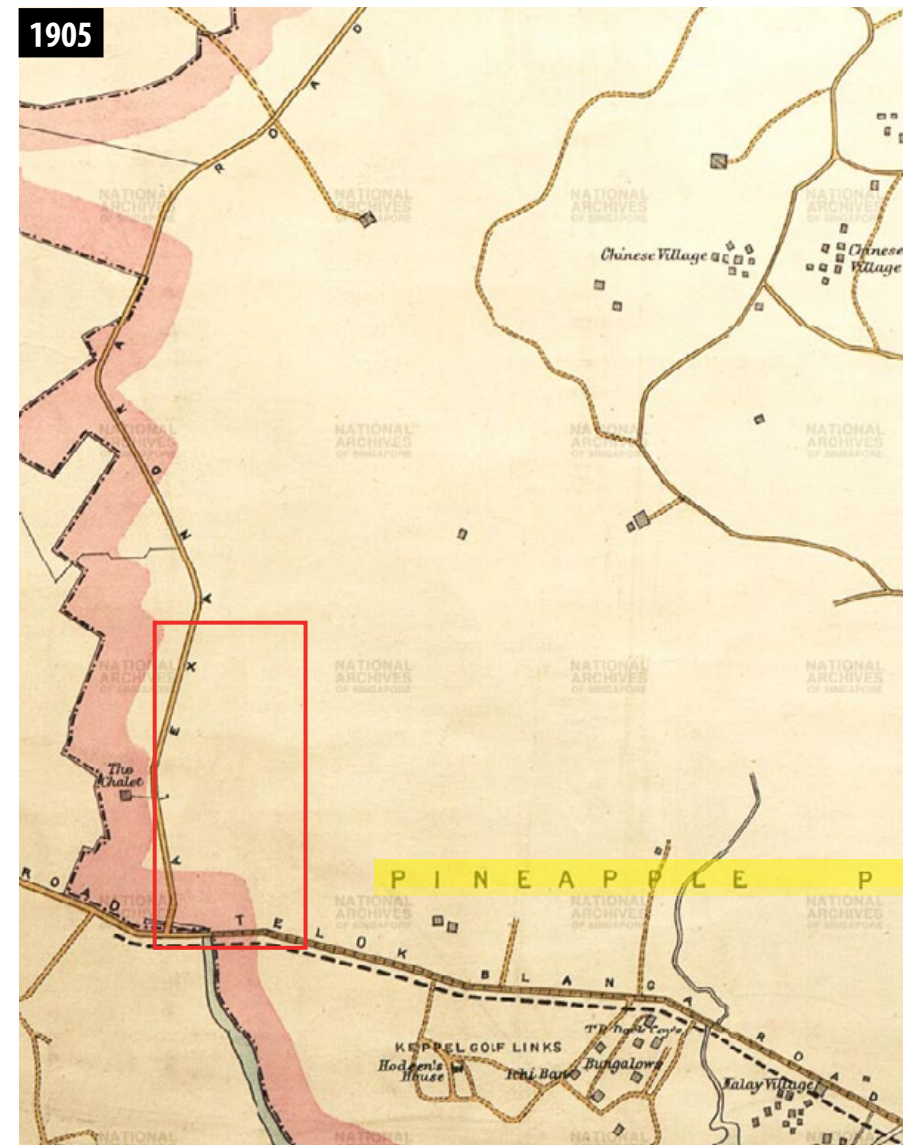


Fig. 2.2.2 1905 Hydrographic chart highlighting the pineapple plantations on the site of the future Gillman Barracks and extent of Alexandra Road. Source: Royal Geographical Society (Great Britain) via National Archives of Singapore

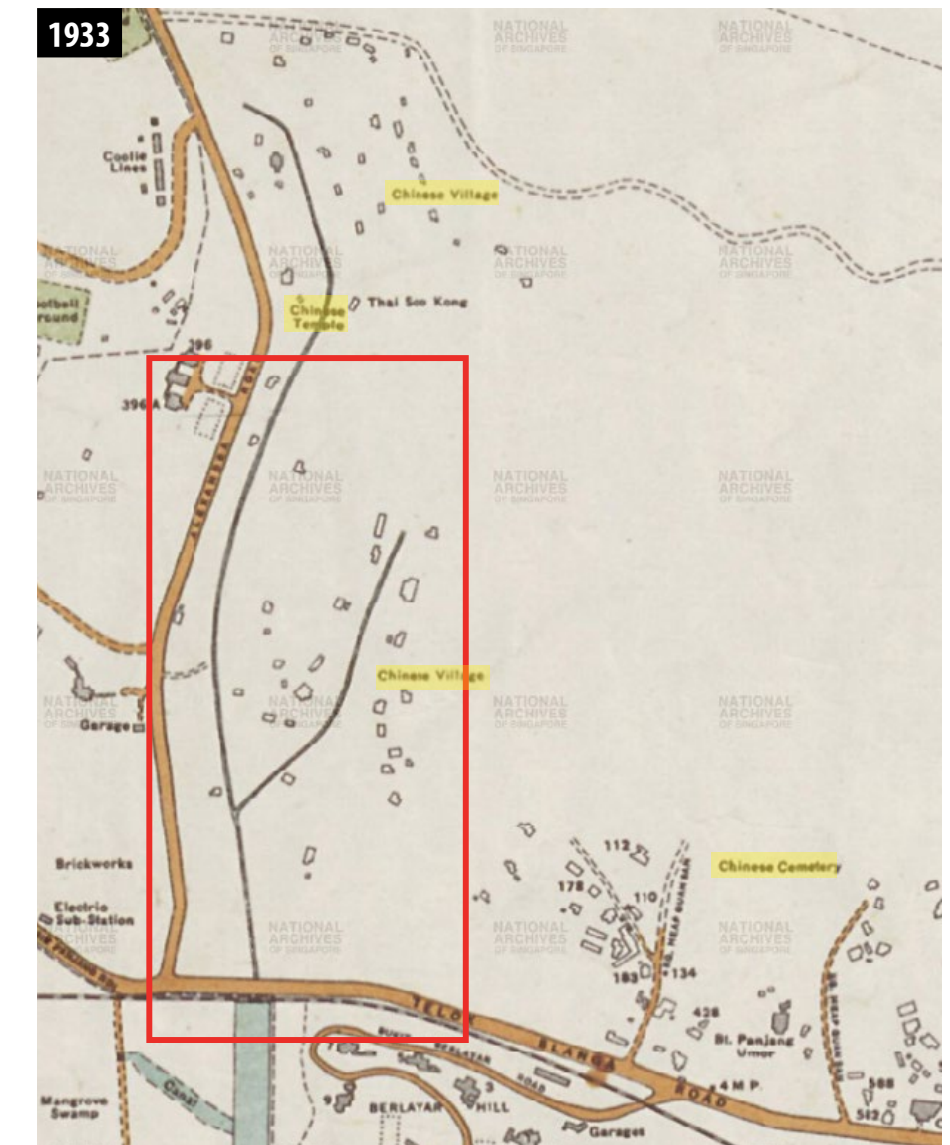


Fig. 2.2.3 1933 Survey map showing the Chinese Villages and cemetery that preceded Gillman Barracks. Source: Great Britain. Army. Far East Land Forces, National Library of Australia, MAP G8044.S5 1932

Before 1930s: Alexandra Cantonment

Alexandra Cantonment

The first significant military development in the district was not on the Gillman Barracks site itself but in the elevated 8 acre grounds west of Alexandra Road which were acquired by the War Department in 1899. **This acquired site became the Alexandra Cantonment area in the early 1900s**, which was bounded by Hyderabad Road to the south, Ayer Rajah Road and Hospital Road to the North and Alexandra Road to the east.

The construction of the cantonment **marked the signing of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance**, where the British saw little need to beef up their naval defences and started expansion of their forces inland. British Indian Army units were housed here, the first of which were the 73rd Carnatic Infantry Regiment in 1904. Notably, this was where **one wing of the 5th Light Infantry, based at Alexandra Barracks, mutinied in February 1915**, in an incident known as the Singapore or Sepoy Mutiny. This sparked the mandate for military officers' quarters to be constructed away from the camp as a safeguard against internal unrest.



Fig. 2.2.4 Newspaper headlines of the Singapore Mutiny involving the 5th Light Infantry
Source: Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle

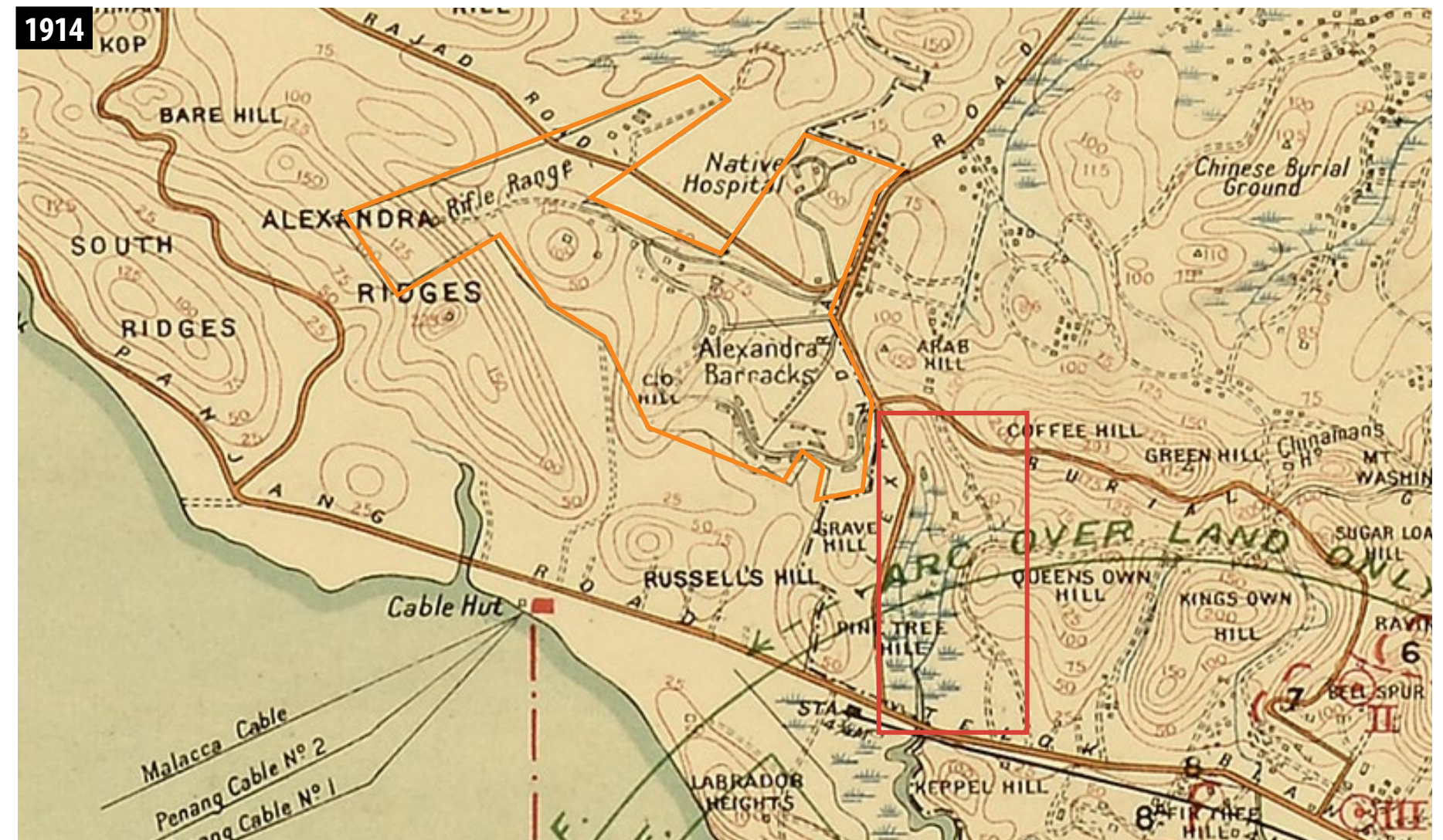


Fig. 2.2.5 1914 Survey map highlighting the area of Alexandra Cantonment and the topography of the area and names of hills on the grounds on which Gillman Barracks was subsequently built. Source: The National Archives UK

— Site boundary of Alexandra Barracks
— Site boundary of future Gillman Barracks

The planning principles of the Alexandra Cantonment followed that of the existing Tanglin Barracks, which were **sited far from the Singapore town area** to maintain a distance between the European troops and locals in order to protect local colonial interests. **The Cantonment itself was in proximity to the southern coast of Singapore amidst a hilly terrain and created a vast military compound of around 250 hectares** after the construction of Gillman Barracks and the military supply depot in the mid-1930s.

The **self-contained Cantonment** boasted quarters for officers, married men with families and single men, dispensary and hospital, workshops, rifle range, detention barracks, supply, motor and ordnance depots and oil stores, cookhouses and mess halls, a dhoby estate, adult vocational and children's schools, a swimming pool, cinema and other recreational facilities. The purpose-built British Military Hospital (reopened in 1971 as the civilian Alexandra Hospital) was also added to the area in 1941.

1930s: Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks

Preparation and Development

The construction of Gillman Barracks was prompted by the post-1921/22 Washington Conference militarisation of Singapore which saw to the **construction of Britain's largest Naval Base** east of the Suez on the island. Complementing defensive infrastructure such as air stations, coastal defence installations, and barracks to house the supporting Engineer, Artillery and Infantry units were also built through the 1920s and 1930s.

The placement of coastal artillery and search lights, construction of barracks, and ordnance depots were determined by **a commission headed by Lieutenant General Sir Webb Gillman**, Master General of Ordnance, whom the barracks were subsequently named after. He was supported by **Chief Engineer Colonel L. N. Malan and Lieutenant Colonel R. F. Lock of the British Army's Royal Artillery who visited Singapore in 1927.**

Surveys were carried out in Changi and the Alexandra area. The barracks that would be built include Kitchener Barracks (1929 to 1935), Roberts Barracks (1935 to 1936), and Selarang Barracks (1936 to 1937) in Changi Cantonment, as well as Gillman Barracks. As such, **the developments share similar building typologies, with flat roof construction adopted for structures built from 1934.**



Sir Webb Gillman

Gillman Barracks are named after the late General Sir Webb Gillman, a prominent Royal Artillery officer of the British Army and president of the commission of the Singapore defences in 1927. He rose to the rank of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command in 1931. General Gillman died in England in the spring of 1933.

Fig. 2.2.6 1919 Portrait of Sir Webb Gillman
Source: National Portrait Gallery London

Construction of Gillman Barracks

Work on Gillman Barracks commenced in 1935 and was conducted at great speed, with the buildings **completed in just nine months**. This speed was facilitated by the use of pre-cast concrete instead of timber like before. This shift in material choice also allowed the buildings to be **more resistant** to withstand potential attacks. A key priority in designing the barracks was securing a large site which could provide comfortable and well-provisioned accommodations for servicemen. This meant proper sanitation facilities, including a **comprehensive drainage system** to combat malaria and keep troops fit for duty.



Fig. 2.2.10 1935 Junction of Depot Road with Alexandra Road ready for carpet.
Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.



Fig. 2.2.11 1935 Bullock roller used to form road along main Depot Road.
Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.



The entrance point of the barracks, which still exists in the same location today, was situated strategically along the arterial Alexandra Road. As the military supply depot was also being constructed in this time, road access to the area was intensified with the laying and paving of Depot Road.

[LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM]

Fig. 2.2.7 1935 Women coolies mixing concrete and carrying baskets.

Fig. 2.2.8 1935 The concrete factory.

Fig. 2.2.9 1935 Steel reinforcements set in place.

Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.

1930s: Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks

Construction of Gillman Barracks

Most of the site was **built on high ground across a range of hills and offered pleasing views overlooking the island's south-west shores and western entrance to the Singapore Harbour**. The buildings were designed to follow the natural contours of the land, reducing construction time and costs. With its commanding position, Gillman Barracks stood comparable to the blocks built at Tanglin, and **boosted Singapore's reputation of being one of the most pleasant overseas stations in the army**.



Fig. 2.2.12 Structures and their functions within Gillman Barracks in the 1930s
Source: Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 2.2.13 1935 Construction of Gillman Barracks. Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.

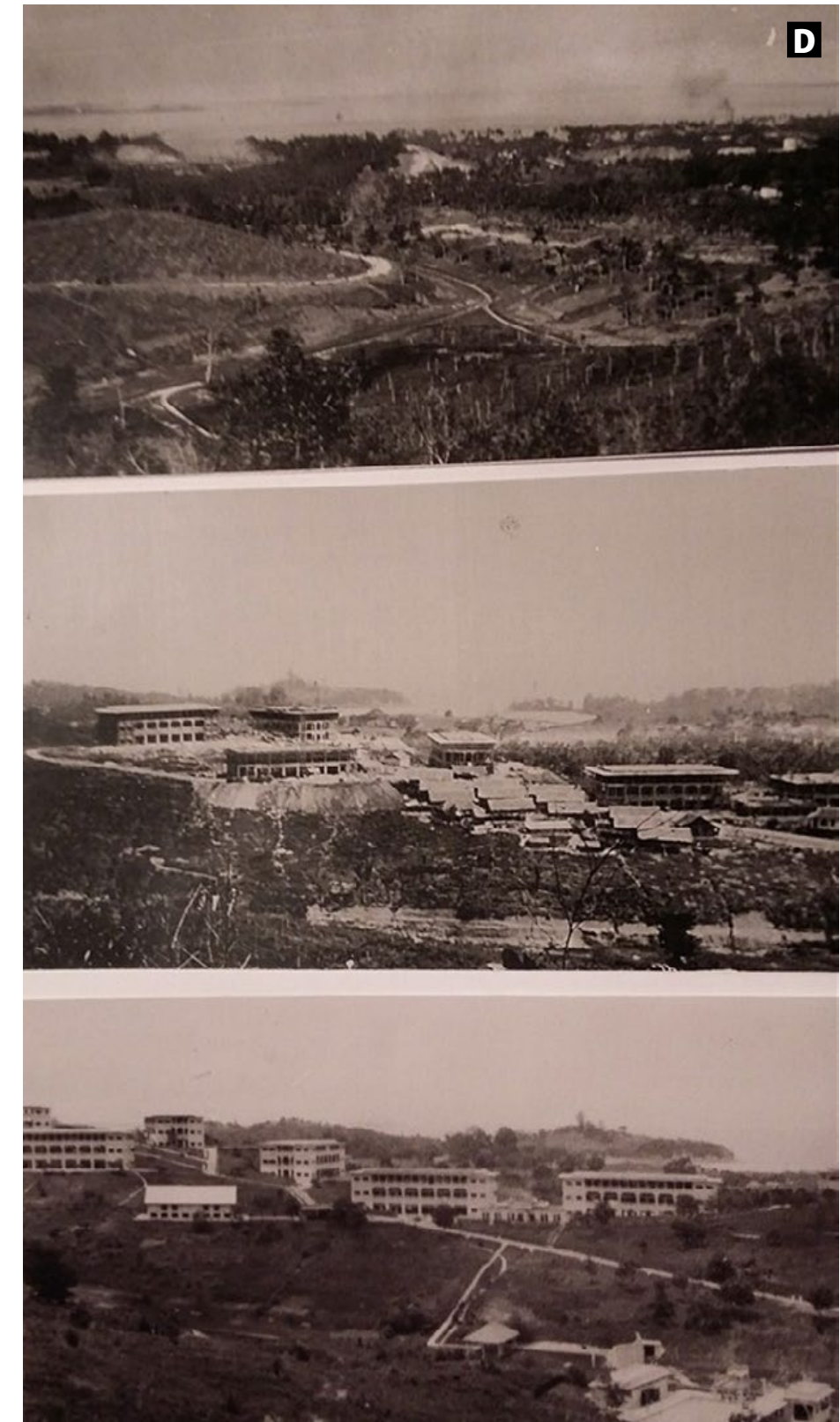


Fig. 2.2.14 Gillman Barracks over 3 stages of construction in 1935.
Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.

1930s: Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks



Fig. 2.2.15 Structures and their functions within Gillman Barracks in the 1930s.
Source: Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

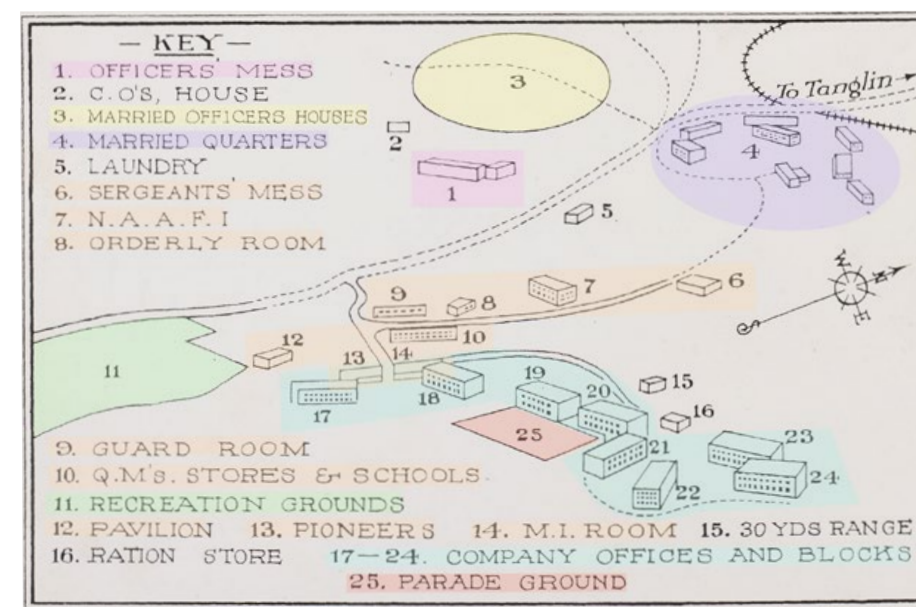


Fig. 2.2.16 Site map of Gillman Barracks for the 19th Regimental Christmas Card in 1936.
Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board



[Left] Fig. 2.2.17 View looking down Malan Road towards the hill where the company offices and blocks were sited

[Right] Fig. 2.2.18 3-storey block at Gillman Barracks

Source: Glyn Wright Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



[Left] Fig. 2.2.19 Alexina Mason, aged 13, at Sergeants' Mess in 1937

[Middle] Fig. 2.2.20 Gathering at the Officers' Mess in 1937

[Right] Fig. 2.2.21 Sergeant George Soper of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1937

Source: Glyn Wright Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Life in the Barracks

The newly opened encampment boasted **eight barrack blocks** (17 to 24 in Fig. 2.2.16) located on the hill north of the 4th milestone, a distance marker along the old road system measuring four miles from the city centre at the former General Post Office.

There were **48 married quarters** constructed to house servicemen and their families on the northwestern end of the site (4 in Fig. 2.2.16), a **Sergeants' Mess** along Lock Road and an **Officers' Mess** across Alexandra Road. Administrative and auxiliary buildings housed regimental institutes along Lock Road (6 to 10, 12 to 14 in Fig. 2.2.16) and the entire Barracks were connected by three miles of new roads. The barracks were made complete with a **swimming pool**, a **NAAFI shop**, a **soldiers NAAFI bar**, a **cinema** and **recreation grounds**.

1930s: Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks

Early Occupants

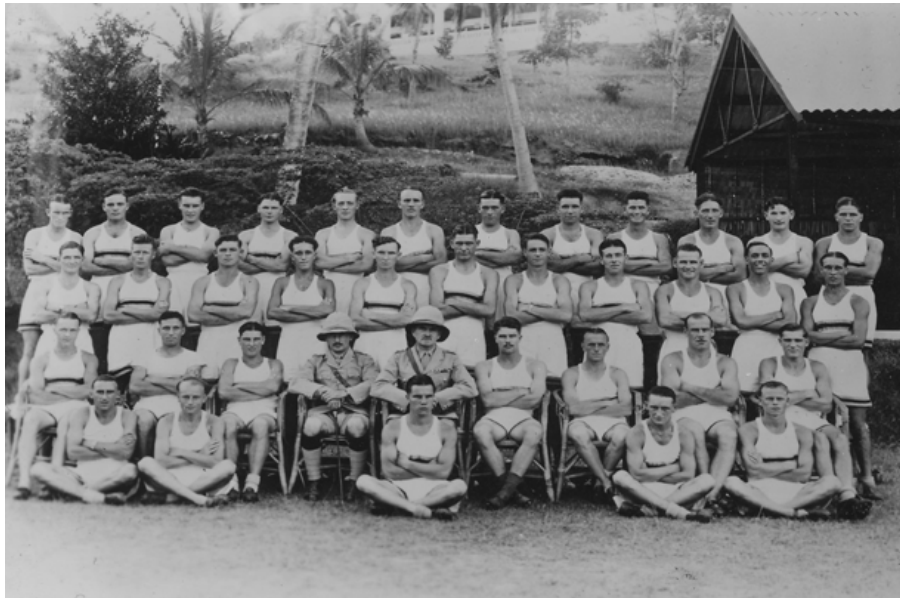


Fig. 2.2.22 Sports Team of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1936/37.
Source: Glyn Wright Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

The barracks' **first occupants were the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment**, who arrived in Singapore in March 1936. This machine-gun regiment, the second infantry battalion posted to Singapore, was known to have an excellent fighting record, and **their presence in Singapore cemented her position as an "important Empire garrison"**.

In April 1938, the 2nd Battalion, Loyal Regiment (The Loyals) arrived in Singapore from Hong Kong, replacing the outgoing Middlesex Regiment at Gillman Barracks. To assert its strength as a formidable force in the Far East, the British continued to send reinforcing forces to Singapore, including a reinforcing battalion, 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which temporarily occupied the grounds of Gillman Barracks upon arrival in August 1939.

Popular Recreation Grounds

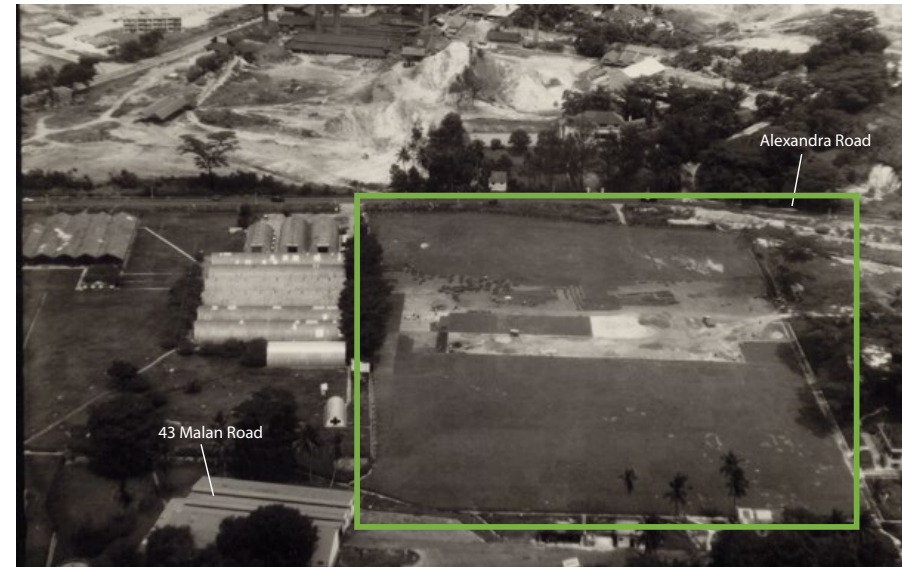


Fig. 2.2.23 Aerial view of the Gillman recreation ground along Alexandra Road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.



Fig. 2.2.24 Sports competition underway at the Gillman Barracks sports grounds in the 1930s. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 2.2.25 View of sports day held at the Gillman Barracks sports grounds in 1930s.
Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

Recreation grounds were planned within the barrack compound as a provision of welfare for the stationed servicemen. The **first class sports grounds** built near the entrance at Alexandra Road rose in popularity as a sports and recreation area for military personnel within the garrison.

The sports grounds hosted garrison league football games for teams like the Loyals and RAF, held rugby games and hosted the annual Combined Services athletic championships. This was a multi-event competition which included a range of individual and team sports like broad jump, tug-of-war and throwing the hammer.

The recreation grounds were later redeveloped into the sports field and running track of the St. Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) in 1974.

1930s: Opening of Alexandra School

Alexandra School



Fig. 2.2.26 The new Alexandra school in 1939. Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.

Garrison schools were set up and managed under the Royal Army Educational Corps to provide education for children of Army soldiers in overseas army stations. These schools were modelled after the UK education system in hopes of mirroring the type of education they would have received back in England and provided education for students of primary and secondary schooling age.

The Alexandra School was **officially opened on 5 January 1939**, by General Officer Commanding, Major-General W.G.S Dobbie and Mrs Dobbie, at a time when the British were strengthening their manpower in Singapore, and more schools were needed to accommodate the children of the servicemen. With concerns raised about the education quality in having numerous small garrison schools across the island, this school was **purpose-built as a centralised school that served garrison children from Alexandra, Tanglin and Fort Canning areas, and those over 10 years of age from Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani**. Built to accommodate almost all Army children upon opening, the school could enrol up to 210 students and took in children between 5 and 15 years of age.

Built by the Royal Engineers, the school was constructed on the highest point in the Alexandra area, making it distinctly **"healthier and more beautiful than any other Army school site in the Empire"** (The Straits Times, 1939). **The well-equipped, substantive structure of the school set itself apart from other garrison schools seen in Singapore at that time**, which typically consisted of one whitewashed concrete administration building surrounded by attap huts accommodating classrooms.

In contrast, the newly opened Alexandra school came with **modern facilities** for its students, including well-equipped classrooms integrated within the main building, as well as a playing field for hockey and netball and an assembly hall named after Sir Stamford Raffles. Younger students aged 5 to 8 occupied classrooms on the ground floor, and older students used the upper floor. **The facades were finished in Shanghai Plaster** and reported to be of a 'green colour', possibly from pigmented cement. This was a durable self-finishing material prized for its dignified appearance and durability.

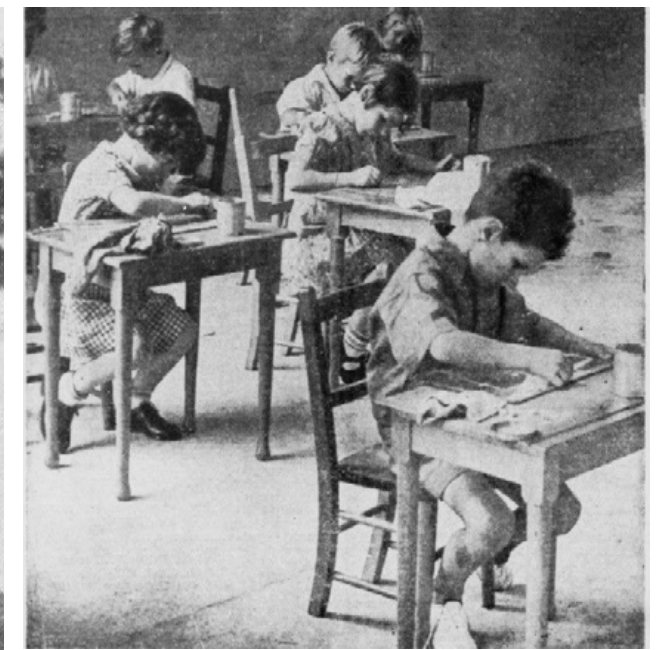
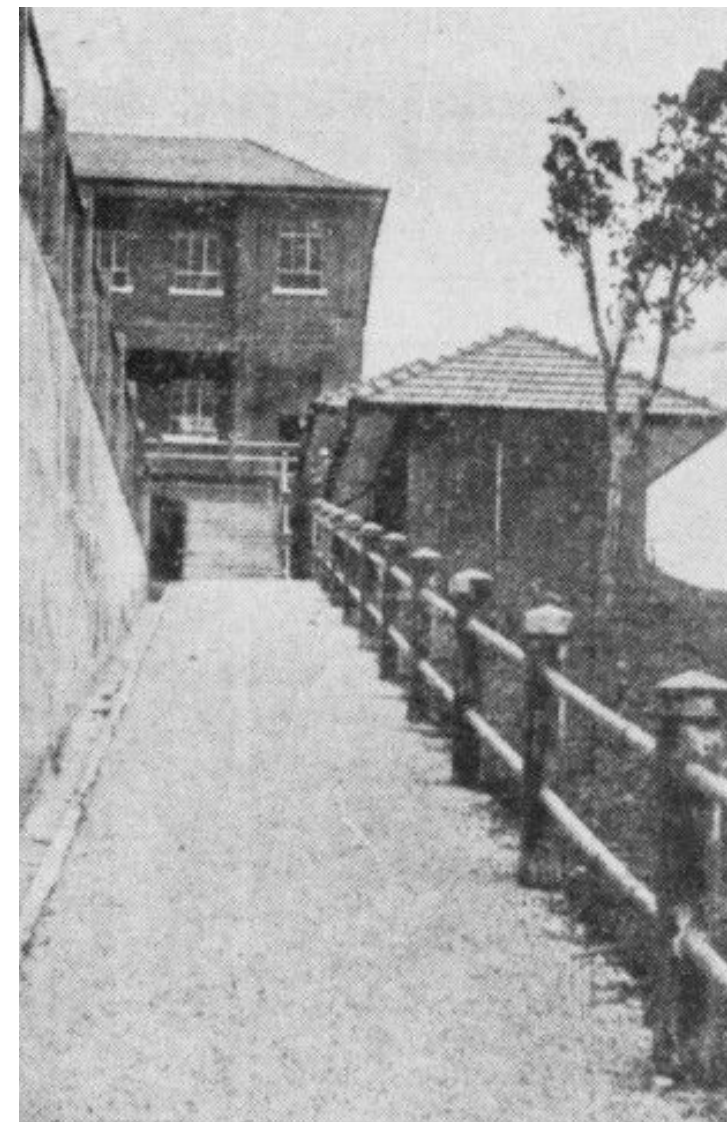


Fig. 2.2.27 Images of the Alexandra School upon its opening in 1939, taken from "General to open new garrison school at Alexandra". Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.

1942 - 1945: Japanese Occupation

Invasion of the Japanese

In the lead up to the Second World War, The Loyals came under the Fortress Command defending Singapore island. During the Battle for Malaya, the unit was redeployed in Southern Johor to relieve battle-weary troops on 11 January 1942. The Loyals fell back to take up a position on the Singapore end of the Causeway on 30 January 1942. **By 13 February 1942, the Loyals took up defensive positions around Gillman Barracks, which came under attack from Japanese forces right until 15 February 1942 – when Singapore fell.**

The Sergeants' Mess was used as the Battalion field HQ during this time. The surviving members of the battalion laid down their arms in and around Gillman Barracks on 16 February 1942.

During this period, families were being evacuated as soon as ships were available, but **schools continued to function in makeshift venues as long as Army children remained.** At the playing field within the Alexandra School, shallow trenches were dug out for staff and children to take cover from Japanese bombers overhead. Eventually, the school compound was abandoned, but schools continued within various married quarters left vacant by evacuated families.

Fig. 2.2.28 Sketches of Gillman Barracks during the final battles from 13 to 15 February 1942.

Source: Taken from "In Defence of Singapore Scenes and Personal Sketches before and after the Fall of Singapore" by A.V. Toze & S. Strange, Preston (England)

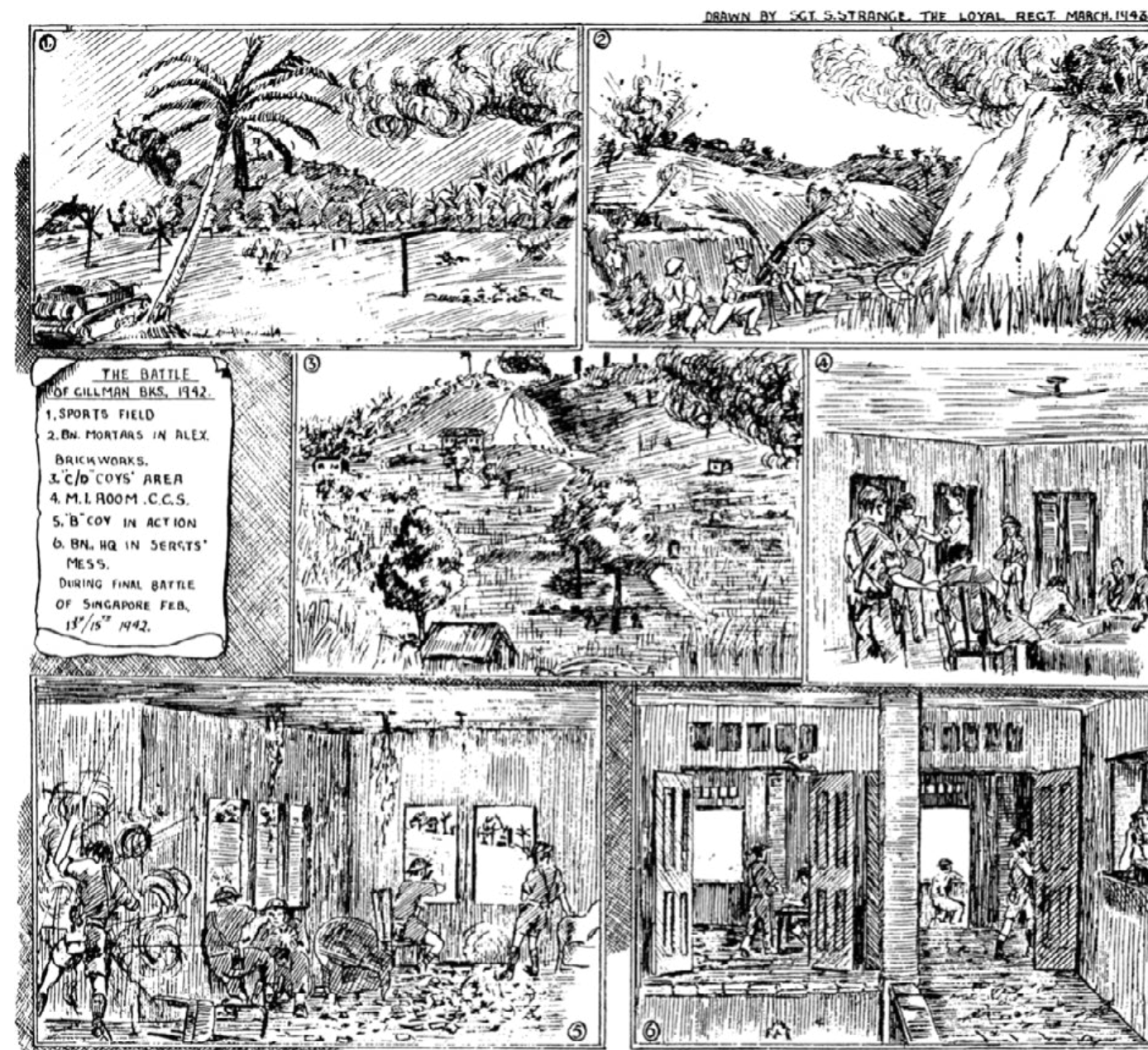


PLATE II.

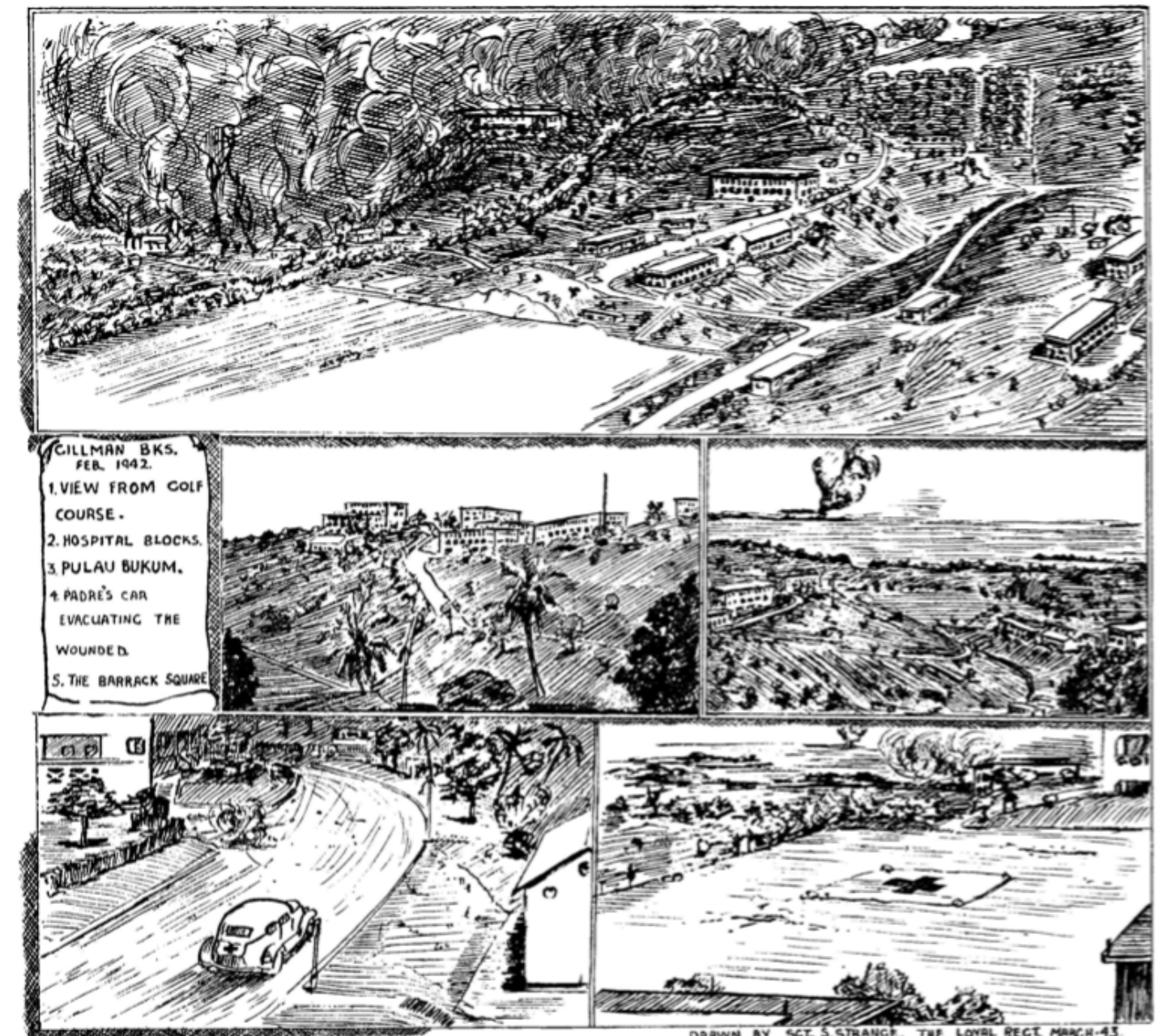


PLATE III.

Post-War: Return of the British Military - Royal Engineers

British Royal Engineers

Following the Japanese Occupation, the British Military Administration was restored in Singapore, and the **British Royal Engineers** moved in to occupy the vacated Gillman Barracks. These were the people who provided the British military with engineering and technical support, and were responsible for most of the military and support buildings in Singapore.

The reorganisation of the Royal Engineers in 1948 saw the formation of the **Singapore Engineer Regiment**. This was organised into a regimental HQ (RHQ), with three squadrons: HQ and Depot, Workshop and Stores, which occupied the barracks with a **Plant Operating Troop in 1948**. These squadrons were also joined by the **200 Provost Company of the Royal Military Police**.



Fig. 2.2.29 Entrance to Gillman Barracks, possibly at Malan Road, with Tiger Brewery located opposite. Source: Military Survey Historic Archive

During this time, the junior ranks NAAFI were relocated to the top of the hill nearer the accommodation blocks. The main NAAFI building (9 Lock Road) then became the Royal Engineers Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, while the smaller mess (22 Lock Road) was refurbished and became the families NAAFI shop.



Fig. 2.2.30 Block 'H' occupied by 84 Survey Squadron Royal Engineers on the top 2 floors and the Army Education Unit on the ground floor. Source: Gordon Thompson



Fig. 2.2.31 View from the roof terrace of Block 'H' overlooking the Parade Ground. Source: Gordon Thompson



Fig. 2.2.32 Relaxing on the flat roof of the barrack block. Source: Brown via Military Survey Historic Archive

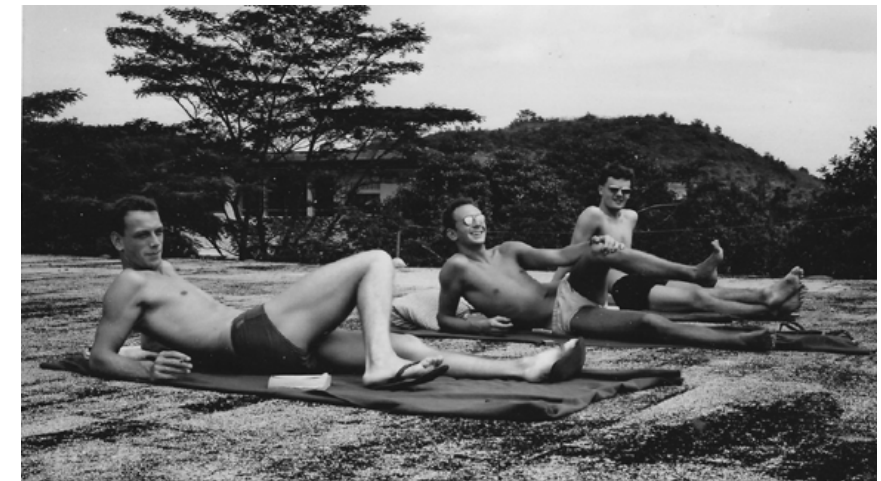


Fig. 2.2.33 Off duty sappers relaxing in the sun on the 'roof terrace'. Source: Gordon Thompson



Fig. 2.2.34 Outside Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Source: Roger Courtice



Fig. 2.2.35 Corridors of Gillman Barracks. Source: William Wee Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 2.2.36 1960s View over Chinese Cemetery (present-day Telok Blangah estate) from the Block 'H' verandah. Source: Gordon Thompson

Post-War: Return of the British Military - Royal Engineers

Recreational Facilities

Life in the barracks was relaxed and “self-contained”, with ample living and recreational space found within the well-protected compound for the servicemen and their families. The hot climate meant that servicemen worked many half-days, freeing up their afternoons for recreational activities like golfing, swimming, and watching films.

Shows were screened twice nightly except for Tuesdays at the **Regal Cinema**. This was run by the **Army Kinema Corporation (AKC)**, which loaned educational and entertainment films for troops’ training and recreational needs.

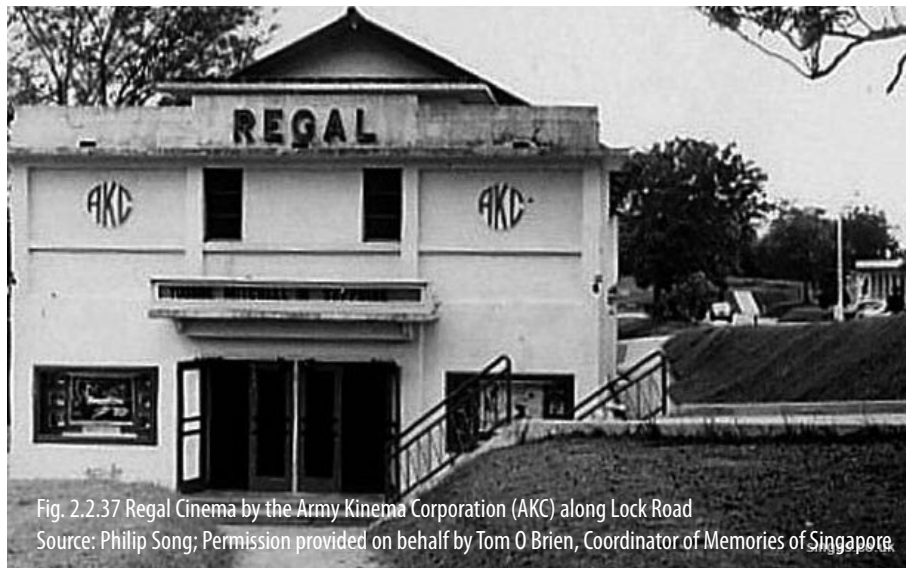


Fig. 2.2.37 Regal Cinema by the Army Kinema Corporation (AKC) along Lock Road
Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore.

Gillman Youth Club



Fig. 2.2.38 Playing at the Gillman Youth Club
Source: Gordon Thompson

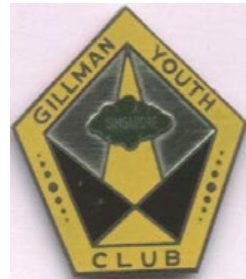


Fig. 2.2.39 Badge of The Gillman Youth Club, which was located along Lock Road and organised programs for youths to attend.
Source: Lynne Copping

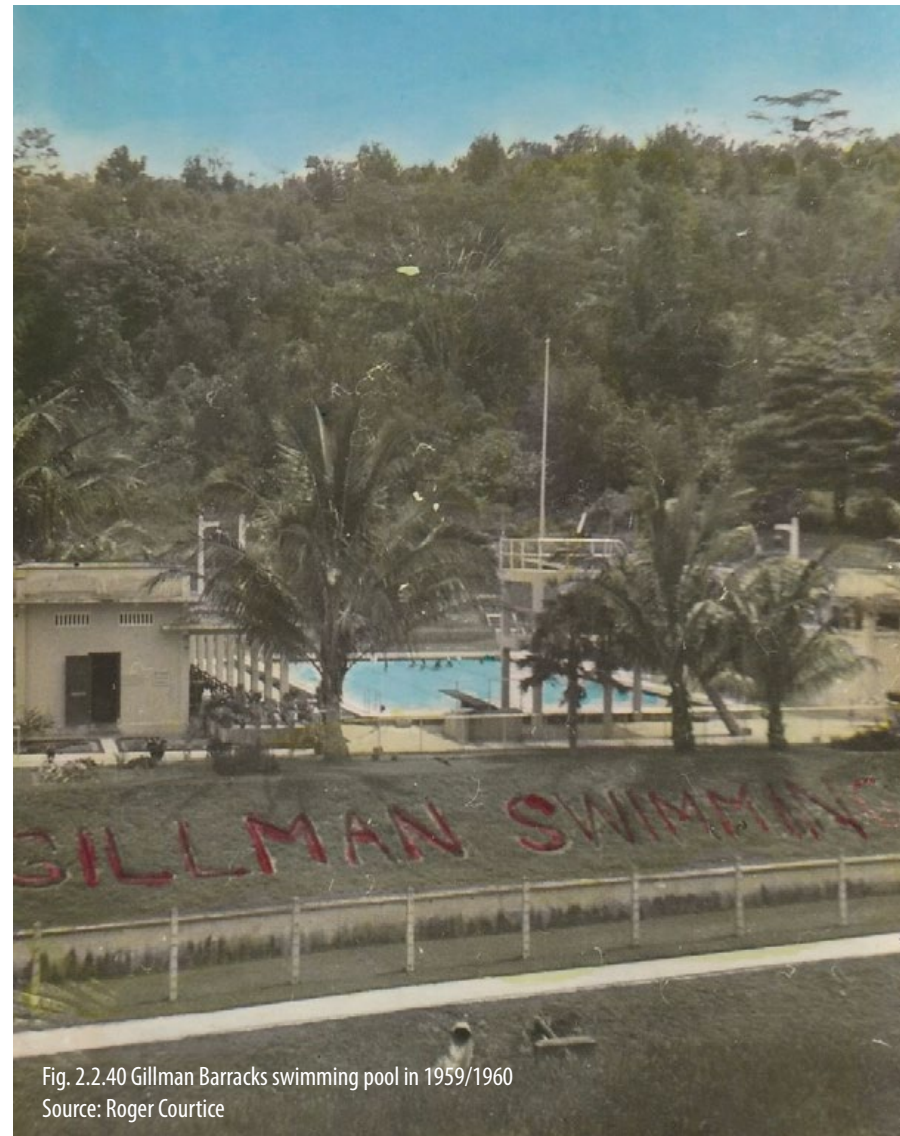


Fig. 2.2.40 Gillman Barracks swimming pool in 1959/1960
Source: Roger Courtice

Gillman Swimming Pool

Opened around 1938, the Gillman swimming pool was one of the six pools purpose-built for the Services in Singapore. Swimming was a widely popular sport to combat the tropical heat and the pool was well visited by servicemen and their families for regular leisurely swims.

Access was available to students from the nearby garrison school via a walking path. It also functioned as a community facility used to host swimming galas for nearby schools like Pasir Panjang or as a training ground for the FARELF (Far East Land Forces) sub-aqua diving club. The location also hosted The Hellions, a popular gig band, for a performance in 1964.



Fig. 2.2.41 The Hellions performing at Gillman Barracks swimming pool in 1964
Source: Mike Ludlow



Fig. 2.2.42 Swimming and diving at Gillman Barracks swimming pool in 1959/1960
Source: Roy Bundenberg



Fig. 2.2.43 Stepped seating overlooking the Gillman Barracks swimming pool
Source: Geoff Moore

Post-War: Return of the British Military - Royal Engineers

Living in the Barracks

Lower-ranking servicemen bunked together in groups of about 30 in long, large open rooms, while more senior-ranking officers lived in two-storey blocks with single rooms spacious enough for a desk, sitting area and sleeping area.

Their stay in the barracks was **supported by locals who helped to provide daily living essentials**. These were amahs, sew-sews and chaiwalas, who were allowed by military personnel to work in the barracks to provide small services to the British servicemen – amahs and sew-sews helped with housekeeping and clothes repairs, while chaiwalas sold tea, coffee and soup to the blocks.



Fig. 2.2.44 H Block interior of accommodation. Source: Gordon Thompson



Fig. 2.2.45 A British Royal Engineer's billet in Block 'G'. Source: Howard Tomlinson

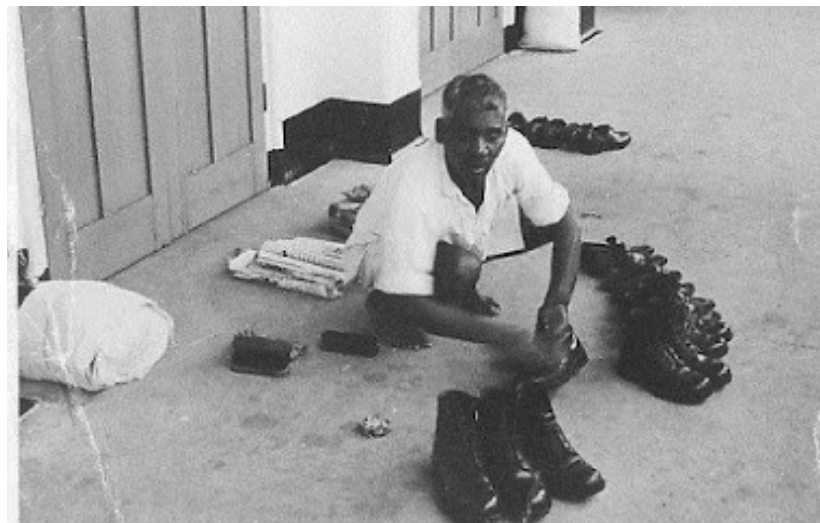


Fig. 2.2.46 The 'boot boy' who came in early in the mornings to polish the servicemen's boots and Royal Engineer brasses for a nominal fee. Source: Howard Tomlinson



Fig. 2.2.47 A sew-sew tailor who helped with clothes alterations. Source: Howard Tomlinson



Fig. 2.2.48 A Chinese sew-sew tailor who repaired uniforms on the veranda of Block 'H' and also looked after her grandchildren. Source: Gordon Thompson

Visit from the Duke of Edinburgh

The barracks were among the military establishments that were visited by **the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**, during his visit to Singapore in February 1959. Arriving by helicopter from Blakang Mati, he inspected a guard of honour at the barracks. He was also greeted by army children lining Lock Road.



Fig. 2.2.49 The Duke of Edinburgh, the late Prince Philip visits the army establishment at Gillman Barracks. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

- 1939** Alexandra School opens at Preston Road
- 1949** Infant, Junior and Secondary departments begin to occupy separate premises
- 1954** **Alexandra Grammar** occupies Preston Road campus
Alexandra Modern occupies Gillman Barracks campus
- 1964** Alexandra School closes; Bourne School takes over campus
Alexandra Grammar re-purposed as **Alexandra Section**
Alexandra Modern re-purposed as **Gillman Section**

As British servicemen and their families returned to Singapore after the war, the number of students enrolled in Alexandra School increased significantly, growing rapidly from 120 students to 250 students between 1948 and 1949. **To accommodate the growing staff and student population**, external buildings were repurposed to house the Infant, Junior and newly formed Secondary Schools as independent departments, including the existing barrack blocks at Gillman Barracks.

Bourne School takes over Alexandra School

In September 1964, the school system was revised to adopt the Leicestershire Plan in England to section the seven long years of secondary school into two phases of schooling. **Students would spend their first three years from age 11-14 at a secondary comprehensive school called Bourne School**, before continuing their next three or four years at the newly opened St John's Comprehensive School.

Recognising that servicemen were prone to frequent overseas postings, **the new system of the Bourne School aimed to provide a foundational three years of secondary education** with Grammar, Secondary Modern or Technical Education programs for students who may eventually have to relocate along with their families. Bourne School therefore took over the existing buildings of the former Alexandra School, with **the former Alexandra Grammar School renamed as the Alexandra Section and the former Alexandra Modern School renamed Gillman Section**. Boarding accommodation was also provided for about 200 school students at Kinloss House, located at 3 Lady Hill Road.

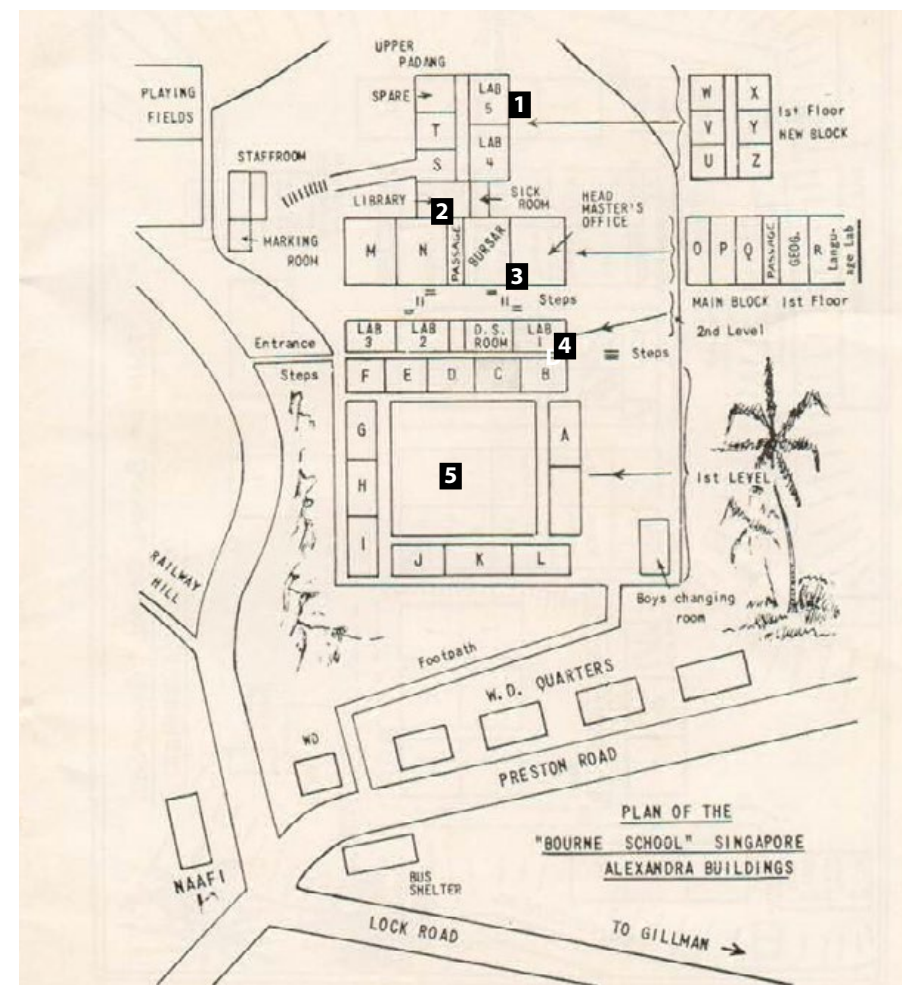
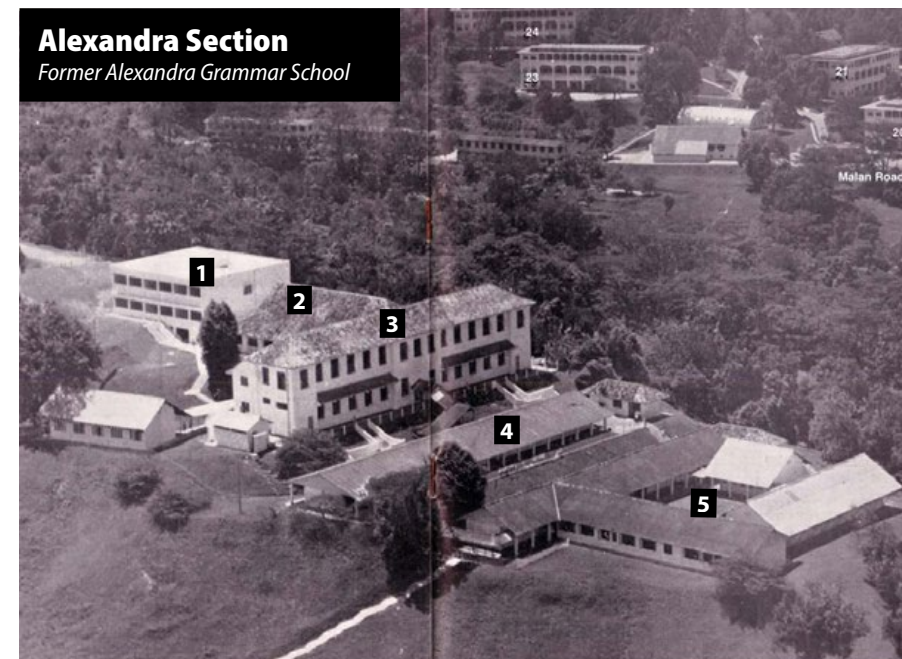


Fig. 2.2.50 1966/1967 Aerial photo [Top] and site plan [Bottom] of the Alexandra Section of Bourne School
Source: Mike Johns [Top], Peter Garvey [Bottom, Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website]

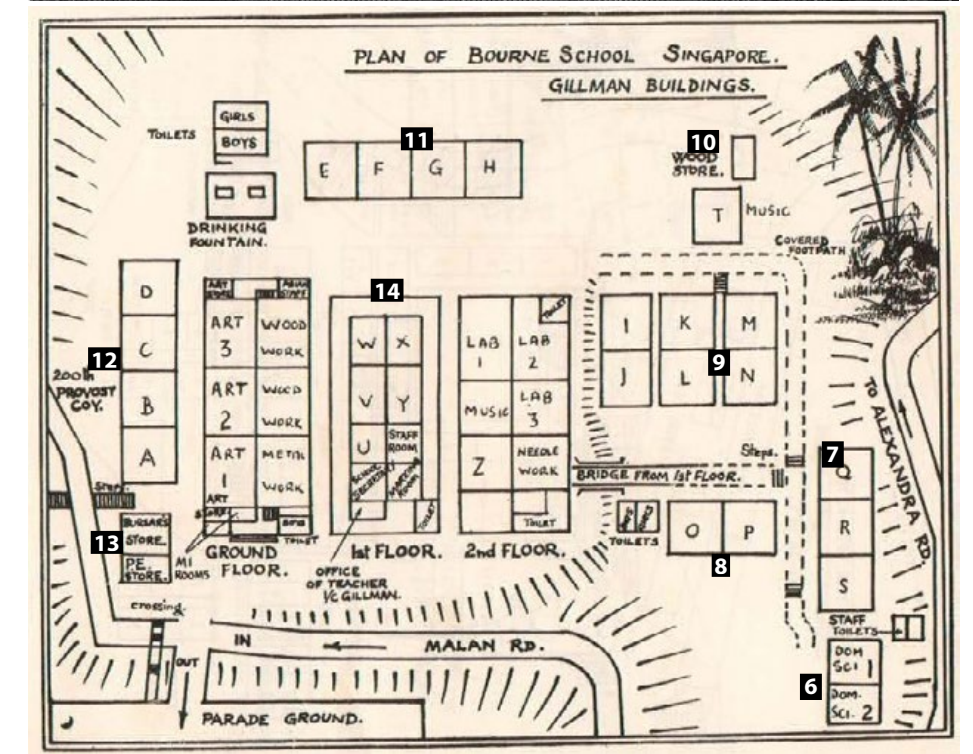
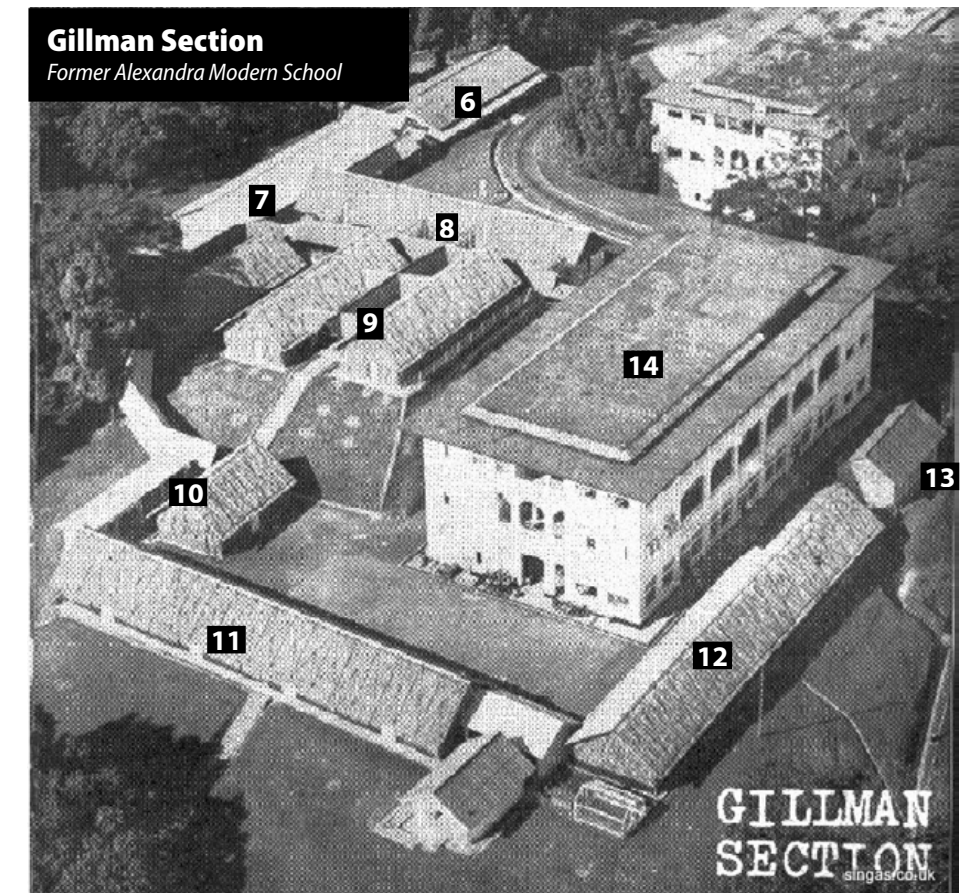


Fig. 2.2.51 1966/1967 Aerial photo [Top] and site plan [Bottom] of the Gillman Section of Bourne School
Source: Mike Johns [Top], Peter Garvey [Bottom, Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website]

Post-War: Bourne School

Alexandra and Gillman Sections

The Alexandra section housed the majority of the classes with 27 classrooms, a library, a music room, a domestic science room and six science laboratories. More specialised rooms like workshops for Technical Studies and Art and Craft rooms were found in the Gillman section, where 18 classes were based. The barrack block of the Gillman section was also shared with 70 Army Education Centre since 1951, which conducted classes for servicemen.

Despite the physical distance between the sections, students were equally as dependent on the facilities at both locations, and a bus was provided to shuttle the students between locations at break time. This was done to create a unified school and avoid segregation between campuses.

The school started out with about 130 children in 1966 and grew to over 1,700 students by 1968 just as the British government announced their withdrawal.



Fig. 2.2.52 Bourne School students gathered for an assembly in the quadrangle of the Gillman Section. Source: Maurice Hann



Fig. 2.2.53 Buses were provided to ferry students to and from their homes and school. Source: Maurice Hann

Bourne School handed over

The Singapore Royal Engineer Regiment and Bourne School occupied the barracks until the British military withdrawal in 1971. Valued at £3.6 million, Gillman Barracks was transferred to the Singapore Government's Bases Economic Conversion Board (BECD) for a token sum of \$1 in August 1971.



Fig. 2.2.54 An open-air lesson for troops at 70 Army Education Centre at the basha huts of the Gillman Section in 1961. Source: AGC Museum



[Top] Fig. 2.2.55 Steps leading up from Malan Road to the Gillman Section of Bourne School in the 1960s. Source: Paul Cook

[Above] Fig. 2.2.56 Form 2G of Bourne Secondary School at the Gillman Section in front of the basha huts in the 1960s. Source: Maurice Hann

[Right] Fig. 2.2.57 Students walking down the steps from the Gillman Section to Malan Road. Source: Maurice Hann



Post British Withdrawal: The End of an Era

Gillman Barracks Transferred to the Government

Following the transfer of ownership to Singapore's BECD, the one sprawling site of Gillman Barracks slowly segmented into different uses as Singapore entered into a period of rapid development and land was high in demand. The camp's swimming pool, tennis court, three sports fields and two badminton courts were transferred to the National Sports Promotion Board for public use.

Fragmentation of Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks was handed over for the **development of housing estates**, which led to the subsequent surge of **educational institutions** to serve these estates. These developments required the landscape to be levelled, leaving only several of the original blocks remaining. The core barrack area with the original blocks extant dwindled in size over the years and underwent various tenant changes. This fragmented the site into six isolated clusters.



Legend

- Housing Estates**
- Military/Mixed Use**
- Educational Institutions**

- A** **Gillman Heights Estate**
Former Railway Hill
- B** **SAF Combat Engineers/Transport Battalion**
Former mess, schools, stores and NAAFI block
- C** **Various school campuses**
Former Bourne School
- D** **St Andrew's Junior College**
Former Recreation Ground
- E** **Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute**
Former Transport Depot
- F** **Telok Blangah New Town**
Former Company Offices and Accommodation Blocks

Fig. 2.2.58 Fragmentation of the Gillman Barracks site into development clusters in 1991. Base Map Source: Singapore Land Authority

Post British Withdrawal: SAF Occupancy

Timeline of Events

- 1971** Singapore Armed Forces' (SAF) Combat Engineers move from Pulau Blakang Mati to Gillman Barracks, setting up Gillman Camp
- 1984** SAF Combat Engineers move to Jurong
SAF Transport takes over Gillman Barracks
- 1993** SAF Transport leaves Gillman Barracks

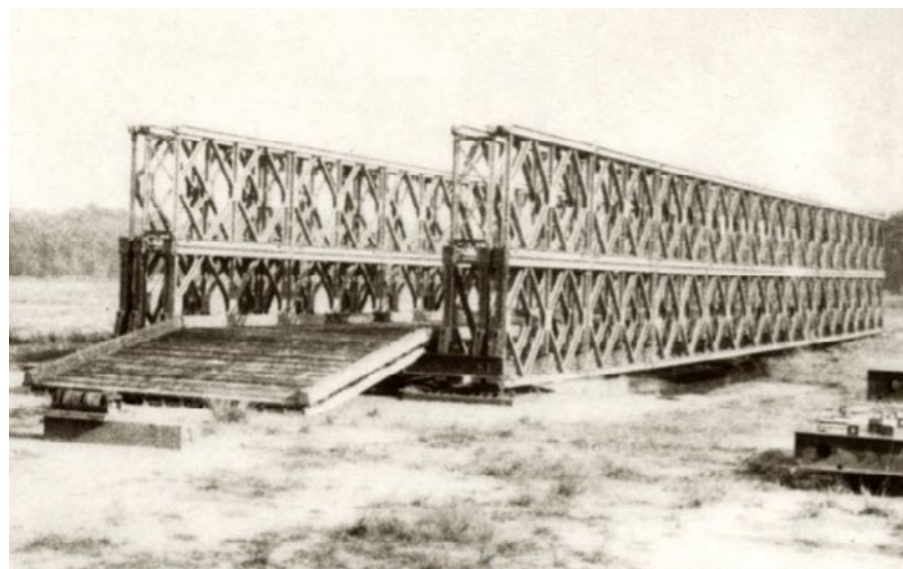


Fig. 2.2.59 The site of the 'Gap', where training to erect military bridges was conducted by the School of Combat Engineers. It has the reputation of being the toughest training site in Gillman Camp. Source: MINDEF

SAF Combat Engineers' occupancy

In 1971, Gillman Barracks was transferred to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and **housed HQ Combat Engineers and the School of Combat Engineers (SOCE) as Gillman Camp** following their move from Pulau Blakang Mati. During this period, the former NAAFI at Block 9 Lock Road was converted into the camp's officers' mess.



Fig. 2.2.60 Bridging training at Gillman Camp. Source: Lam Chun See



Fig. 2.2.61 SAF Combat Engineers building a Bailey bridge during training in 1978. Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.

SAF Transport takes over

In 1984, the SAF Combat Engineers left Gillman Barracks for their new camp in Jurong, making way for **SAF's Transport Base** which was looking for a temporary location. **The camp was handed over to the Transport Base for a token sum of one dollar to commemorate the transaction between the SAF Combat Engineers and the British** when they left Singapore in 1971. Alongside the Transport Base HQ, the camp also housed the **SAF 2nd and 3rd Transport Battalions**.

MINDEF returns land

By 1993, these units had slowly been removed from the site, and it was announced that the camp would be released by SAF for civilian use, with suggestions that it could eventually be used for public housing or private residential development. At this time, MINDEF had handed about 25 hectares of the camp back to the government but **some parts of the land were retained by SAF to house some smaller units until 1996**.

Post British Withdrawal: Development of Telok Blangah Satellite Town

Timeline of Events

- 1968** Planning for Telok Blangah satellite town commences
- 1970** Works commence to extend road network
- 1972** Construction on Telok Blangah flats commences
- 1990s** Development of Telok Blangah Heights region
Former company offices and blocks demolished

Telok Blangah Satellite Town

Around the same time as the SAF's occupancy, the development of Telok Blangah as a satellite town began in 1968, led by HDB. Designed as Singapore's third self-contained housing estate after Queenstown and Toa Payoh, the Telok Blangah Satellite Town aimed to house over 100,000 residents, with a unique focus on tourism around Mount Faber. **A sprawling 930-acre site was planned for its construction**, comprising an industrial complex on the former No. 3 Base Ordnance Depot and a ridge-top park later named Telok Blangah Hill Park.

Works on the satellite town began around 1970, with extensions to Henderson Road and Lower Delta Road conducted to provide access to the area from the north. **By 1972, construction on the first block of flats at the eastern end had commenced.** Neighbourhoods in the western end of the area included the Gillman Barracks site, with plans to incorporate the existing army structures and facilities into the town.

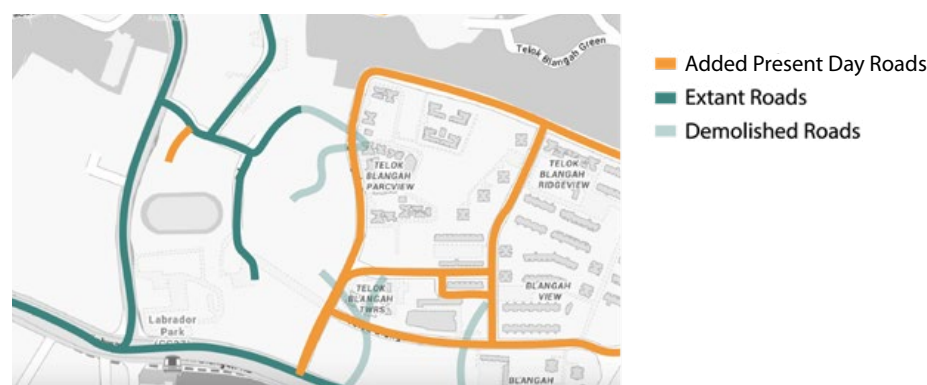


Fig. 2.2.62 Map of new and demolished roads to make way for Telok Blangah satellite town.
Source: Singapore Land Authority, Annotations by Studio Lapis

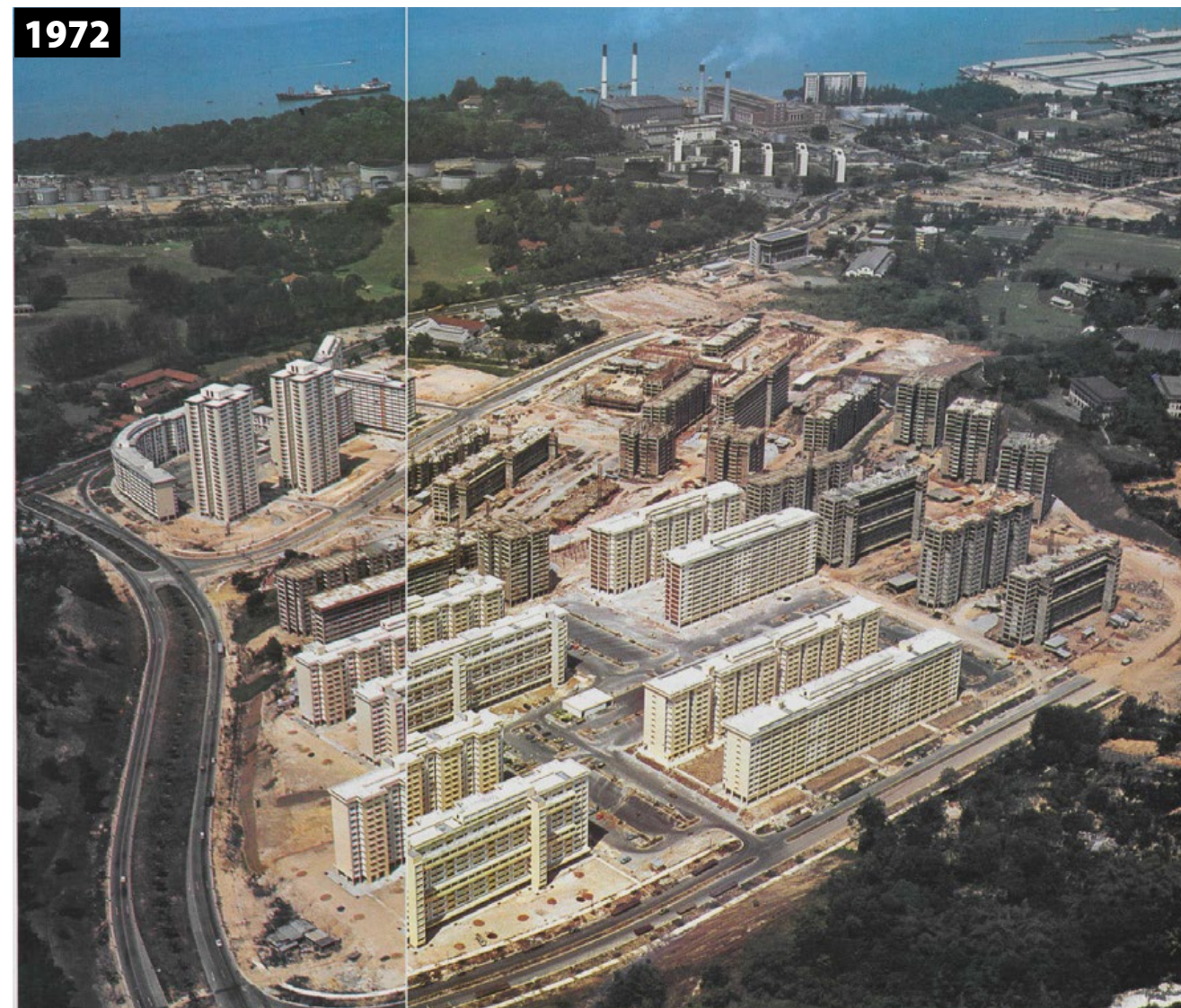


Fig. 2.2.63 View of Telok Blangah New Town under development taken from 1975/1976 HDB Annual Report.
Source: Housing & Development Board



Fig. 2.2.64 1990 View of the now demolished office and accommodation blocks (in red) with Telok Blangah in the background. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

The estate received its first residents in 1973 and continued to undergo phases of expansion over the 1980s as the surrounding areas were built to introduce more housing flats, schools and community facilities for the growing residential population.

The estate and road network expanded northwards from Telok Blangah Road to form the present-day Telok Blangah Heights, encroaching further into the land of the former barracks. **This led to the eventual demolition in the 1990s of the 3-storey former company offices and accommodation blocks and levelling of the hill to make way for the estate.**

Just after the remaining SAF units vacated the site, HDB announced that the existing low-rise HDB blocks would be replaced by intensive land rebuilds which were to be ready by 2001.

Post British Withdrawal: Development of Gillman Heights

Timeline of Events

Late 1960s	Planning for Gillman Heights Estate commences <i>Former married quarters and Railway Hill demolished</i>
1980	Construction on Gillman Heights estate commences
1984	Gillman Heights is completed
2007	Gillman Heights is sold and demolished
2013	The Interlace is completed

Planning of Gillman Heights

Not long after the development of the Telok Blangah estate, **plans had begun to develop the site of the former married quarters into the Gillman Heights estate.**

This housing estate was developed under the **Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDC)**, which was formed in 1974 to offer property options to middle-income residents who exceeded the income ceiling for HDB flats but could not yet own private homes. **Offering a mix of high and low rise apartments in prime locations, these flats were built to offer the appeal and experience of private condominiums.**

Located in a flourishing estate with new offices nearby and a serene forest in close proximity, the site of Gillman Barracks was valued as a prime location for the construction of HUDC flats.



Fig. 2.2.65 1978-1979 Maisonette floor plan for middle income housing at Gillman Heights.
Source: © Urban Redevelopment Authority. All rights reserved.



Fig. 2.2.66 1978-1979 Site plan of Gillman Heights HUDC estate. Source: © Urban Redevelopment Authority. All rights reserved.

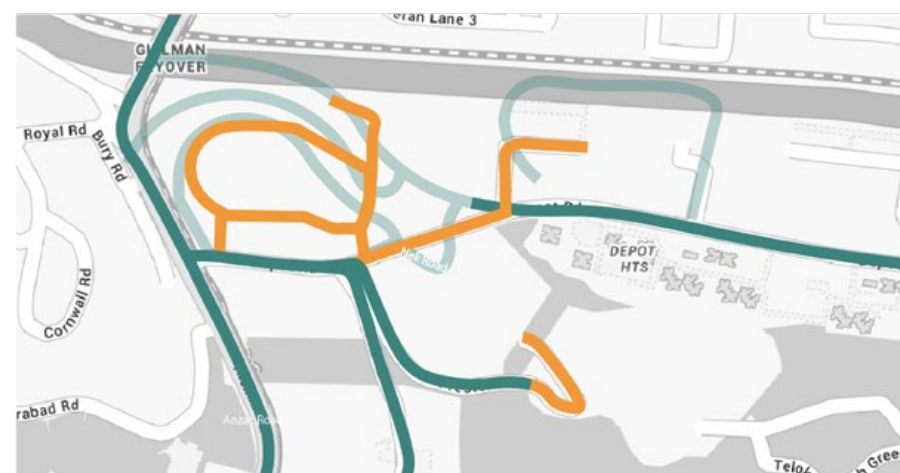


Fig. 2.2.67 Map of new and demolished roads to make way for Gillman Heights Estate. Source: Singapore Land Authority, Annotations by Studio Lapis

Development of Gillman Heights

Construction for Gillman Heights commenced in 1980 under phase three of the HUDC programme on the site of Railway Hill, the northernmost section of the barracks. About 600 units comprising high-rise apartments and two-storey maisonettes were built and completed in 1984.

Demand for HUDC units declined in 1987 and the middle-income housing scheme was discontinued soon after. In 1995, the Singapore government introduced the option to privatise **these estates and the Pine Grove and Gillman estates became the first batch of developments to be privatised in 1996.**

Gillman Heights Today

After being privatised, Gillman Heights was collectively sold for \$548 million in 2009. On the site now stands The Interlace, the 607-unit development completed in 2013 by CapitaLand.

Post British Withdrawal: Preston Road School Campus

Timeline of Events

- 1971** Singapore American School (SAS) moves to Preston Road
- 1974** Henderson Secondary School and Mei Chin Secondary School
- 1976** Friendly Hill Primary School
- 1978** Friendly Hill Vocational Institute
- 1983** International School Singapore Preston Road campus

With the development of the new Telok Blangah and Gillman Heights estates, there was an increasing need for schools to serve the area. As such, the 1970-80s saw a surge of educational institutions set up on the spacious land and vacated buildings of the Gillman Barracks area. In particular, the campus of the former Bourne School became home to a series of different schools, **standing in for the needs of both local and expatriate communities over the years.**

Singapore American School

With the closure of Bourne in 1971, the Alexandra section of the former Bourne School was leased to the **Singapore American School (SAS)**, which housed grades K through 8. This period saw a significant increase in the number of American families in Singapore, largely due to the Vietnam War, which led to a surge in SAS's student enrolment. To accommodate the growing demand, SAS relocated to a larger site at Ulu Pandan in 1973.

Henderson and Mei Chin Secondary School

The compound then became the home to **Henderson Secondary School (HSS) in 1974**, which opened with 600 students and 24 teachers. A year later, Mei Chin Secondary School was established and operated within the same campus under the administration of HSS. By 1976, due to a growing student population, both Mei Chin and Henderson Secondary school students had vacated the space, leaving the Preston Road site once again available for new uses.

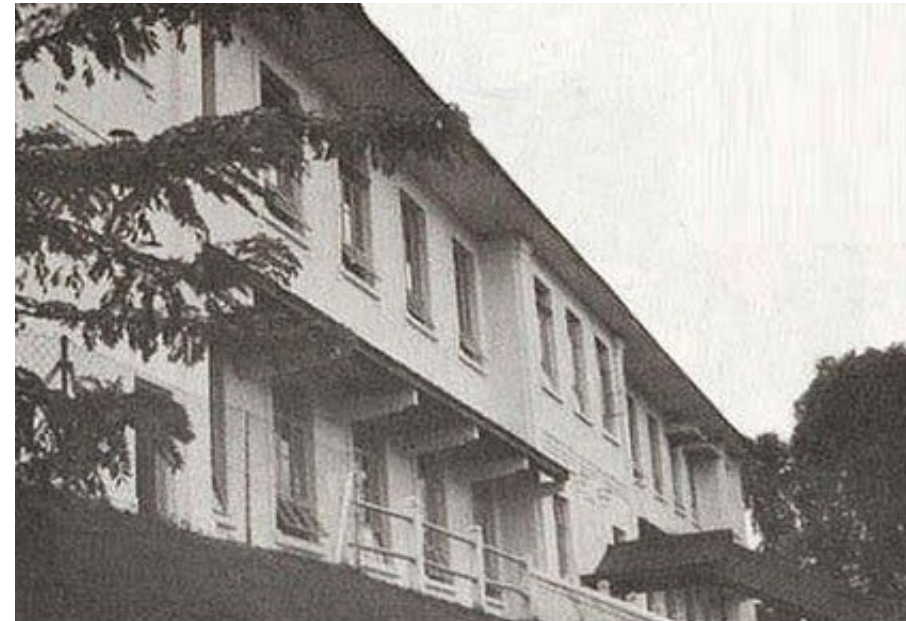


Fig. 2.2.68 Henderson Secondary School at Preston Road in 1974. Source: Henderson Secondary School, The Henderson Annual 1974-1994

Friendly Hill Primary and Vocational Institute

Friendly Hill Primary School was established in 1976 by the Ministry of Education to serve the growing Telok Blangah New Town. However, the school struggled with falling enrolment and was **an unpopular choice for families due to its low accessibility on a steep hill.**

Friendly Hill Primary School closed in 1978 and merged with Keng Seng School and Strathmore Primary School. The premises were then allocated by the Government Buildings Committee to the Adult Education Board for use as the new **Friendly Hill Vocational Institute**. The institute operated until 1982, when it closed due to the opening of the National Institute of Commerce at Prince Edward Road.

International School Singapore (ISS)

The site was returned to the government, and **the International School of Singapore (ISS), founded in 1981, applied to take a lease on the campus.** The government granted a lease to ISS, and the site was officially handed over to them to provide an educational institute for expatriate children. **ISS began occupying the site in 1983 and continues to house the site currently.**



[Top] Fig. 2.2.69 ISS students with a view of the original garrison school block in the background.
 [Above] Fig. 2.2.70 Students walking up the hill to ISS.
 [Left] Fig. 2.2.71 Students painting along the corridor of present-day ISS Block 5. Source: ISS International School Singapore, 1984-1985 ISS Yearbook

In 2019, ISS announced it had embarked on major renovation works on the Preston Road campus following the announcement on the unification of its two campuses. In order to house the Paterson Road campus under the same roof at Preston Road, **underutilised spaces in Blocks 4 and 5 were reconstructed in 2020 into standardised multi-functional classrooms** and facilities like the sports cluster, arts hub and terrace canteen were renovated.

Post British Withdrawal: Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute

Timeline of Events

- 1972** Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (later ITE Pasir Panjang) officially opens
- 2000** Closure of ITE Pasir Panjang
- 2004** Use by Mercy Relief for storage of donated relief items
- 2007** Land is leased out by Singapore Land Authority (SLA)

Opening of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute

The existing infrastructure and open space of the barracks were repurposed for the development of educational facilities. The **workshops and Nissen sheds on the southern edge of the former War Department site were modified** and installed with new machinery for use under the Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute which opened in 1972.

This school was part of a network of vocational institutes opened by the government in the 1970s to offer technical education and industrial training in Singapore. This institute was built by the Adult Education Board (AEB), which was established in 1960 to promote adult education in Singapore, with a **focus on metal trade**. The AEB then merged with the Industrial Training Board (ITB) in 1979 to form the Vocational Institute Training Board (VITB).



Fig. 2.2.72 Students of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute at Alexandra Road in 1987.
Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

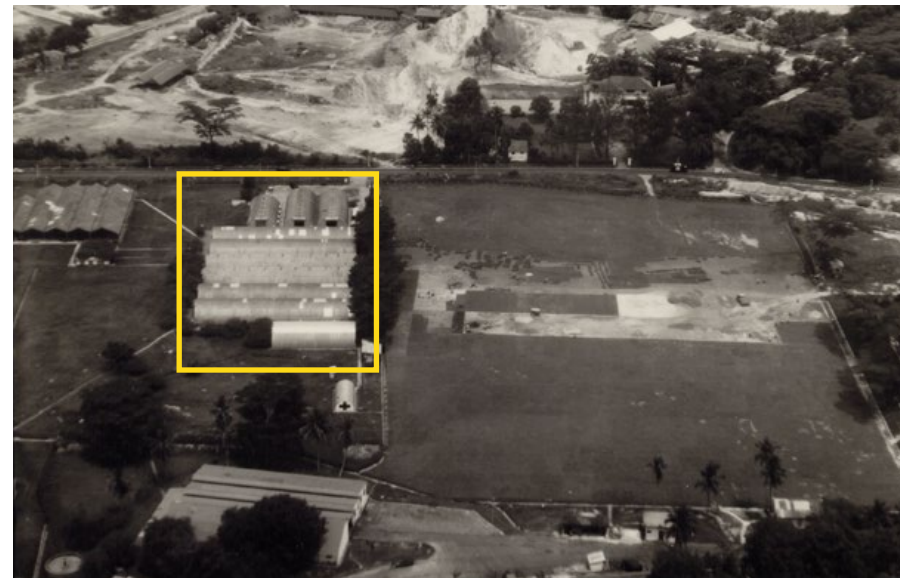


Fig. 2.2.73 1958 Aerial photo of British Transport Depot with Nissen sheds used for Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute highlighted. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.



Fig. 2.2.74 Entrance of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Institute of Technical Education

New Buildings Added

An administration block and a three-storey classroom block replaced the Nissen huts in 1975 to offer better amenities for the students. The institute upgraded again in 1986 to permit its intake to be doubled.

Closure of Institute and Present Day Use

Pasir Panjang Vocation Institute (renamed ITE Pasir Panjang) closed in 2000. Its premises were used by Mercy Relief for storage of donated relief items for the 2004 Indonesian Tsunami victims before being leased out by SLA from 2007. The site currently operates as nine office blocks at 991 Alexandra Road and is tenanted by a mix of company offices, fitness gyms and restaurants.



[Top] Fig. 2.2.75 Students of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Mohammad Azeman

[Above] Fig. 2.2.76 1987 Students playing outdoors at Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute.
Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Post British Withdrawal: St Andrew's Junior College

Timeline of Events

- 1976** St Andrew's Junior College opens at Malan Road
- 2005** SAJC moves to Woodsville campus
- 2006** River Valley High School moves in temporarily
- 2011** Academy of Singapore Teachers moves in



Fig. 2.2.77 Official opening of St Andrew's Junior College in 1979.
Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979

St Andrew's Junior College is established

With approval given in 1974, **St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) was built at Malan Road on part of the Gillman Barracks previously used as recreation grounds.** This was the sixth Junior College opened for pre-university students in Singapore. Designed by DP Architects, the school was built on a six-hectare site just north of the existing Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. **Construction on the school's two blocks started on 6 September 1976, and the school admitted its first 600 students in 1978.** A year and a half later, the college was **officially opened by Tan Sri Runme Shaw on 30 June 1979.**

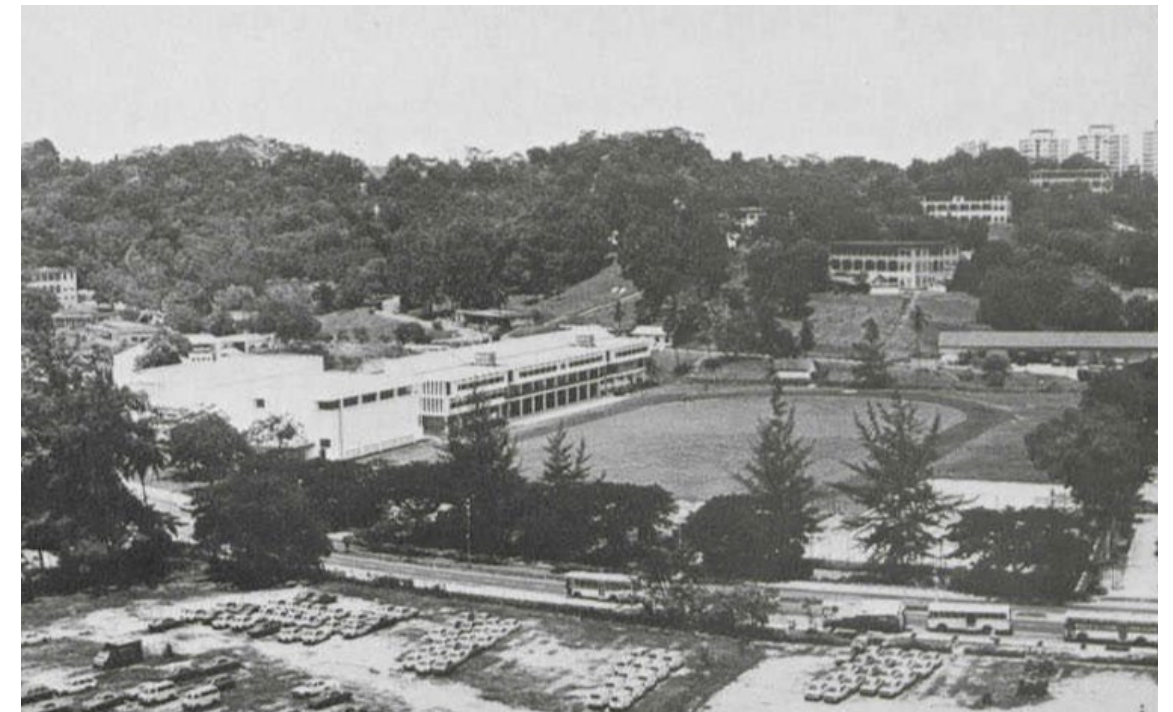
The campus featured **11 blocks with modern facilities**, including air-conditioned lecture theatres, a music and art building and tutorial blocks **built complementary to the hilly terrain of the campus.** These blocks intersected at a central low-lying ground named the SAJC Plaza which received students from the main pedestrian entrance and acted as a key node of interaction.

The ground floor of the three-storey Block A opened up to a large sports field. This open field, which offered unobstructed views of the now demolished barrack blocks, was built with an 8-lane 400 metre running track, **retaining its use as a recreation ground since the time of the British.**

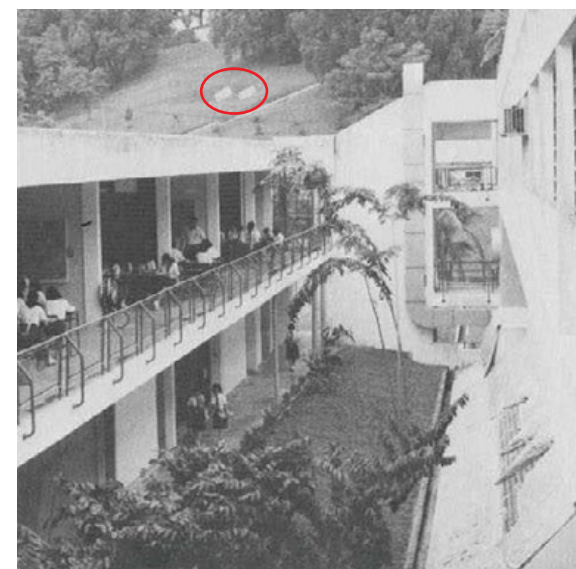
In July 1979, Phase Four of the project commenced which included construction on the **Chapel of the Resurrection** to provide students with a chapel and a counselling centre on the ground floor with counselling services, guidance literature and psychological testing.

Just over 10 years later, the school planned for upgrading works in 1990 and completed its renovations in 1993. New facilities included a **reconstructed field with a spectators' gallery.**

[Right] Fig. 2.2.78 1979 View of SAJC with now demolished barrack blocks on the hill in the background. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979



[Left] Fig. 2.2.79 Laying of the foundation stone at the chapel of the resurrection in 1980. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1980



[Middle] Fig. 2.2.80 View of the Middlesex and Loyal Regiment insignias (circled in red) from the blocks of SAJC in 1980. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1980

[Right] Fig. 2.2.81 Students gathered at the SAJC field for the Great Singapore Workout in 1996. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1996



River Valley High School and Academy of Singapore Teachers

SAJC occupied its campus until the end of 2005, after which it moved to the expanded St Andrew's Woodsville campus.

From 2006 to 2010, the school at Malan Road housed **River Valley High School as an interim campus** between their move from Queensway to their permanent site at Boon Lay Avenue. The campus has since been used by the **Academy of Singapore Teachers, which has occupied the existing facilities from 2011 till today.**

2 SITE HISTORY & PERIODISATION: SITE DEVELOPMENT

1996 - 2010: Gillman Village - Lifestyle Hub

Development of Gillman Village

1996 marked the end of Gillman Barracks' journey as a military site. SAF's Gillman Camp was selected by URA in 2002 to be enhanced with new commercial uses as **'Gillman Village'** under the Identity Plan. This was received with positive response from the public and buildings around Malan and Lock Roads were leased to two companies, Hongco Realty and Paccan Building Technology. The former NAAFI building at 9 Lock Road was turned into a **food court with 20 stalls named Paccan Centre**, while Hongco Realty put up its **leased spaces for use as offices and furniture showrooms**.

This put the former camp on a path of transformation as a lifestyle hub, with the site being managed by the Singapore Land Office and leased to master tenants. It reportedly had about 14 tenants, who ran what was described as **"an eclectic mix of bars, restaurants, education centres and furniture shops"** (The Straits Times, 2015).

Gillman Food Court and Restaurants

In 2007, part of the former barracks was reported to have been turned into a little Bali. The former NAAFI block at 9 Lock Road housed master tenant Villa Frangipani, with its office at level 1, a food court serving Thai, Chinese, Balinese and Indian food on level 2, with two dance studios laid out on the top floor. It also featured a replica Balinese gate since the opening of Villa Bali in 2005.

Among the tenants of Gillman Village was the 1999-established Handlebar, which has become an institution among bikers and still stands today.



[Top] Fig. 2.2.82 9 Lock Road seen from Lock Road along its eastern rear facade, when it housed master tenant Villa Frangipani. Source: Xin Li
[Bottom] Fig. 2.2.83 Little Bali set up at 9 Lock Road, which hosted F&B spaces. Source: Lam Chun See

The End of Gillman Village

While Gillman Village grew a small following of office workers and expatriate families, it did not take off as well as other lifestyle developments like Tanglin Village, its counterpart at Dempsey Road which replaced the former Tanglin Barracks. As such, the site was earmarked by URA for redevelopment in 2010 into a premier arts cluster for contemporary art galleries and research centres.

Tenants were informed that the renewals on their leases would be the last in 2008, and Gillman Village's last tenants moved out by 2011.



[Top Left] Fig. 2.2.84 Gillman Village signboards seen from Alexandra Road, with a view of the bridge over the ravine seen in the background. Source: Lam Chun See

[Top Right] Fig. 2.2.85 Gillman Village signboards seen from Alexandra Road. Source: Lam Chun See

[Left] Fig. 2.2.86 Interior of Warung Frangipani food court of 9 Lock Road in 2010. Source: Xin Li

2 SITE HISTORY & PERIODISATION: SITE DEVELOPMENT

2010 - 2020: Gillman Barracks - Arts Cluster

Renaissance City Plan (RCP)

In 2000, then Minister for Information and the Arts Lee Yock Suan revealed the Renaissance City Plan (RCP), a vision to establish Singapore as a global arts city and strengthen national identity through the appreciation of shared heritage. This plan aimed to improve arts education and appreciation in Singapore and enhance the arts scene with more events for locals and foreigners.

The need to boost the vibrancy of Singapore's art scene was highlighted again in 2009 by the newly formed Economic Strategies Committee (ESC), which advocated for greater cultural development in order to meet global city standards.

Asia's Premier Arts Destination

This led to the launch of Gillman Barracks as a contemporary arts destination. Spearheaded by the **Economic Development Board (EDB), National Arts Council (NAC) and JTC Corporation (JTC)**, the site was envisioned as a nexus for visual artists, curators, collectors and art enthusiasts to connect and collaborate. Anchored by local and international businesses to catalyse the art market, this presented the opportunity to **connect Singapore to the international art world and develop Singapore as Asia's premier arts destination.**

With its unique architectural history and lush green surroundings, **the site's distinctive character provided a unique backdrop for the establishment of the arts enclave.** Its location also puts it in **close proximity to the Civic District and other successful arts belts** in Chinatown and **lifestyle belts** along Holland Village.

Plans were announced for the transfer of the site to JTC in 2010, and **with a \$10 million makeover, the enclave was renamed and reopened in 2012 as Gillman Barracks.**



Fig. 2.2.87 2011 map showing the location of Gillman Barracks in relation to other arts and lifestyle belts and clusters.
Source: Singapore Economic Development Board



Fig. 2.2.88 Mizuma Art Gallery, which aims to promote Southeast and East Asian artists, opened in Gillman Barracks in 2012 at 22 Lock Road where it still stands today. Source: Studio Lapis

Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore)

Of the tenant mix is **NTU CCA Singapore**, opened in October 2013 as a national research centre for critical art discourse and experimental practices. With artist residencies and ground breaking exhibitions, the research centre was one of the key platforms to develop the visual arts ecosystem in Singapore and grew into a recognised institution in the region.

Over the years, **NTU CCA Singapore functioned as an anchoring tenant** and brought in constant visitorship with its large-scale exhibitions of top artists, contributing especially to a surge in 2016 due to its high quality art shows.



Fig. 2.2.89 NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore previously located in 43 Malan Road in 2018.
Source: Currency

2 SITE HISTORY & PERIODISATION: SITE DEVELOPMENT

2010 - 2020: Gillman Barracks - Arts Cluster

Gillman Barracks Arts Cluster

Upon opening in 2012, **the arts cluster housed 13 international art galleries from 10 different countries**, with works of highly acclaimed contemporary artists and photographers such as **Yayoi Kusama, Annie Leibovitz and Henri-Cartier Bresson** being exhibited. Beyond diverse and ever-changing contemporary art exhibitions, the revamped Gillman Barracks hosted other activities such as school visits, tours organised by Art Outreach and community activities like sketch walks.

More eateries and sheltered walkways were added to enhance the visitor experience and improve accessibility in 2014. However, the cluster faced a setback the following year, with **5 of 17 art galleries deciding against renewing their leases due to poor sales and low footfall**.

Since then, attempts have been made to increase the visitorship of the cluster, with strategies such as collaborations with the Singapore Tourism Board initiated to promote Gillman Barracks as a tourist attraction. A Programme Office was also opened in 2016 to coordinate activities across the galleries and promote them.



Fig. 2.2.90 Art After Dark 2025 hosted at Gillman Barracks. Source: National Arts Council

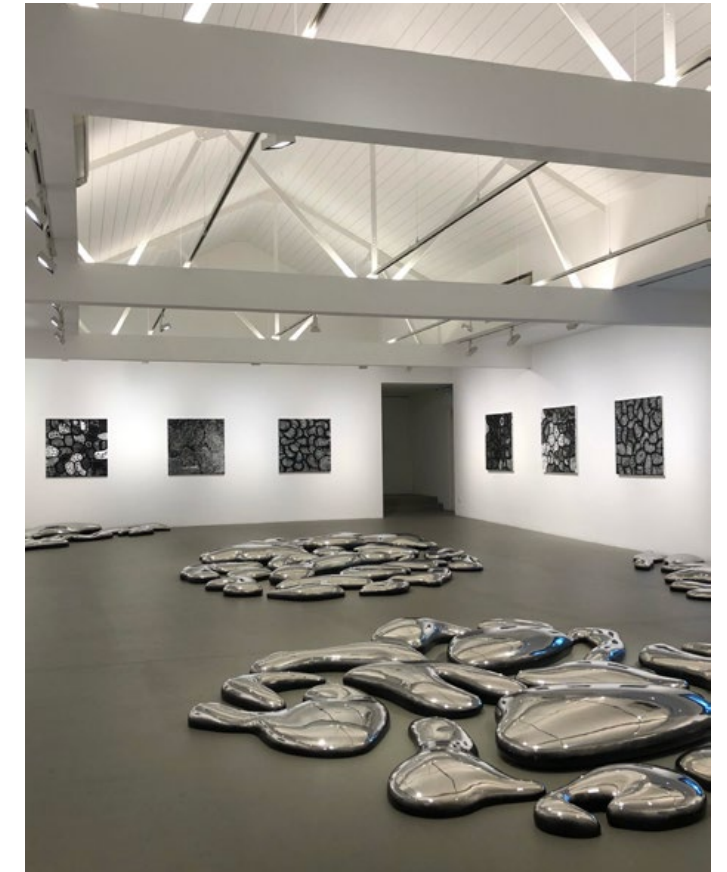


Fig 2.2.91 Yayoi Kusama: Recent Paintings exhibition on display at Ota Fine Arts Singapore in 2021, held at 7 Lock Road. Source: Studio Lapis Collection



Fig. 2.2.92 Installation set up between 37 and 38 Malan Road in 2017. Source: Estherkhm, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Fig. 2.2.93 The Forest Institute, 2022, Gillman Barracks, Singapore. Courtesy of Robert Zhao. Source: TRAhgnahs, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

2020 - Present Day: Gillman Barracks - Creative Lifestyle Enclave



Fig. 2.2.94 7 Lock Road at Gillman Barracks which houses Ota Fine Arts today. Source: Studio Lapis Collection



Fig. 2.2.95 43 Malan Road at Gillman Barracks which houses The Southern Depot today. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

The future of Gillman Barracks

In March 2020, the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) took over the management of Gillman Barracks and **launched a rejuvenation plan to upgrade the precinct into a creative lifestyle enclave** with new F&B tenants, lifestyle workshops, farmers' markets, children's playground and more.

As announced by then-Minister for National Development, Mr Desmond Lee, over the Ministry of National Development's (MND) 2024 Committee of Supply debate, agencies are **studying the possibility of introducing a new residential neighbourhood at the Gillman Barracks site following the progressive expiry of interim uses by 2030**. This is to meet the growing demand for housing and cater to Singaporeans' diverse aspirations and lifestyle needs.

Agencies have commissioned environmental and heritage studies to assess the ecological and heritage significance of the site and recommend mitigating measures to guide the sensitive development of the site. The studies commenced in 3Q 2024 and were completed in 2026.



Fig. 2.2.96 9 Lock Road at Gillman Barracks today. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

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2.3 Cartographic Study

Pre-Militarisation: 1897

1897

Singapore Town and New Harbour Armament Map

Map Information

Lithographed at the Intelligence Department of the War Office in December 1895 (later revised to February 1897), this map presents an overview of the armament and defensive sites at Singapore Town and New Harbour (Keppel) with proposed entrenchments, entanglements, mine fields and electric light emplacements.

B Alexandra Cantonment

The British started to expand their forces inland in the early 1900s, leading to the construction of the **Alexandra Cantonment**. The area marked as 'Alexandra Position' on this map west of Alexandra Road eventually housed Alexandra Cantonment and Barracks. The barracks accommodated Indian troops such as the 99th Dacca Infantry and 3rd Brahmans and were significant for being **the site of the deadly 1915 Singapore Mutiny**.

C Flagstaff

The relocation of a flagstaff and signal station from Pulau Blakang Mati (Sentosa) in 1845 to this section of Telok Blangah Hill (Mount Faber) highlights its ideal location, which was further described as a **"very good station, commanding an extensive prospect seaward, as well as landward"** (The Free Press 1845).

D Singapore New Harbour

New Harbour, presently known as Keppel Harbour, referred to the naturally sheltered **straits along the Southern coast of Singapore**. Due to its location and deep waters, it housed the British's naval operations and was therefore **heavily fortified** to protect against imminent naval threats.

A Alexandra Road

Alexandra Road was laid and named in 1864 after the then Princess of Wales, who later became Queen Alexandra, consort to King Edward VII of the United Kingdom. **In 1877, it became a metalled road** and functioned as an arterial road which linked Pasir Panjang Road and Tanglin Road, providing a direct link between the future Alexandra Barracks and the existing Tanglin Barracks.

E Landscape and Terrain

Marked on the map is the **former Mount Faber area, which included the range of hills between Kampong Bahru Road and Alexandra Road**. The hills here were among the **highest elevations** along the Southern coast of Singapore and provided unobstructed views of the harbour. Along the Western end of the range was the swampy region East of Alexandra Road, which housed the future Gillman Barracks site.

• • • Boundary of Mount Faber range

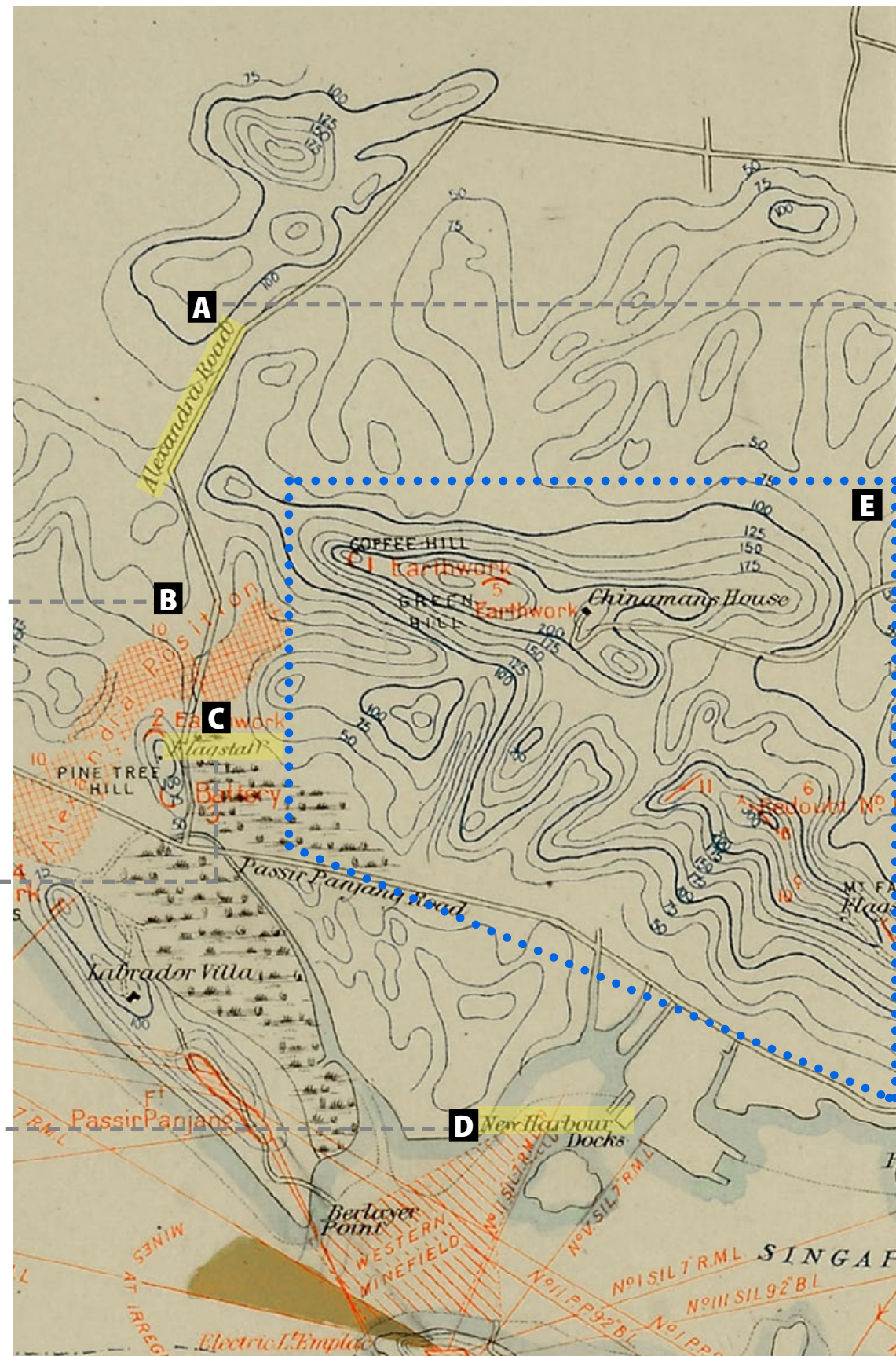


Fig 2.3.1 Annotated 1897 Map of Singapore Town and New Harbour Armament. Base Map Source: The National Archives UK

1959: Development and Operations of Infantry Barracks

1959

Topographic Map of Pasir Panjang

Map Information

This map provides comprehensive information on the topography, physical landscape, land use and road networks in the Pasir Panjang area. Prepared and drawn by 570 Map Reproduction Troop Royal Engineers, this map synthesises information from RAF Air Survey photography in 1957, together with land and air survey material from 1958. It was then published in 1959 by the Directorate of Military Survey, War Office and Air Ministry.

A Integration with the Terrain

The construction of Gillman Barracks was **thoughtfully executed with high consideration for the natural terrain**. The highest points at Railway Hill and Barrack Hill were reserved for the residential blocks, leveraging the elevated positions for better drainage and scenic views. The main spine of the site, which housed communal services and amenities, was strategically placed along the lower-lying Lock Road.

— Contours above 100 ft

B The Self-Sustaining Barracks

Gillman Barracks encampment was designed comprehensively, complete with residences, educational institutions, and recreational facilities for servicemen and their families. With its design, the site **functioned seamlessly and operated as a self-sustaining compound** for the British.

Following the British withdrawal and the rise of independent Singapore in 1971, **the land started to fragment due to the development of master plans and townships**. Extensive demolition was done, leaving only a fragment of the original buildings today.

— Extant Structures
— Demolished structures

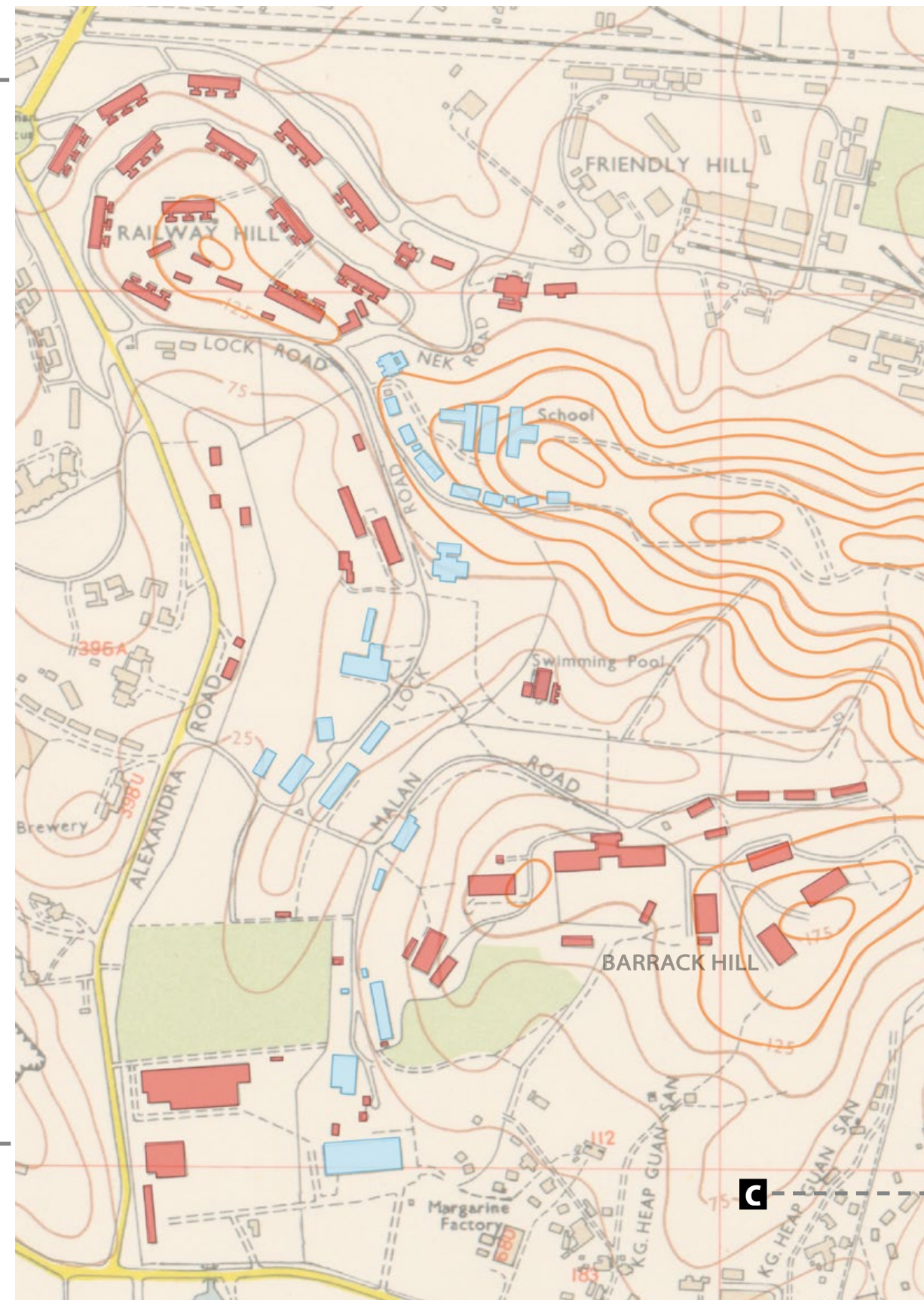


Fig 2.3.2 Annotated 1959 Topographic map of Pasir Panjang. Base Map Source: Accession No. TM001064, Singapore Land Authority Collection, Courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 2.3.3 View over Chinese Cemetery to the Straits from barrack verandah, c.1960. Source: Gordon Thompson



Fig. 2.3.4 Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew visits Kampong Heap Guan San during a tour of the Telok Blangah Constituency in 1963. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

C Kampong Heap Guan San

Maps before the development of Gillman Barracks show it as a site containing several Chinese villages. The village along Pasir Panjang Road developed into **Kampong Heap Guan San**, which included a **Chinese cemetery** that lay south of Barrack Hill. The Malayan Paint Works also operated its factory here before the village was cleared for the development of the Telok Blangah New Town.

1978: Post-Independence Development

1978

Topographic Map of Telok Blangah

Map Information

Published by the Ministry of Defence Singapore, this topographic map highlights the contours, physical landscape, land use and buildings within the Telok Blangah area. Areas around Lock and Malan Road are marked as Protected Areas (P.A.) and structures within the study site are therefore not depicted.

A Development of Gillman Heights Estate

Demolition of the married quarters at former Railway Hill had begun to make way for HUDC's Gillman Estate. The flats of the estate were completed in 1984.

B Friendly Hill Primary School

Enrolment at Friendly Hill Primary School was low, largely due to its poor accessibility. The only pedestrian access available was along the lengthy Preston Road which extended up the hill.

C Anti-malarial Drainage System

The map marks the lasting drainage network built by the British during the 1930s construction of the area. Large channels were intentionally built as anti-malarial measures to ensure grounds were well drained.

— Drainage network

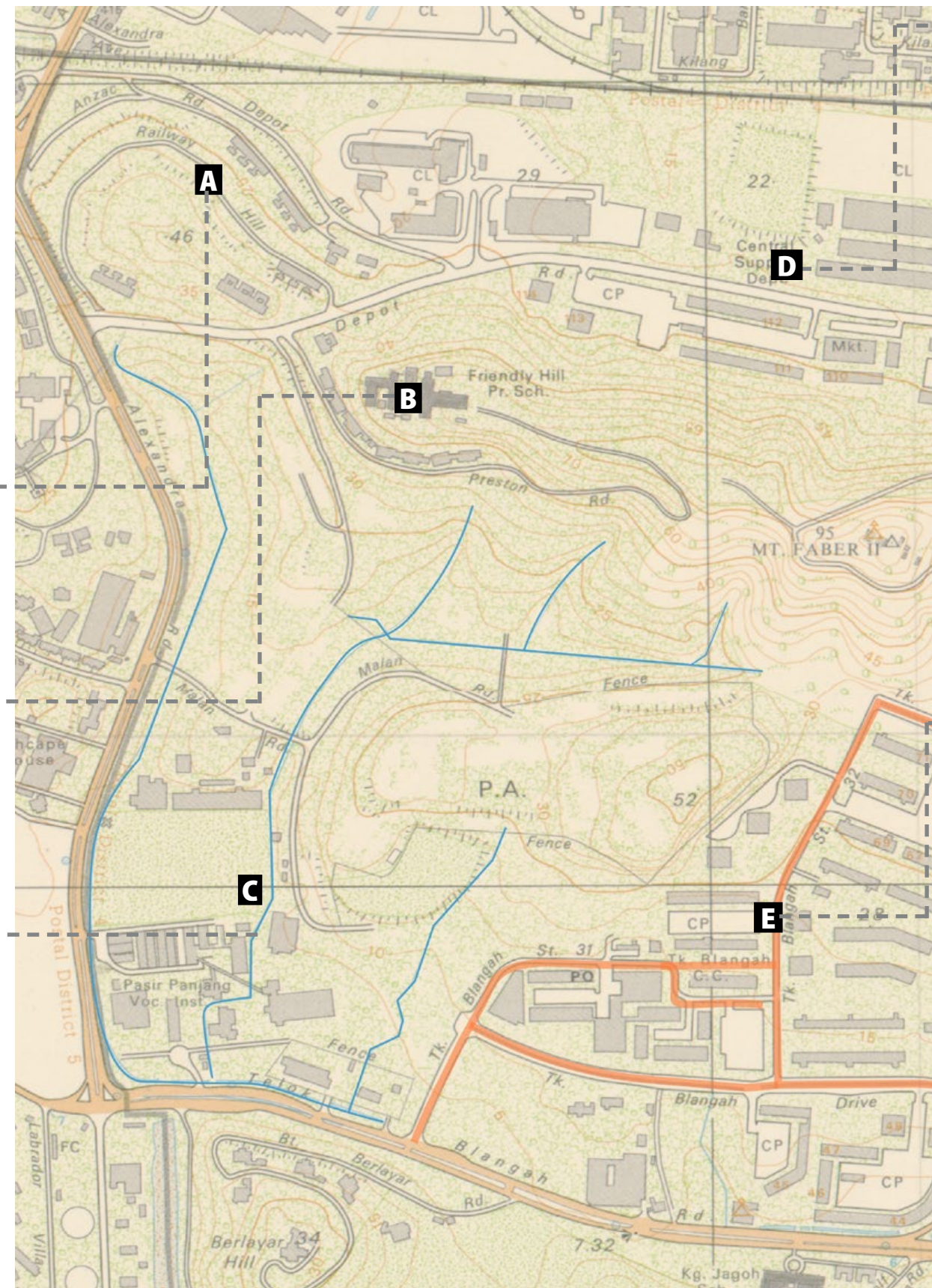


Fig 2.3.5 Annotated 1978 Topographic map of Telok Blangah. Base Map Source: Singapore Land Authority

— New road network

D Telok Blangah and Depot Lane Industrial Estates

Built in 1935 alongside Gillman Barracks as part of the Alexandra Cantonment, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) and Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) depots were redeveloped after the British withdrawal into industrial estates. The former RASC supply depot at the western end of Depot Road became the Telok Blangah Industrial Estate, while the former RAOC ordnance depot was developed as the Depot Lane Industrial Estate.



Fig. 2.3.6 View of 1936-built storage facility at the former Royal Army Ordnance Corps depot built contemporaneously with Gillman Barracks. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

E New Roads of Telok Blangah Estate

The map depicts Telok Blangah estate in its early years of development, five years after receiving its first residents in 1973. The new estate and road network was built on the site of the former Kampong Heap Guan San.

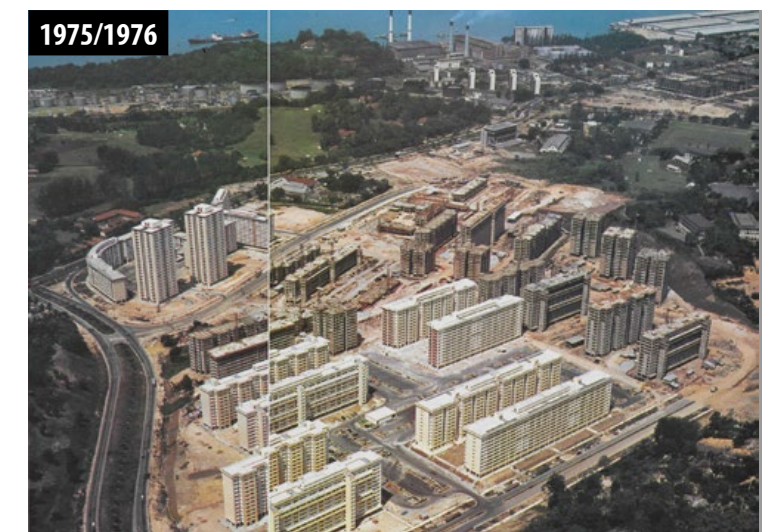


Fig. 2.3.7 View of Telok Blangah New Town under development. Source: HDB

2024: Gillman Barracks Today

2024
OneMap

Map Information

OneMap is the authoritative national map of Singapore with information developed by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA). This includes detailed geographical data, such as updated street-level geospatial information and day-to-day information and services, to understand the experience of the site.

A Southern Ridges

The Southern Ridges forms the line of connection between Mount Faber, Telok Blangah Hill and Kent Ridge parks. The 10 km park connector trail was proposed by URA in 2002 and was completed after 2 years.

B Access to Gillman Barracks

From its development as a lifestyle enclave to its current function as an arts destination, **access has maintained a key consideration.** With bus stops only located along the main Alexandra and Depot Roads, pedestrians are required to walk considerable distances on foot to access inner areas along Lock and Malan Roads. The provision of multiple car parks across the site highlights the attempt to improve visitor access.

- Location of bus stops
- Location of car parks



C The Interlace

Following the en bloc purchase of the Gillman Heights condominium in 2007, the Interlace was built by CapitaLand and was completed in 2013.

D Preston Road Houses

The houses built along Preston Road, adjacent to the former Alexandra School, have remained untouched as a cluster of residences. The residences are currently managed by SLA.

E Levelling of Barrack Hill

As the Telok Blangah estate encroached onto the Gillman Barracks site, the former company offices and blocks on Barrack Hill were demolished and the land flattened. The area has since been left untouched and now exists as overgrown forest.

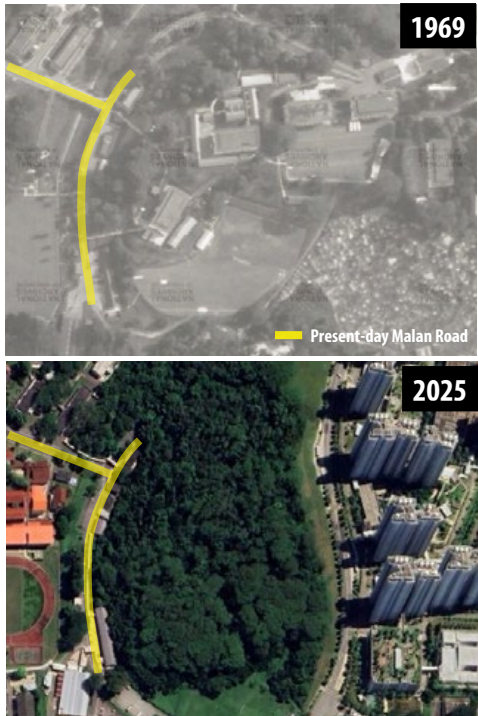


Fig. 2.3.9
Comparative
aerial view of the
now demolished
Barrack Hill in
1969 [TOP] and
2025 [BOTTOM].

Source: Aerial
photographs by
the British Royal
Air Force between
1940 to 1970s,
from a collection
held by the
National Archives
of Singapore.
Crown copyright
[TOP], Google
Earth [BOTTOM]

Fig 2.3.8 Annotated 2024 map of Gillman Barracks and surrounding area. Base Map Source: Singapore Land Authority

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3. Study of Building Typology

3 STUDY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGY

Military Barracks Typology

Grand Strategy at the British Metropole

During the interwar years, the British administration formulated a defence policy contoured by the grand strategy of **“Forward Deterrence.”** Grand strategy can be understood as the means to achieve the goals of an empire, and it involves a constant process of, what historian Brian P. Farrell calls “organization and application of power to the pursuit of imperial objectives.” **The absolute precondition for the British was to ensure a stable balance of power in Europe so that it could continue to build and preserve its global political economic system,** from which it gained the most (Farrell, n.d.). In the context of the interwar years, it was known that the **British became increasingly concerned with the consolidation of Axis powers** following Germany’s adoption of its imperialist foreign policy, *Weltpolitik*, along with Hitler coming into power in 1933, posing as a contender that threatened to destabilise the balance of power in Europe (Fisher, 2003).

In response, the British adopted a **grand military strategy of “Forward Deterrence,”** primarily championed by Captain Leopold Amery, to plant military defence outposts at strategic locations such as British coastal batteries along the

east coast as countermeasures against the Germans (Historic England, 2003). The grand strategy of “Forward Deterrence” was also **marked by its distinct lack of expansionist or offensive motivations, illustrating that the British had sought to maintain their global and political hegemony by preservation rather than by expansion** during the interwar years. Any materialised conflict was perceived as a threat to destabilise the balance of power.

Singapore as a Strategic Outpost

The implications of this grand strategy of deterrence extended to British colonies such as the Straits Settlement. **Singapore, in particular, was identified to be a crucial defensive stronghold owing to its geographic position at the tip of the Straits of Malacca, which provided access for trading routes that connected the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.**

Thus, the interwar effort to increase British military presence in Singapore was accomplished to counter the growing Japanese threat in the 1920s and 1930s, and Gillman Barracks was part of the result in this effort. Being the first purpose-

built military barracks for the British first battalion, Gillman Barracks housed the Middlesex Regiment to double the infantry strength in Singapore (Chew, 2017). Along with other crucial interwar British military compounds in Singapore such as Sembawang Naval Base and Changi Cantonment, they were **intended to provide deterrence and protection for key trade routes and British interests.**

Other military structures that preceded Gillman Barracks include **Tanglin Barracks**, which was constructed in 1861 for European troops and was a result of anxieties about the effects of the 1854 Crimean War and the 1857 Indian Mutiny, coupled with the increased presence of rival European powers. Owing to the mutiny, **military barracks design in British colonies was altered and planned such that European troops were housed separately from the native troops. Pulau Blakang Mati Artillery Barrack (built in 1904) was constructed to fend off threats by Tsarist Russia,** who were thought to harbour aims of territorial contestation in the central and other parts of Asia. Within the **Changi Cantonment, Kitchener Barracks, Robert Barracks, India Barracks and Selarang Barracks** were built to protect the Sembawang Naval Base against naval attack.



Fig. 3.1 Mapping of the location of air bases (both in blue and red dots) in Britain during World War II in 1944. Their concentration along the east coast highlights the vigilance that the British felt towards the German threat, and also points to the predominance of air warfare after World War I. Source: PeakMaps

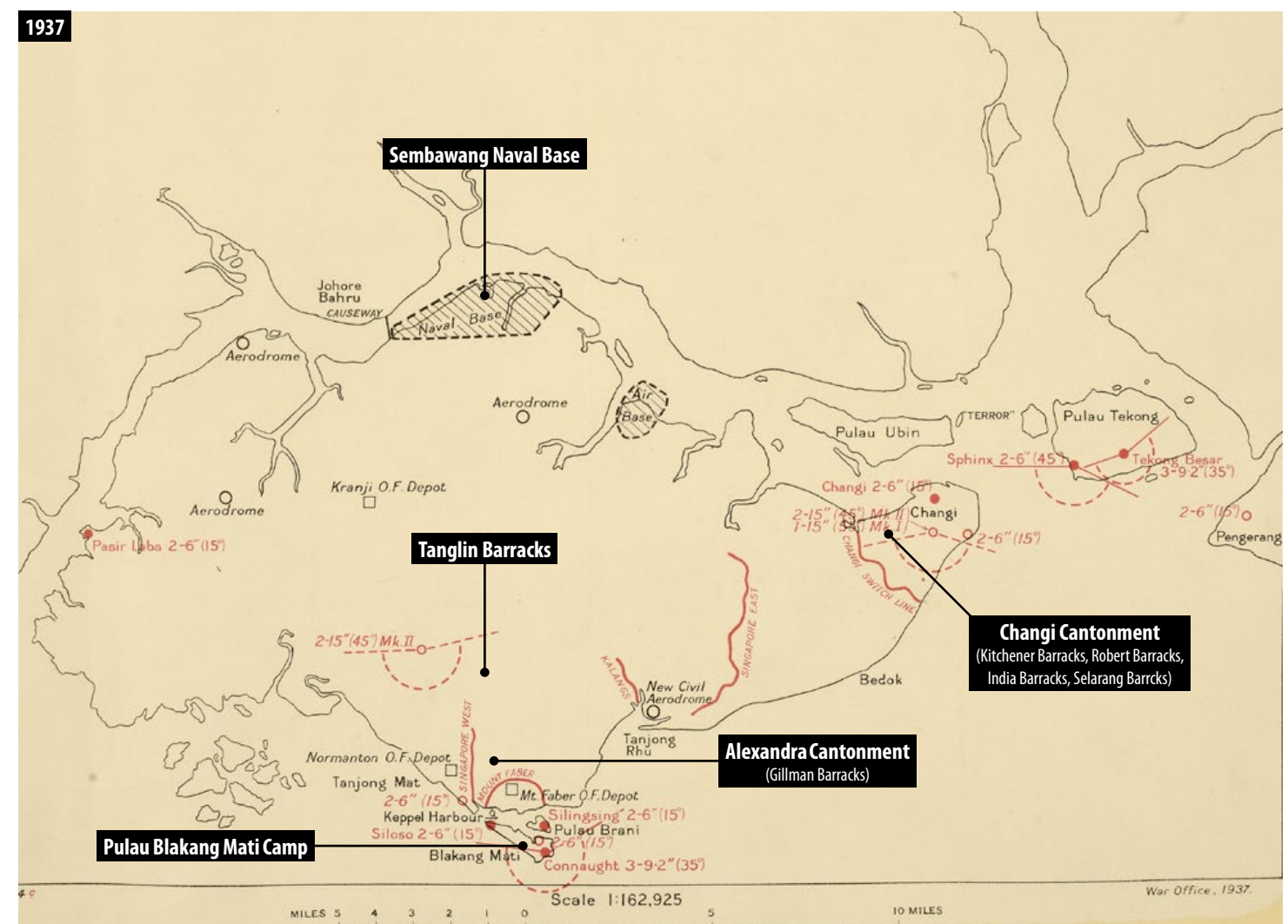


Fig. 3.2 Map indicating the location of defensive positions and armament installations in Singapore, 1937. The location of such positions and installations populating the south and the east of the island illustrates the anxieties of the colonial government in keeping the Singapore Straits accessible between the Indian Ocean and South China Sea by deterring the anticipated Japanese threat from the east. Source: The National Archives UK



Fig. 3.3 Map of Gillman Barracks, c. 1938. Source: Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

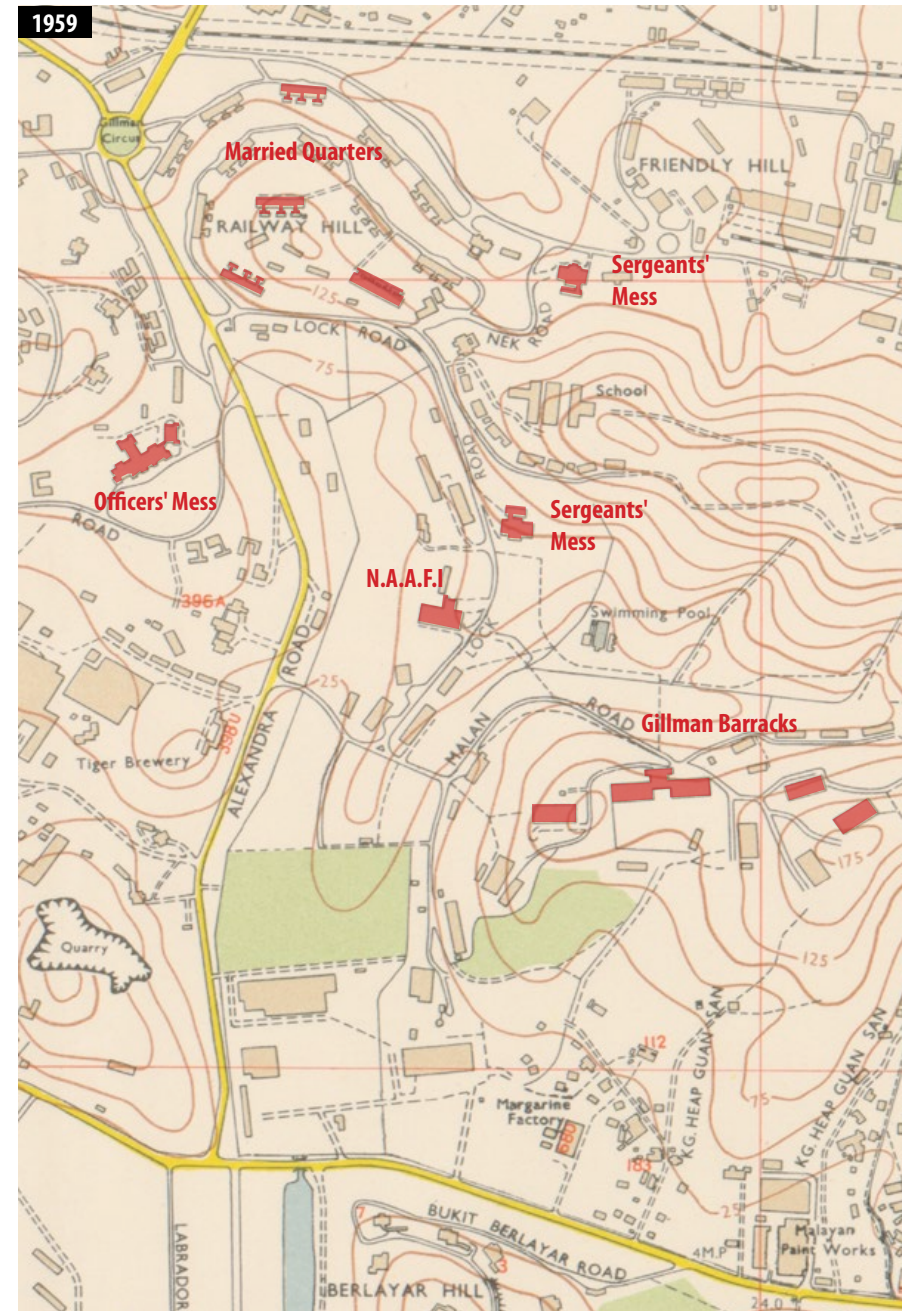


Fig. 3.4 Topographic map of Gillman Barracks, c. 1959. The buildings of Gillman Barracks are situated along the contour lines of the site to prevent the need to excessively cut and fill the site. Those highlighted in red are buildings largely allocated for soldier accommodation, and have their longer sides facing north-south. Source: Accession No. TM001064, Singapore Land Authority Collection, Courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore

Siting and Planning of Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks is located south of Alexandra Cantonment, one of the largest surviving military compounds from World War II in Singapore. Alexandra Cantonment consisted of Alexandra Hospital and related ancillary structures, government quarters and messes, and a railway line for the transportation of troops. It was developed in the 1910s to 1940s on an undulating and forested terrain that is located a distance from the colonial town to avoid damage to the town during attacks. **The Alexandra Cantonment and Gillman Barracks are connected by Alexandra Road, a 1864 trunk road leading from town to rural areas.**

The design of Gillman Barracks, which was approved by the War Office in Britain, was heavily influenced by the need **to achieve a high degree of uniformity between military barracks** that were built in the different parts of British tropical colonies through the clear stipulation of spatial standards, planning principles and environmental technologies.

The use of attendant building technologies and guidelines, such as the **1931 edition of the Barrack Synopsis**, to achieve the desired standardisation amongst military buildings was underpinned by priorities **to keep construction costs low, while ensuring the health and well-being of the British soldier** (Chang, 2016). Apart from protecting soldiers from diseases that were believed to spread rapidly owing to the tropical climate, the planning of amenities provided within Gillman Barracks became a **controlled environment configured for soldiers to give up moral vices for activities that were perceived to increase physical and moral improvements** (Chang, 2016).

Corroborating the 1938 map of Gillman Barracks and the 1959 contour map of the site, it is evident that the buildings of the military compound have been **oriented along the contours of the hilly site**. Orienting the buildings in adherence to the topography of the site deviated from the recommendations and guidelines provided by the Royal Engineers and the Royal Commission of the Health of the Army, a Barrack and Hospital Improvement Commission (BHIC), which stipulated that tropical barracks had to be **positioned such that the longer sides faced the north and south**. Such a stipulation was established by the BHIC to improve the sanitary state of the British Army in the British Empire in the mid-nineteenth century by ensuring sufficient natural ventilation in the tropicalised barrack (Chang, 2016).

The final orientation of the buildings along the hilly contours meant that **construction cost and time would be kept to a minimum, as it did not necessitate extensive cutting and filling of the site**.

The entire military compound is marked by the Married Quarters, which was located at the northernmost tip of the site, and Gillman Barracks which was at the southernmost point of the compound and faced the sea, which was presumably where potential aggressors would mount their offence from. Gillman Barracks was also located on the top of the hill, which could be accessed via Malan Road, providing it a strategically high vantage point. It is noteworthy that **buildings that have been allocated for soldier accommodation** – Gillman Barracks (presently demolished), N.A.A.F.I. (presently 9 Lock Road), Officers' and Sergeants' mess, and Married Quarters – **were positioned along the contour lines where the buildings could be facing a north-south orientation**. Ancillary and recreational structures, such as the ones populating along Lock Road, while they also adhere to the contours of the site, are positioned in East-West orientation.

3 STUDY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGY

Military Barracks Typology

Spatial Layout and Adaptation

The **spatial layout and adaptation** of the military barracks typology to the tropical climate in Singapore were largely **prescribed by the Barrack Synopsis**. The Barrack Synopsis was formulated by the BHIC as early as 1861 and **aimed to ameliorate the squalid living conditions that had formerly contributed to high mortality rates in the British Army**. It was also premised on the assumption that the tropical climate was believed to be “hostile to human life,” linking it to the popular miasmatic theory of disease transmission (Chang, 2016). The report bifurcates its recommendations for barracks in the tropics and those back in the British metropole, **articulating a greater accommodation for increased circulation of air in the former, as it was believed that increased ventilation would “dilute the concentration of miasma in the room.”** (Chang, 2016).

For tropicalised barracks, the Barrack Synopsis proposed a free-standing barrack block open on all sides with a staircase in the middle of the plan. The space standards set in the 1923 and 1931 editions of the Barracks Synopsis also indicate that increased air circulation is achieved by **amplifier floor space** allocated per bed, with correspondingly **larger cubic spaces afforded by higher ceilings** in tropicalised barracks as opposed to their counterparts located in the temperate climates. The relevant space standards applied to Singapore can be found under Category IV, as Singapore was part of the Straits Settlements.

The tropicalised barracks would be **flanked by verandahs** on their longer sides to prevent excessive heat gain within the living quarters, whilst ensuring that the **inner-leaf façade is designed to facilitate the airflow** with the inclusion of windows and ventilation screens, which were located above the doors. The dimensions of rooms and windows, along with their positions in relation to the beds were also of consideration. These tropicalised barracks often featured ablution rooms or lavatories, which were perceived to hold the highest concentration of noxious air because of their stench, at the two extreme ends of the blocks.

With these considerations, it becomes clear that the design of military barracks deviates from contemporary understanding of architectural design, where formal design, which is often comprehended in its communicative or symbolic capacities, is privileged. Instead, the **resultant form and spatial layout is a manifestation of prescriptions by the Barracks Synopsis, which foregrounds priorities of health considerations, sanitation, and cost, thus enabling a high degree of uniformity in the design of military barracks.**

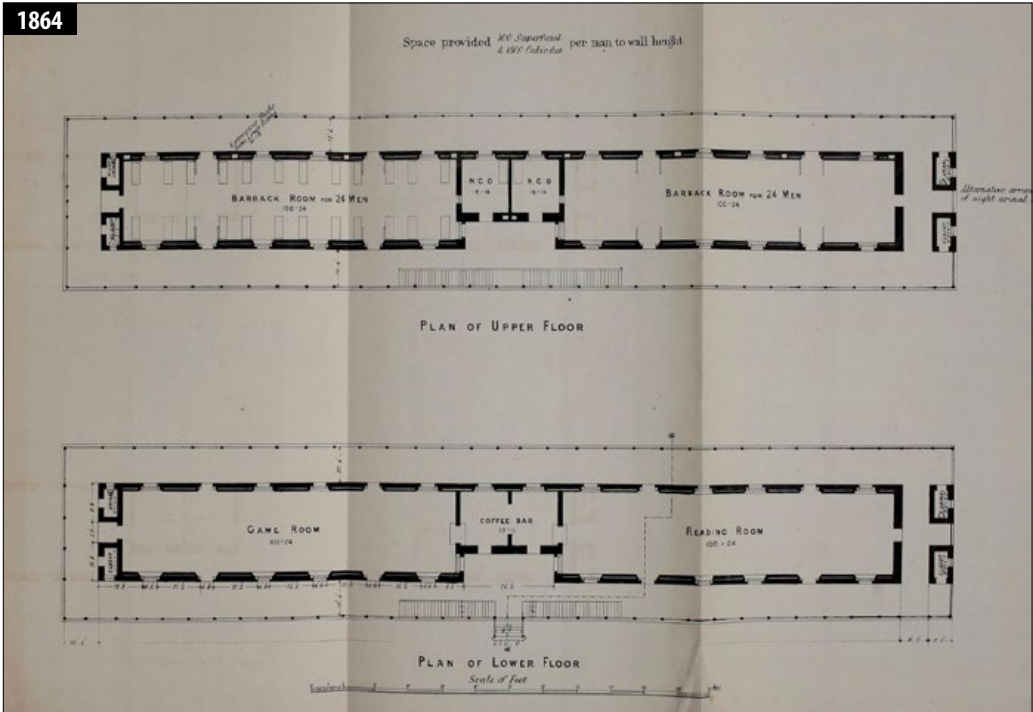


Fig. 3.5 Plans of a two-storey model military barrack proposed for the British Army in India, c.1864. One of the key provisions for tropicalised barracks are the ample verandahs that extend across the long sides of the building.
Source: Taken from "Suggestions in regard to Sanitary Works required for Improving Indian Stations" by Barrack and Hospital Improvement Commission

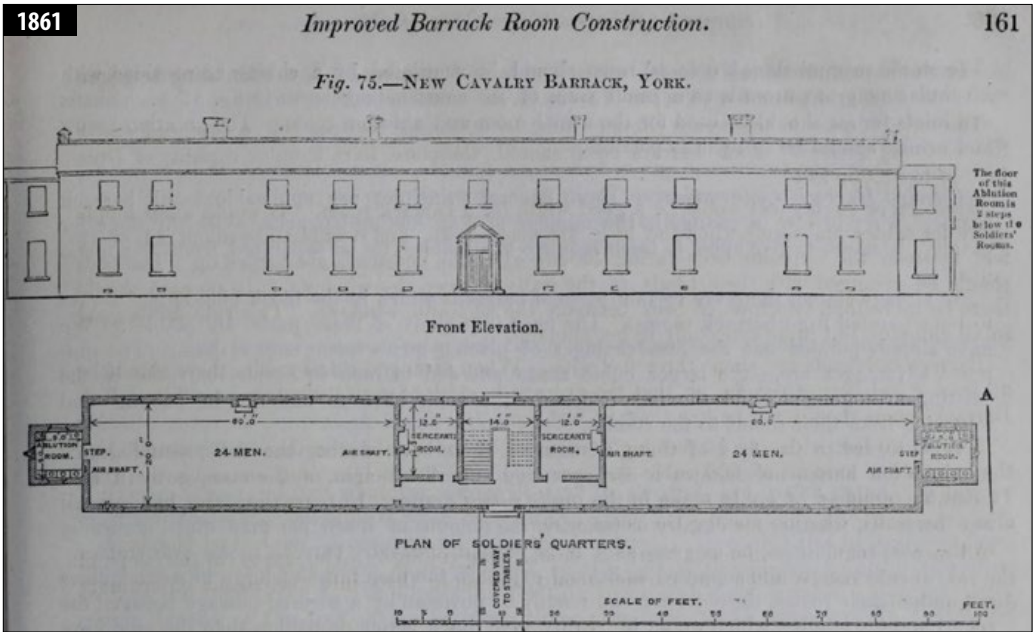


Fig. 3.6 New Cavalry Barrack at York, c.1861. This is an example of an improved barrack construction located in the British metropole.
Source: Taken from "General Report of the Commission Appointed for Improving the Sanitary Condition of Barracks and Hospitals" by Barrack and Hospital Improvement Commission

1923

showing Minimum Height and Floor and Cubic Space per Bed to be provided in Barrack Rooms for British Troops.

Stations.	Height to Wall Plate or Ceiling (ft.).	Floor Space (sq. ft.).	Cubic Space (cub. ft.).	Verandahs if provided (width in ft.).
Home Stations.				
Great Britain	10	60	600	—
Ireland				
Channel Islands				
Foreign Stations.				
CATEGORY I.				
Gibraltar	12	60	720	8
Malta				
CATEGORY II.				
Cyprus	12	70	840	8
Ceylon (Hill Stations)...				
Hong Kong Peak				
Bermuda				
North China (special case)	11	70	770	8
CATEGORY III.				
Egypt	13	80	1,040	10
Ceylon (Coast)				
South China (except Hong Kong Peak) ...				
Mauritius				
West African Hill Stations				
West Indies				
CATEGORY IV.				
Soudan	14	100	1,400	10
West Africa (Plains) ...				
Straits Settlements ...				

1931 showing Minimum Height and Floor and Cubic Space per Bed to be provided in Barrack Rooms for British Troops— <i>continued.</i>				
Stations.	Height to Wall Plate or Ceiling (ft.).	Floor Space (sq. ft.).	Cubic Space (cub. ft.).	Verandahs if provided (width in ft.)
North China (special case)	11	70	770	8
CATEGORY III.				
Egypt	13	80	1,040	10
Ceylon (Coast)				
South China (except Hong Kong Peak)				
Mauritius				
West African Hill Stations				
West Indies				
CATEGORY IV.				
Soudan	14	100	1,400	10
West Africa (Plains)				
Straits Settlements				

Fig. 3.7 Table on minimum space requirements for housing British soldiers in the 1923 edition (top) and 1931 edition (bottom) of the Barrack Synopsis. Source: War Office, Barrack Synopsis; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee

3 STUDY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGY

Military Barracks Typology

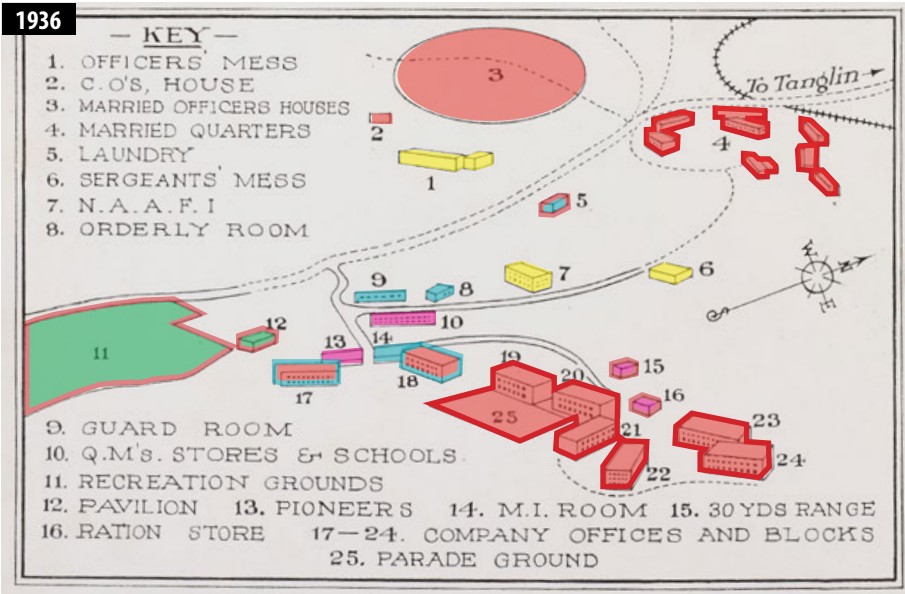


Fig. 3.8 Site map of Gillman Barracks detailing the amenities provided, c.1936. They included married officers houses, married quarters, sports facilities, recreation grounds and mess. Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

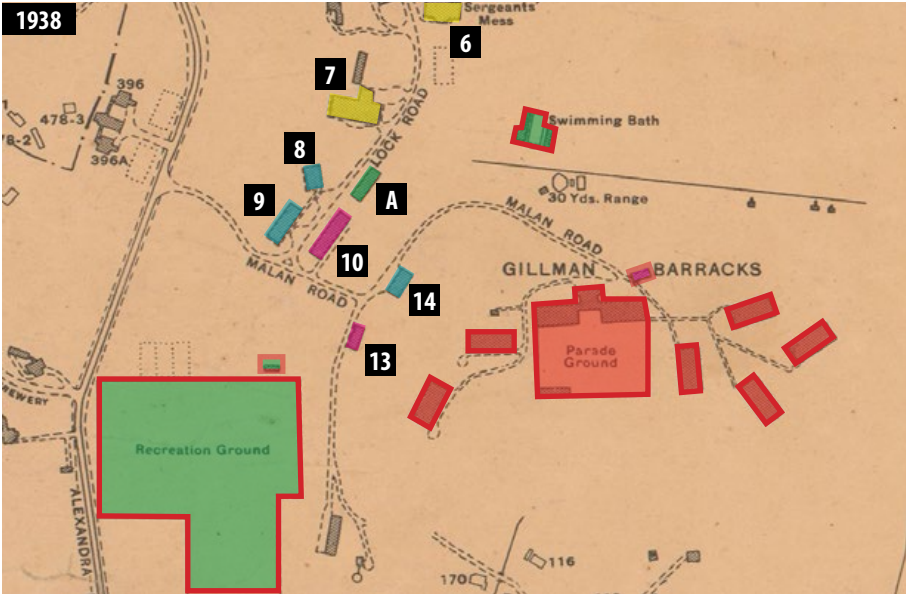


Fig. 3.9 Site map of Gillman Barracks detailing the amenities provided, c. 1938. They included a swimming bath and an expansive recreation ground highlighted in green. Source: Singapore Land Authority collection via National Archives of Singapore

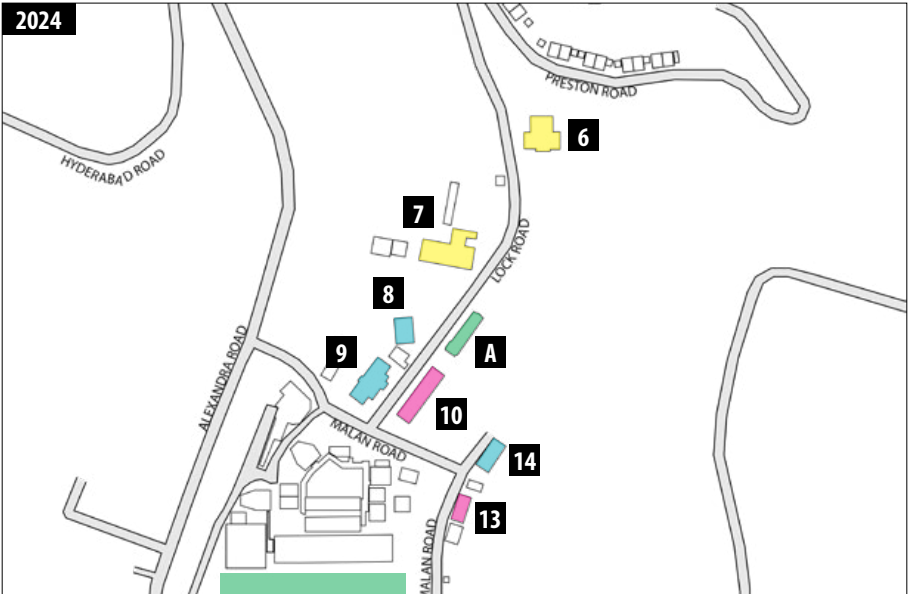


Fig. 3.10 Site map of Gillman Barracks today, 2024. It shows which buildings have remained, or been demolished and replaced in the Study Area. The recreation ground was partially demolished and reconstituted as part of the SAJC track field. Source: Studio Lapis



[7] Former N.A.A.F.I Building - 9 Lock Road



[11] Former Officers' Mess - 10 Hyderabad Road. Source: Jerome Lim



[6] Former Sergeants' Mess - 22 Lock Road



[8] Former Orderly Room - 8 Lock Road



[9] Former Guard Room - 5 Lock Road



[10] Former Q.M. stores and schools - 6 Lock Road



[A] Former Regal Cinema - 7 Lock Road



[13] Pioneers Battalion - 38 Malan Road



[14] Medical Inspection Room - 37 Malan Road

LEGEND

Barracks and Accommodation	Mess Buildings	Leisure and Recreation
Offices and Operations	Training Facilities	Demolished

Amenities in a Military Enclave: Disciplining a Body

Apart from the military barracks for the accommodation of British soldiers, Gillman Barracks also featured a **plethora of amenities** such as (Chew, 2017):

- Married quarters
- Mess halls
- Regimental institutes
- Sports facilities
- Recreational grounds

The provision of such amenities which cater for activities beyond the purposes of military training **creates an enclave** which Chang calls a “space of exception.” The British military enclave in Singapore is a space of exception primarily because it is **separated from the living quarters and conditions of the local population, while it is configured to allow for certain technologies of spatial governance that enable specific biopolitics to materialise.** In this instance, the endowment of these amenities in military enclaves was a lasting legacy of the 1863 Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army in India (RCSSAI) report which noted widespread intemperance and ailments that were attributed to high mortality amongst British soldiers.

The report, along with BHIC, made propositions for facilities such as workshops, gardens, gymnasiums, libraries and reading rooms in these military enclaves **to compel soldiers to engage in productive craft, agriculture and exercise.** Resultantly, the provision of amenities was accomplished to lend a controlled environment that **disciplined the soldier into various forms of physical and moral improvements** (Chang, 2016).

[A], [6] to [10], [13], [14] Source: Studio Lapis

Military Barracks Typology

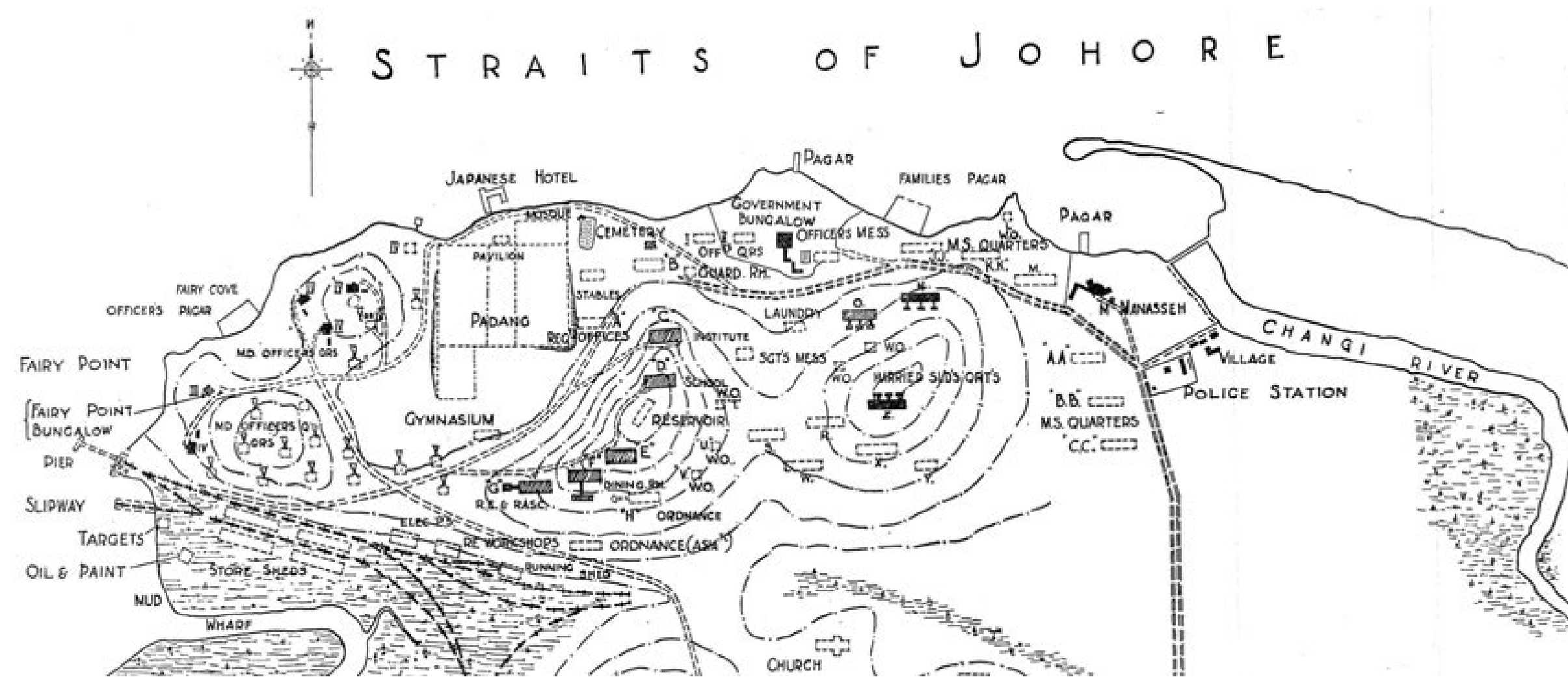


Fig. 3.11 Masterplan of Changi Cantonment prepared by the Gillman Commission in 1927. Source: Royal Engineers Journal; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee

Interwar Military Barracks for Land Forces

A series of military barracks for regiments in British land forces based in Singapore were built contemporaneously with Gillman Barracks during the interwar years. With many of them located in the Changi Cantonment, the military barracks that were constructed during the interwar years were in large part **the result of the 1927 Gillman Commission**.

In March 1927, the Army Council sent a commission under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Sir Webb Gillman to Singapore. **The aim of the commission was to investigate and ascertain the efficacy of the proposed defences of the Sembawang Naval Base**, which had been approved by the Committee of Imperial Defence. The investigation lasted nearly six months and the report for the Gillman Commission was produced by August 1927.

In the report, the 1927 Gillman Commission had recommended fortifying defence capabilities in Changi by arming the East Coast with 15-inch guns. It was likely that the guns were recommended because 15-inch ordnance and mounting were readily stocked by the Admiralty of the War Office. In addition to the report, the 1927 Gillman Commission also prepared a master plan of the Changi Cantonment, **siting numerous military barracks on the hilly terrain to accommodate British land-based forces such as the infantry and artillery regiments**.

These military barracks built during the interwar years included:

- Gillman Barracks (c. 1935 - 36) for the 1st Battalion Middlesex Infantry Regiment
- India Barracks (c. 1934) for the Anti-Aircraft (AA) Battalions in the Royal Artillery
- Selarang Barracks (c. 1936 - 38) for the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders Infantry Regiment
- Roberts Barracks (c. 1934 - 36) for the Coast Artillery Regiment of the Royal Artillery
- Kitchener Barracks (c. 1935) and Fairy Point Temporary Barracks (c.1935) for the Royal Engineers

Gillman Barracks, 1937



Fig. 3.12 View of Gillman Barracks from Lock Road, c. 1937. Source: Glyn Wright Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Block H of Kitchener Barracks, 1946



Fig. 3.13 Block H of Kitchener Barracks, c. 1946. The block was eventually renamed "Block 24" when Kitchener Barracks was converted to the Changi Royal Air Force Hospital in 1950. Source: RAFSA Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Roberts Barracks, 1942



Fig. 3.14 View of Roberts Barracks, c. 1942. Source: John Rosson via Australian War Memorial

Selangor Barracks, 1950



Fig. 3.15 View of Selangor Barracks from the parade square, c. 1950. Source: Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

3 STUDY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGY

Military Barracks Typology

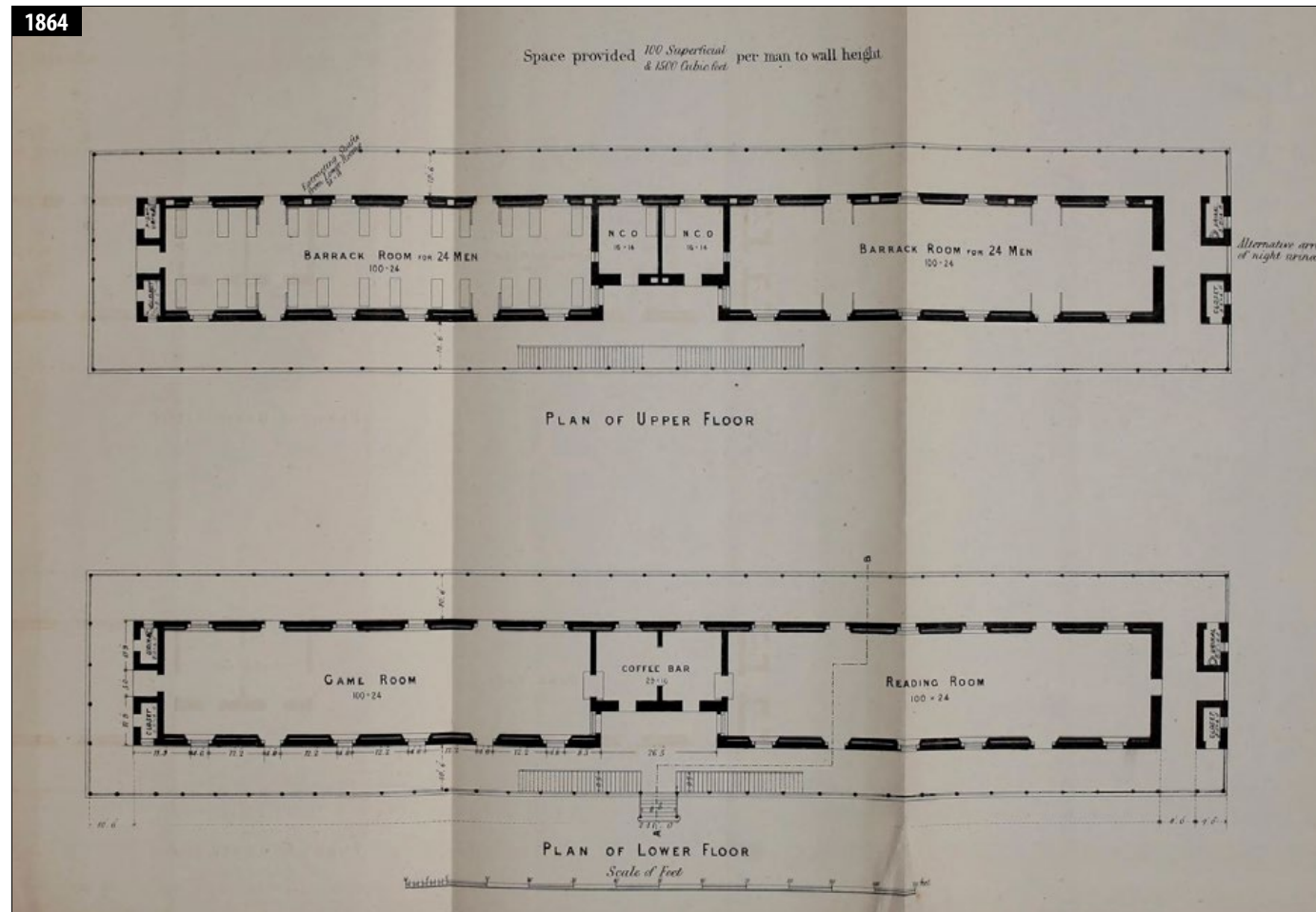


Fig. 3.16 Plans of a new two-storey model military barracks proposed for the British Army in India, c. 1864. One of the key provisions for tropicalised barracks is the ample verandahs that extend across the long sides of the building. Source: BHIC, Suggestions in regard to Sanitary Works required for Improving Indian Stations.

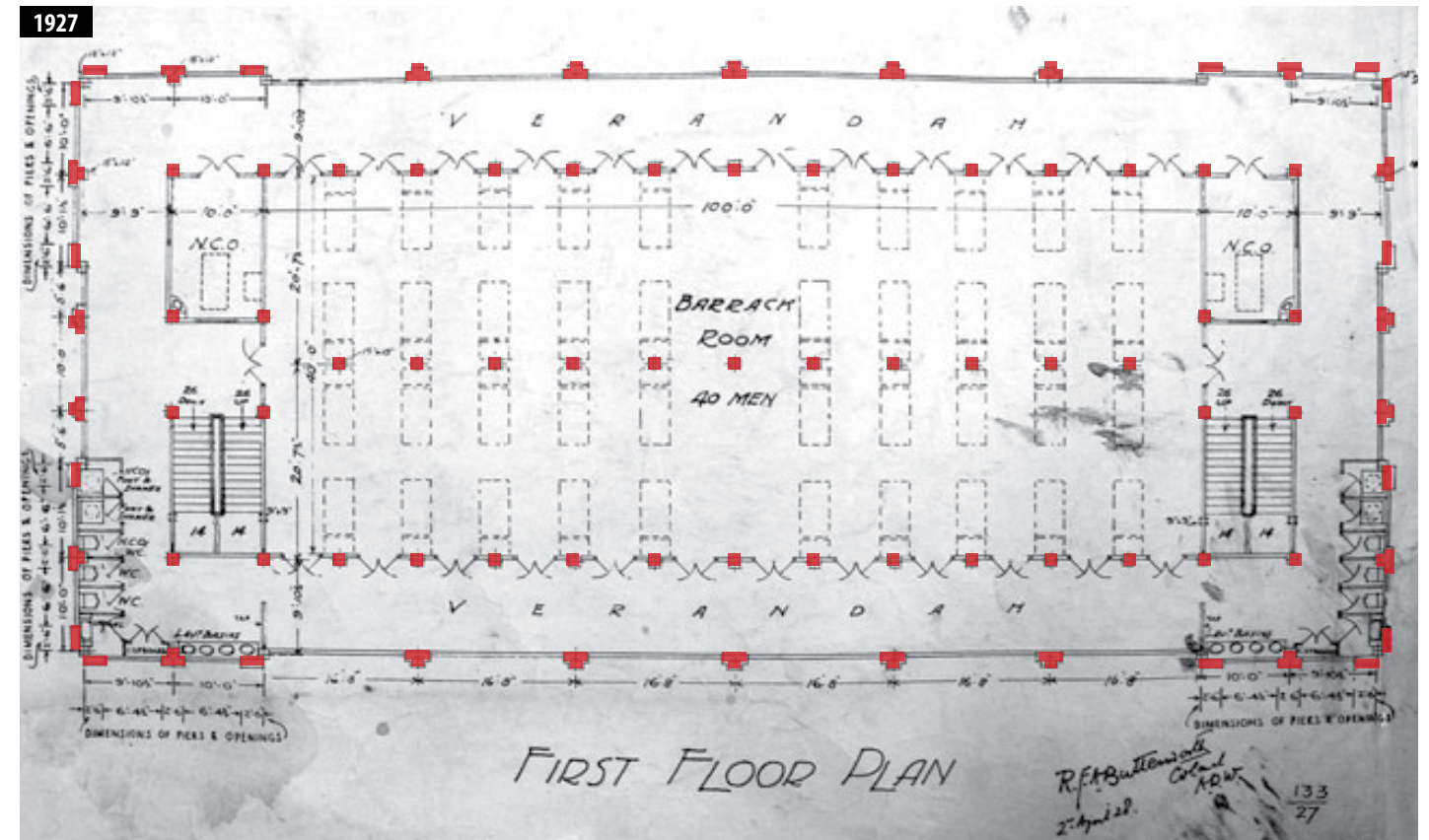


Fig. 3.17 First floor plan of the barrack block (Fairy Point Barrack) in Changi Cantonment. Source: The National Archives UK; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee

Floor Plans of Interwar Military Barracks

The floor plan layout of military barracks built in Singapore during the interwar years exhibits **a high degree of uniformity and standardisation**. The spatial layout of these interwar military barracks is **an adaptation of the recommendations and standards stipulated by the Barrack Synopsis**, which existed in various editions formulated by BHIC to uplift the sanitation and hygiene levels in the British Army.

The spatial logic of these interwar military barracks is designed in line with the recommendations of the Barrack Synopsis, with the **lavatories located at the corner of the barrack block**. Undergirded by the miasmatic theory of disease transmission, this stipulation to **situate lavatories furthest from the bunks** was made under the belief that lavatories produced the largest amount of noxious gases.

Verandahs were also provided **along the perimeter of the barrack building**, as recommended, to prevent excessive heat gain in the internal spaces. Heat and stale air arising from insufficient ventilation were believed to be factors that contributed to the spreading of diseases.

Where the plans of the interwar military barracks deviate from the recommended layout of tropical barracks by the Barrack Synopsis is likely due to the specific contexts that these barracks were constructed in and for.

In the plan above, a barrack building for the British Army in India for 48 men is designed in a single-bay structure, which lends the floor plan an elongated length in its form. However, the **elongated form of the tropical barrack recommended in the Barrack Synopsis is unsuitable for the context of Singapore's interwar military barracks**. Singapore's interwar military barracks were **often built on hilly terrain, and an elongated architectural form would be inefficient at mitigating the contours on site**.

Resultantly, the interwar barrack block in Singapore **has adopted a stouter floor plan for a shorter building length to better mitigate the contoured sites upon which it is located**. It is able to house nearly the same number of men in a shorter block by thickening the barrack building with an additional structural bay.

Use of Reinforced Concrete Frame Structure

The interwar military barracks in Singapore were constructed with a reinforced concrete (RC) frame structure. It is typically built up to **three storeys, and features a variation of structural bay layouts in a single building**.

The grid for the columns in the internal space (behind the verandah) is dense, typically spanning 8-10 feet (longitudinal section) by 20 feet (transverse section). The denser grid of structural columns in the internal spaces **allows for a smaller column footprint to be used**, thereby leaving more floor area for the barracks. It also **doubles as a marker for the location of the beds in the barrack room**. The columns on the facade reference the grid line of the internal columns, but are **situated only at every two intervals, thus necessitating the use of larger columns**.

The RC frame structure adopts haunched beams. Haunched beams are economical as they are **designed for a shallower beam depth and require less concrete for their construction**. The benefit of the shallower beam depth also lends the perception of higher headroom in the barracks.

Military Barracks Typology

1927

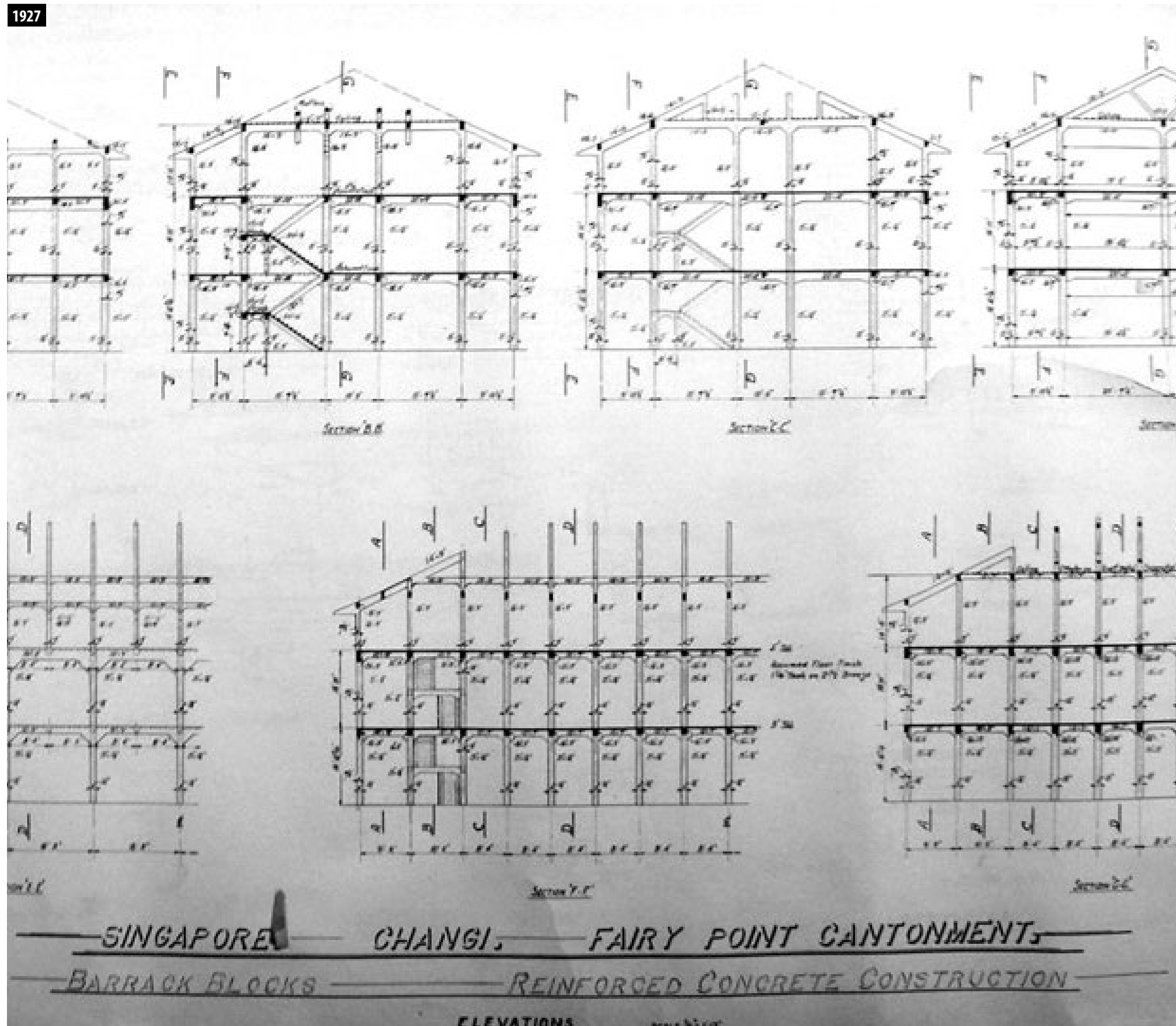


Fig. 3.18 Section of the barrack at Fairy Point, c. 1927. The barracks are constructed with a RC frame structure and adopts haunched beam profiles in its construction. Source: The National Archives UK; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee



Fig. 3.19 The haunched beams in the RC frame structure can be seen on the facade and internal spaces of the interwar military barracks. With an additional structural bay provided to shorten the barrack block, a row of columns can be seen in the barrack room.

3 STUDY OF BUILDING TYPOLOGY

Military Barracks Typology

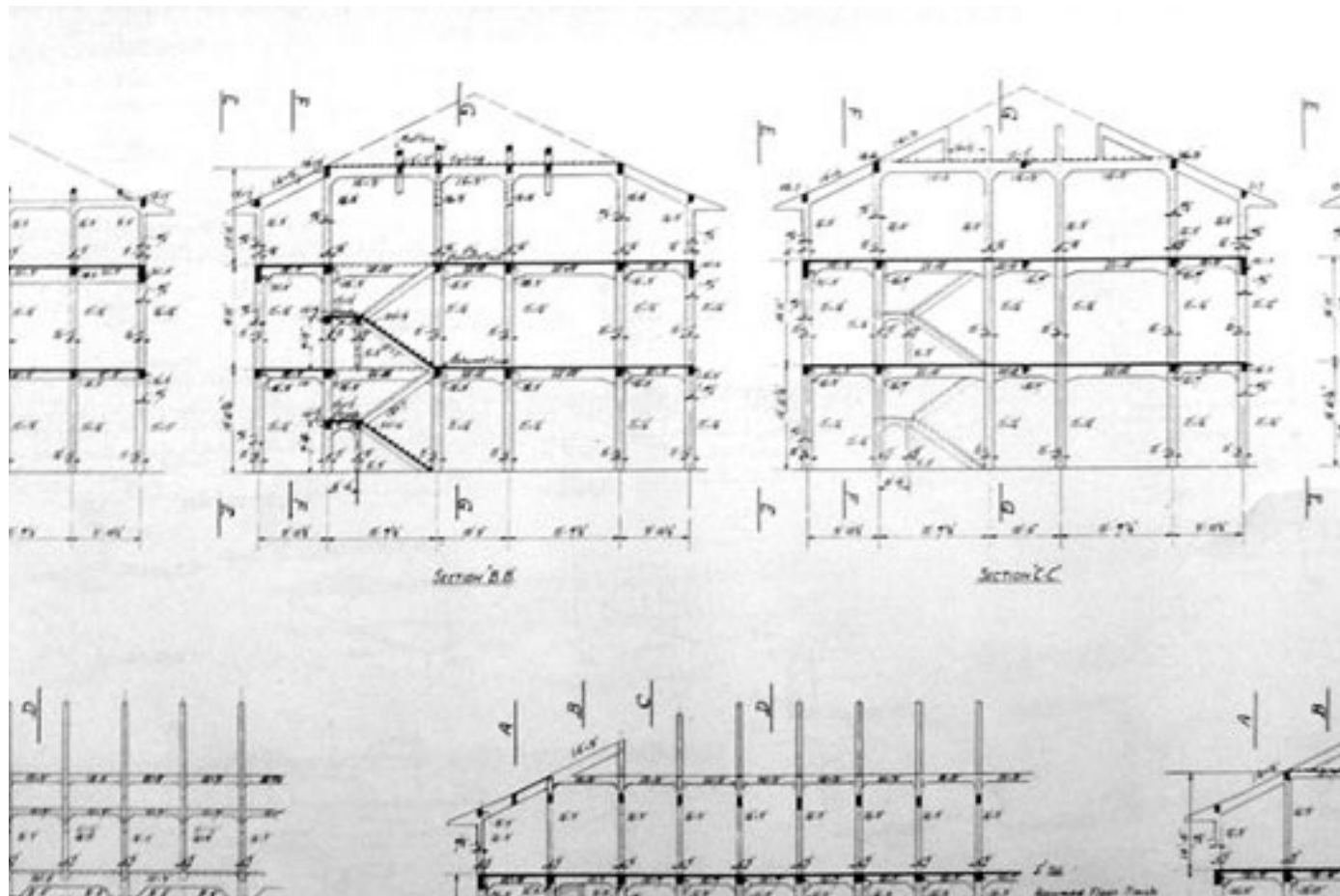


Fig. 3.20 Section of the barrack at Fairy Point, c. 1927. Source: The National Archives UK; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee

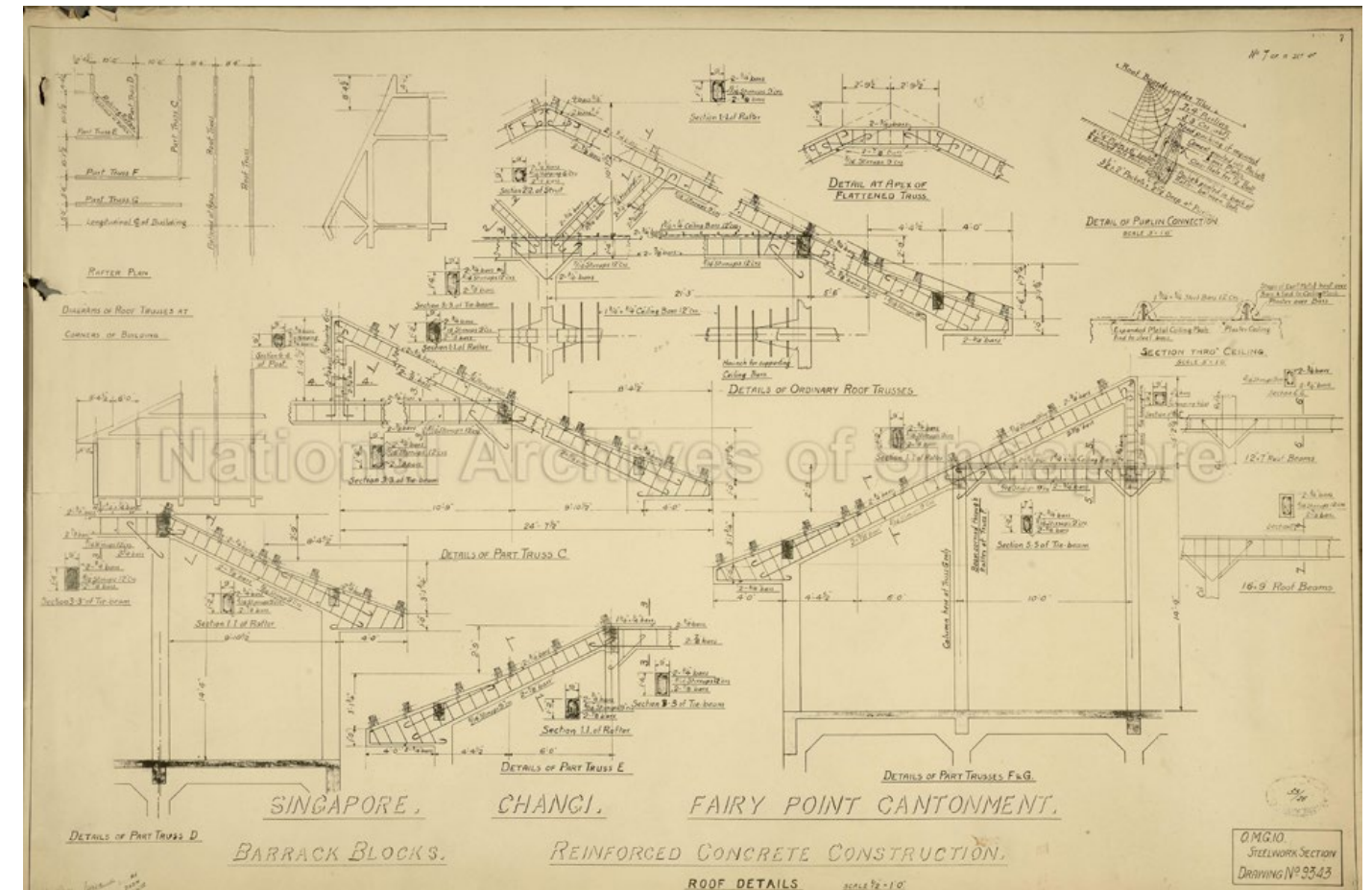


Fig. 3.21 RC Roof construction detail of the barrack block (Fairy Point Barrack) in Changi Cantonment. Source: The National Archives UK via National Archives of Singapore

Roof Profiles of Interwar Military Barracks

The interwar military barracks in Singapore are typically expressed in RC flat roof or clay-tile pitched roof construction. Interestingly, the **interwar barracks located in the coastal areas**, such as Fairy Point Temporary Barracks, Kitchener Barracks (and Fleet Shore Accommodation at Sembawang Naval Base), are **typically designed with a pitched-roof construction**.

Interwar military barracks located inland such as Selarang Barracks, Roberts Barracks, and Gillman Barracks, on the other hand, are **designed with RC flat roof construction**. A plausible reason for the difference is the difference in wind loads between the coastal and inland areas.

Compared to inland areas, **coastal areas typically experience more consistent wind speeds** with noticeable daily fluctuations in wind direction due to the "land-sea breeze" phenomenon, where wind blows from the ocean towards the land during the day and from the land towards the ocean at night.

For the interwar military barracks located nearer to the coast, the **pitched roof design is more resistant to wind uplift forces than the flat roof which is likely to account for its adoption**.

Gillman Barracks: A Rare Representation

In consideration of the similarities between the interwar military barracks in Singapore, Gillman Barracks bears the greatest resemblance to the blocks of those in Roberts and Selarang Barracks.

Save for a single Block 151 which has been retained because it houses the Changi Murals, done by British bombardier and prisoner-of-war Stanley Warren during World War II, **Selarang and Roberts Barracks were demolished in the 1980s**. In 1994, a significant portion of Gillman Barracks was also expunged to make way for development.

What remains today on Gillman Barracks are the last vestiges of interwar military barracks in Singapore that are located inland, and feature flat roof RC construction. This makes it a very rare representation of this particular typology of military barracks.

The former **NAAFI block (located on 9 Lock Road)**, in particular, is a rare and intact representation of the three-storey military barrack that was constructed in RC and flat roof during Singapore's interwar years.

Military Barracks Typology

Kitchener Barracks, 1946



Fig. 3.22 Block H of Kitchener Barracks features a pitched roof design, c. 1946. Source: RAFSA Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Selangor Barracks, 1942



Fig. 3.25 Prisoner-of-war camp at Selangor Barracks during World War II, c. 1942. Source: George Aspinall via Australian War Memorial

Gillman Barracks, 1957



Fig. 3.28 NAAFI Block at Gillman Barracks, c. 1957. Source: William Wee Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 3.23 The buildings of the former Kitchener Barracks, now along Hendon Road, have undergone adaptive reuse thus retaining a representation of interwar military barracks with pitched roofs in Singapore. Source: Jerome Lim



Fig. 3.26 Overview of Selangor Barracks and its parade square, c. 1967. Source: Burnside, Kennedy Byron via Australian War Memorial

Block 151, Roberts Barracks



Fig. 3.29 Block 151 of Robert Barracks is retained with the Changi Murals by Stanley Warren, c. 2013. Source: Jerome Lim



Fig. 3.24 The buildings at Roberts Barracks feature a flat RC roof construction, c. 1942. All but Block 151, which houses the Changi Murals by Stanley Warren, of Roberts Barracks have been demolished. Source: John Rosson via Australian War Memorial

Selangor Barracks, 1987



Fig. 3.27 Demolition of Selangor Barracks in 1987. Source: Ministry of Defence Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Former NAAFI Block, Gillman Barracks



Fig. 3.30 Former NAAFI Block at Gillman Barracks. It is an extremely rare representation of interwar military barracks in Singapore. Source: Studio Lapis

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4. Study of Communities

Study of Communities | Introduction to Communities

A PLEASANT OUTSTATION

Often described by former officers as “**one of the most pleasant overseas stations in the Army**,” Gillman Barracks has, across its long history, been experienced as a self-contained world. Each community that occupied it, whether they were military, educational, or creative communities, lived, worked, and socialised within its boundaries, forming a rhythm of everyday life shaped by the site’s distinctive terrain and order.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

During the British military period, Gillman Barracks was home to **rotating battalions** who typically stayed for **one to three years**. Among them were units such as the **Middlesex Regiment** and the **2nd Battalion, Loyal Regiment**. While exact numbers are unknown, personnel ranged across all ranks and lived within a cohesive environment of barracks, messes, and family quarters. Life was structured yet comfortable: officers and soldiers recalled strong camaraderie, with leisure centred on sports fields, cinemas, and mess halls.

The Second World War brought a traumatic, intense rupture. **The barracks turned into a battlefield**, leaving behind faint physical traces but deep symbolic ones that would later be remembered in military histories and heritage interpretation.

In the post-war years, the site hosted the **British Royal Engineer units** and later **ANZUK forces**, marking the transition toward shared use among Commonwealth troops.

After Singapore’s independence, the same buildings continued to serve military purposes under the **Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)**. The site became one of the training grounds for **National Service (NS) combat engineers**, where recruits underwent basic training and lived onsite for short postings of about three to four months, while officers and instructors from the **SAF Transport Unit and Combat Engineers Unit** often served longer stints of nearly a decade. Stories of rigorous training, communal living, and recreation attest to a continuity of collective life and camaraderie within the inherited military landscape.

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Parallel to its military functions, Gillman Barracks was also home to educational communities. During the British period, **Alexandra Grammar and Modern School**, and later **Bourne School**, served the children of military personnel stationed across Singapore,

forming a close-knit student population whose playground extended to the undulating landscape of the barracks. Later, **St Andrew’s Junior College** was built on the former Recreation Grounds of Gillman Barracks, one of the early institutions set up under the new system for centralised pre-university education. Meanwhile, the **Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute** also occupied parts of the site.

Each of these institutions created its own formative social world. Students remembered the campus as both a place of study and freedom, a vivid phase of youth set against the unique historic, green, hilly setting of Gillman Barracks.

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITIES

After SAF vacated the camp in the 1980s-90s, the site reopened as Gillman Village, providing access to the once-restricted grounds to the public, transforming its regimental exclusivity into a casual open environment of cafés, studios, and small shops. This new permeability laid the groundwork for the Arts Era that began in 2012, when international galleries, local artists, and visitors reanimated the site through exhibitions, festivals, and creative collaborations.

Many of the **early gallery tenants**, such as **Mizuma Gallery** and **Subham Tagore Gallery**, remained for nearly a decade, until 2021, when the area was again slated for redevelopment. Owners and workers who spent years there recall the site with fondness — as a place of experimentation, shared labour, and collective hope for Singapore’s evolving arts and cultural scene.

SUPPORTING SERVICES AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Throughout its history, Gillman Barracks was also a lived landscape for the workers who supported its main institutions. During the British colonial period, **Asian service workers** from nearby settlements sustained the daily rhythm of the barracks, taking on specialised roles such as **sew-sews (tailors)**, **batmen (personal orderlies)**, **barbers**, and **vendors at the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) canteens**. Their presence formed the basis of casual, everyday interactions with British military personnel.

Though little is recorded about the surrounding settlements, they likely included **Kampong Heap Guan San**, located southeast of the site and comprising several Chinese villages. These communities were later likely resettled into the newly developed **Telok Blangah New Town** during the 1970s, and it is possible that some families remain in the area today, carrying forward some continuity of the place’s working-class heritage.

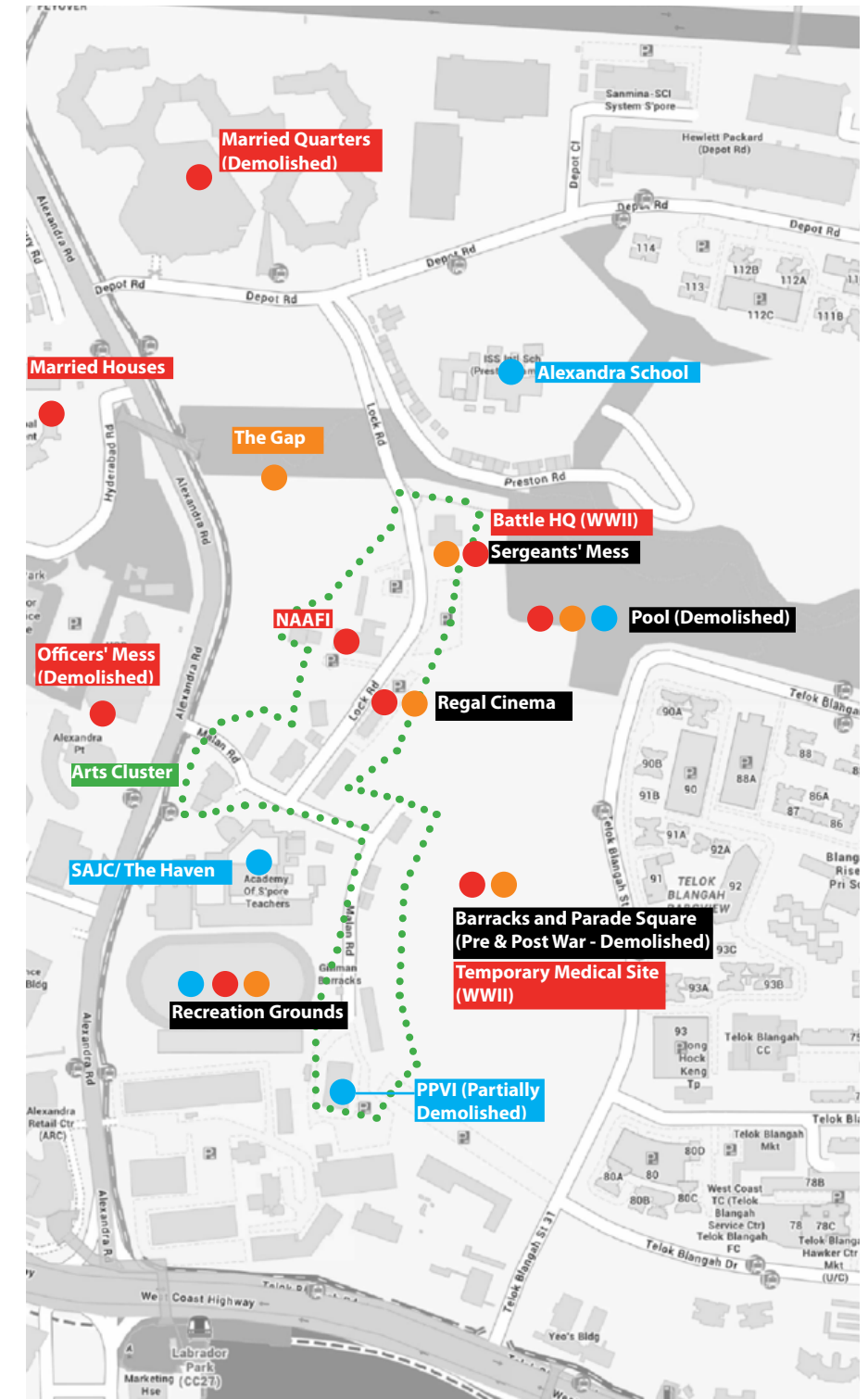


Fig 4.1 Mapping of all important social spaces and uses associated with various communities on contemporary map. Base Map Source: Singapore Land Authority

Legend

- British Military
- SAF
- Education Communities
- ⋯ Arts and Culture Communities

British Military and Engineers (1936-1971) | Accommodation and Work at the Barracks

Impressions & Coming to Singapore

The British military presence in Singapore between 1936 and 1971 (with a short break during the Japanese Occupation) brought a steady rotation of soldiers, engineers, and their families. Many were drafted or conscripted, having completed basic military training in Britain before being posted to the Far East. As **Lieutenant Colonel Robin Eccles** recalled, “I was very keen and very pleased to get the opportunity to go out to the Far East.” **For most, these postings lasted between one and three years, a brief but vivid chapter in their service life.**

In the interwar years, units such as the **1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1936–1938)** and the **2nd Battalion Loyal Regiment (1938–1942)** were stationed in Gillman Barracks. The post-war years saw the return of the **1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders in 1947** and the enduring presence of the **Royal Engineers and the Singapore Engineer Regiment (1945 onwards)** through to Britain’s final withdrawal in 1971.

The early arrivals often spoke of their first impressions with a mixture of awe and discomfort. To those like **Richard England**, who spent three years in Singapore, the environment was “hot and full of different faces, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, British, Gurkhas, Dayaks.” **The voyage itself was part of the adventure:** England arrived by ship after a 22-day journey through the Suez Canal, disembarking at Keppel Docks.

Although British officers and soldiers dominated the early decades, the late colonial and transitional years also saw the rise of local officers such as **Chia Keng Wah**, who served from 1956 to 1971 under the **Singapore Engineer Regiment**, living and working within the base community. Their presence reflected the gradual shift from a purely British military enclave to one intertwined with Singapore’s own emerging technical and engineering corps.

Living & Working Conditions

Life within the Gillman Barracks was structured by rank, duty, and social expectation. **The physical layout of quarters reflected the hierarchies of the armed forces, where one lived was determined entirely by one’s position.**

Senior officers and their families occupied the married houses located on the **north-western side of the base across Alexandra Road**. These were typically spacious bungalows set amid landscaped gardens, often complete with outhouses for

local domestic staff. The arrangement evoked a suburban ideal transplanted into the tropics.

Other middle-ranking officers and their families occupied the married quarters located on the northern side of the base at Railway Hill in apartments. Some officers also lived in the upper storeys of the **Officers’ Mess**. As **Lieutenant Robin Eccles** recalled

“We all had large single rooms,” Eccles noted, “with a desk, comfortable chair, sitting area and sleeping area. Most of us out at the back shared a bathroom and toilet—there was a bath and toilet for two officers, which you reached by going out a door at the back of your room.”

Further south, closer to the company offices and parade grounds, were the barracks for the lower-ranking soldiers. These buildings were more utilitarian, long blocks of open dormitories that could accommodate twenty to thirty men, each with his own bed and small locker. Daily drills and training took place nearby, with communal recreation or reading rooms likely occupying the ground floor. These shared facilities fostered a degree of camaraderie among the younger officers, who lived together.

Daily Routines and Rhythms

Life across the barracks followed a disciplined rhythm. Each day began with inspections and personal upkeep. As **Richard England** recalled, “You’ve got to keep yourself clean—clean clothing and a fresh change after the shower.” Yet, he noted, “it was more lenient and relaxed” than might be expected of military life. For the lower-ranking soldiers, discipline likely remained stricter, though few direct accounts survive from the barracks themselves.

Most personnel began their days early, dispersing to their respective postings after morning routines. **Lieutenant Robin Eccles** described **walking from his quarters to the military offices on the southern side of the base**, where administrative and operational work was carried out from around 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 or 5:00 p.m., a full day by any measure. Work was not strictly confined to the Barracks. **Richard England, who worked at Keppel Docks**, recalled a more intensive schedule: “We’d go out in a launch, meet a ship, discuss, lay transports. I worked the seven-to-eleven shift, one-to-five, and sometimes the late shift again from seven to eleven.” Discipline, while present, varied according to the nature of one’s duties. “It was relaxed in our particular line, by virtue of the work we were doing,” Marches at the **Parade Grounds were likely reserved for special occasions** such as visits by higher-ranking officers or the Royal Family.



Fig. 4.2 1933–1938, At the parade ground of barrack hill. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

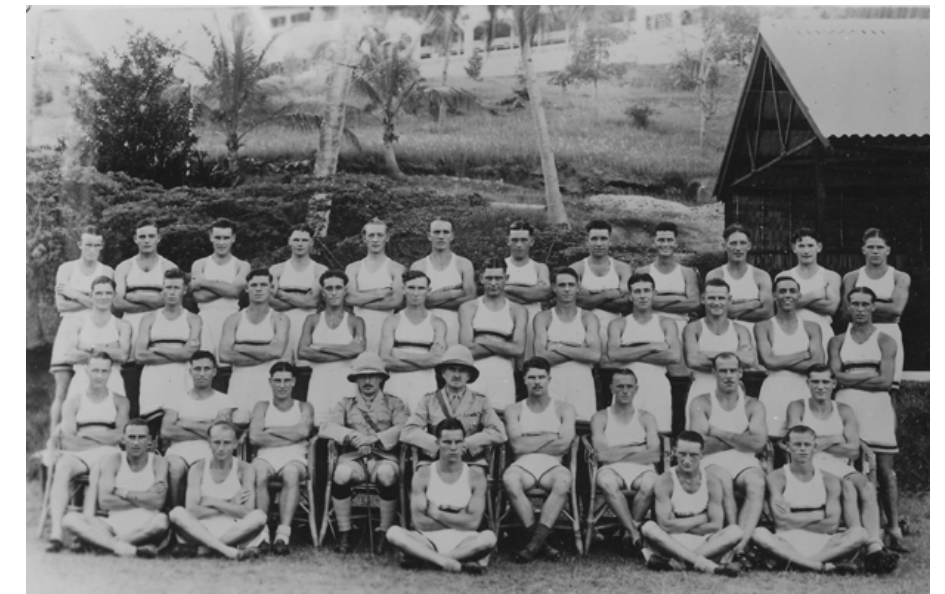


Fig. 4.3 1937, Sports team of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Source: Glyn Wright collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.4 1935–1938, Parade ground with barrack blocks behind. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

British Military and Engineers (1936-1971) | Accommodation and Work at the Barracks

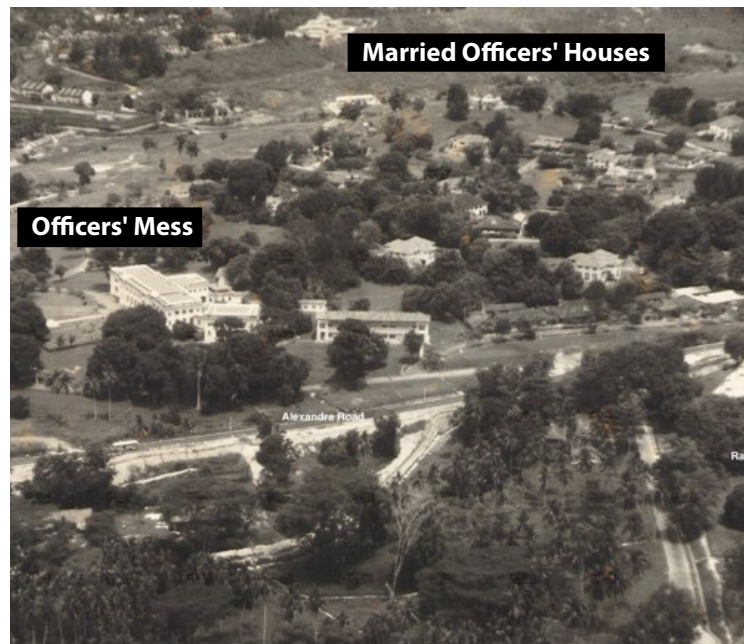
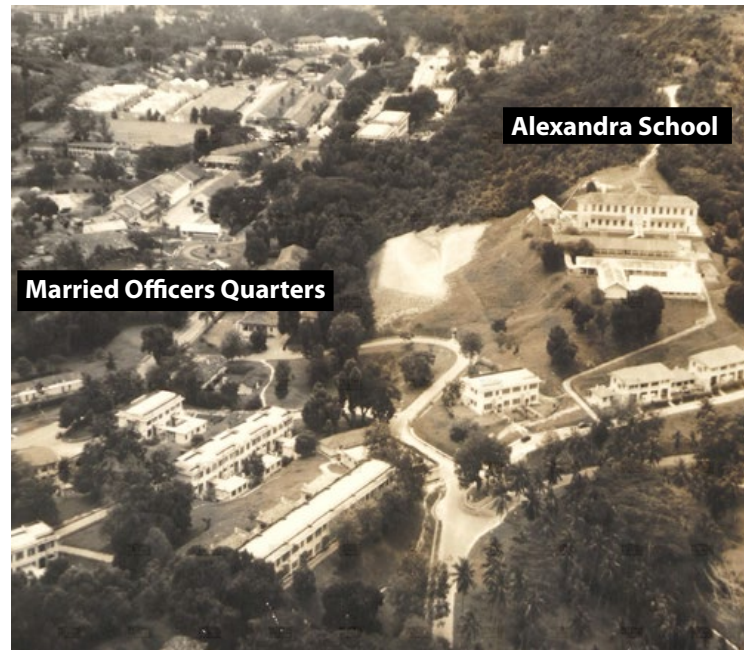


Fig. 4.5 & Fig. 4.6 1958, Aerial Photo. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Legend

- Higher/ Middle Ranking Officers Accomodation
- Middle/ Lower Ranking Officers Accomodation

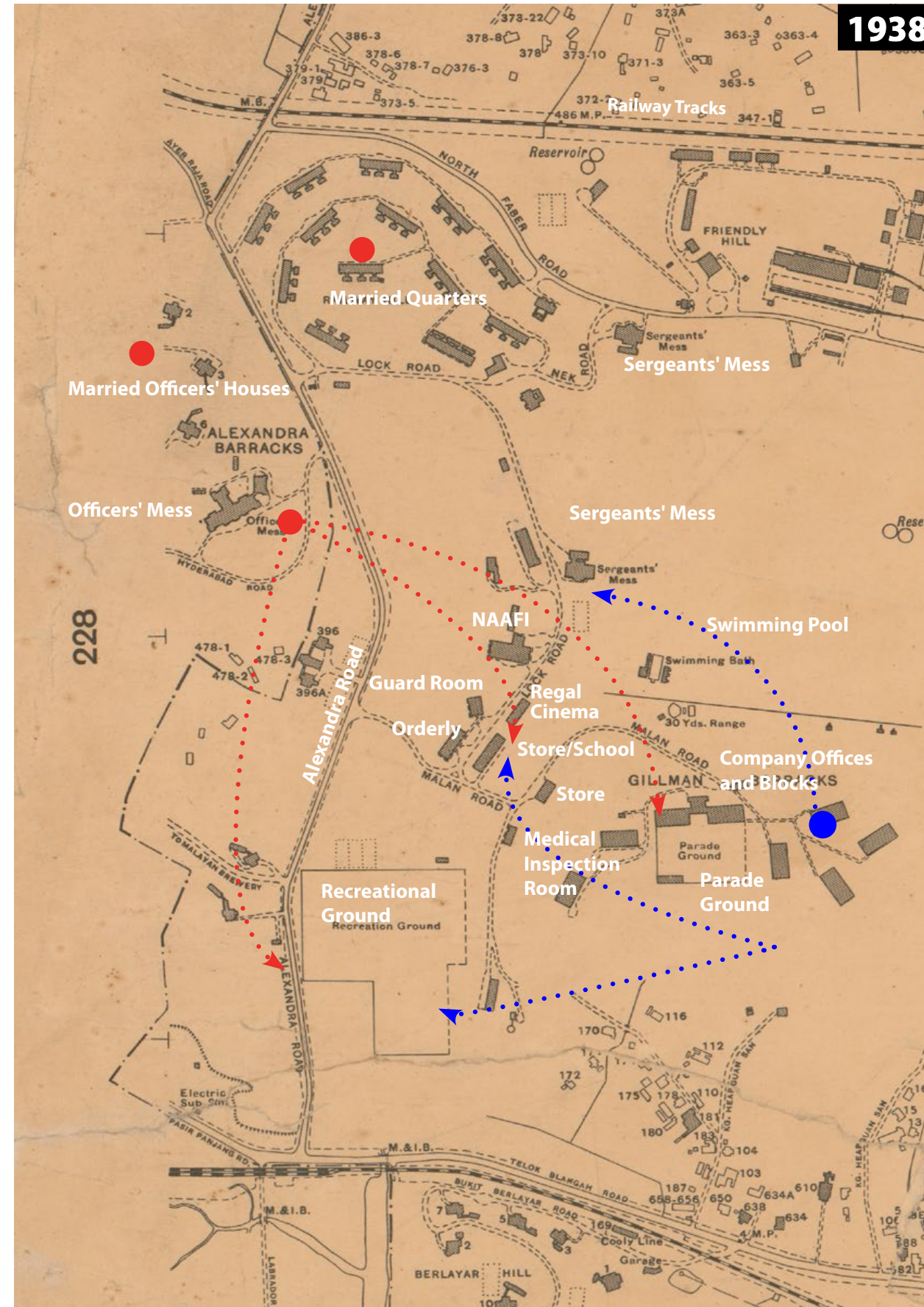


Fig. 4.7 Structures and their functions within Gillman Barracks in the 1930s. Source: Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.8 1936 View of Barracks from Mount Faber. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 4.9 1955, Duke of Edinburgh visits the Parade Grounds at Gillman Barracks. Source: Ministry of Information and The Arts Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

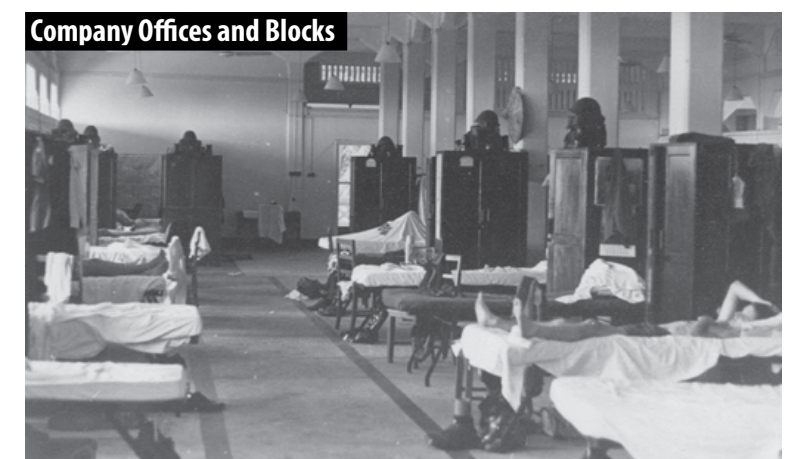


Fig. 4.10 Barrack interiors. Source: Brown via Military Survey Historic Archive

British Military and Engineers (1936-1971) | Recreation and Amenities

Local Workers and Domestic Arrangements

Behind the polished order of military life was a network of local labour that kept the barracks functioning. From **batmen to Sew-sews, barbers, and tailors**, these workers maintained the domestic arrangements in the military.

For senior officers living in the married quarters, domestic assistance was standard. **"I had a batman called Suliman** who looked after me and made sure everything was kept in order." A batman was an officer's servant, employed by the officers' mess, "he looked after two or three of us," recalled **Lt. Robin Eccles**. "He was responsible for the laundry, making sure the uniform was correctly cleaned and ready for the next day, and that your room was kept tidy and clean."

Lower- and middle-ranking personnel also engaged local help, though often on a more casual basis. **Richard England** recalled, "We also had help with the **amahs and the 'sew-sews'**—people who could help us keep things spic-and-span." The amahs, typically older Chinese or Eurasian women, offered small domestic services, sometimes as simple as bringing morning tea to the bedside. "It was allowed," England explained, "certain people who were trustworthy. You'd pay because they got your drink to your bedside."

Across the base, everyday amenities were supported by the **NAAFI** (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes), which operated shops and services. **"There was a barber, a Malay gentleman who served the British, and a Cantonese tailor who served the soldiers," Chia Keng Wah** remembered. These spaces were small but important places of casual interaction between the locals and British military.



Fig. 4.11 A Chinese sew-sew tailor who repaired uniforms on the veranda of Block 'H' and also looked after her grandchildren. Source: Gordon Thompson

The Messes

Beyond being a place to eat and unwind after work, **the messes were a microcosm of the hierarchies** that structured military social life. Each rank had its own designated mess: officers, sergeants, and corporals all dined separately, and the boundaries between these spaces were rarely crossed except by invitation.

The mess was described as elegant and comfortable, featuring a large open hall, a small library, a well-appointed dining room, and a bar that was, by 1960s standards, luxuriously air-conditioned. As **Lt. Robin Eccles** recalled, "The colonels would come to the officers' mess for functions. One had to be particularly polite with them and their families - you knew exactly where you stood with regard to senior officers in the mess," he reflected. "To a certain extent, it was a little old-style."

For younger and less senior officers in **the sergeant officers' mess or other messes** in the barracks, this atmosphere was more relaxed. Bonds were forged over shared meals and late-night drinks.

Leisure was also a necessary counterbalance to military life. The rhythm of **"work hard, play hard,"** as **Corporal Richard England** put it, shaped the everyday routine of the British military community in Singapore.

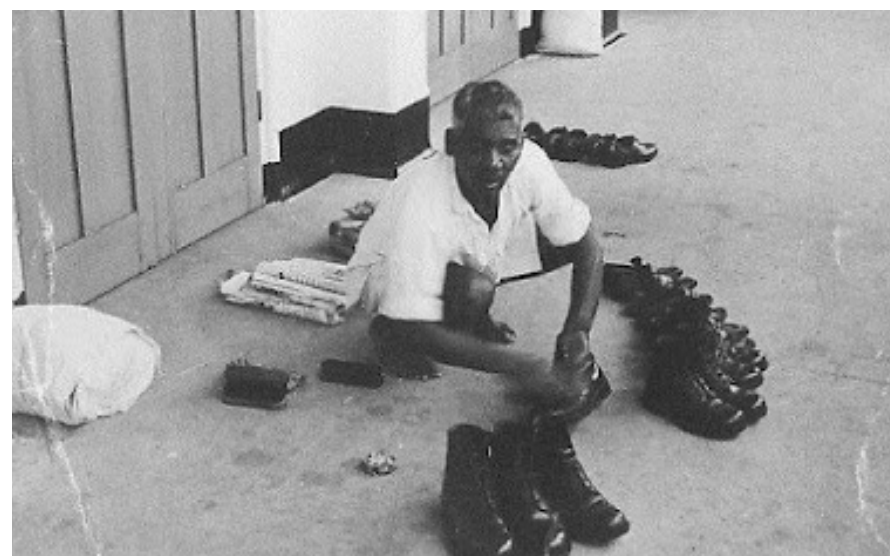


Fig. 4.12 The 'boot boy' who came in early in the mornings to polish the servicemen's boots and Royal Engineer brasses for a nominal fee. Source: Howard Tomlinson



Fig. 4.13 1960s, Interiors of the Sergeants' Mess. Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website



Fig. 4.14 1964, Relaxing at the Sergeants' Mess. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 4.15 1934, An event at the Officers' Mess. Source: Glyn Wright collection via National Archives of Singapore

British Military and Engineers (1936-1971) | Recreation and Amenities

On-Base Recreation

Much of off-duty life revolved around the base itself, where an extensive network of recreational amenities helped sustain morale. There were **cinemas, swimming pools, tennis and golf courts**, and fields for **cricket, hockey, and football**. **Richard England** recalled, "There would be various swimming contests, the cinema, tennis and golf—all on camp."

The swimming pool was particularly central to garrison life. "**It was packed with swimmers every afternoon during those days in the sixties,**" **Chia Keng Wah** recalled. "The Brits were, as now, sun worshippers, and there was more sun-tanning than swimming!"

Evenings often brought social gatherings within the **officers' mess**, where those like **Lt. Robin Eccles** would "come back in the evening for dinner, stay in and have a drink in the air-conditioned bar, or play cards." Some nights, the **Army Kinema Corporation** screened films at the **Regal**, two shows nightly, except on Tuesdays.

Off-Base Leisure

Beyond the perimeter, weekends offered wider adventures. Many soldiers and officers made for **Blakang Mati** (now Sentosa) to swim, or took longer trips up to **Malacca or Penang** when leave permitted. As **Lt. Robin** recalled, "After a few months, we were able to save up enough money to buy a car. We had much greater freedom of movement... three or four of us bought the same sort of car, an old MG sports car, and we'd often go out together, up Bukit Timah Road or to the beaches on the east coast of Malaya."

For socialising, there were the **Union Jack** and **Britannia Clubs**, the main hubs of British expatriate leisure. "At the Union Jack on a Sunday, they had the tea dances," said **England**. "Soldiers, sailors, airmen could meet the local girls, dance, have cake, no drinking, and a lot of local girls married servicemen they met there." Others frequented entertainment districts such as **New World, Great World, and Happy World amusement parks**, or more upmarket venues like the **Raffles Hotel**, though that, as England noted, "was barred to other ranks."

Relationships within and outside of the Barracks

Through this highly structured environment, where one lived, worked, and relaxed within the same perimeter, strong bonds were inevitably forged. Shared routines, confined spaces, and the constant proximity of colleagues produced **a deep familiarity that often endured long after postings ended**.

Though the British community largely maintained a **colonial social bubble**, **there were occasional contact zones in clubs, beaches, and even cross-cultural marriages that blurred its edges**. Yet for most, **interactions with local society remained cordial but distant**. Within the garrison, however, **friendships were strong**. "In the officers' mess, the atmosphere and relationships were good," recalled **Lt. Robin Eccles**. "**There were a number of good friends, people I still keep in contact with now.**" In such a world, where the boundaries between work and leisure barely existed, **camaraderie** was a defining feature of life in the British military community in Singapore.

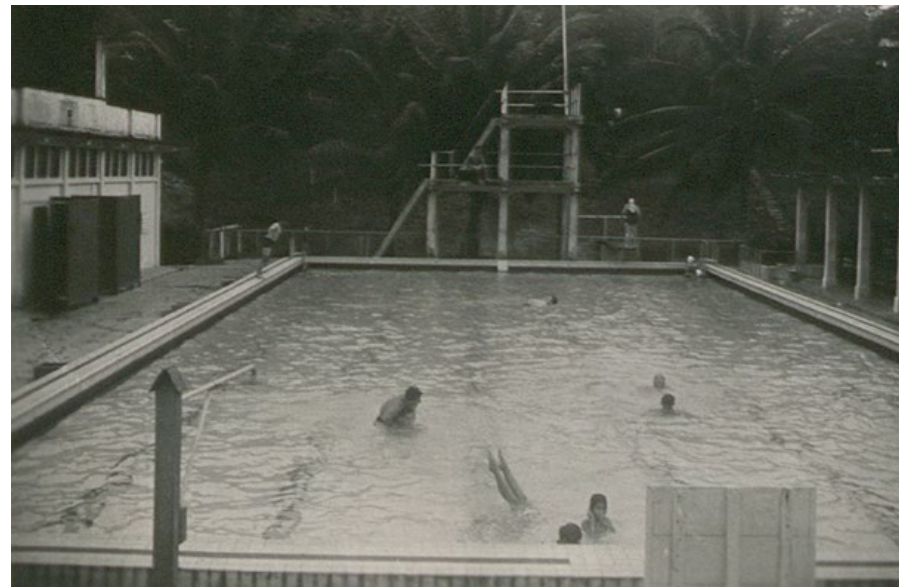


Fig. 4.16 1950s, Gillman Barracks Swimming pool. Source: Henry Turner Collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.17 1930s, Games at the Recreation Grounds. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 4.18 Former Regal Cinema at Lock Road. Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website



Fig. 4.19 1957, Corridors of the Barracks. Source: William Wee collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.20 1960s, Relaxing on the roof of the H blocks barracks. Source: Gordon Thompson

Memories of WWII

Memories of WWII

Among the few surviving records of the Battle for Singapore are a set of sketches made in 1943 by Sergeant S. Strange of the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), of the **scenes of battle in February 1942**, annotated by Lance-Bombardier A. V. Toze. Drawn from memory while in captivity, they capture the chaos and endurance of those last days. The images show the barracks under fire, the **Sergeants' (Sgt's) Mess serving as battalion headquarters**, the various buildings used as rooms where the Loyal Regiment would shoot upon the Japanese Army and the parade square marked with a Red Cross flag, likely because it was temporarily used to hold medical personnel and the surrounding buildings were used to treat wounded soldiers and were a temporary holding place. Strange's notes describe the mortar platoon holding out at the **Alexandra Brickworks** under relentless shelling, and the nearby oil tanks burning black across the sky **seen from the Sports Field down south towards the coastline**.

By 13 February 1942, the 2nd Battalion, The Loyals had fallen back to Gillman Barracks, fighting there until Singapore's surrender on the 15th. Out of an original 873 men, only 165 remained when they finally laid down their arms. For many of them, Gillman was not just a defensive position but home, the barracks where they had lived, trained, and built routines of peacetime life before the invasion.

Reframing the Memory of the Fight

Today, the wartime sketches of Sergeant Strange have taken on a second life through the words of heritage guides who keep their story alive for new audiences. Though no veterans remain, the memory of Gillman Barracks continues to surface through those who interpret Singapore's wartime past. Friends of the Museum guide Jeffrey Tan often describes the site as part of a **"three-piece story... the intense fight of the Malay Regiment at Bukit Chandu/ the Pasir Panjang Ridge, the Loyal Regiment here at Gillman Barracks, and then the prisoners of war marched to Changi, to Selarang prison."**

That detail of men fighting in sight of their own quarters gives the battle a rare intimacy. As Tan reflected, "Normally, soldiers are sent out to fight. But this time around, they were actually fighting in view of where they trained, where they lived." For him, that makes Gillman's story stand apart from the usual narrative of swift defeat: "It wasn't that the Japanese took over and the British just surrendered...they had their fair share of hard fighting to defend Singapore."

In his tours, Tan situates Gillman Barracks within a moral geography of memory that runs from Bukit Chandu to Changi Chapel, a reminder, as he tells visitors, "of where we came from... that the British suffered, fought the war, suffered during the war as well." His reading reframes the site not as a footnote to Singapore's fall, but as a place of courage and endurance. **Where the battle is remembered as a three-dimensional story of struggle.**

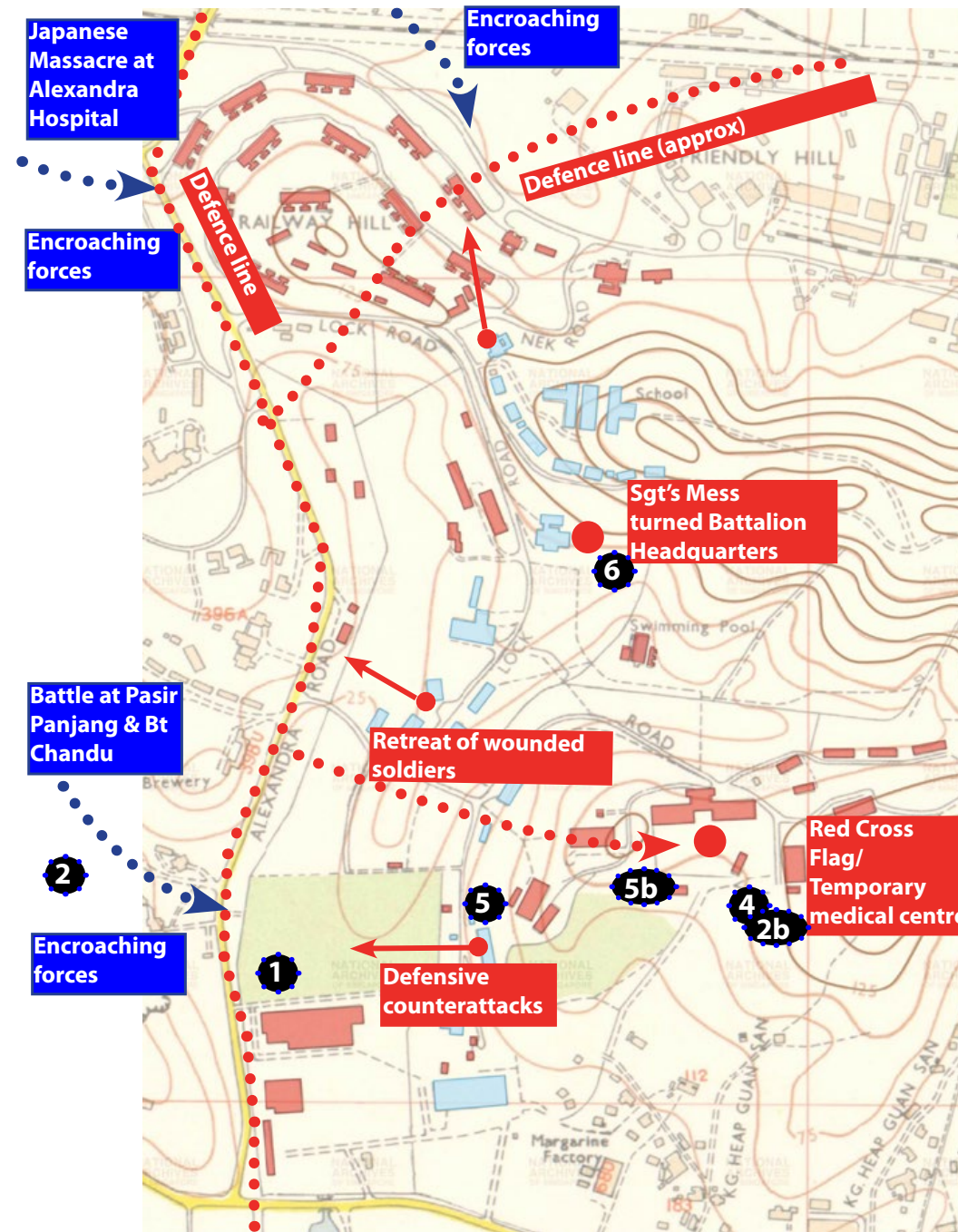


Fig. 4.21 Approximate sketch of the Battle field. Base Map Source: 1959 Accession No. TM001064, Singapore Land Authority Collection, Courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore

- 1 Refer to Fig. 4.24 for corresponding numbers
- Blue box Suspected positions of encroaching forces
- Red box Suspected positions of local forces



Fig. 4.22 1942, Battle at the Hills of Bukit Chermin. Source: Australian War Memorial

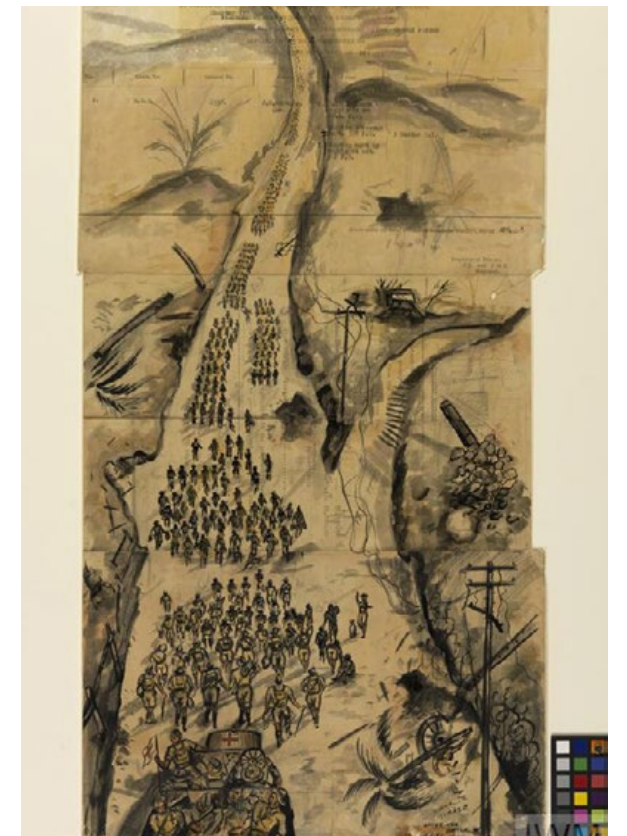


Fig. 4.23 1942, Forced March of British Prisoners of War to Changi. Source: Imperial War Museum, Charles Thrale © The artist's estate

4 STUDY OF COMMUNITIES

Memories of WWII

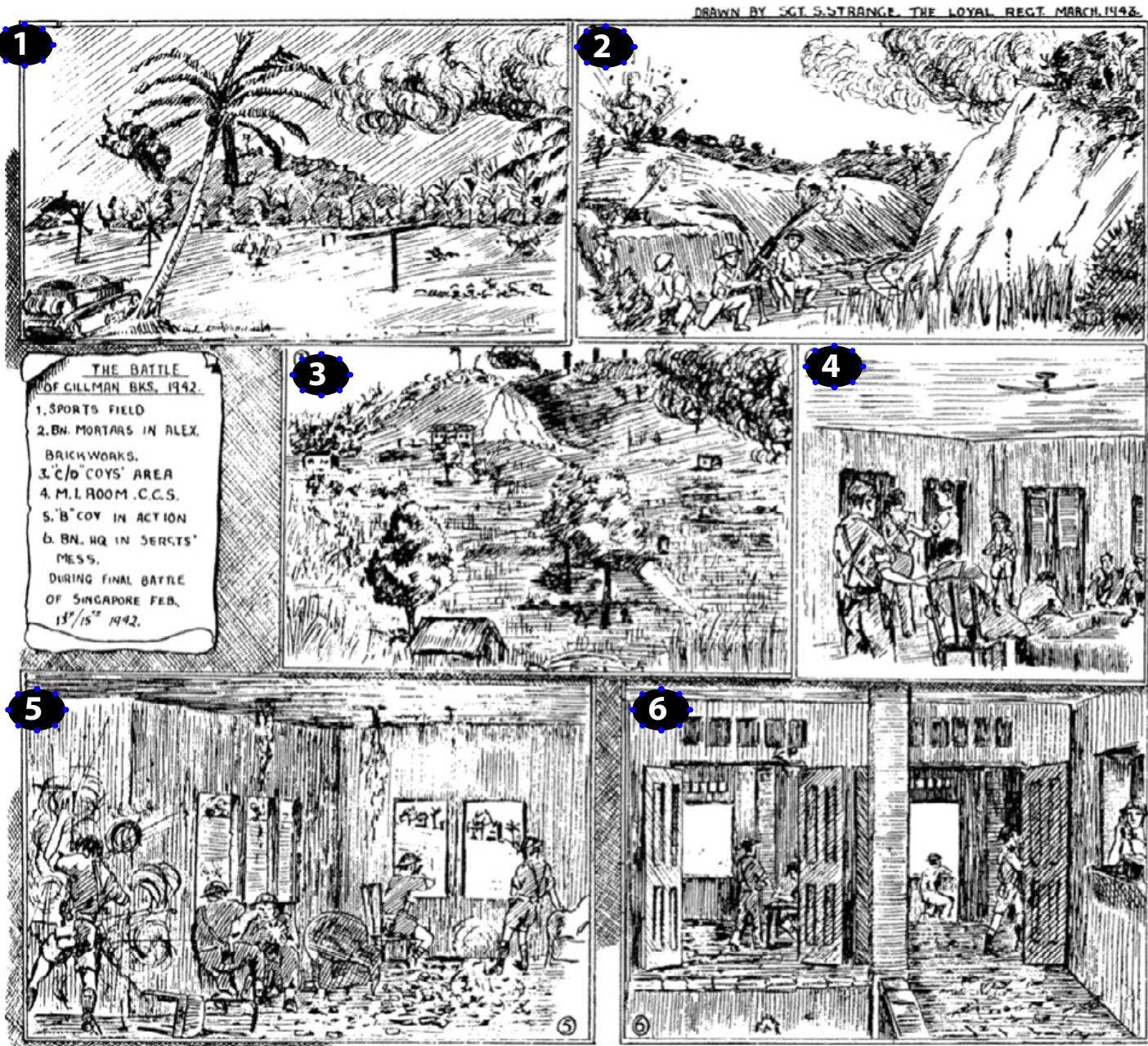


PLATE II.

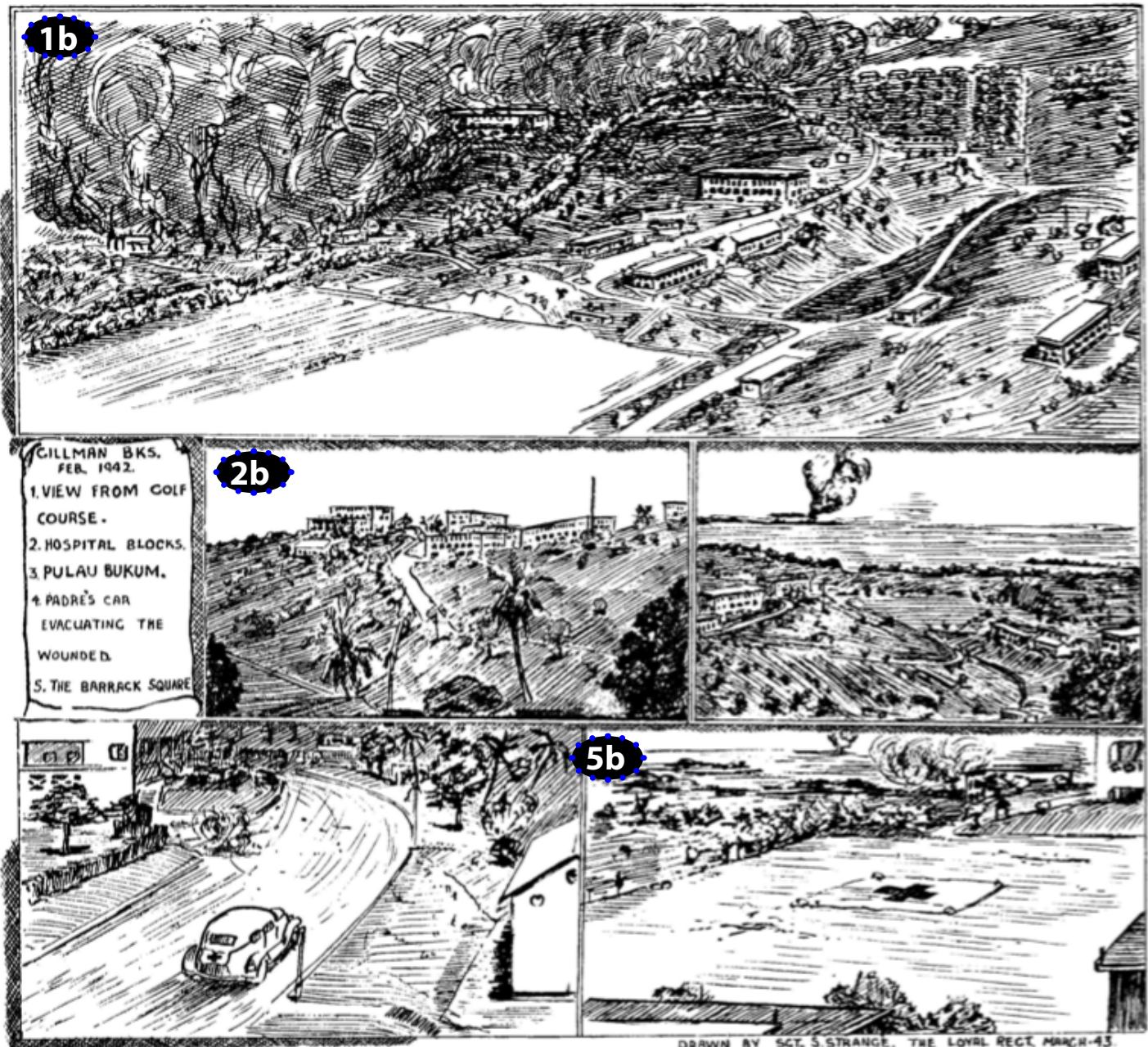


PLATE III.

Fig. 4.24 Sketches of Gillman Barracks during the final battles from 13 to 15 February 1942 made by Sgt S Strange, The Loyal Regiment, 1943. Source: Taken from "In Defence of Singapore Scenes and Personal Sketches before and after the Fall of Singapore" by A.V. Toze & S. Strange, Preston (England)

Following Britain's announced withdrawal in 1967, Singapore's armed forces rapidly took shape. Bridging measures eased the transition, and by 1971, the former British camp was handed over to the **Singapore Armed Forces (SAF)**. The site's long association with engineering made it a natural home for the new **Combat Engineers**, whose work building bridges, clearing obstacles, and fortifying defences, continued the site's technical legacy.

This period coincided with the start of **National Service (NS)**, which transformed the camp into a place of initiation for generations of young Singaporean men. Gillman Barracks became a training ground under the **School of Combat Engineers**, where recruits spent three to five months in rigorous training. One of them was **Lam Chun See (1977)**, who entered as a trainee for four months before moving on to other military establishments. Regular officers and instructors, such as **Winston Wong (1971-75)**, **Khor Sing Hong (1972-81)**, and **Albel Singh (1972-83)**, oversaw these formative years of local defence.

Life on site was rigorous but communal. Days were filled with drills, engineering exercises, and long hours under the sun. Evenings brought rest, shared meals, and the small social worlds that formed among trainees, instructors, and staff. Even for those who served only a short stint, the base became a formative part of their identity. For the permanent officers who remained for years, it fostered a lasting sense of belonging, with many recalling key life milestones, from weddings to farewell gatherings, celebrated within its grounds.

By the mid-1980s, the camp was reorganised under the **SAF Transport Unit**, continuing to train drivers and logistics personnel until the 1990s.

Accommodations

Living conditions reflected the new social mix of the camp. For **National Service (NS) trainees**, accommodation was temporary and practical. **Clusters of low barracks near the parade square were known as syndicate rooms.** "They were like chalet rooms," **Lam Chun See** recalled, "two rooms side by side, two of us in one." Simple amenities made for long, humid nights.

During the electricity-saving campaign, trainees were asked to switch off their fans after lights-out; "the mosquitoes really came after us," Lam recalled.

Regular officers and instructors lived differently. As described by **Winston Wong**, a combat engineer officer, the **Officers' mess** was both workplace and home. "Most of us were bachelors, so we stayed there," he remembered. "Upstairs was the accommodation, you'd take the steps up, and downstairs was the bar, a big hall where we had dinner, and a TV room. It was quite a good layout. You ate and lived there."

The camp thus brought together men of different ranks and rhythms. Trainees passing through for a few months, and permanent officers who made the place their home.

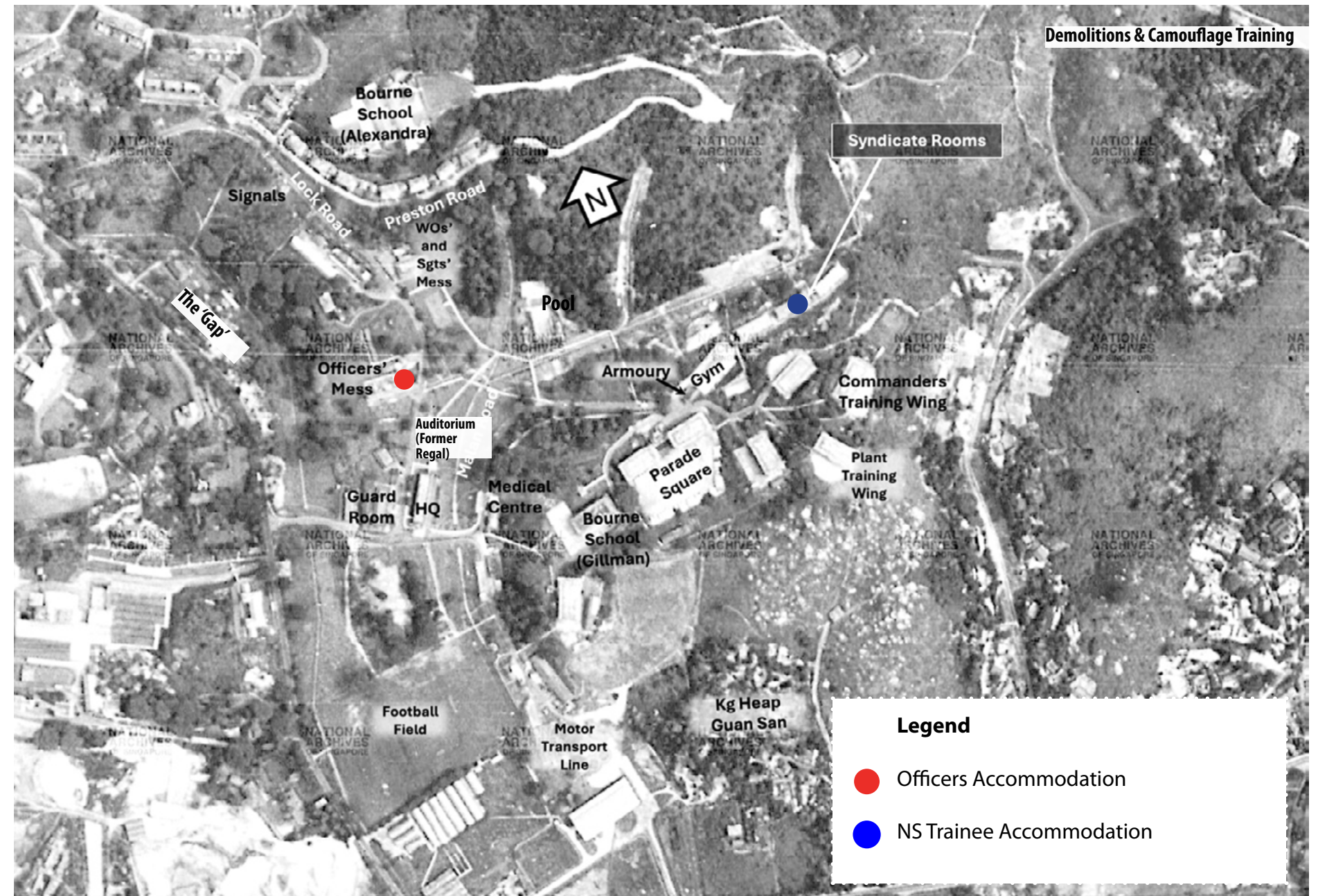


Fig. 4.25 Mapping of spaces during SAF use of Gillman Barracks. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright; Annotations by Jerome Lim

Nationalisation and SAF Era (1971-1996) | Accommodations and Training Routines

Routines for Trainees and Officers

Despite different roles and ranks, most officers and trainees followed a shared rhythm of life on camp with early mornings, long training hours, and close communal living.

Mornings began with the familiar 5BX, the standard set of five basic exercises that often evolved into longer endurance runs. **Albel Singh**, an instructor, recalled “we used to do longer and longer runs, taking the cadets all the way through Telok Blangah, down Alexandra Road, and back into camp. It could be a long session in the morning.”

Midday brought administrative work and field training. Officers based at Headquarters reported for duty each morning, returning to the mess for a quick lunch and short rest before resuming work or training until evening.

The heart of training lay in the field exercises. Among these, **bridging at “The Gap”** was the most vividly recalled. It was said to be one of the most gruelling exercises in camp, requiring extensive teamwork and endurance. The combat engineers constructed Bailey bridges across trenches or waterways over three days and two nights. The heavy steel panels required six men to lift and hours to assemble and dismantle.

“That was the one that really broke our backs”, according to trainee **Lam Chun See**. “We’d spend twelve hours building a bridge, and another twelve to take it down. One person slacks, and the whole thing can topple. It’s etched into every combat engineer’s memory.” **Albel Singh** recalled.

Other specialised training included **demolition and camouflage**, often conducted in the dense vegetation near Depot Road. Trainees recalled cutting down tall bamboo to break up the shape of their three-ton trucks: “At any moment, we had to be able to dismount, uncoil the camouflage net, and use the bamboo to break the silhouette. That was the skill.”

Discipline was firm but not severe. The guardroom, where soldiers served detention, was a place every officer knew, if not personally then through duty rotations.

Evenings were when the camp exhaled. **Albel Singh** recalls how he and his fellow officers would jog together before gathering outside the mess in their PT attire, beers in hand.

“**We’d sit on the balcony, chat about the day, and make plans for the night**”. The sense of routine was balanced by camaraderie and a sense of closeness at the end of the day. “We were very cohesive,” **Winston Wong** remembered. “Every evening when we finished around six, we’d have dinner together at the mess, then sometimes go down to Orchard Road at least twice a week for the clubs and discotheques.”

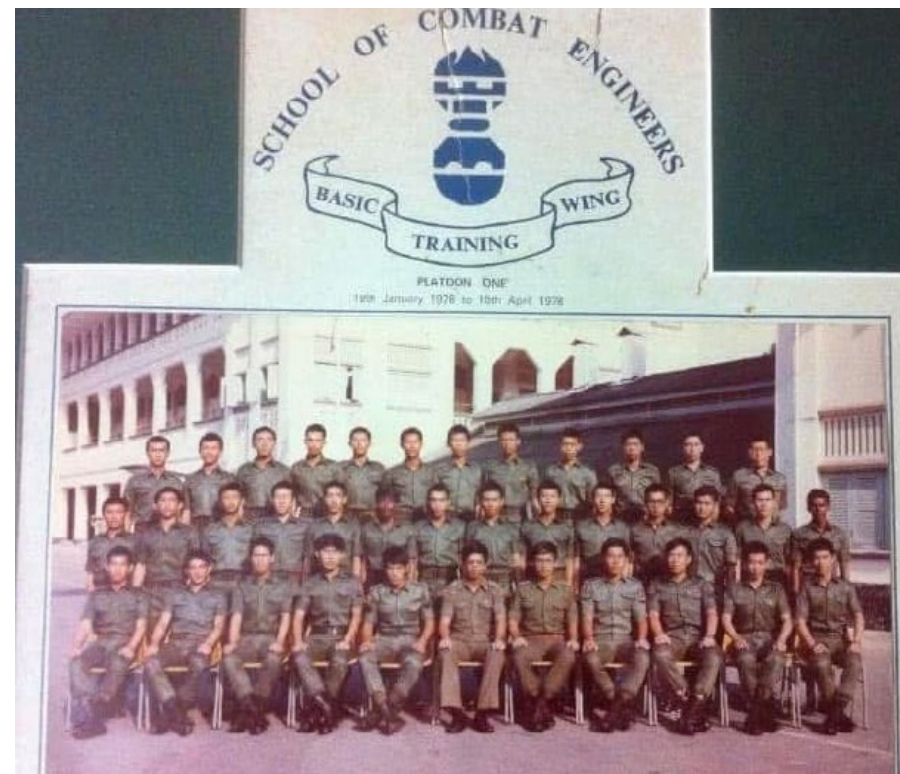


Fig. 4.26 1978, Basic Military Training at School for Combat Engineers, Gillman Barracks. Source: Jeremiah Seah



Fig. 4.27 Construction of the Acro Panel bridge. Source: John Lynn



Fig. 4.28 Bridging Training. Source: Lam Chun See



Fig. 4.29 Setting up land mines at the Demolition Training area. Source: Lam Chun See

Ceremonial Spaces and Other Training Spaces

At the heart of Gillman Barracks, the **Parade Ground stood as a spatial and symbolic focus of military life**. This was the “sacred” ground imbued with deep respect and ceremony. As former officer **Albel Singh** recalled, “our Parade Square was one place where, as in all military camps, this is like sacred... you can’t walk across the Parade Square.” It was here that the **transformation from “boys to men” took place**, embodied most vividly in the **Passing Out Parade**, where cadets were commissioned and formally inducted as officers. These ceremonies reinforced not only discipline and hierarchy, but also the emotional and moral bonds forged through training and marked personal milestones.

Nearby, the former Regal Cinema evolved into a **military auditorium** for the Singapore Armed Forces. The hall hosted lectures and examinations for officer promotions from Lieutenant to Captain, and Captain to Major, drawing officers from across Singapore’s various bases. These sessions, often held on weekends, reflect the site’s extended role.

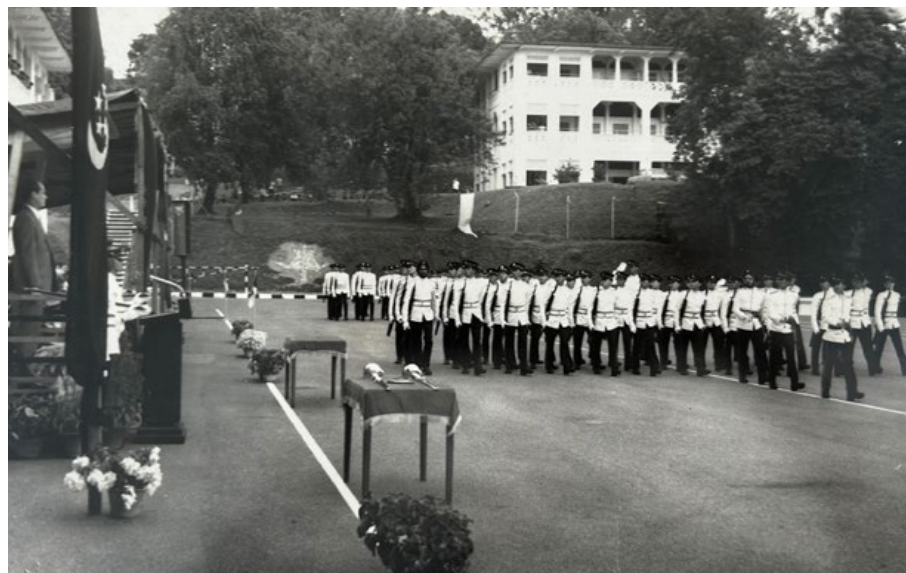


Fig 4.30 Parade at the Parade Square. Source: Winston Wong

The Mess

Life at Gillman Barracks, though regimented and demanding, was far from joyless. **“Gillman Barracks was, to us, like a city by itself with all its amenities,” recalled Khor Sing Hong**. After training or work or during the weekends, officers and trainees often spent time enjoying the various amenities in the camp for rest and relaxation. Messes

The **Officers' Mess** was also where the men had more premium meals, that had to be bought from **private caterers, and contractors, many of whom were the Hainanese that once catered for the British and retained their business when the latter withdrew from Singapore**. Most served Western-Hainan classics which were a special treat for the men at the barracks. There was the other **common canteen for all officers at the former NAAFI building**. This was likely where the free army food was catered.

A notable place at the Officers’ Mess was its **dedicated bar**, as **Khor recalled “the core reason why you go Officers’ Mess [is] because they have duty-free beer.”** It was a place where men gathered after long training days to unwind, swap stories, and momentarily forget the rank structure. **“It was a place where you are quite relaxed,” recalled Albel Singh**, “at times you have your beer, you talk, and you are not inhibited... those days as bachelors, we spent a lot of time there, and **that is where I made all my best friends, long-lasting friendships.**”

Besides catering, the **mess hall** on the first floor was a popular gathering place for many casual and ceremonial social events. Many Nurses from the nearby Alexandra hospital and visitors would come to visit the men at the barracks. There were also functions such as **dances and dancing classes** where instructors from dancing schools would be invited to teach. The dancing instructors would bring members from the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) as dance partners and fellow learners. The mess hall would also be where **Christmas parties or New Year’s parties** were held. There would be a **film screening** every Wednesday evening by the signallers, using a 16mm projector with films loaned from the Army Kinema Corporation at Dover Road.

The Mess hall would also frequently hold **weddings**. **Albel Singh** recalled, “I got married there...my reception was held in the Officers’ Mess...those days, receptions were normally held at homes. When I got married, I always wanted to be in uniform. I had my friends as sword bearers. My family and friends came, also my officer friends were there. So, it was a good gathering. Those days [it was] very easy to ask your fellow buddies you know to say, ‘hey, I need sword bearers’, and [they] will dress up and they would come also. That was truly memorable.”



Fig. 4.31 Wedding at the Officers' Mess Source: Albel Singh; Taken from "Then & Now - A Look at Former SAF Camps: Episode 2 [Gillman Camp]" by MINDEF



Fig. 4.32 Party at the Officers' Mess. Source: Winston Wong

Nationalisation and SAF Era (1971-1996) | Recreation and Amenities

Sports and Other Recreational Facilities

The swimming pool and other sports facilities were also a notable recreational area. The men would **bring their friends and family to the swimming pool on the weekends, some would have picnics there.** A particularly remembered event was **Thursdays** when the swimming pool was open to the other medical staff from Alexandra hospital. It was particularly **popular with the nurses who stayed at Hyderabad Road**, where their nurses' quarters were. "Prior to the early 1990s, there was no swimming pool until Queenstown Swimming pool was open", Khor noted as a reason why it was an especially popular spot for the residents in the surrounds. Whilst there were also swimming lessons for the soldiers, one of the trainees **Lam Chun See** recalled how they often came down on Thursdays to watch the ladies swim as one of their **'cheap thrills'**.

There was also a **tennis court** and a **squash court**. **Lam** comments on how squash was especially popular in Singapore when he was training in the barracks. "I remember coming back to Gillman just to play squash".

Recreation Ground

The recreation or **football field**, located slightly apart from the formal barracks and parade ground, remained **a key space of interaction between the military and the wider public** until it was eventually redeveloped for St. Andrew's Junior College in 1976.

Among the most memorable events held on the field were the **Pongal festivals** organised by then-Minister for Social Affairs **Encik Othman Wok**, which brought together soldiers and the residents of nearby **Pasir Panjang**. The open field transformed into a lively gathering ground of music, food, and celebration, embodying the camp's role as both a military and civic space.

It was also on this same field that the **Singapore Armed Forces introduced rugby under the encouragement of Dr Goh Keng Swee**, who viewed the sport as a means to instil resilience and teamwork among officers. Matches and demonstrations by visiting teams, including players from the renowned New Zealand All Blacks, drew wide attention, with senior officers such as Brigadier-General Winston Choo often in attendance. Alongside football and the annual unit sports day, these games became fixtures of camp life, reinforcing esprit de corps while strengthening bonds with the surrounding community.

Continued Resonance

Across decades of use, Gillman Barracks was a lived environment where people trained, worked, celebrated, and grew together. The bonds formed within its walls and fields have proven remarkably enduring. **Even today, former officers and servicemen from the 1970s batches continue to hold annual reunions, such as their gatherings at the Chinese Swimming Club noted in a 2022 newspaper article.** Online, informal Facebook groups **remain active** with photographs, anecdotes, and shared memories of National Service days, a testament to how vividly this period remains etched in collective memory.

Much of this persistence stems from the nature of life at Gillman: officers lived, trained, and socialised within an intensely communal and structured environment, where gruelling routines were balanced by shared purpose. The camp's ceremonial rituals, such as parades and commissioning ceremonies, reinforced rank and identity; its recreational and social spaces, from the Mess to the Recreation Ground, offered relaxation and friendship. Set against a memorable site of lush rolling hills and historic character, these experiences forged a strong esprit de corps that extended far beyond service years.



Fig. 4.33 Khor Sing Hong and Winston Wong share lasting memories of their time in Gillman Camp over tours of Gillman Barracks. Source: Khor Sing Hong



Fig. 4.34 Group photo of the officers at Gillman Barracks. Source: Albel Singh; Taken from "Then & Now - A Look at Former SAF Camps: Episode 2 [Gillman Camp]" by MINDEF

After the British military established its presence at Gillman Barracks, Gillman became one of several educational centres for British dependants, not just those living on the barracks but also families dispersed across other garrisons. These early campuses were set on **Friendly Hill along Preston Road**, close to the Married Quarters, and later **expanded to occupy part of the Barracks**.

From the late **1930s**, the **Alexandra Grammar School** was hosted on the cluster of sites along Preston Road, followed by **1954**, **when it was taken over by the Alexandra Secondary Modern School**, later replaced by **Bourne School in 1964** after the closure of Alexandra School. **Bourne remained until 1971**, the British Withdrawal, following which the site was leased to the **Singapore American School (SAS)**, which briefly operated there until **1973**. From 1974–1976, the campus successively hosted Henderson and Mei Chin schools, and by 1983, it became home to the International School Singapore (ISS), a role it continues to play today.

Shared Experiences and Youth Life

For the colonial-era dependants, the Schools were more than classrooms; they were **social anchors** providing a familiar community and institutional environment in a foreign land. School magazines from the 1950s–60s depict **a vibrant rhythm of sport, drama, music, and outdoor activities, with Gillman's open fields and swimming pool forming the backdrop to everyday life**.

Students walked from the nearby garrison quarters to use the pool. Even cultural life found its stage here: in **1964**, **Gillman hosted The Hellions**, a popular gig band. The recreational field regularly hosted matches in **rugby, hockey, and football**, doubling as contact points among the wider military community in colonial Singapore.

The curriculum of the schools themselves was also diverse.

The Alexandra Secondary Modern School offered **woodworking, sea-skiff building, and expeditions** under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The 1960–61 school magazine records both earnest gender stereotyping, "teaching girls pride in appearance and domestic management", and early signs of change, with girls excelling in rifle shooting and sports.

The vitality in those accounts reveals a community inventing its own world far from home, a small slice of British youth culture transplanted to the tropics.

Bourne School: A Transnational Community

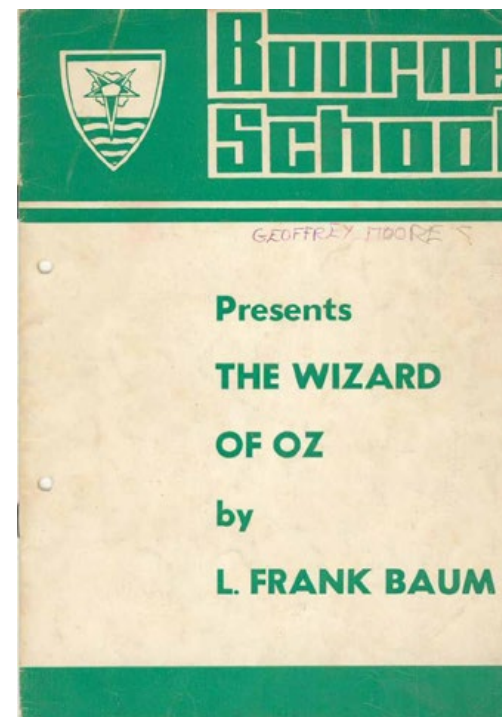
Bourne School (1964–1971) deepened that sense of community and broadened its reach. Headmaster **C. Buckley** fostered an ethos of cooperation between staff, pupils, and parents. A notable testimony to this was the **1969 Speech Day, held at the National Theatre**, which drew crowds of over 3,000, **a scale that spoke to the school's symbolic role as the social heart of the expatriate education network in Singapore**.

The school became known for its **active cultural life: annual plays** jointly staged with St John's, half-year rehearsals in classrooms and borrowed playground stages, and music from the Bourne School Choir, which staged The Boy Mozart with Kinloss House boarders. There was also a notable **Gurkha Wing**, established after 1967, which aimed to educate Gurkha children up to GCE O-Level standards, marking an **important broadening of access beyond British dependants**.

Discipline and participation were central to school culture: A **House system** rewarded good behaviour and teamwork; **Sports teams** competed in swimming, football, and athletics, setting records in the Amateur Swimming Association. **Social-service activities** saw students visiting hospitals and organising fund-raisers such as "big walks, Miss Sunshine contests, fun fairs" (Buckley), raising over £8,000 for charity. **Bourne's brief existence left memories among thousands of students. 7,253 students were enrolled at the end of its seven-year run.**

Legacies of Memory and Identity

Though none of these schools survived in their original form, their memories linger among dispersed **alumni networks** in the UK, Australia, and beyond, especially encaptured in blogs by Alumni such as **Memories of Singapore (Singas.co.uk)**, where many students share their **personal photos and host occasional school reunions in Singapore and the UK**. For many, these campuses represent the formative landscape of their youth. Multiple institutions took over the campuses, including Singapore American School and International School Singapore. **The continuity of education on this site, spanning eight decades, gives it a unique social significance** as a landscape of learning and belonging.



[FAR LEFT] Fig. 4.35 1960s, Brochure for the production of The Wizard of Oz at Bourne School. Source: Geoffrey Moore

[LEFT] Fig. 4.36 1960s, Scenes of "The Wizard of Oz" production by Bourne School. Source: Geoffrey Moore

Education and Schooling Communities (1929-Today) | British Military Schools

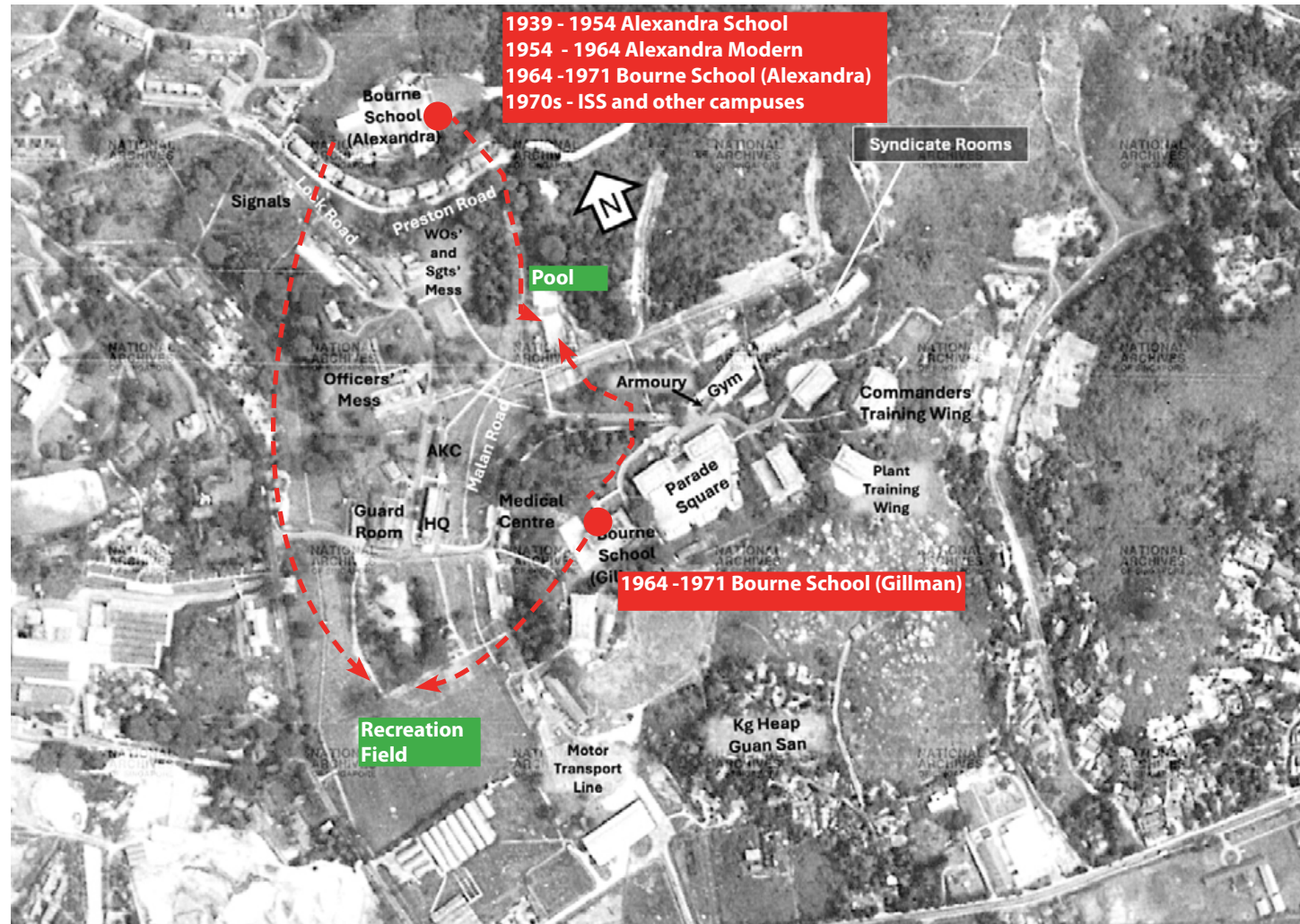


Fig. 4.37 Mapping of school and recreation spaces. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright; Annotations by Jerome Lim

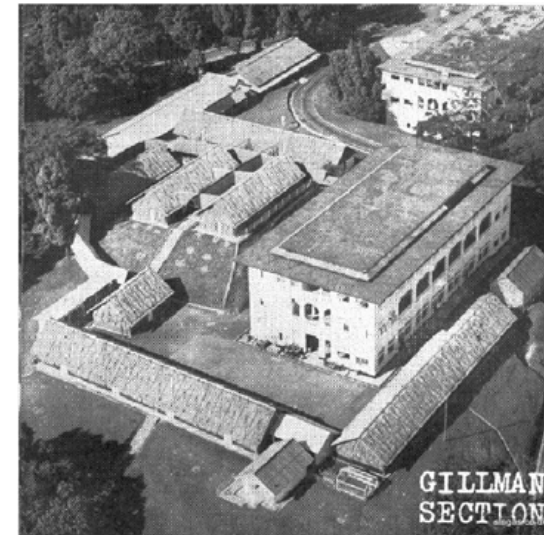


Fig. 4.38 1967, Gillman Section of Alexandra Grammar and later Bourne School. Source: Peter Garvey

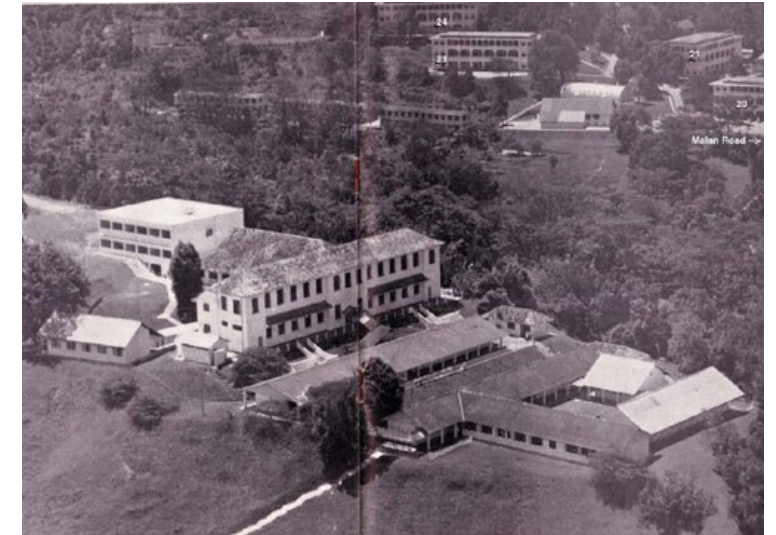


Fig. 4.39 1966, Preston Road Section of Alexandra Grammar and later Bourne School. Source: Peter Garvey



Fig. 4.40 1960s, School Bus. Source: Maurine Paxton

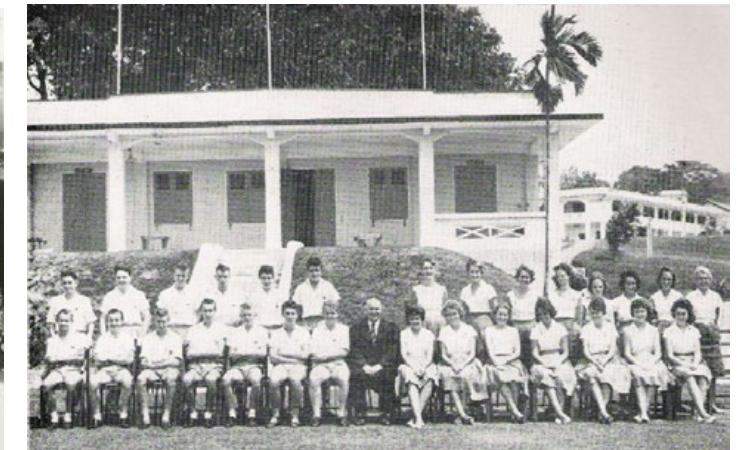


Fig. 4.41 1960-1961, School Prefects set against the Barracks. Source: David and Stephen Prior



Fig. 4.42 1964, School children at the Gillman pool. Source: John Yates

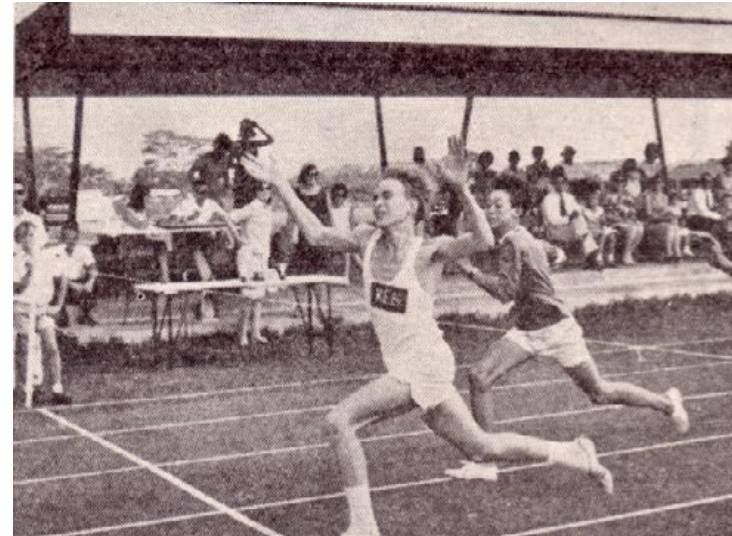


Fig. 4.43 1967, Sports meet at the Recreation Ground. Source: Mike Johns



Fig. 4.44 1960s, The Gurkha children. Source: Maurice Hann



Fig. 4.45 1960s, Gillman Campus. Source: Peter Curry

St Andrew's Junior College

Established in 1976 on the former Recreation Grounds of Gillman Barracks, St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC) represented post-independence Singapore's vision of broadening access to pre-university education. The junior college system sought to nurture civic-minded youth through smaller tutorial classes, subject specialisation, and active community life.

The design of the campus itself shaped student experience. Built along a slope with lecture theatres and the library **encircling a central mound affectionately called "The Haven,"** the school became a social heart where students gathered after lessons. Former student **N. Sivasothi** (1983–84) recalled:

"We'd go there to chat, relax, play hide-and-seek, even stay overnight. The Haven brought people from different faculties together: commerce, arts, science... many of us are still friends today."

These informal uses fostered bonds that extended beyond classrooms. The school's topography, terraces, open courtyards, and shaded walkways created opportunities for spontaneous play and community. Night-time games, rooftop gatherings, and all-night study sessions reflected a relaxed yet self-regulated atmosphere in which students felt safe, trusted, and at home.

SAJC's activities extended into the surrounding landscape: its **cross-country** runs through Gillman Barracks introduced students to the area's layered terrain and military remnants, linking their schooling memories to the broader history of the site. **After SAJC moved to Potong Pasir in 2005, the campus was briefly occupied by River Valley High School (2006–2010) and later by the Academy of Singapore Teachers (2011).**

Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute

Next to the Junior College, the **Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (est. 1970) operated until its closure in 2000**, offering practical training in automotive, electrical, electronic, refrigeration, metal, wood, in-plant, and diesel mechanics trades.

This institute formed part of Singapore's wider **Vocational and Industrial Training Board (VITB) network established in 1979**, which consolidated vocational schools across the island and standardised technical education. One of VITB's key innovations was the modular curriculum system - each module a self-contained programme leading to an "employable skill," enabling workers

to upgrade through lifelong learning and gain certification progressively. VITB was especially known for its broad-based programmes for older workers with limited formal education, training and certifying over 112,000 skilled workers (around 9 percent of the workforce) between 1979 and 1991.

In the 1990s, all VITB schools were brought under the newly formed Institute of Technical Education (ITE), marking another phase in Singapore's evolving technical-training landscape. Though the later educational occupants of the Gillman precinct are less documented, their continued presence underscores a strong continuity of meaning - its open grounds and adaptable buildings sustaining Gillman Barracks' long-standing identity as a landscape of continual education.

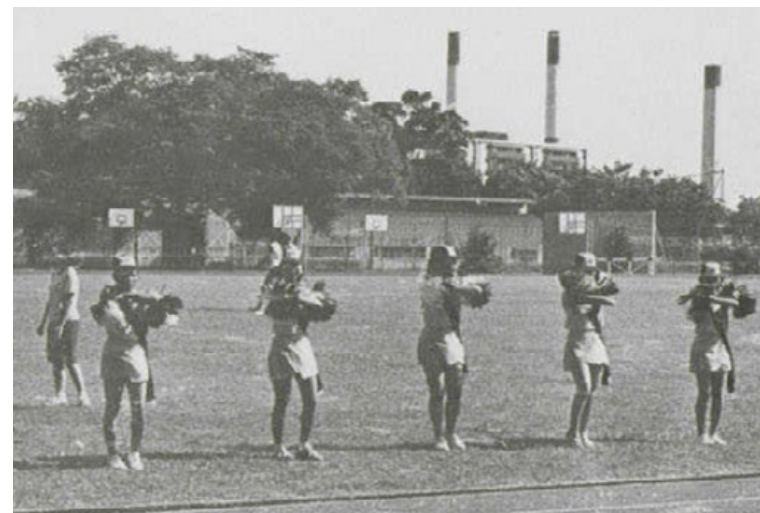


Fig. 4.46 1981, Cheer practice on the Sports Field. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1981



Fig. 4.47 1996, Photo of boys in the year book at the sport field. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1996



Fig. 4.48 1986, Places to gather within the SAJC campus. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1986



Fig. 4.49 1979, Likely the "Haven". Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979

Education and Schooling Communities (1929-Today) | Junior College & Vocational Training School

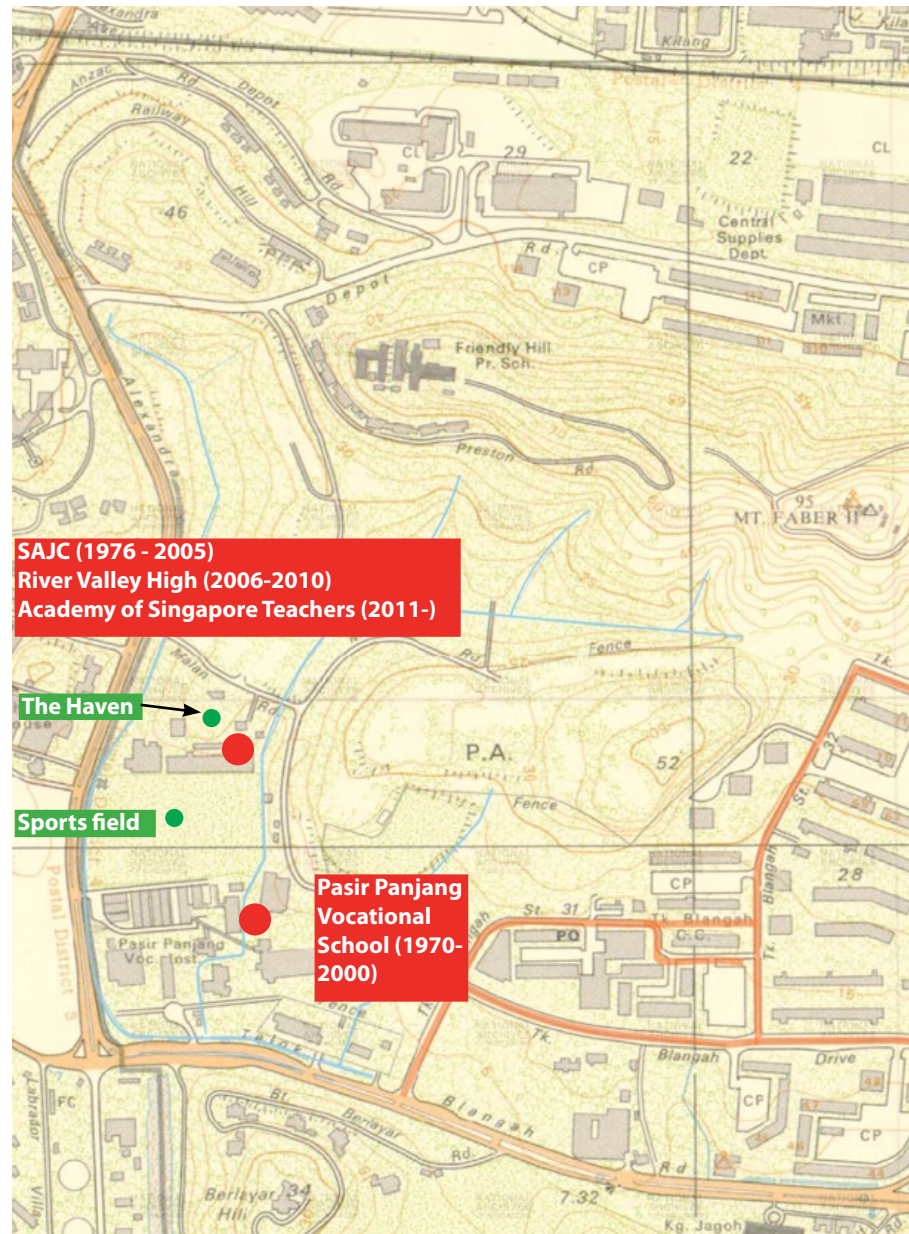


Fig. 4.50 Annotated 1978 Topographic map of Telok Blangah. Base Map Source: Singapore Land Authority



Fig. 4.51 Undated, Students at PPVI. Source: Mohammed Azeman



Fig. 4.52 Students of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute at Alexandra Road in 1987. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.53 1971, President Benjamin Sheares touring PPVI. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 4.54 Undated, Photo of the Vocational Institute. Source: Institute of Technical Education

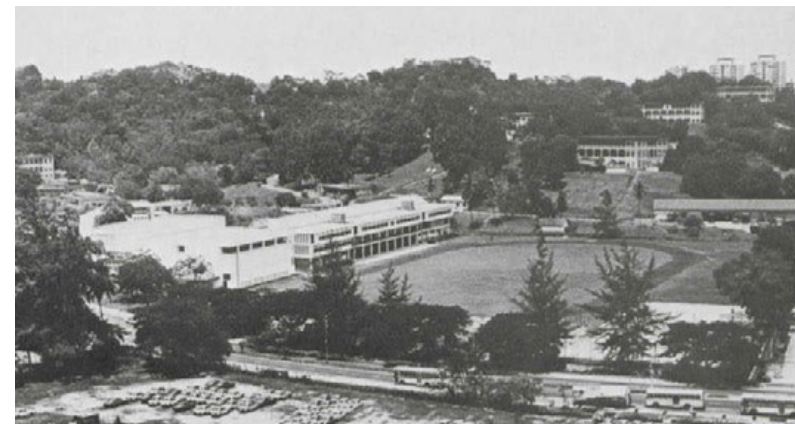


Fig. 4.55 1979 View of SAJC with now demolished barrack blocks on the hill in the background. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979



Fig. 4.56 View of the south elevation of the main block, taken from the recreational field. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1986

Gillman Barracks Arts and Culture Communities (2011-Today)

By the late 2000s, Gillman Barracks entered a new chapter in Singapore's plans. It was identified in the **2009 Economic Strategies Committee Report** as a key site in the government's strategy to position Singapore as a global city for the arts.

This ambition was built on the earlier **Renaissance City Plan (2000–2005)**, which sought to cultivate creative industries and international visibility. **In 2011, the Economic Development Board (EDB), National Arts Council (NAC), and JTC Corporation jointly spearheaded the transformation of the former barracks into a contemporary art cluster** - a flagship project where art, commerce, and urban regeneration would converge.

For gallerists like **Sundaram Tagore**, who had been watching Singapore's cultural ascent since the early 2000s, the invitation to open here symbolised an opening moment of possibility. "By the time I opened my own gallery, I knew Singapore was a worldly city developing very rapidly," he recalled. **"It was a natural destination for intercultural dialogue... an exciting time to be part of something formative."**

To many of the gallery owners, Gillman's quiet green slopes and low-rise colonial barracks offered **an alternative to the city's high-gloss commercial venues**, while the government's involvement gave the project institutional weight. The new precinct opened in 2012 with **fifteen international and local galleries**, envisioned as a meeting ground between global contemporary art and local audiences.

Forming a Community of Cultural Workers

The early years were both experimental and demanding. Gallery owners and staff recall long days of setting up in unfamiliar surroundings, building audiences, and navigating the newness of the project. **A small group of core galleries: Mizuma Gallery, FOST, Yeo Workshop, and ShanghART**, anchored the precinct even as others came and went. Despite commercial volatility, these gallerists developed strong ties with one another and with the site itself.

"Many galleries changed, but a few of the core ones still remain," **Theseira Irma Ariani**, Gallery Manager of Mizuma Gallery, reflected. "We've seen the place evolve. It feels like a small community."

Behind each exhibition lay weeks or months of hidden labour. Ariani, from Mizuma Gallery, described the sheer physical effort behind short-run installations:

"Sometimes we have works that take so much time to install...days, even weeks...and they're up for only a month or two. But it's worth it, because when else would people see something like that?"

She spoke of the long evenings of mounting shows, the technical problem-solving, and the care taken to handle fragile or complex works. There was also pride in keeping the exhibitions free and public, grounded in the belief that art should be accessible to anyone.

"People who come and see actually they really like it... If we can have...more people coming in just to see the show even if they don't buy it's okay. Like just come and see" It was labour motivated by conviction rather than profit and part of a broader civic effort to build public familiarity with contemporary art.

This collective sense of purpose gradually turned Gillman Barracks into more than just a commercial venue. It became **a community of cultural workers** who saw themselves as **stewards of the arts**: a place to learn, share, and experiment.

Programming and public life

Gillman Barracks' social life reached its peak during its public events. From 2014 onward, the National Arts Council brought in large-scale programming such as **Art After Dark** and **Art Day Out**, transforming the former barracks into a festive, open-air art village.

"If you come to Gillman Barracks in January, during Art Week, it's really bustling with people...international visitors, collectors, artists, curators," said **Theresia Irma Ariani**. "There would be local indie bands playing, food trucks parked along the lanes, outdoor sculptures filling the courtyards...the whole place [was] buzzing. You'd walk from one gallery to another with music in the air."

For many visitors, these events offered their first encounter with contemporary art. NAC worked closely with galleries and volunteers to make art accessible beyond the insider community. Their volunteers conducted regular free tours, researched exhibitions, and attended openings to stay informed.

"A lot of people didn't know how to approach galleries," Ariani explained. "But once they joined a tour, they realised it's okay...just come in and explore...**it was what made the place come alive.**"



Fig. 4.57 2018, Singapore Art Book Fair at NTU CCA. Source: Currency



Fig. 4.58 2025, Art After Dark held at Gillman Barracks. Source: National Arts Council

Gillman Barracks Arts and Culture Communities (2011-Today)

Away from Singapore

Outside the festivals, the precinct settles into a slower rhythm. Gillman's character lies in this duality, bursts of energy during events followed by long stretches of quiet, **framed by its landscape of dense trees and shaded walkways**. For those who work here, the daily act of entering the compound holds its own quiet pleasure.

"Being a little bit out of the way, surrounded by nature, it puts you in a different frame of mind," said **Ariani**. **"That proximity to the forest is more than background;** it actively shapes how artists think and create. **Jodi Tan**, from Tomio Koyama Gallery, recalled how two visiting artists, one Japanese, one Chinese, spent two weeks exploring the surrounding forest:

"They went in every day. They'd leave food and record what animals came: monkeys, squirrels, colourful birds, snakes, even big lizards. It became part of their work. There's a lot of wildlife in there."

Some artists, such as **Robert Zhao**, drew inspiration from the secondary forests surrounding the barracks, creating temporary installations like The Forest Institute, a hybrid of art space and field station that hosted short residencies, visitor stays, and guided walks through the nearby woods. These projects reflected **a renewed engagement with the site's natural setting and its evolving relationship between art, ecology, and public experience**.

Many of the gallery managers also noted **joggers, bird-watchers** lingering at the forest edge with cameras, **families strolling with dogs, cyclists** passing by for coffee and visitors having their meals in the few **cafés and restaurants** in the surroundings including the Handlebar café. In this way, Gillman Barracks has evolved into **a shared recreational landscape, part creative space, part urban park**. As **Ariani** recalled, "It's like you're entering into a different part of Singapore...people don't usually get the privilege in working in [a place like this]."

Continuity, Identity, and the Desire to Stay

After more than a decade, those who have worked at Gillman Barracks speak of **deep attachment and collective investment**. There is a shared sense that the identity of the place has been painstakingly built through years of programming and outreach.

"We've spent so much time and energy building awareness of Gillman Barracks," said **Ariani**. "By now, people know it, even internationally. If we were to close this and start another cluster somewhere else, you'd be starting from scratch. Keeping this, improving it, that's the way forward."

This reflects a strong form of social significance: the community's sense of ownership over the cultural identity they helped shape. The site now holds emotional and professional value for those who sustained it through changing policy directions and economic pressures. Even as discussions arise about redevelopment and land use, the community around Gillman Barracks expresses cautious optimism rather than nostalgia. **Most do not resist change outright; they want to see the precinct evolve without losing its soul.**

Sundaram Tagore envisions an integrated future:

"I'd like to see Gillman refocus as a global platform that embraces everyone. Even if residences rise above it, the ground level could remain a vibrant art complex...it would only add value to the buildings above."

Others propose **smaller-scale activations** to make the large outdoor spaces feel more animated: weekend markets, pop-up stalls, outdoor film screenings, or collaborations with surrounding neighbourhoods.

"Even when the galleries are full of people, it still looks quiet outside," noted **Ariani**. "There's so much potential...maybe more things could happen in the open spaces: music, food, markets. It just needs that spark."

These suggestions reveal a recognition that **social vitality must be constantly renewed through programming and use**. The future significance of Gillman Barracks will thus depend not on preserving a static form, but on maintaining the continuity of human activity and communities that give it meaning.



Fig. 4.59 The Forest Institute, 2022, Gillman Barracks, Singapore. Courtesy of the artist, Robert Zhao. Source:TRAHgnahs, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

5. Heritage Assessment of Gillman Barracks and Its Structures

20th-Century Historic Thematic Framework

1st Theme: War and Its Aftermath

- Changing nature of warfare
- Post-conflict recovery and reconstruction
- Grand strategy and imperial defence
- Military welfare

Security and defence as common policy

Between 1900 and 2000, the island of Singapore underwent significant and rapid transition from being a Crown Colony, to a separately administered colony within the British Empire, to self-governance and finally separation and independence. **Across the different phases, from colonisation to postcolonialism, territorial and regional security was a common administrative priority** whose importance could be discerned from the tremendous resources and manpower that were channelled towards policies of security and defence, although the object, scale and scope of defence varied. **Gillman barracks formed an important land base in proximity to the southern coast of Singapore**, and its siting along the Faber ridges provided a strategic vantage point to reinforce defence in the southern part of the island. In particular, the base served key land-based forces, whether infantry, combat engineering or transportation.

British imperial defence and the 'Singapore Strategy'

During the interwar years, discussions on Singapore's strategic role in imperial defence were dominated by plans to establish a naval base on the island that would serve to strengthen naval supremacy in the Far East and support her farther-reaching colonies, such as Australia and New Zealand, **amidst a decline in Anglo-Japanese relations. Native land forces that would bolster this stronghold were revealed in the 1915 mutiny to be greatly lacking**, and the after-effects brought about directives such as the compulsory enlistment of all British males aged 15 to 55 to be included in a volunteer force. **By 1937, the strength of military personnel across Singapore's garrisons had exceeded 3,000.** The appointment of Maj. Gen. Sir William Dobbie as General Officer Commanding (GOC) Malaya Command in 1935 further accelerated the implementation of the 'Singapore Strategy' as he stressed that the **successful defence of Malaya was contingent on a coordinated and consolidated defensive posture as a whole.** It is to be noted that while Malaya Command appreciated this fact and sought urgency for the necessary funds and reinforcements needed to defend her base, by the start of the 1940s they would still find themselves without sufficient forces needed to do so. Gillman Barracks was established during this climate of increased militarisation and just a few years before conflict reached Malaya's borders.

Types of places: Military structures and installations, bases and camps, military townships and recreational facilities, ordnance and transport depots.

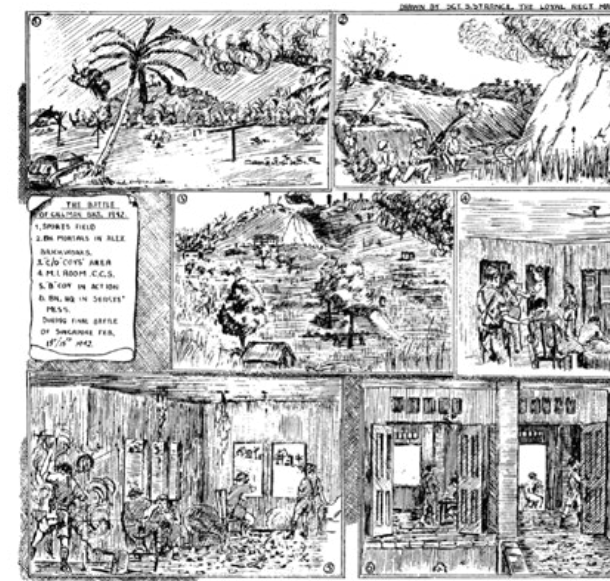


Fig. 5.1.1 Sketches of Gillman Barracks during the final battles from 13 to 15 February 1942 made by Sgt S Strange, The Loyal Regiment, 1943. Source: A.V. Toze & S. Strange, Preston (England)



Fig. 5.1.3 54 Waiting to go on a stunt at barrack hill. Source: National Army Museum, London

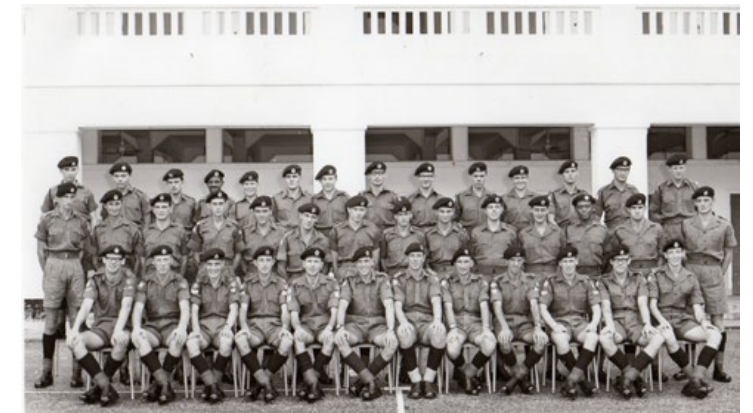


Fig. 5.1.2 54 FARELF Support Squadron Royal Engineers, c.1960s. Source: Howard Tomlinson.



Fig. 5.1.4 Entrance to Gillman Barracks, possibly at Malan Road, with Tiger Brewery opposite. Source: Military Survey Historic Archive



Fig. 5.1.5 Singapore Town map illustrating fighting from 12-15 February 1942, published by Her Majesty's Survey Office 1957. Source: HMSO crown copyright, via antique maps and prints.

20th-Century Historic Thematic Framework

1st Theme: War and Its Aftermath (Cont'd)

- Changing nature of warfare
- Post-conflict recovery and reconstruction
- Grand strategy and imperial defence
- Military welfare

Military welfare

Developing alongside the trajectory of imperial and, eventually, national defence, and of soldiering as a profession, was **the need to expand welfare, care, and social policies within the same highly structured social and specialised spaces of militarised landscapes**. The expansion of appreciation and application of military welfare provision started becoming institutionalised under British rule and importantly **grew to incorporate armed forces personnel welfare, as well as the inclusion of their families and dependents** impacted by their time in service. These systems were continuously reinforced after the World Wars as the responsibilities and prerogatives of the welfare state matured. Gillman Barracks was one such garrison envisioned as a 'family station' set up in the imperial Far East during the inter-war years.

The result of this was the **introduction of various institutions and establishments (both public and private)** that provided a range of goods and services. This included the provision of commodities otherwise inaccessible abroad, recreational amenities such as hotels, restaurants, schools, and sports facilities within these bases. Spaces were also created for social clubs, interest groups, programmes, and community events, **all aimed at ensuring overseas service families were adequately supported wherever they were deployed**. In turn, **such provisions created closed-knit communities formed by highly dependent relations and frequent encounters**, notwithstanding their highly mobile nature due to temporary deployments. Many of such facilities were set up in Gillman Barracks and continue to be located within the site today, including NAAFI establishments, the generous provision of married and family quarters, mess halls, cinemas, and schools.

Types of places: Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI)- operated establishments, cinemas, swimming pools, and staff recreational clubs, garrison schools.



Fig. 5.1.6 Undated, Gillman Barracks swimming pool. Source: Geoff Moore



Fig. 5.1.7 1960, Cover page for An Introduction to Singapore for Service Families Guide. Source: Singapore Graphic Archives.

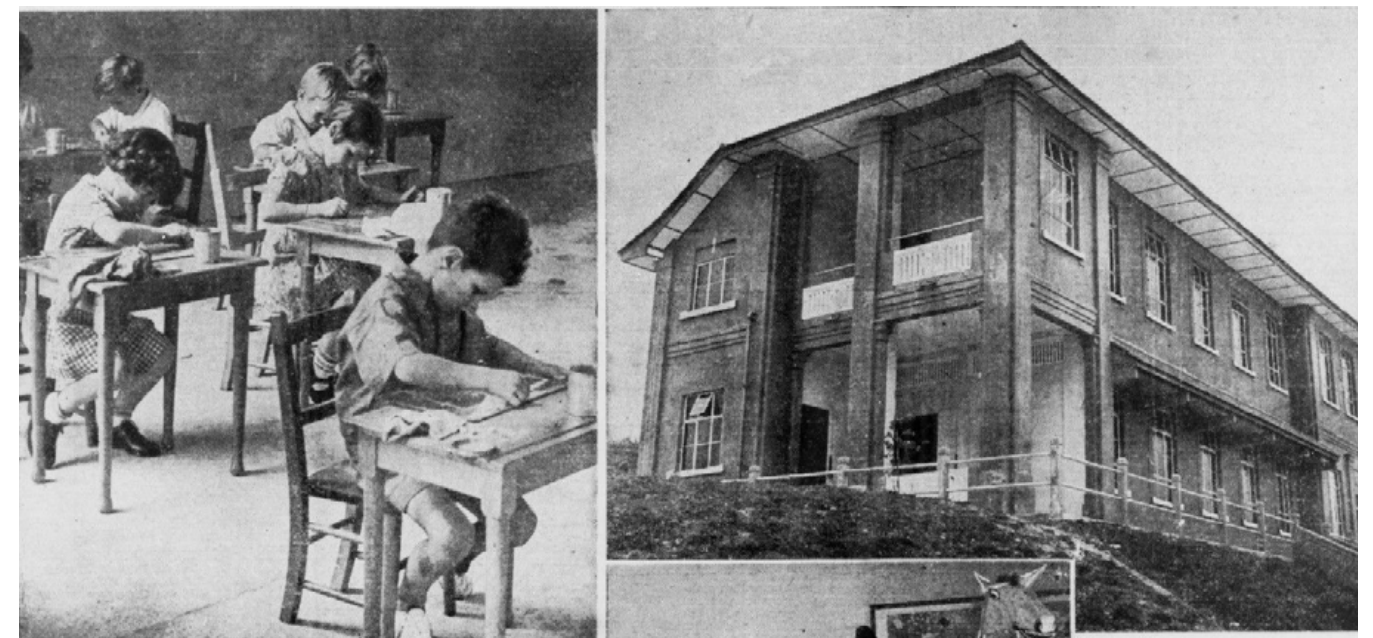


Fig. 5.1.8 1939 Headlines highlighting opening of Alexandra School along Preston Road. Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.

20th-Century Historic Thematic Framework

2nd Theme: Accelerated Scientific and Technological Development

- Development of new building materials and construction techniques
- Advances in engineering
- Advances in town planning, health and sanitation
- Adaptation of military technology and infrastructure to civilian and commercial use

Transfer of building technologies

The legacy of the Royal Engineers at Gillman Barracks started from its point of construction as the site preparation, planning, and construction of the garrison was managed and designed by the Corps. During Britain's colonial expansion, the **Royal Engineers played a crucial role in transferring and adapting advanced construction techniques to overseas territories**. Their work represented a **dynamic blend of European engineering principles with local environmental conditions, building traditions, and available skills**. Often ahead of civilian engineers, military engineers were key agents of imperial control, using **infrastructure development as a tool of governance and presence**.

Their building projects were shaped by practical constraints, such as the limited duration of postings, limitations on the procurement of materials, and prevailing construction standards. Operating in remote and underdeveloped regions, they faced chronic shortages of skilled labour. However, such remote conditions also enabled much material experimentation, employment of locally available materials and innovation of new construction techniques. Prefabricated construction, especially in the use of iron and later steel, emerged as a particularly effective solution, allowing for the rapid deployment of structures in areas where local capacity was insufficient to meet British standards. Through these efforts, the Royal Engineers significantly influenced global construction practices and contributed to the technological legacy of British imperialism.

Pioneers, combat and transport engineers

Between the first and second World Wars, the duties of combat engineers expanded from tunnelling, quarrying, civil construction (bridge, roads, drainage systems), building fortifications and telegraph systems, aerial survey and topographical photography, to later also including bomb disposal and mine clearance. **Military technology, bolstered by the great advancements of industrialisation, underwent extraordinarily rapid change well past the middle of the twentieth century in an ongoing arms race** that determined the difference between winning and losing key battles. Military hardware was also inextricably linked to the management and storage of supplies and logistics handled by the Ordnance Corps, and to the security and functioning of key supply lines through Transport Engineers, both regiments of which operated bases within or in the vicinity of the site.

Types of places: Workshops, ordnance stores, supply store, bridges, transport depots.



Fig. 5.1.9 1935, placing reinforcement and tower for pouring concrete at high level roof of Block D. Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.



Fig. 5.1.10 1977, Bridging exercise at Temple Hill 3. Source: Lam Chun See.



Fig. 5.1.11 1977, Bailey Bridge, Gillman Barracks. Source: Lam Chun See.

20th-Century Historic Thematic Framework

3rd Theme: Internationalisation, New Nation States, and Human Rights

- Evolution of imperialism and colonialism
- Decolonisation
- Postcolonialism and emerging nation-states
- Withdrawal of colonial-era resources and self-determination

Self-determination and rights to defence

The **announcement of the British planned withdrawal of troops in 1967 was initially met with much concern** regarding the new nation's defence and economic security. This was due to the lack of trained service personnel, the cost of maintaining its defence programmes and bases, as well as the domestic jobs these existing bases provided.

In order to mitigate the disruption effect of four remaining years left to the pull-out, bridging measures were introduced to reduce the strain of transition on the local government. This included the British providing a soft loan of £50 million, the 'free' or nominal cost transfer of key assets as was the case with Gillman Barracks, and training for military staff. **The impending handover was further bolstered by introducing regional defence alliances.** These had been originally set up in response to ongoing threats at the time such as those of the Anglo-Malayan Defence Agreement (1957) vis-a-vis the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s. A remaining legacy of continued cooperative defence capabilities in the region was the Five Power Defence Arrangements signed in 1971 involving Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Securing a nation

Under Dr Goh Keng Swee's leadership, the Ministry of the Interior and Defence (MID) saw it was **imperative to train up legitimate domestic air, naval, and land based forces so as to secure the country's sovereignty and national security.**

The **National Service (Amendment) Bill was passed in March 1967**, making it compulsory for all 18-year-old male citizens and permanent residents to enlist for National Service. They would be deployed in any of four branches - full-time military training, People's Defence Force (PDF), Vigilantes Corps and Special Constabulary.

In 1970, MID split into two separate specialised ministries - the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Ministry of Defence (MINDEF)**, which functioned as the service headquarters for the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). By the 1980s, the Singapore Armed Forces had strengthened its numbers and established enough of a robust system such that it could shift its focus to modernising its defence capabilities to guard against new threats and the evolving political and territorial climate. Today, it continues to uphold defence policies based on deterrence and diplomacy employed specifically with regard to Singapore's unique geostrategic posturing.

Types of places: Military structures and installations, bases and camps, ordnance and transport depot, Standard Obstacle Course grounds.

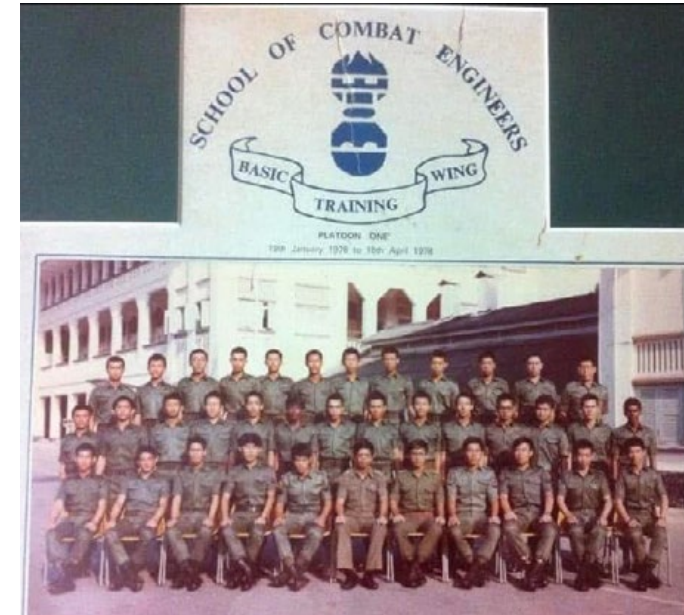


Fig. 5.1.12 1978, Basic Military Training at School for Combat Engineers, Gillman Barracks. Source: Jeremiah Seah

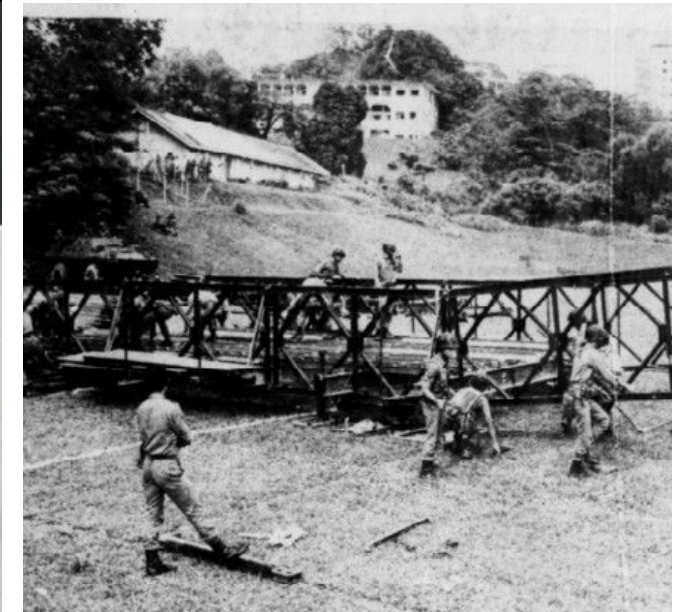


Fig. 5.1.13 SAF Combat Engineers building a Bailey bridge during training in 1978. Source :The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



Fig. 5.1.14 1977 Bailey Bridge and combat engineers, Gillman Barracks. Source: Lam Chun See.



Fig. 5.1.15 1984, Ltc Zee Chee Kiong commander SAF transport formation doing a ceremonial handover of Gillman Barracks with S\$1 note to Col. Gurcharan Singh Chief Engineer Officer. Source: Pioneer Facebook.

20th-Century Historic Thematic Framework

4th Theme: Religious, Educational, and Cultural Institutions

- Improved literacy and numeracy rates
- Increasing role of governments in mass education
- Expansion of all levels of public, private, and religious education

Developments in childhood education

The twentieth century heralded great advancements in educational theory, health and hygiene. Major reforms in Great Britain included **stratification of Elementary education** into infants and junior levels, and **Secondary education** into grammar, modern and technical schooling. These changes were introduced upon recommendations made by the Hadow committee chaired by Sir W. Henry Hadow, which **allowed for specialisation of curriculum crafted to suit the pace of learning for the developing child**. Furthermore, the **leaving age was raised from age 12 in 1899 to age 15 by 1947**.

Following 19th-century public health reform movements, hygiene became a priority in the **planning of schools which soon followed after design principles applied in sanatoria**. It soon became an accepted fact that **favourable environmental conditions, such as lighting and ventilation, influenced learning**. The provision of meals also came to be necessary in educational institutions. The **standardisation of class sizes, common core curriculum, and teaching salaries** was introduced during the inter-war years **for parity of greater quality**. Educationalists advocated for the appreciation of **alternative pedagogical approaches such as experiential learning, out-of-classroom curriculum, varied subject study, project-based work, and flexible classroom layouts for the well-rounded intellectual and social development of the child**. These principles are well expressed in the design and layout of the garrison school set up at Gillman Barracks in 1939.

Post-independent Singapore introduced Junior Colleges to facilitate gateways and increased access to pre-university education for more youths. Specialisation in subject combinations, laboratory facilities, and higher standards of tutelage were the aspirations of such a system. Tutorial formats modelled after the university system allowed for smaller teacher-student ratio, and community-centred co-curricular activities were introduced with the hopes of grooming civic-minded citizens.

Technical and vocational training

It became increasingly apparent following both major wars that **servicemen needed to be suitably equipped with non-combat skills to assist their assimilation back into society after their discharge or retirement**. Vocational courses and apprenticeships in collaboration with professional institutions were introduced by the War Office for servicemen in various trades such as electrical or mechanical engineering, medical training, law, accountancy, surveying, etc.

The well-woven relationship between the military and vocational training was passed on as a particularly **productive and beneficial legacy during the early nation-building years**, as the British government provided an assembly of professional executives and technical engineers to train Singapore locals to form the base workforce for the long term. This was implemented via the **Bases Economic Conversion Department (BECD) (1968)** led by Hon Sui Sen. In **1972, Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute** was opened in the southern part of Gillman Barracks with a training programme focused on metal and welding trades. Of the stock of vocational training campuses set up between 1965 and 1979, other extant campuses include the former Baharrudin, Bukit Merah and Geylang Serai Vocational Institutes.

Types of places: Public and private primary and secondary schools, public and private colleges, technical schools.



Fig. 5.1.16 Bourne School students gathered for an assembly in the quadrangle of the Gillman Section. Source: Maurice Hann



Fig. 5.1.17 1950s Laboratory at Alexandra Grammar School. Source: Memories of Singapore

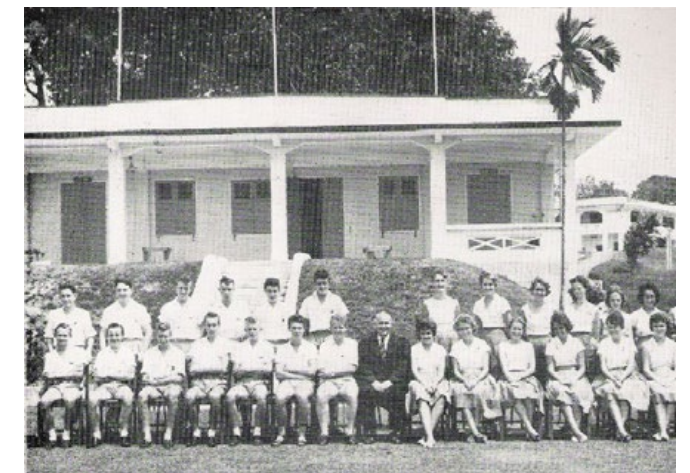


Fig. 5.1.18 1961 Prefects of the Alexandra School with Head Teacher Mr. John MacFarlane. Source: David and Stephen Prior



Fig. 5.1.19 1979, Opening Ceremony with Main Block on the left and sports grounds and running track on the right. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979



Fig. 5.1.20 An open-air lesson for troops at 70 Army Education Centre at the basha huts of the Gillman Section in 1961. Source: AGC Museum

Gillman Barracks - Statement of Significance

Gillman Barracks is a site of considerable historical, architectural, social, and contextual significance in Singapore. Constructed in the 1930s by the War Office, it functioned as a military camp and represents **a rare and well-preserved example of a military complex in the country**. The barracks played a crucial role in the defence infrastructure of pre-war and post-war Singapore and remain a testament to the strategic military planning of the British in Southeast Asia.

Historically, the significance of Gillman Barracks lies not only in its military history but also in its **unique status as a family garrison, designed to accommodate British military personnel and their families**. This focus on welfare provision is reflected in the comprehensive nature of its facilities and social character of the complex, including residential quarters, recreational spaces, and key amenities such as the Alexandra School, which served the educational needs of children from service families stationed across the island. The presence of such infrastructure demonstrates **a deliberate effort to create a self-contained, community-oriented environment** - a feature that was quickly becoming popular in colonial military installations after the first World War.

Gillman Barracks was handed over to the SAF during the 1971 British Withdrawal, and remained in continuous military and institutional use until the 1990s. It was the headquarters for the School of Combat Engineering during this time.

Across these phases, communities and users of the site from the 1930s to the 1990s ranged from short-term occupants due to rotational postings and fixed periods of study, to longer-term users such as trainers and school staff. Despite these varying durations, the **integrated nature of living, working, training, and schooling at Gillman Barracks fostered a structured communal life and a strong sense of belonging and attachment to the site**. Memories of Gillman Barracks remain evident in oral history records, alumni networks, and informal social groups of former servicemen and school communities, reflecting its enduring social value.

Architecturally, the site contains **a cohesive collection of colonial-era buildings, featuring tropical adaptations suited to the local climate**. These structures display characteristic design elements such as deep verandahs, high ceilings, haunched beams in reinforced concrete, louvered and lattice fenestrations that illustrate both the practical and aesthetic approaches of colonial military architecture in Malaya. A wide range of building types are still evident on the site despite latter-day partial redevelopment; these include barrack blocks, messes, offices and regimental institutes, married quarters, sports and recreational facilities. The inherent hierarchical order is also reflected in the planning logic of the compound.

Gillman Barracks also holds high contextual value due to its location and historical associations. **It was strategically situated near the Alexandra cantonment and the ports along the Southern coast, and played a supportive role in wider defence and post-war recovery operations**. The plan of the camp was comprehensive and tactical; living quarters, whether shared or for families, were located at higher elevations, giving consideration for public health such as well-ventilated, well-lit and comfortable spaces for habitation. Extensive networks of anti-malarial drains were also important introductions to regulate the marsh-like conditions prior to the development of the site. The hills and slopes of Faber Ridge would have also provided both strategic vantages out to sea and cover or shelter from overhead raids. In the present day, the **undulating and wooded terrain and hilly elevation are an intact remnant** and a unique part of the place identity of Gillman Barracks.



Fig. 5.2.1 1937 View of Gillman Barracks from Lock Road facing Malan Road and Barrack Hill. 37 and 38 Malan Road (current address) are located at the base of the hill and the Middlesex Regiment insignia is halfway up the slope. Source: Glyn Wright collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

Gillman Barracks - Statement of Significance

However, **landscape changes and development pressures from the 1970s to 2000s have resulted in the loss of significant portions of the original built fabric and landform.** The former barracks cluster and parade square have been demolished, and the area at Railway Hill and its Married Officers' quarters has been redeveloped. The removal of substantial building stock - particularly the barracks that defined the site's identity - represents an **irreversible loss of architectural typologies and primary physical evidence**, constraining the legibility and full interpretation of the original complex.

This has **disrupted the functional relationships between living, training, educational, and operational zones**, including their connections to recreational areas at Lock Road and logistical zones along Malan Road. As these relationships underpinned both the organisation of the site and the patterns of daily life within it, their erosion affects not only the expression of social significance in the site's use, but also the overall legibility of the site as a coherent cultural landscape.

It is therefore important that these losses in integrity and legibility are addressed through sensitive planning and interpretive strategies, with an emphasis on reinforcing the site's relational and spatial coherence as far as practicable.

Despite these changes, since 2011, Gillman Barracks has been adapted into a contemporary arts and cultural precinct, contributing to Singapore's broader cultural development. Anchored by institutions such as NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Mizuma Gallery, and Sundaram Tagore Gallery, the site has re-emerged as a place of public engagement and creative exchange. This phase marks a **shift from a formerly enclosed compound to a more open and accessible cultural landscape**, where galleries, events, and programmes bring together artists, curators, and visitors. **In doing so, it extends the site's long-standing role as a place of gathering and shared experience, contributing to its continued social significance in a new and more publicly accessible form, and ensuring its ongoing relevance as a socially and culturally active environment.**

■ Extant Structures
■ Demolished structures

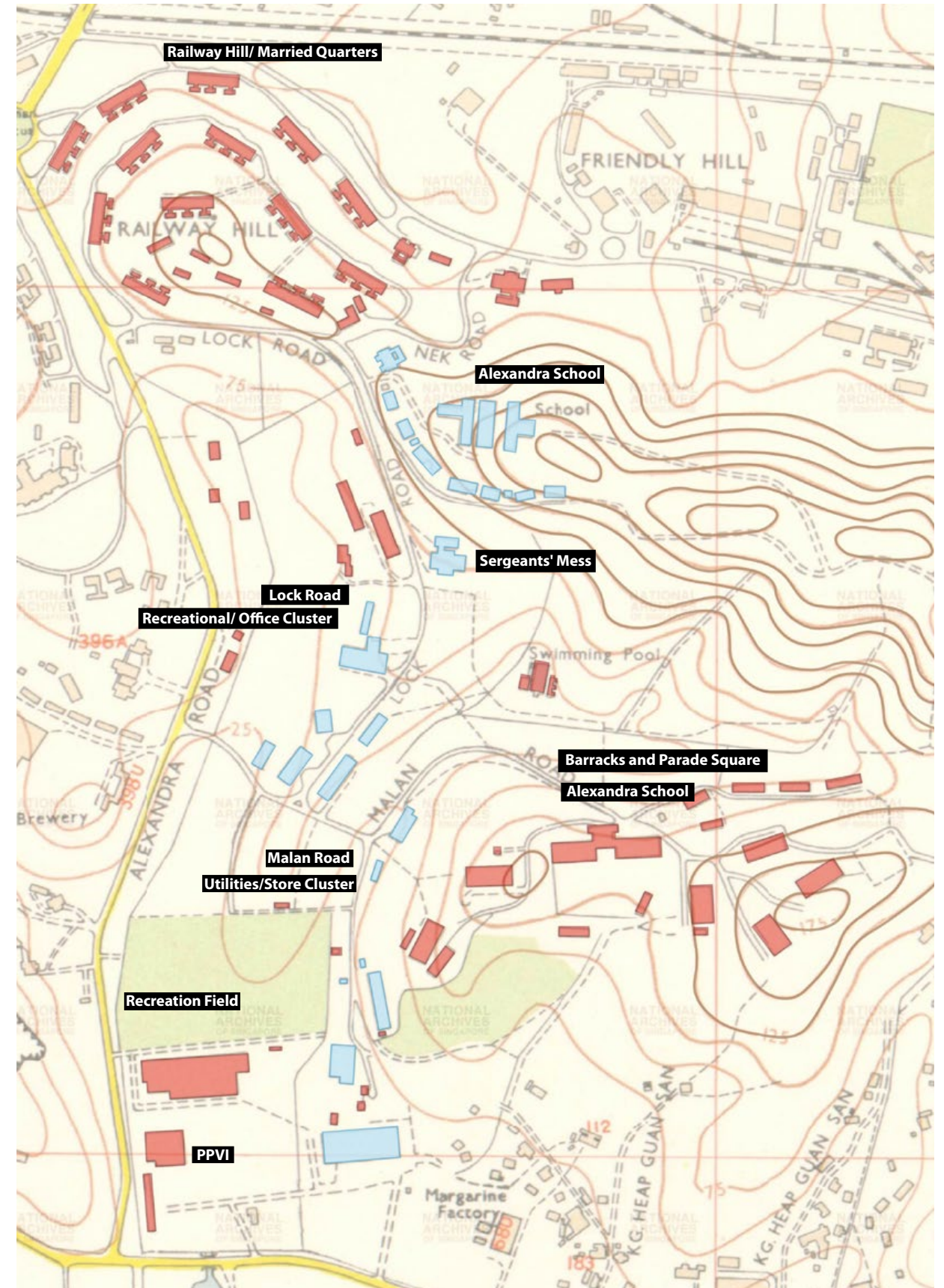


Fig 5.2.2 Annotated 1959 Topographic map of Pasir Panjang. Base Map Source: Accession No. TM001064, Singapore Land Authority Collection, Courtesy of the National Archives of Singapore

Summary Map of Building Significance

Overview - Survey of Buildings

For the purposes of the survey, the buildings within the Gillman Barracks Study Area are grouped into the Core Area consisting of the following clusters - Malan Road, Lock Road, Preston Road houses, and Preston Road School; and the Non-Core area consisting of the following clusters - (former) St. Andrew’s Junior College, (former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute, and Telok Blangah Public Utilities.

Based on desktop research and site surveys, the number of buildings categorised into the respective levels of significance in each cluster within the Gillman Barracks Study Area is estimated in the table below. All buildings are counted as individual entries unless they are confirmed to be ancillary to a main building.

Cluster Name	I.D.	Evaluation of Significance					Total quantity of buildings	Landscape features or spaces excluded from calculation of buildings
		Exceptional	High	Moderate	Low	Neutral/ Intrusive		
Malan Road	M-	0	4	1	2	2	9	- Middlesex and Loyal Regiment Insignia (<i>Exceptional</i>) - Malan Road (<i>High</i>)
Lock Road	L-	3	3	2	2	1	11	- Ravine (<i>High</i>) - Bridge (<i>Neutral/ Intrusive</i>) - Lock Road (<i>High</i>)
Preston Road Houses	P1-	0	16	0	0	0	16	Preston Road (<i>High</i>)
Preston Road School	P2-	1	0	7	4	2	14	- Open Courtyard (<i>High</i>) - Entrance Steps (<i>High</i>) - External Staircase (pair) (<i>High</i>)
(Former) St. Andrew’s Junior College	A1-	0	2	6	2	7	17	- Track Field (<i>High</i>) - Central Plaza (<i>High</i>) - Basketball and Netball Courts (<i>Neutral/ Intrusive</i>) - Sheltered walkway (<i>Neutral/Intrusive</i>)
(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute	A2-	0	1	6	0	1	8	None
Telok Blangah Public Utilities	T-	0	1	2	6	2	11	None
Subtotal per Significance Ranking		4	27	24	16	15		
Total approx. quantity of buildings and elements in Gillman Barracks Study Area							86	N/A

Table 5.3.1 Tabulation of buildings and elements by cluster and initial significance banding in Gillman Barracks Study Area.

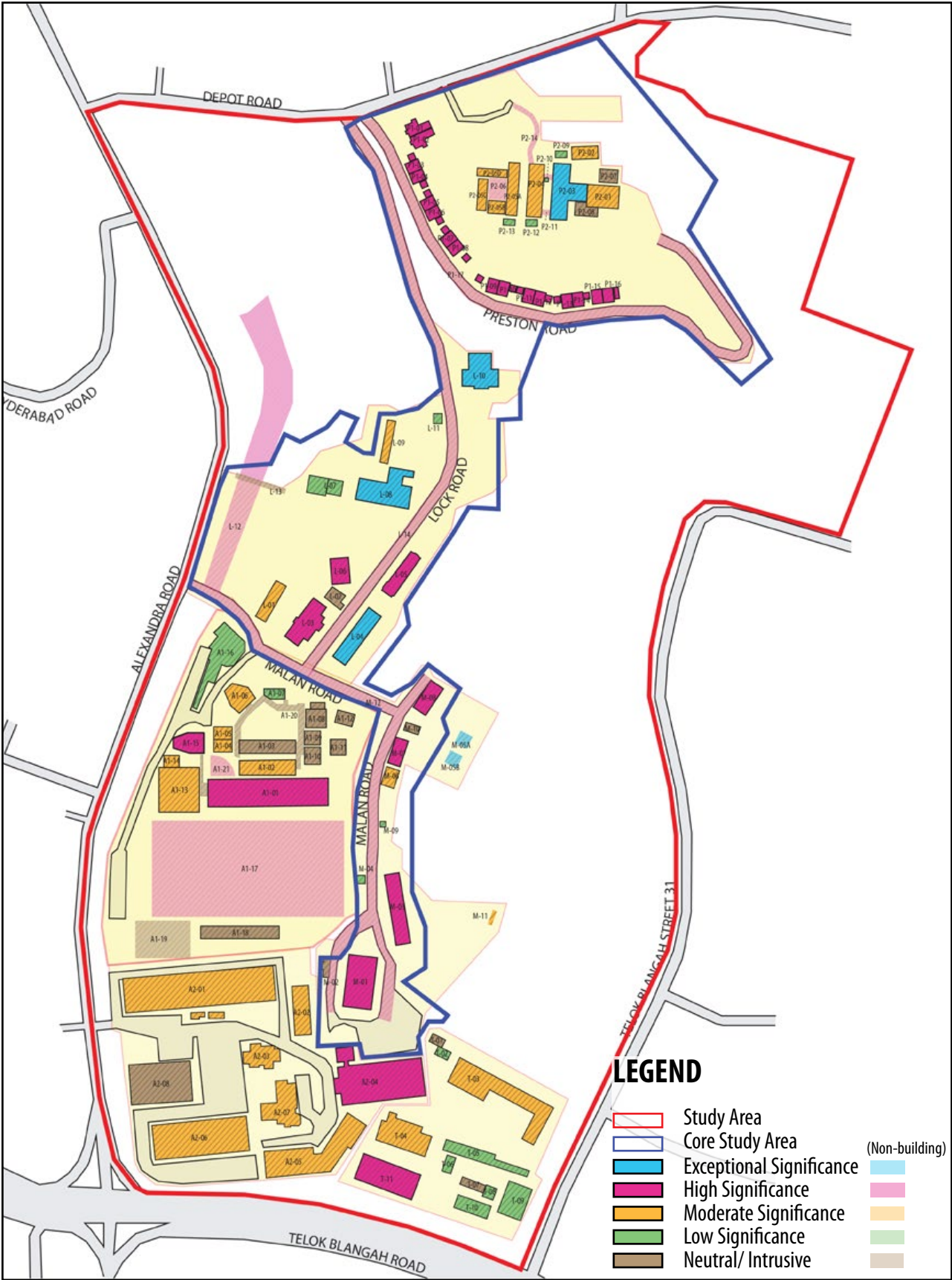


Fig.5.3.1 Overview of Study Area with indication of Neutral/Intrusive, Low, Moderate, High, and Exceptional Significance assessment of extant building and non-building features.

Malan Road Cluster

Malan Road Cluster

Malan Road Cluster (ID: M-)

In the historical Gillman Barracks site, Malan Road used to extend from Alexandra Road to the western slopes of Faber ridges before the road split northwards, climbing up Barrack Hill, and southward towards the flat plains nearer to Telok Blangah Road. Today, only the western and southernmost sections of Malan Road and its structures remain. The buildings at Malan Road were mostly constructed between 1935 and the 1950s and served the Gillman Barracks and Infantry Camp, the Royal Engineers after the war and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Combat Engineers Headquarters after British withdrawal.

Many of the extant structures at the southern end of Malan Road were used to serve functions of utility including workshops, garages, and stores. 43 and 47 Malan Road were constructed in lightweight steel frame structures which enabled large-span column-free interiors and flexible facade arrangements. The smaller reinforced concrete buildings near the junction of Malan Road were used as a medical facility or housed smaller specialist units. In more recent years, these buildings housed NTU CCA Singapore's exhibition hall and residential studio spaces before moving out in 2021. Today, they are used for retail and F&B.

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- The steep slope to the east of Malan Road creates a distinct contrast with the low-lying flat plains to the west.
- Large expanse of greenery to either side of Malan Road with sparse tree planting and a cleared, flat lawn.
- Historically, the slopes and turf were lined with sparse tree planting. More recently, the slope of Barrack Hill is dense with secondary forest, creating a lush backdrop to Malan Road.
- Lush, tranquil character contributes to the privacy of the site.

Layout

- Land parcels are narrow and long, constrained by Malan Road and the steep slope of Barrack Hill.
- The buildings are oriented toward Malan Road with little to moderate setback between the road and the building boundary line. The area is primarily used for operational and industrial/maintenance facilities of the camp.

- Clear, unobstructed axial sight-lines along historic Malan Road, and from the slopes of Barrack Hill west overlooking the recreation ground.
- Low building density, predominantly low-rise (single-storey) buildings.

Buildings

- Functional Types: administrative, operational (military), stores, and maintenance/workshops (military transport)
- Morphology: low-density, single-storey blocks with rectangular footprint, mix of flat roof structures with crown and corrugated pitched roof
- Architectural style: mix of stripped classicism and industrial; predominantly functional and utilitarian
- Materials (buildings): reinforced & mass concrete, brick masonry, plaster and paint, pre-cast vents, mild steel windows and timber doors; other predominant types feature steel frame and corrugated roof

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- Malan Road Cluster is defined by Malan Road and the large open recreation ground to the west, and the steep upward climbing slope of Barrack Hill to the east.
- The cluster ends at the Military Transport workshops to the south.
- The open space of the wide slope of Barrack Hill was historically marked by the two military insignias and a long, uncovered flight of steps leading up towards the barracks and parade square.
- The parade square (demolished) was historically defined by the setting out of barrack blocks on three sides, creating a 'U' shape and unblocked views towards the southern coast.
- Physical boundaries: roads, footpaths, steep slopes, steps.

Designed Landscapes

- Drainage – anti-malarial drains with lined ditches
- Earthworks – minimal platform levelling as most of the site follows the existing contours of the terrain
- Scattered and limited planting – the site was extensively cleared in the 1930s for the construction of Gillman Barracks
- Hardscape features – military insignia, lamp posts, bollards, road signs, paved road, paved pathways and steps

Malan Road Cluster



Fig. 5.4.1 1938, view of the slope of Barrack Hill from Malan Road. Visible in the frame is the military insignia, staircase and newly turfed slopes just after the completion of Gillman Barracks. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London.



Fig. 5.4.2 1938, view of Barrack Hill from the north, with the now expunged portion of Malan Road in the middle of the frame. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London.



Fig. 5.4.3 Present-day view of the staircase on the slope of Barrack Hill which has been partially demolished and the existing portions heavily overgrown and now a secondary forest. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.4.4 Present-day view of the military insignia still in its original location. This is a highly important artefact from Gillman Barracks' history. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.

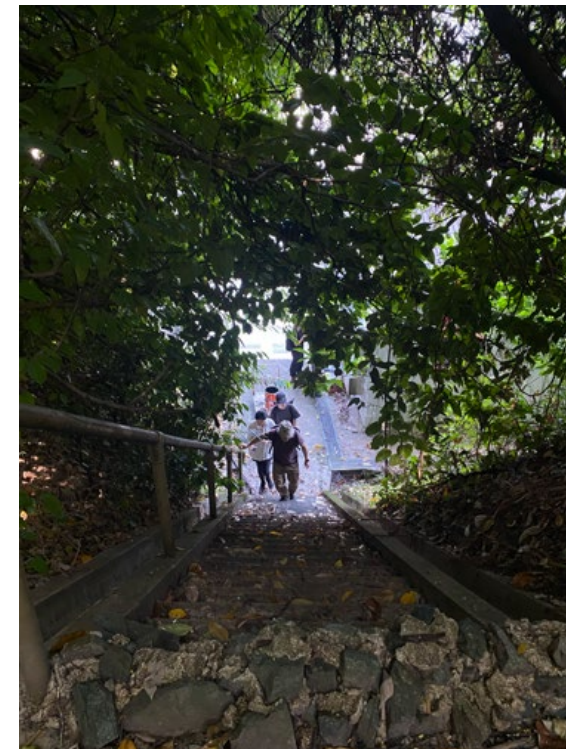


Fig. 5.4.5 Present-day view of the staircase behind Malan Road. Many of these are currently obscured by dense foliage. They are often lined with concrete drains to the side. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.

Malan Road Cluster

Cluster Significance

High Historical Value

Malan Road cluster is one of the last remaining sections of the original extent of Gillman Barracks constructed in 1935 for the British infantry regiments posted to the island. The group of barrack blocks and the parade square located at the eastern end of Malan Road on top of Barrack Hill were demolished in the mid-1990s to make way for public housing projects in the precinct. The structures in this cluster benefited from continuity of use for military purposes from the point of construction up until 1993 – the Royal Engineers used the base after the Japanese occupation, followed by the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Combat Engineers in 1971 and SAF Transport Unit in 1984.

High Architectural Value

Similar to Lock Road, the vestiges of the garrison found today within the Malan Road cluster are important in communicating the design and planning principles utilised by the Royal Engineers at this site and the system of hierarchy of the military institutions that operated within the compound. Due to its historical use for military Transport Lines, the extant structures of Malan Road present a collection of highly intact workshop-type structures that are largely functional and utilitarian in design compared to the barrack and administrative types. The structures found in Malan Road are a rare typology of which few similar examples remain across the country. This cluster highlights the importance of workhorse spaces and roles set within the network of a highly organised military landscape.

High Contextual Value

As a distinguishing factor, the eastern end of Malan Road on the former Barrack Hill was centred around single men's barrack accommodations and the formal parade grounds. Planners made use of the high vantage point to provide generous and sanitary living spaces for the military personnel. Meanwhile, structures for industrial, mechanical, and utilitarian functions were grouped at the lower plains at the south end of Malan Road and were more accessible to vehicles from the main trunk roads.

High Social Value

Malan Road cluster has a significant social dimension woven into the history of the site that is particularly unique to the character of structured military communities. Whilst many of the single men's barracks for quartered accommodations have since been demolished, the extant buildings were still important communal spaces of work and fraternisation. These spaces were physical symbols of social norms and conventions shared within the camp. Workspaces too were likely occupied and used based on the respective roles and tasks of rank-and-file personnel, and came together to form a larger institutional whole for daily operations.

*Regimental structures of a similar period and architectural features:
Changi Hospital at Hendon Road structures (mid 1930s).*



Fig. 5.4.6 1937 view of Malan Road and Barrack Hill with present day 37 & 38 Malan Road at the bottom of the hill. Source: Glyn Wright collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 5.4.7 1968 Facade of 38 Malan Road. Source: John C Young Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 5.4.8 School assembly at the recreation grounds with 47 and 43 Malan Rd in the background. Source: R.P. Gaskell.



Fig. 5.4.9 Entrance to Malan Road from Alexandra Road. Source: Military Survey Historic Archive.

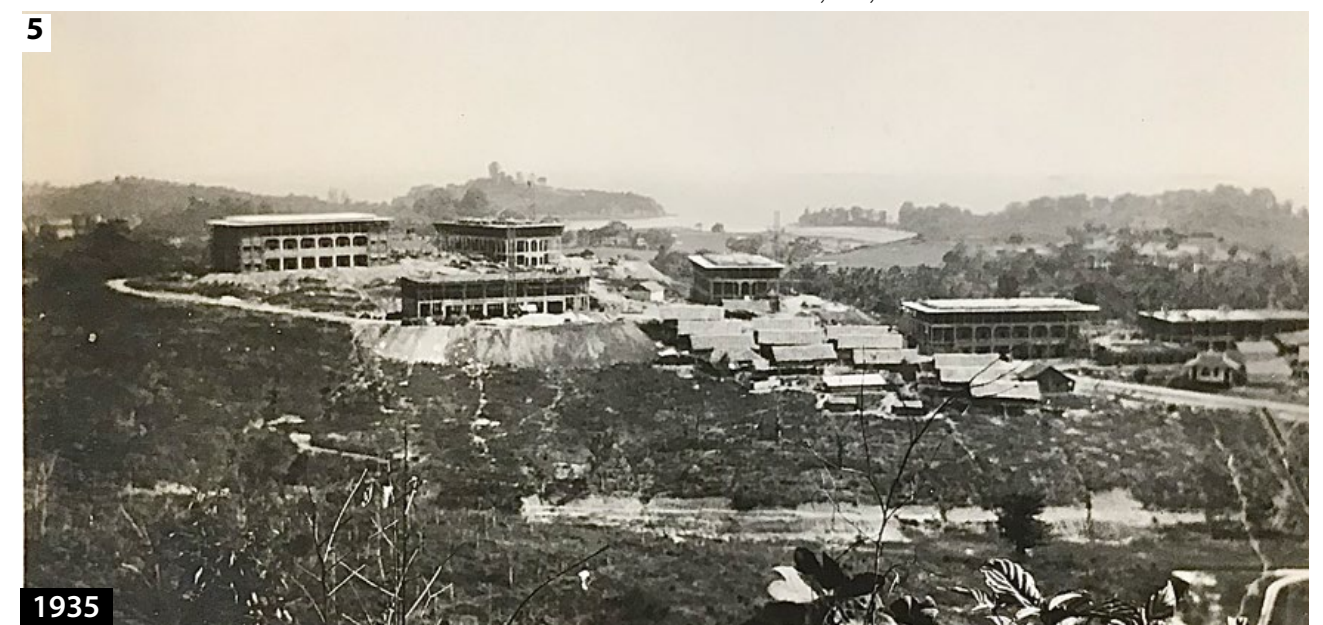


Fig. 5.4.10 Photograph of blocks on Barrack Hill under construction in 1935. Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.

Malan Road Cluster

Overview of Malan Road Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
M-01	Malan Road	43 Malan Road	1935	F&B, Lifestyle	Motor Workshops (Late 1960s)	Workshop	5	3	3	4	18	High Significance
M-02	Malan Road	45 Malan Road	2014-2015	F&B	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
M-03	Malan Road	47 Malan Road	1943-1950	Art Gallery, F&B	Platoon Training Wing (Late 1960s)	Workshop	4	4	3	4	19	High Significance
M-04	Malan Road	41 Malan Road	1943-1950	F&B	Store	Store	2	1	0	2	6	Low Significance
M-05A	Malan Road	N/A	1935	N/A	Middlesex Regiment Insignia	Landscape feature	• Rare • Materially intact with some damages; high degree of craftsmanship • In-situ, historically highly visible and emblematic					Exceptional Significance
M-05B	Malan Road	N/A	1938	N/A	Loyal Regiment Insignia	Landscape feature	• Rare • Materially intact with some damages; high degree of craftsmanship • In-situ, historically highly visible and emblematic					Exceptional Significance
M-06	Malan Road	39 Malan Road	1950s	F&B	Muslim Canteen (1960s)	Mess/ Canteen	3	1	4	2	11	Moderate Significance
M-07	Malan Road	38 Malan Road	1935	Vacant	Pioneers (1936) FARELF Sub Aqua Club (1960s) Sick Bay (Late 1960s) MT Line, POL	Administrative	5	4	4	5	22	High Significance
M-08	Malan Road	37 Malan Road	1935	Vacant	Medical Centre (late 1960s)	Administrative	5	4	4	5	22	High Significance
M-09	Malan Road	Latrine	1935-1950	Toilet	Latrine, store	Outhouse	3	1	0	1	6	Low Significance
M-10	Malan Road	Electrical Substation	2000s	Substation	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
M-11	Malan Road	SOC Wall	1971-1993	Abandoned	SOC Climbing wall	Training	• Remnant likely from MINDEF period • Functionally specific structure, intact and unique • Remaining artefact from National Service (NS) training SOC open area					Moderate Significance
M-12	Malan Road	Malan Road	1935	Road	Road	Landscape feature	• Primary entrance and access route into Gillman Barracks • Together with steep slope of Barrack Hill, the road is essential for understanding the narrow form and orientation of adjacent buildings • Defines the operational and industrial southern section of Gillman Barracks • With the former northern split toward Barrack Hill expunged, the remaining road section is critical to understand the original layout of the compound					High Significance

Table. 5.4.1 Overview of building and non-building features in Malan Road cluster.

Malan Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 43 MALAN ROAD (ID: M-01)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	43 Malan Road is a historically significant structure and one of the few remaining that was constructed in the initial set up of Gillman Barracks. It is therefore representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - Used as a motor workshop or garage for military transport and equipment, 43 Malan Road immediately presents a clear and strong representation of Gillman Barracks' legacy as home to the Royal Engineers, then Combat Engineer and Transport vocations.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	43 Malan Road is a rare example of the colonial garrison utility typology, of which few examples in Singapore still remain or are accessible. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp but also other similar army establishments that were built around Singapore. - Due to its functionality, the building had to be easily adaptable and economical and therefore features more typical building materials and forms. However, the building envelope, profile and layout largely remain intact.	3	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up to 1993, 43 Malan Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories, in this case, as a place for training and work of servicemen. - The structure demonstrates good symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- Located near the foothills of Barrack Hill at the southern end of Malan Road, the structure frames the extent of Malan Road as well as the nearby recreational playing fields and has long provided definition to historic vistas and landscape. - It is an important remnant of Malan Road whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. 43 Malan Road is also sited in close proximity to other large utility workshops and garages at the southern end of Malan Road (some of which no longer exist) and is a component forming part of a legible cluster. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	18 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	72 %	

Table 5.4.2 Building significance evaluation table for 43 Malan Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.4.11 1990 Aerial photo of 43 Malan Road in the foreground, with view of historic fenestration along its west-facing facade. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection via National Archives of Singapore

Malan Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 47 MALAN ROAD (ID: M-03)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	47 Malan Road is a historically significant structure that was constructed during the immediate post-war years of Gillman Barracks' history and an important representation of this period. - As a large utility structure used as the Platoon Training Wing in the 1960s, 47 Malan Road immediately presents a clear and strong representation of Gillman Barracks' legacy as home to the pioneers, combat engineer and transport vocations.	4	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	47 Malan Road is a rare example of the colonial garrison utility typology, of which few examples in Singapore still remain or are accessible. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp but also other similar army establishments that were built around Singapore. - The building features highly intact character-defining attributes such as expressed steel frame structure, mild-steel fenestrations and retractable metal gauge panelled doors.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up to 1993, 47 Malan Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories, in this case, as a place for training and work of servicemen. - The structure demonstrates good symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- Located at the base of Barrack Hill and fronting the southern end of Malan Road, the structure frames the extent of Malan Road as well as the nearby playing fields and has long provided definition to historic vistas and landscape. - It is an important remnant of Malan Road and Barrack Hill, whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. 47 Malan Road is also sited in close proximity to other large utility workshops and garages at the southern end of Malan Road (some of which no longer exist) and is a component forming part of a legible cluster. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	19 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	76 %	

Table 5.4.3 Building significance evaluation table for 47 Malan Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.4.12 1963 view of 47 Malan Road set in the background. The building overlooks the recreational field where Alexandra Grammar School students participate in the Pasir Panjang District Meet. Source: Alexandra Grammar School

Malan Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 38 MALAN ROAD (ID: M-07)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	38 Malan Road is a historically significant structure and one of the few remaining that was constructed in the initial set up of Gillman Barracks in 1935. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - Gillman Barracks, under the use of the 1st Middlesex Regiment, 2nd Loyal Regiment as well as subsequent occupiers Royal Engineers and FARELF forces, highlight the camp and this structure's associations with organisations of international presence and scale.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	38 Malan Road is a rare example of the colonial infantry regimental offices and operations typology of which few examples in Singapore still remain or are accessible. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp but also other similar army establishments that were built around Singapore. - The building features highly intact character-defining attributes such as expressed concrete brackets, pediment and mild steel windows.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up to 1993, 38 Malan Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories - training, fraternising and other activities shared amongst the ranks. - The structure demonstrates strong symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- Located at the base of Barrack Hill and clearly visible upon entry into Malan Road, 38 Malan Road has long been a notable landmark within the site, providing definition to historic vistas and road scape. - It is an important remnant of Malan Road and Barrack Hill whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	21 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	84 %	

Table 5.4.4 Building significance evaluation table for 38 Malan Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.4.13 1960s view of from Malan Road looking up towards Barrack Hill. 38 Malan Road is the building on the right with teal coloured doors during its use as the FARELF Sub Aqua Club building. Source: Paul Cook

Malan Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 37 MALAN ROAD (ID: M-08)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	37 Malan Road is a historically significant structure and one of the remaining few that was constructed in the initial set up of Gillman Barracks in 1935. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - The building served as the Medical Centre or Medical Inspection Room for the 1st Middlesex Regiment, and later the 2nd Loyal Regiment during the interwar years. - Oral histories suggest that the use of this block as the Medical Centre carried through into the post-war years during Royal Engineers' tenure and even later during the SAF Combat Engineer period.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	37 Malan Road is a good example of the typical but important military facilities of which few examples in Singapore still remain or are accessible. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp but also other similar army establishments that were built around Singapore. - Some notable modifications have been added such as the enclosure of the verandahs; these are reversible and could be potentially reinstated to retrieve the structure's original architectural character and quality. - The single-storey structure features recognisable characteristic features such as the verandah (now enclosed), wall pre-cast vents, and haunched columns and beams carrying a reinforced concrete roof with a crown. The date of construction is also featured on the building's pediment as a symbol of the structure's provenance.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up until 1993, 37 Malan Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories - training, routine operations and other activities shared as common experience amongst servicemen. It is a recognisable landmark to many previous users and can be seen upon entry into Malan Road from Alexandra Road. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound when 8 Lock Road was converted into a publicly accessible art gallery.	4	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	37 Malan Road demonstrates good connections to its surrounding context, including in terms of operational, functional and architectural relations. - The siting of the building retains, and is strongly defined by, its relationship and proximity to Barrack Hill, as the structure both frames the hill and marks the start of both ingresses - vehicular traffic via Malan Road (now expunged section) and pedestrian footfall via the external staircase that leads directly to the top of the hill. - It contributes to the legibility of the historic plan and logic of organisation of the base and is sited in proximity to other administrative and military operational facilities. - It is an important and intact remnant of a significant cluster that has suffered material loss.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	22 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	88 %	

Table 5.4.5 Building significance evaluation table for 37 Malan Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.4.14 c.1935-1938 View from Lock Road looking up towards Barrack Hill. The building on the left at the foot of Barrack Hill is 37 Malan Road. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

Malan Road Cluster

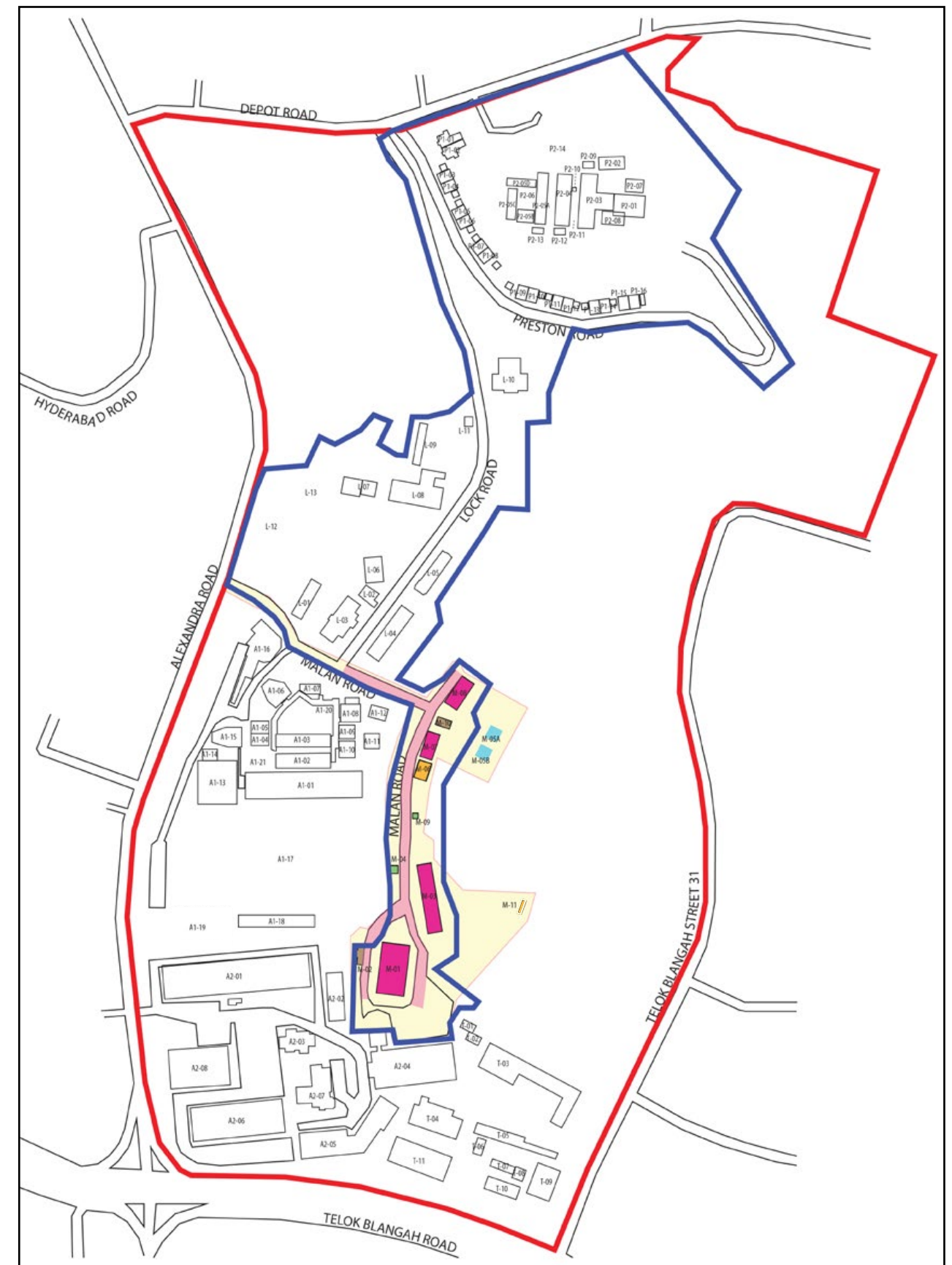
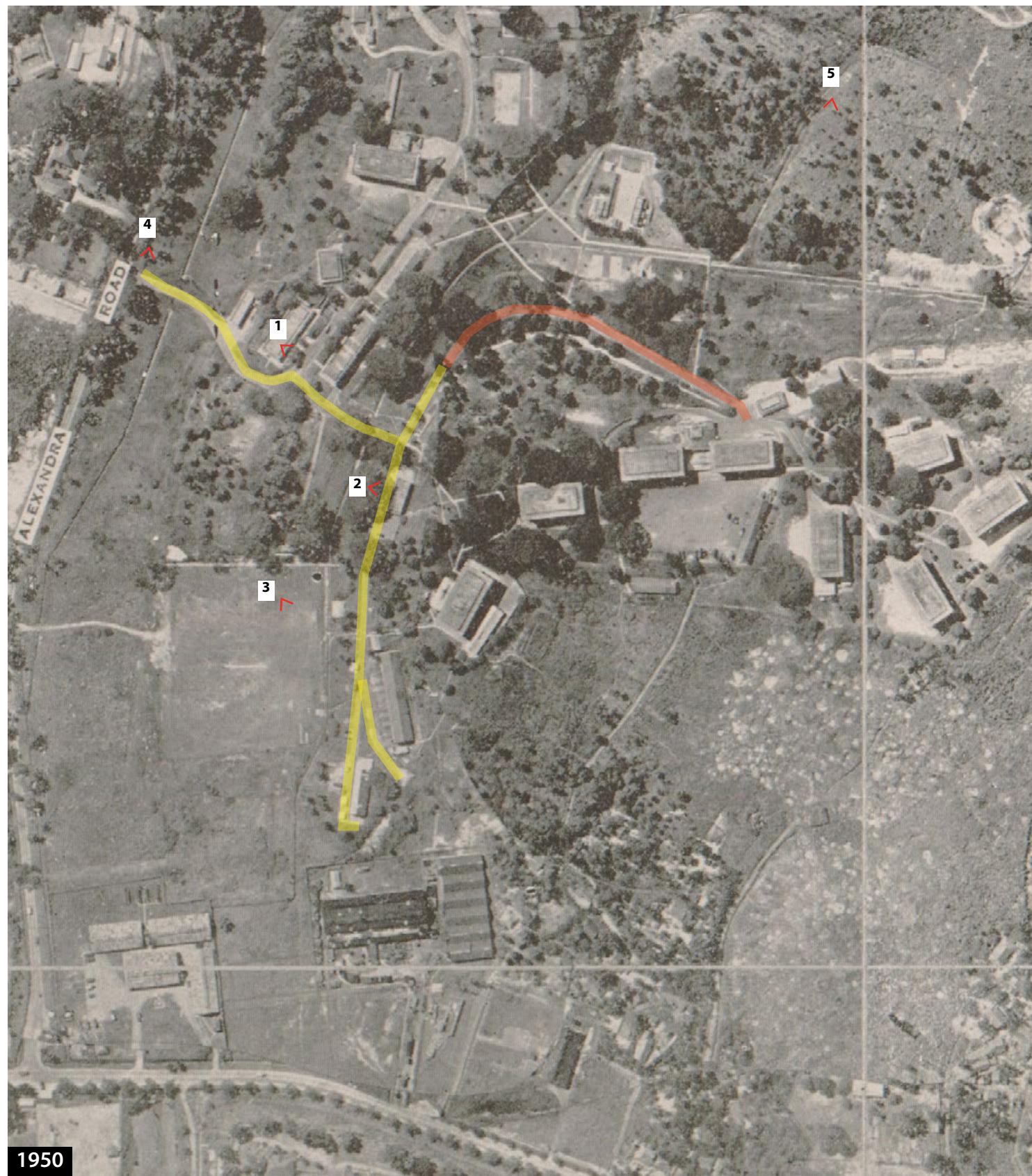


Fig. 5.4.15 Extract from 1950 aerial survey conducted by the British Royal Airforce. The yellow line indicates part of Malan Road that still exists today while the red line indicates the expunged portion of Malan Road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Fig. 5.4.16 Overview of Malan Road Cluster with assessment of structures.

Lock Road Cluster

Lock Road Cluster

Lock Road Cluster (ID: L-)

Lock Road is located on the mid to north section of the existing Gillman Barracks. As the road proceeds northwards, it slopes up to higher ground and ends between the hills historically known as Railway Hill and Friendly Hill. Structures found along Lock Road were mostly constructed between 1935 and the 1950s and served the Gillman Barracks and Infantry Camp, the Royal Engineers after the war and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Combat Engineers Headquarters after British withdrawal. In the 1936 development, the structures located along Lock Road were used as a sergeants' mess, quartermaster's supply and provision stores, orderly room for company organisation, NAAFI facilities, and a cinema. Today, these structures mostly house Gillman Barracks' main art galleries and other F&B establishments.

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- Natural hilly contours create a distinct contrast with the southern end of the site closer to Telok Blangah Road.
- Fairly large expanse of greenery, primarily undulating slopes and with moderately dense tree planting along edges
- Historically, the roads were lined with sparse tree planting and well-kept green verge with turf.
- Lush, tranquil character contributes to the privacy of the site.
- 'The Gap' to the west of the cluster creates a green buffer separating the camp and Alexandra Road. This was originally a ravine with a stream that led from Berlayer Creek.

Layout

- Land parcels are fairly wide, defined by natural contours of the site and historic roads.
- The buildings are generally oriented either toward Lock Road or, at higher elevations, facing south overlooking the lower slopes of Gillman Barracks. The area is primarily used for operational and recreational facilities of the camp.
- Clear, unobstructed axial sight-lines along historic Lock Road, ending at the recreation ground.
- Low building density, predominantly low-rise (typically one to two storey) buildings. Wide street widths contribute to low-density character.

Buildings

- Functional Types: administrative, operational (military), stores, and recreational/ communal buildings (e.g. cinema, NAAFI, warrant officers' and petty officers' mess)

- Morphology: low-density rectangular footprint blocks, predominantly flat roof structures with crown, cinema is a standalone type with corrugated pitched roof
- Architectural style: stripped classicism, functional and utilitarian
- Materials (buildings): reinforced & mass concrete, brick masonry, plaster and paint, pre-cast vents, timber windows and doors, and to a lesser extent steel frame and corrugated roof

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- Lock Road Cluster is defined by Alexandra Road to the west, a deep ravine 'The Gap' running parallel to Alexandra Road and Lock Road and downward slope to the east, and Malan Road to the south
- Smaller and dispersed open spaces like slopes and assembly grounds are defined by the space between buildings and pathways
- Physical boundaries: roads, footpaths, steep slopes, steps

Designed Landscapes

- Drainage – anti-malarial drains with lined ditches
- Earthworks – minimal platform levelling as most of the site follow existing contours of the terrain
- Scattered and limited planting – the site was extensively cleared in the 1930s for the construction of Gillman Barracks
- Hardscape features – lamp posts, bollards, building and road signs, paved road, paved pathways and steps

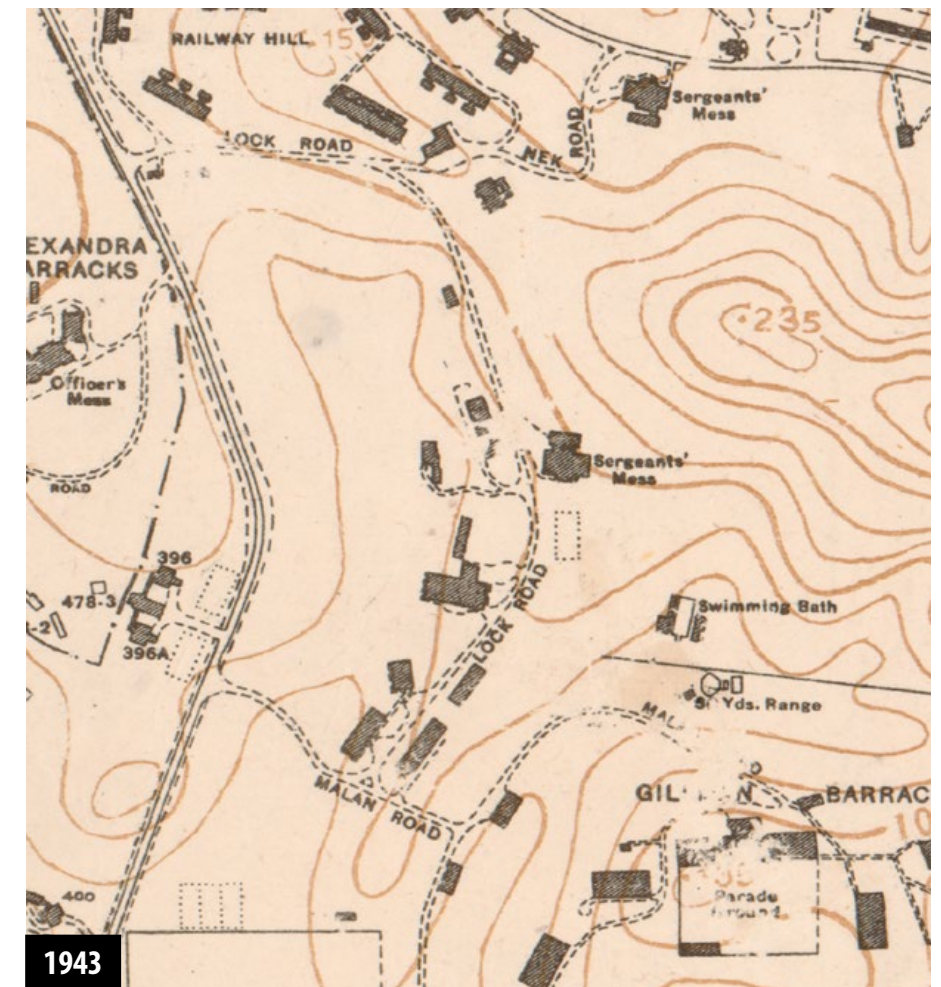


Fig. 5.5.1 View of Lock Road on 1943 Topographic map of the site with buildings of Gillman Barracks overlaid.
Source: Singapore Land Authority collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

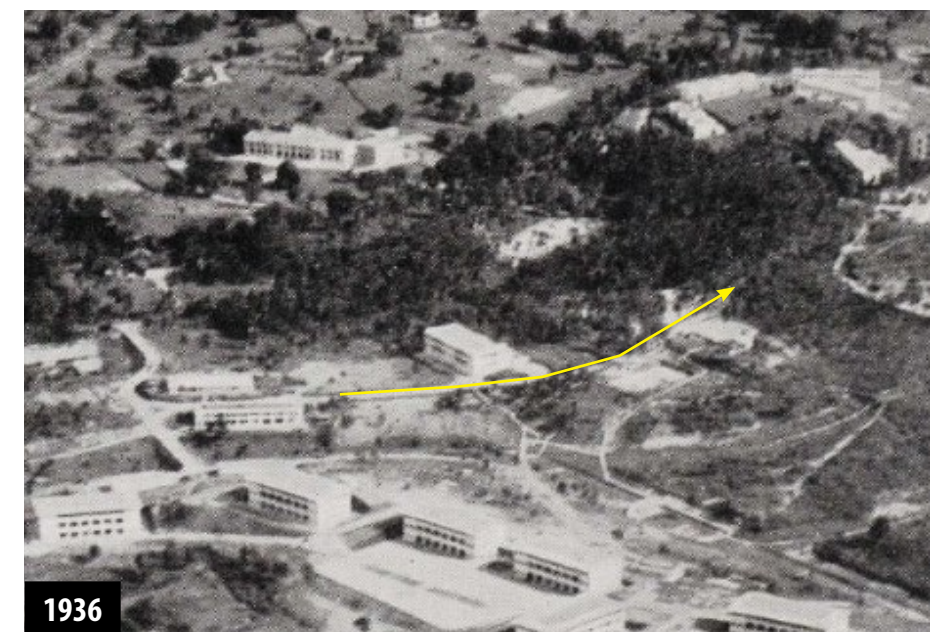


Fig. 5.5.2 1936 Aerial view showing the upward slope of Lock Road towards the north direction.
Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

Lock Road Cluster

Landscape Elements

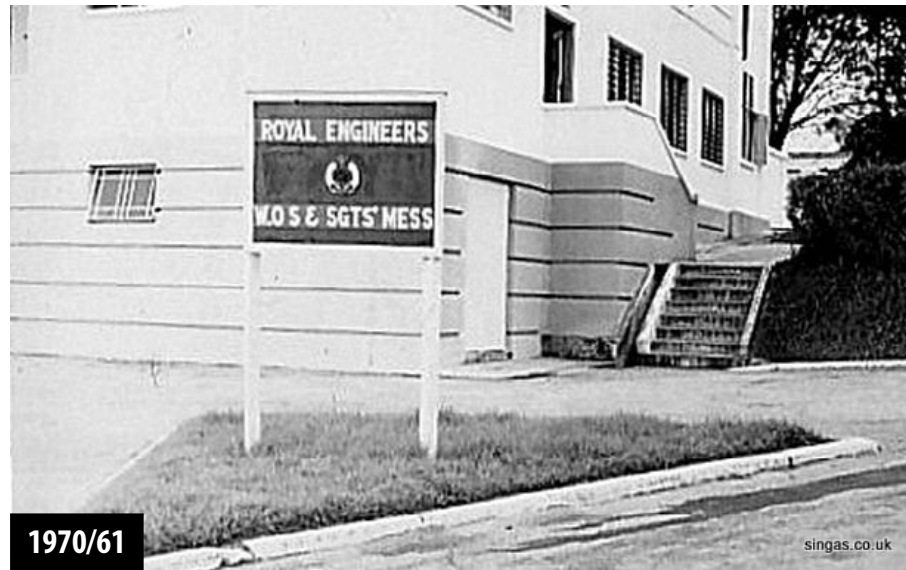


Fig. 5.5.3 1960/61 Standing sign outside 9 Lock Road. Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website



Fig. 5.5.4 1938 view of Lock Road from 9 Lock Road. The paved road, hook shaped lamp posts, and attap sheltered walkways are visible in this frame. Pedestrians can be seen walking up the street. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 5.5.5 1957 Overview from Lock Road looking east towards the swimming pool. Dirt paths, pruned shrubs, fences and malarial drains can be seen across the landscape. Source: William Wee Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 5.5.6 Historical concrete road sign at the junction of Lock Road and Malan Road are still present at site today. Source: Studio Lapis Collection



Fig. 5.5.7 The blocks of roads in this cluster are pedestrian friendly with pathways and steps (sheltered and unsheltered) that provide circulation between the various levels. Source: Studio Lapis Collection



Fig. 5.5.8 The ravine, also referred to as 'The Gap' by Combat Engineers runs parallel to Alexandra and Lock Road. While the terrain is historically intact, the current bridge there was added in the 1990s around the time of Gillman Village. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

Lock Road Cluster

Cluster Significance

High Historical Value

Lock Road cluster is one of the last remaining sections of the original extent of Gillman Barracks constructed in 1935 for the British Infantry regiments posted to the island. Lock Road housed a small network of structures used for the purposes of military administration, social and communal facilities including officer and sergeant messes, offices and stores for equipment, records, and rations, etc. The structures in this cluster benefited from continuity of use for military purposes from the point of construction up until 1993 – the Royal Engineers used the base after the Japanese occupation, followed by the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Combat Engineers in 1971 and SAF Transport Unit in 1984.

High Architectural Value

The vestiges of the garrison found today within the Lock Road cluster are important in communicating the design and planning principles utilised by the Royal Engineers at this site and the system of hierarchy of the military institutions that operated within the compound. Aspects of each structure's use, its users, and level of prominence are inscribed in the building typology, massing, materials, and ornamentation, as well as orientation and proximity of associated structures. The buildings constructed at Lock Road, primarily Blocks 5, 6, 7, 9 and 22 are rare examples that are both architecturally and spatially intact.

High Contextual Value

The extant structures of Lock Road continue to demonstrate Gillman Barracks' merits as a planned military township and highly organised landscape. The site layout reveals strategic siting and planners worked with the features of the existing landscape to efficiently construct and provide accommodations within a tremendously short span of time. This was likely a lesson learnt from previous experience at Changi cantonment that started in the preceding decade, the buildings at Gillman Barracks were predominantly sited following the hilly contours of the site, thus reducing the time and cost involved with cutting and filling the terrain.

High Social Value

Lock Road cluster has a significant social dimension woven into the history of the site that is particularly unique to the character of structured military communities. The extant buildings were important communal spaces of work, recreation and fraternisation and were physical symbols of social norms and conventions shared within the camp. Messes, for example, were designated areas for daily dining and socialising with other individuals of the same rank. The large Block 9 was originally constructed for the welfare provider NAAFI but was converted to a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess after the war when NAAFI downsized their operations. Such spaces allowed structured environments for individuals to set aside certain consciousness of propriety in favour of building camaraderie. Workspaces too were likely occupied and used based on the rank and file's respective roles and on a need-to-know basis, with various complementary parts forming a larger institutional whole for daily operations. Similar social structures would have featured during the SAF Combat Engineers and Transport Units period of use. More recently, Lock Road has become publicly accessible as a lifestyle and arts enclave and the social networks likewise have become more casual and diverse, with a range of longer-term agents (such as resident artists and gallery operators) as well as passing users such as visiting members of the public.

Military regimental offices from similar period: 1 Turnhouse Road (1934), Hendon Road structures (late 1920s, early 1930s).

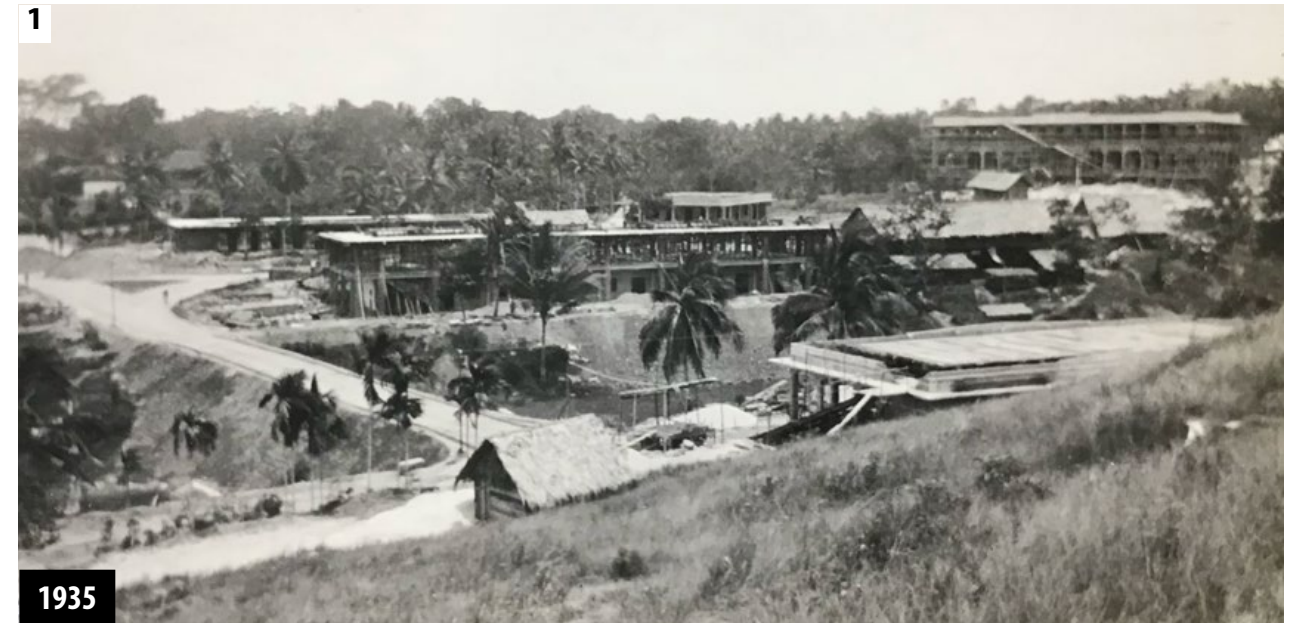


Fig. 5.5.9 1935 view from Barrack Hill looking out over Malan and Lock Road, with regimental offices, guard room and institutes (NAAFI) in view. Source: The Royal Engineers Museum; Collection No. 6/20.



Fig. 5.5.10 c.1950s Junction of Malan Road and Lock Road with Block 5 in the background. Source: Military Survey Historic Archive

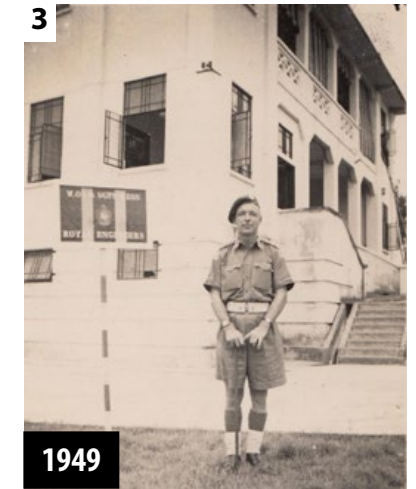


Fig. 5.5.11 Roger Courtice standing in front of Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. Source: Roger Courtice



Fig. 5.5.12 c.1960s Regal Cinema run by AKC, currently Blk 7 Lock Rd. Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website

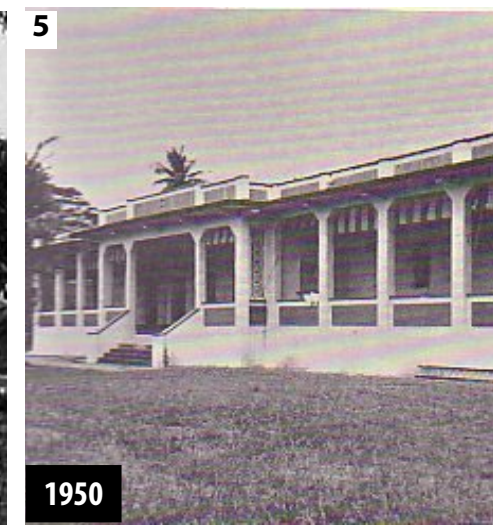


Fig. 5.5.13 c.1950s Former Sergeants' Mess and Alexandra Infant's School at Blk 22 Lock Rd. Source: BFES-SCE Association

Lock Road Cluster

Overview of Lock Road Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
L-01	Lock Road	1 Lock Road	1945 - 1950	Gallery	Detention cells & Guard Room, Singapore Engineers Squadron Office (1965-71)	Administrative	3	2	2	4	13	Moderate Significance
L-02	Lock Road	5A Lock Road	2000 -2001	Lifestyle	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
L-03	Lock Road	5 Lock Road	1935	Gallery	Guard Room (1936) Admin (1960s)	Administrative	5	4	3	5	21	High Significance
L-04	Lock Road	6 Lock Road	1935	Gallery	Quartermaster's stores & schools (1936) EHQ (1960s)	Store, school	5	5	4	5	24	Exceptional Significance
L-05	Lock Road	7 Lock Road	1936 -1938	Gallery, Lifestyle	Regal Cinema run by A.K.C.	Leisure & recreation	5	3	5	5	21	High Significance
L-06	Lock Road	8 Lock Road	1935	F&B	Orderly Room (1936) Admin (1960s)	Administrative	5	4	3	4	20	High Significance
L-07	Lock Road	9A Lock Road	1975 -1980s	F&B	N/A	Unknown	2	3	1	1	10	Low Significance
L-08	Lock Road	9 Lock Road	1935	Gallery, Lifestyle	Regimental institutes (1935), NAAFI (1936), Royal Engineers' Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess (post-war), Combat Engineers' Officers' Mess (post British withdrawal), Paccan Centre (2000s)	Mess/ Canteen	5	5	5	5	25	Exceptional Significance
L-09	Lock Road	10 Lock Road	1935	F&B	Civilian Quarters (up to 1978)	Unknown	4	2	4	3	15	Moderate Significance
L-10	Lock Road	22 Lock Road	1935	Gallery, Lifestyle	Sergeants' Mess (1936), School (post war), P.M.P Sergeants' Mess (up to 1978)	Mess/ Canteen	5	4	5	5	23	Exceptional Significance
L-11	Lock Road	Latrine	1958 - 1969	Toilet	Latrine, store	Outhouse	2	1	0	1	5	Low Significance
L-12	Lock Road	Ravine	Before 1935	Landscape	Edge of swamp	Landscape feature	- Representative of both the historical pre-militarised topography of the site and the sanitary and health planning policies using anti-malarial drainage systems - Utilised for bridging exercises during SAF era - Historical topography of the site taken into consideration during plan of the camp					High Significance
L-13	Lock Road	Bridge	1996	Out of bounds	Pedestrian bridge	Landscape feature	Likely recreated as a feature indicating historic use and legacy of Combat Engineers in this site; continues to serve a practical function allowing direct pedestrian access from Alexandra Road to Lock Road					Neutral/ Intrusive
L-14	Lock Road	Lock Road	1935	Road	Road	Landscape feature	- Central organising spine of the mid- to north section of Gillman Barracks, along which the main recreational and operational buildings were oriented towards - Key circulation corridor which connected the hilly residential areas of Railway Hill, Preston Road and the rest of the Barracks - Gently rises northwards as a response to site's natural topography and terrain					High Significance

Table. 5.5.1 Overview of building and non-building features in Lock Road cluster.

Lock Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 5 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-03)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	5 Lock Road is a historically significant structure and one of the remaining few that were constructed in the inter-war development of Gillman Barracks. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - Constructed in 1935, the building was originally used as the Guard Room, the main command and control post for guard duties to provide security and control entry and exit into the camp. - Later on, it was converted for other administrative uses but continued to play a main operational role for the infantry camp.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	5 Lock Road is a good and intact example of the military office and operations building typology, which is gradually becoming a rare example in Singapore. - The single-storey structure features recognisable characteristic features such as the verandah, wall pre-cast vents, and haunched columns and beams carrying a reinforced concrete roof with a crown. The date of construction is also featured on the building's pediment as a symbol of the structure's provenance. - It sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp and also other similar entertainment and educational establishments that were built in British camps around Singapore. 5 Lock Road is observed to have undergone certain modifications and infills, although most of these are reversible.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up until 1993, 5 Lock Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories - training, routine operations and other activities shared as common experience amongst servicemen. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound when 5 Lock Road was converted into a publicly accessible art gallery. - The structure demonstrates symbolic value and remains recognisable as an associated military structure through various phases of development.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	5 Lock Road demonstrates good and legible connections to its surrounding context including in terms of operational, functional and architectural relations. - It contributes to the legibility of the historic plan and logic of organisation of the base and is sited in proximity to other administrative and military operational facilities. - Being sited right next to the entry of Lock Road, the block was and continues to be a recognisable landmark in the cluster and wider landscape. - It is an important component of a rare, intact and significant cluster.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	21 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	84 %	

Table 5.5.2 Building significance evaluation table for 5 Lock Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.5.14 View of 5 Lock Road, the building nearest to the entrance of Gillman Barracks when approached from Alexandra Road. Visible in the foreground and situated across the building is 6 Lock Road. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

Lock Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 6 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-04)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	6 Lock Road is a historically significant structure and one of the few remaining, intact buildings that was constructed during the first phase of development of Gillman Barracks during the interwar years in 1935. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - The development of 6 Lock Road was closely associated with the various phases of the site's developmental history, where its siting as a former Quartermaster's Store stands as a testament of ancillary structures designed to support both the recreational and operational purposes of the military cantonment. It was then incorporated into the operations of the Singapore Armed Forces and subsequently adapted into an art gallery when Gillman Barracks was slated to be an arts enclave from 2010. - As the research centre and main office for anchor tenant NTU CCA Singapore, 6 Lock Road is also a significant structure that reflects the site's history as a hub for arts and research.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	6 Lock Road is a rare and intact exemplification of the Quartermaster's Store building typology that was constructed by the British War Office during the interwar period. - This reflected a high degree of compliance with standardisation and uniformity amongst building types across the interwar military cantonments by the British. 6 Lock Road is a two-storeyed building built in reinforced concrete structural frame construction, and bore distinctive architectural features that responded to the conditions of the tropical climate. - The structural layout of the building has been uniquely tailored and adapted to respond to the topography of the site and its purposes as a storage location for logistics. - The building is highly intact, with its historic verandahs being enclosed with latter-day windows to adapt for its contemporary use as an art gallery.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- The building demonstrates strong symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development. - Located at the intersection of Lock and Malan Roads, the former Quartermaster's Store at 6 Lock Road was a node that simultaneously served both the military cluster in Malan Road, which was also grafted along with other recreational amenities, such as the former Swimming Pool and former Recreational Ground, in the recreational cluster. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound, as 6 Lock Road was converted into its subsequent use as a public art gallery.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- Located at the intersection of Lock and Malan Roads, 6 Lock Road has long been a notable landmark within the site, providing definition to historic vistas and road scape. - It is oriented to adhere to the topography of the site, in spite of its east-west facing orientation. It stands as a testament to crucial priorities which included the reduction of construction time and cost. - It is an important remnant of Lock Road whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	23 / 25	Exceptional
	Percentage Score	92 %	

Table 5.5.3 Building significance evaluation table for 6 Lock Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.5.15 Former quartermaster's store at 6 Lock Road seen along the main arterial spine of Lock Road. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

Evaluation of Building Significance - 7 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-05)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	7 Lock Road is a historically significant structure and one of the few remaining that was constructed during the interwar development of Gillman Barracks in c.1938. It is therefore representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - With its chief operator as the Army Kinematic Corporation (AKC) in its inception, it stands as a crucial testament to one of the most compelling means of information dissemination and education - through films - amongst British soldiers and their families, cementing the aspiration for Gillman Barracks as a "family station," especially at the intersection of the Cold War and massive restructuring in the recruitment of British soldiers in the postwar period.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	7 Lock Road is a rare example of the AKC-operated cinemas typology, of which few examples in Singapore still remain or are accessible. It remains as the only building in the Lock Road Cluster that once featured a double-volume hall and an open-gable pitched metal roof. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp and also other similar entertainment and educational establishments that were built in British camps around Singapore. - The building, however, is moderately intact since a few of its character-defining attributes as a former cinema have been expunged, and it has been adapted with latter-day additions for contemporary use as an art gallery.	3	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- The building demonstrates strong symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development. - Located along Lock Road, the former Regal Cinema at 7 Lock Road was grafted along with other recreational amenities, such as the former Swimming Pool and the former Recreational Ground, in the cluster. - It provided the backdrop to social and institutional memories with its routine of entertainment, thus enabling fraternising and other activities to be shared amongst the ranks. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound, as 7 Lock Road was converted into various food and beverage establishments prior to its subsequent use as a public art gallery. - The building demonstrates strong symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- Located along Lock Road and clearly visible upon entry into Lock Road, 7 Lock Road has long been a notable landmark within the site, providing definition to historic vistas and road scape. - It is an important remnant of Lock Road whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	21 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	84 %	

Table 5.5.4 Building significance evaluation table for 7 Lock Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.5.16 Former Regal Cinema run by AKC housed at 6 Lock Road seen from its front facade. Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website

Lock Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 8 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-06)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	8 Lock Road is a historically significant structure and one of the remaining few that were constructed in the inter-war development of Gillman Barracks. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - The building was used as the Orderly Room in Gillman Barracks and was the administrative hub of the camp, led by the Orderly Room Sergeant and housing operational records and orders issued within this infantry unit.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	8 Lock Road is good and intact example of the military office and operations building typology which is gradually becoming a rare example in Singapore - The single-storey structure features recognisable characteristic features such as the verandah, wall pre-cast vents, and haunched columns and beams carrying a reinforced concrete roof with a crown. The date of construction is also featured on the building's pediment as a symbol of the structure's provenance. - It sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp and also other similar entertainment and educational establishments that were built in British camps around Singapore. 8 Lock Road is observed to have undergone certain modifications, although most of these are reversible.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Previously located within the Singapore Armed Forces protected area boundary up until 1993, 8 Lock Road has maintained a long and continuous use as a facility for military organisations and a locus of activity for their operations. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories - training, routine operations and other activities shared as common experience amongst servicemen. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound when 8 Lock Road was converted into a publicly accessible commercial and food and beverage establishment. - The structure demonstrates some symbolic value and remains recognisable as an associated military structure through various phases of development.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	8 Lock Road demonstrates good connections to its surrounding context including in terms of operational, functional and architectural relations. - It contributes to the legibility of the historic plan and logic of organisation of the base and is sited in proximity to other administrative and military operational facilities. - It is an important component of a rare, intact and significant cluster.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	20 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	80 %	

Table 5.5.5 Building significance evaluation table for 8 Lock Road.

Illustrations

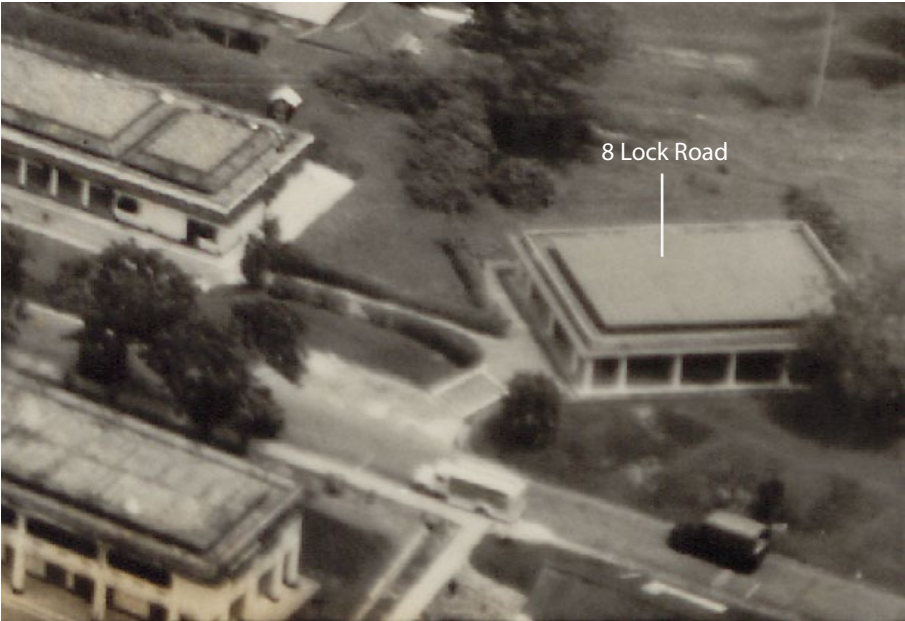


Fig. 5.5.17 1958 Aerial view of 8 Lock Road situated adjacent to the former guard room at 5 Lock Road and opposite the former quartermaster's store at 6 Lock Road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Lock Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 9 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-08)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	9 Lock Road is historically significant as one of the few remaining structures that were constructed as part of the initial set up of Gillman Barracks in 1935. - Purpose-built to house the Navy, Army and Air Force Institute (N.A.A.F.I.), the building clearly demonstrates the goal of developing Gillman Barracks as a camp with generous provisions for the welfare of Servicemen. - Throughout the various cycles of occupancy, the building at 9 Lock Road has retained continuous use as a key focal point for its various users. It served a central role for military operations under the British and SAF, before becoming the main lifestyle hub under Gillman Village. It now houses Gillman Barracks' main art galleries and exhibitions.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The building is remarkable for its large scale - the expansive 15-structural bay layout of 9 Lock Road sets it apart as the largest block within the Gillman Barracks site. - The use of haunched beams and chamfered edging on columns demonstrates the innovative methods employed to reduce construction costs and enable construction within an exceptionally short timeframe. - As a recreational space, the building features tropical adaptations adopted by the British to improve comfort for the European officers drafted to the tropics. - These design features are still intact and legible today despite the building's extensive change of use over the years. - It is an outstanding and rare example of a building type closest in formal qualities to the 3-storey barrack blocks that have already been demolished. - It is highly intact in terms of architectural form and materiality.	5	High
Social and Communal (20%)	- Block 9 was originally constructed for the welfare provider N.A.A.F.I. before being converted to a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, demonstrating its importance as a development designed to promote social cohesion for the multitude of servicemen residing in the area. - During the SAF period, Officers would use the block as a venue for community events and to commemorate both personal and communal milestones. - In recent years, the building's evolution from a restricted military space to a publicly accessible structure has layered upon it significant social memories of newer communities across time.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	9 Lock Road is strategically situated among other amenities and recreational spaces of the military site, making it an integral part of the highly organised and planned landscape of Gillman Barracks. - Uniquely oriented perpendicularly to Lock Road, the building is designed to afford unobstructed views of the entire site, while also commanding attention and as a prominent landmark along the vista of Lock Road. - The building continues to be arguably the most notable landmark of Gillman Barracks and is visible from most locations across the Study Area and Alexandra Road.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	25 / 25	Exceptional
	Percentage Score	100 %	

Table 5.5.6 Building significance evaluation table of 9 Lock Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.5.18 View of 9 Lock Road perched at one of the highest points along Lock Road.
Source: Studio Lapis Collection

Lock Road Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 22 LOCK ROAD (ID: L-10)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	22 Lock Road is a historically significant structure and one of the few remaining, intact buildings that were constructed during the first phase of development of Gillman Barracks during the interwar years in 1935. It therefore is representative of a milestone period of the site's history. - The development of 22 Lock Road was closely associated with the various phases of the site's developmental history, where its siting as a former Sergeants' Mess reflected the organisational attitudes of the British military during the interwar years, and subsequently housed the N.A.A.F.I. when it had downsized during a period of post-war economic austerity. It was then incorporated into the operations of the Singapore Armed Forces and subsequently adapted into an art gallery when the military cantonment was slated to be an arts enclave from 2010.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	22 Lock Road is a rare and intact exemplification of Sergeants' Messes building typology that was constructed by the British War Office during the interwar period. - This reflected a high degree of compliance with standardisation and uniformity amongst building types across the interwar military cantonments by the British. 22 Lock Road is a single-storeyed building built in reinforced concrete structural frame construction, and it bore distinctive architectural features that responded to the conditions of the tropical climate. - The building is largely intact, with some of its historic fenestrations being replaced with latter-day windows to adapt for its contemporary use as an art gallery. Additive measures such as ramps have also been included to comply with contemporary building codes and standards.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- The structure demonstrates strong symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development. - Located along Lock Road, the former Sergeants' Mess at 22 Lock Road was grafted along with other recreational amenities, such as the former Swimming Pool and former Recreational Ground, in the cluster. - It provided the backdrop to social and institutional memories with its routine of entertainment, thus enabling fraternising and other activities to be shared amongst the ranks of non-commissioned officers. - Its social and communal function extended beyond Gillman Barracks as a military compound, as 22 Lock Road was converted into its subsequent use as a public art gallery.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- Located along Lock Road and clearly visible upon entry into Lock Road, 22 Lock Road has long been a notable landmark within the site, providing definition to historic vistas and road scape. - It is one of two buildings along Lock Road that had been oriented perpendicularly to the road. This lends 22 Lock Road to be decorous and distinguished since its frontage is expressed in full from the approach by Lock Road. - It is an important remnant of Lock Road whose footprint has today been substantially reduced due to demolition in the 1990s and re-wilding into secondary forest. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	23 / 25	Exceptional
	Percentage Score	92 %	

Table 5.5.7 Building significance evaluation table for 22 Lock Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.5.19 Present-day view of 22 Lock Road prominently sited on higher ground overlooking the structures along Lock and Malan Roads. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

Lock Road Cluster

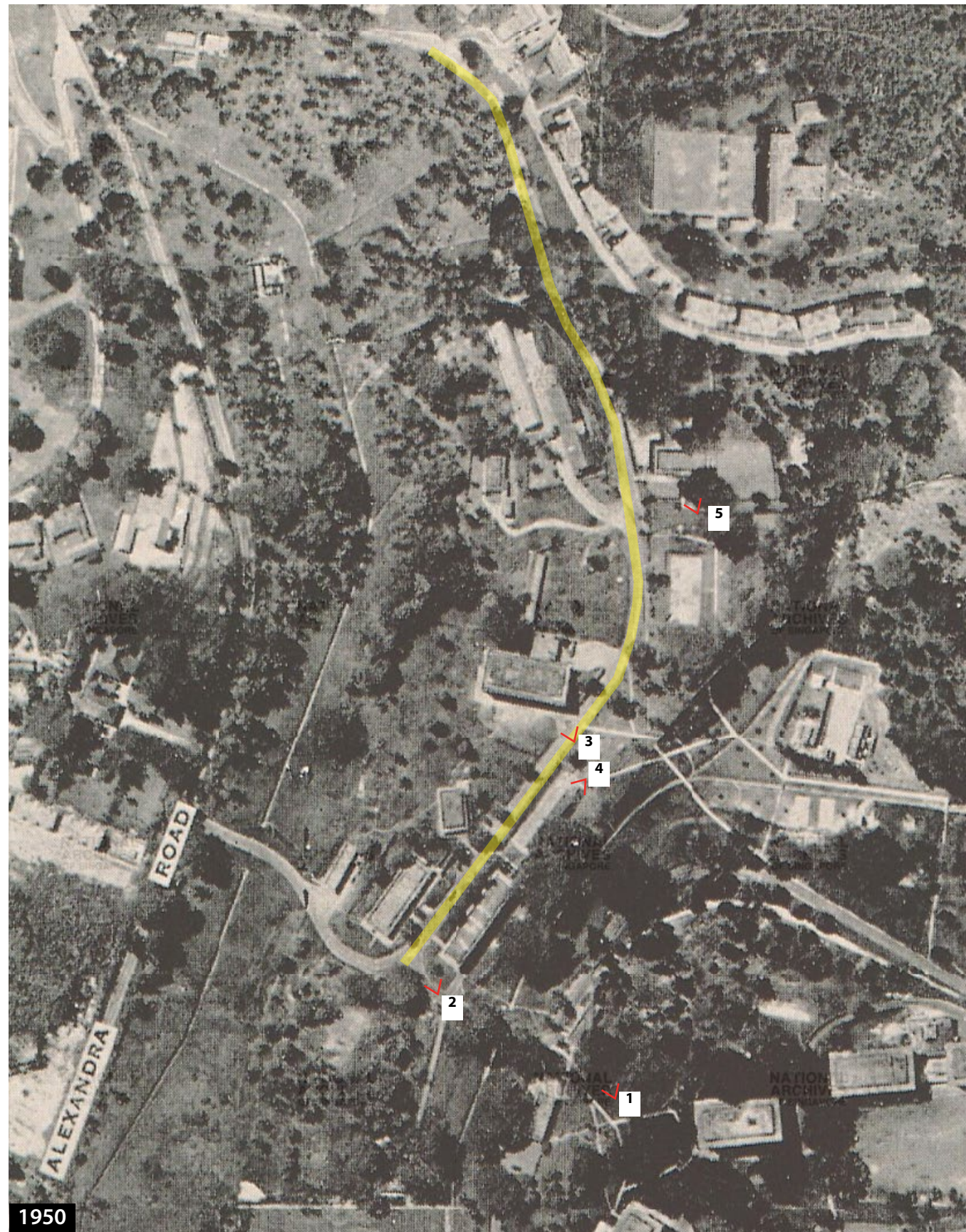


Fig. 5.5.20 Extract from 1950 aerial survey conducted by the British Royal Air Force. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

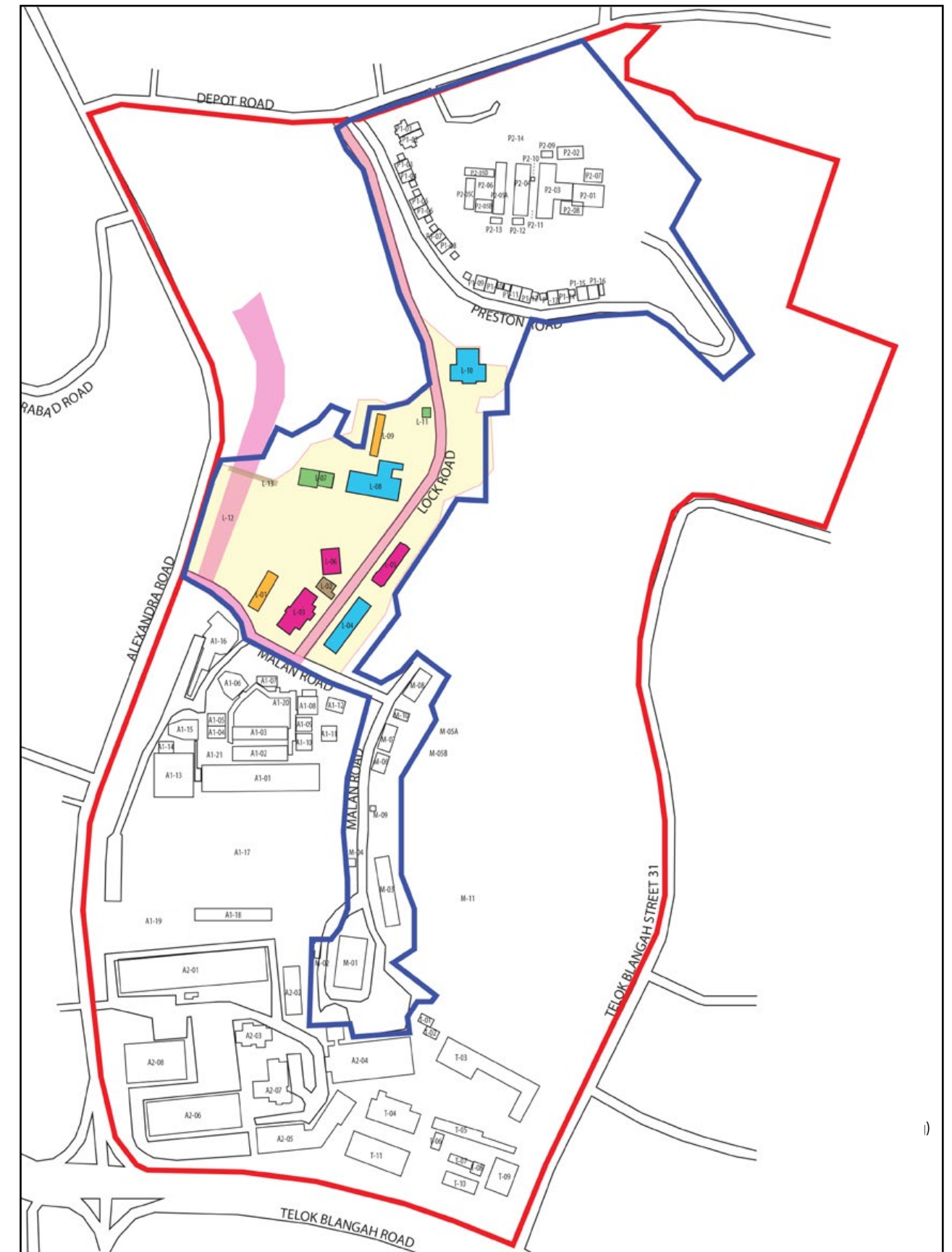


Fig 5.5.21 Overview of Lock Road Cluster with assessment of structures.

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Preston Road Housing (ID: P1-)

The Preston Road Housing Cluster is made up of garrison-style semi-detached accommodations built between 1935 and 1939. The oldest two units are 1 & 2 Preston Road, built along with the first wave of Gillman Barracks development in the area. These are set further away from Preston Road and feature flat concrete roofs. The other 14 units were built by 1939 along with Alexandra School located at the top of the hill. These units are almost identical - two-storey, pitch roof structures, each pair with a mirrored layout and accompanying outhouse. The earliest occupants of these modest but private accommodations are suspected to be Alexandra School staff since they were built in the same period and located in close proximity. However, archival research shows that generally these living quarters were built and managed by the British War Office.

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- Natural hilly contours create a distinct contrast with the southern end of the site, closer to Telok Blangah Road
- Fairly large expanse of greenery on Friendly Hill, primarily steep slopes with dense tree planting
- Lush, tranquil character contributes to the privacy of the site and identification as a residential area

Layout

- Land parcels are moderate, defined and constrained by natural contours of the site. The buildings are generally oriented along the southern slope of the hill, following the topography, resulting in a more organic layout.
- The buildings here are a repetitive typology used as a cluster for Warrant Officers and Sergeants with families.
- Preston Road follows the topography of the site and circumambulates the hill.
- Low building density, with moderate spacing between buildings for ventilation and light. As they are arranged in one row along the southern slope, none of the units blocks the other's view.
- Predominantly low-rise (two-storey) buildings located on only one side of Preston Road contribute to the low-density character.

Buildings

- Functional Types: duplex residential accommodations for Sergeant and Warrant Officers accompanied by families
- Morphology: low-density square footprint blocks, predominantly pitched roof structures (with the exception of earlier 1, 2 Preston Road), each unit has an outhouse located to the side. Each unit has a reflected floor plan.
- Architectural style: stripped classicism
- Materials (buildings): reinforced & mass concrete, brick masonry, plaster and paint, pre-cast vents, timber windows and doors, clay roof tiles

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- The Cluster is defined by Preston Road which starts at the junction of Depot Road and Lock Road and circumambulates Friendly Hill, climbing upwards the deeper it goes.
- All the semi-detached houses are located to the left of Preston Road, at the ledge before the hill slopes upwards.
- There are no notable open spaces as the area is surrounded by dense vegetation.
- Physical boundaries: road, footpaths, steep slopes, steps

Designed Landscapes

- Drainage – anti-malarial drains with lined ditches
- Earthworks – minimal platform levelling as most of the site follows existing contours of the terrain
- Moderate planting – these have since grown significantly, producing a dense cover along the slopes of the hill.
- Paved steps and pathways connected Lock Road to Preston Road and continues up to the school on top of the hill
- Hardscape features – road signs, paved road, paved pathways and steps

Preston Road Housing Cluster



Fig. 5.6.1 Present-day view of address signage, same used across SLA owned properties. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.6.2 Present-day view of the elevated Forest Walk which has exits onto Preston Road. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.6.3 Present-day view of the drains along Preston Road. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.6.4 The houses have front gardens that separate them from the Preston Road side. View of typical plantings within tenant boundary. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.6.5 The rear slope is steep and with thick foliage. Soil run-off and falling branches often pose risk to the nearby structures. View of the encroaching greenery to the back as seen from the outhouse. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Cluster Significance

High Historical Value

Preston Road semi-detached dwellings form a uniquely intact cluster of garrison-style housing built between 1935 and 1939. Except for 1 & 2 Preston Road which were built in 1935, these structures were erected as part of Gillman Barracks' early stage of site development shortly after the camp's initial set up in 1936. A product of a concerted effort to build up the Singapore base as a "family station," (Morning Tribune, 1936), they encapsulate modern sentiments of improving staff welfare, sanitation, and liveability abroad. Cluster military housing for families such as the ones at Preston Road was part of broader progressive initiative in the colony during the interwar years.

Moderate Social Value

The Preston Road semi-detached dwellings were primarily provided for military personnel serving out their overseas postings with families in tow, indicating Gillman Barracks was intended to be a "family station" (Morning Tribune, 1936). These were typically single-family units with a strong domestic character factored into the design.

Early newspaper articles reveal some anecdotes of life at Preston Road: there was a brief mention of a Sergeant of the Loyal Regiment who killed a python in front of his house on Preston Road (The Straits Budget, 1940). Another article implies a Sergeant Welch of the Royal Engineers Supply Base Depot occupied two adjoining units with his wife and eight children (The Straits Budget, 1948). A schematic site plan included in the Bourne School's 1967 Prospectus broadly indicates the structures along Preston Road as being 'War Department Quarters'.

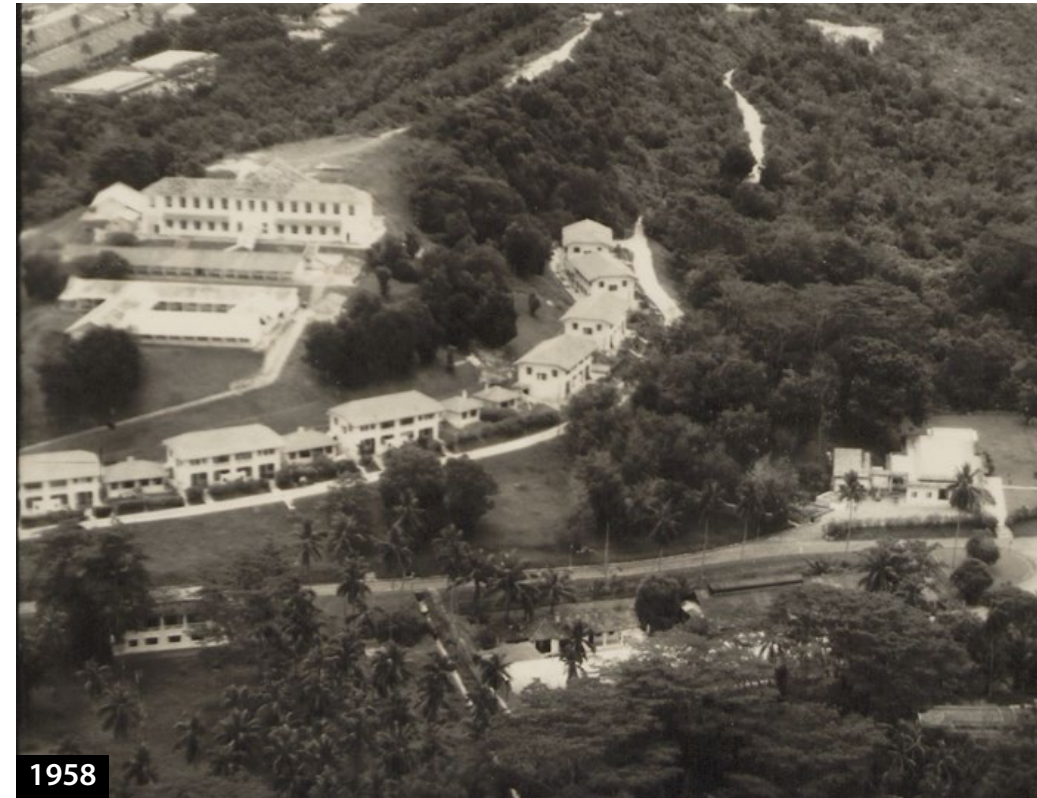
High Contextual Value

The 16 semi-detached houses strung together by Preston Road circumambulate the southern side of what was historically known as 'Friendly Hill' and afforded impressive unobstructed views over Gillman Barracks reaching all the way to the southern coasts. For the children of these families, the proximity of home and tutelage at the garrison school on the top of the hill allowed for a short and convenient daily commute. Conversely, the 'necklace' of houses would have made Friendly Hill an easily recognisable landmark amidst the hilly terrain when seen from the lower-lying plains.

High Architectural Value

These houses demonstrate high architectural intactness and are a valuable record and artefact of a distinctive style and material palette used back in 1930s Singapore by the colonial establishment. These were handsome but modest two-storey structures constructed in reinforced concrete and brick masonry. Climate-appropriate design features were employed to create more comfortable living spaces such as the provision of wide roof eaves and verandahs on both ground and upper floors to buffer the interior spaces from direct exposure to the intense tropical weather. Each unit also had an adjoining outhouse likely used as living quarters for the resident servants or 'amahs'. Few extensive or invasive modifications have been rendered on these quarters over the past decades, and none have been demolished to date, preserving a rare cluster with a commendable degree of heritage legibility.

Structures with similar attributes: 39A/B Sealand Road (1934), Married Quarters at Upavon, Halton, and Sealand Road (1934).



[Left] Fig. 5.6.6 Aerial view of Preston Road as it winds up Friendly Hill along its contours. The string of garrison-style semi-detached houses are built in alignment to the curvature of the road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

[Middle Row] Fig.5.6.7 and 5.6.8 Constructed around the same period, the officers' married quarters at Upavon Road [Left] share a similar layout to the Preston Road houses [Right], with double bay units that are symmetrical along a central axis and feature verandahs along the front facade on both floors. Source: Tony Holt, Studio Lapis

[Bottom] Fig. 5.6.9 View of 1 & 2 Preston Road, the two older units, which are situated closer to the junction between Preston Road, Lock Road and the now demolished Nek Road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.



Preston Road Housing Cluster

Overview of Preston Road Housing Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
P1-01 to P1-02	Preston Road Housing Cluster	1-2 Preston Road	1935	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	5	5	3	4	22	High Significance
P1-03 to P1-16	Preston Road Housing Cluster	3-16 Preston Road	1936-1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	4	4	3	4	19	High Significance
P1-17	Preston Road Housing Cluster	Preston Road	1935	Road	Road	Landscape Feature	- Road closely follows the site topography, wrapping around and circumambulating Friendly Hill - Key circulation route which defined the character and organisation of necklace of semi-detached houses - Framed the point at which unobstructed views over Gillman Barracks and the southern coasts were afforded					High Significance

Table. 5.6.1 Overview of building and non-building features in Preston Road housing cluster.

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 1 & 2 PRESTON ROAD (ID: P1-01 & P1-02)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	1 & 2 Preston Road belong to the Railway Hill residential cluster built in 1935 during the initial set up of Gillman Barracks and is therefore representative of a significant milestone in the history of the site. - Given that all the other structures of Railway Hill have since been demolished, the residences hold high significance as the only remaining example of this cluster and confers a high degree of heritage legibility on the original residential cluster in the Northern section of Gillman Barracks. - Likely constructed to serve Warrant Officers, the siting and construction of the buildings are reflective of the comprehensive and hierarchical spatial planning of the barracks.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The buildings at 1 & 2 Preston Road stand as rare examples of the shared residence typology found exclusively at Railway Hill which was designed in the aesthetic of stripped classicism with its unique flat roof features. - The buildings are reflective of the distinctive style and material palette used back in 1930s by the colonial establishment, as seen in other residential quarters built in cantonments across Singapore. - Character-defining elements like projecting RC fins and ventilation slots highlight the climate-appropriate design features which were employed to manage internal thermal temperatures. - The building structures are highly intact with some modifications to the doors and window openings, thereby representing in distinct layers the cumulative periods of development and use.	5	High
Social and Communal (20%)	- These two units were likely purpose-built to house high-ranking military personnel and subsequently key staff who worked for the nearby garrison school, alongside resident servants or 'amahs' who assisted with domestic work. - The shared outhouse positioned along the rear of the duplex suggests a degree of communal living and interaction between families in adjacent units.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- Sited at the entrance of Preston Road, the buildings form a gateway into the string of quarters further down the road and signals the hierarchical status of its occupants. - The elevated grounds of Preston Road provide the residents with a prime vantage point over the entire Gillman Barracks camp and the southern straits of Singapore. - The siting of the units provided the children of these families with direct and convenient access to the garrison school, which was situated conveniently at the top of the hill.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	22 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	88 %	

Table 5.6.2 Building significance evaluation table for 1 & 2 Preston Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.6.10 1958 view of 1 & 2 Preston Road prominently sited at the entrance of Preston Road and distinctly set apart from the later-built string of semi-detached houses. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Preston Road Housing Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 3-16 PRESTON ROAD (ID: P1-03 TO P1-16)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	- The buildings at 3-16 Preston Road belong to a unique cluster of housing built between 1936 and 1939, shortly after the initial set up of Gillman Barracks. Their construction highlights the demand for housing at the time of strengthened British military presence in the region. - This buildings in this cluster represents one of the final remaining vestiges of British-era family military quarters in the Gillman Barracks area.	4	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The buildings at 3-16 Preston Road are a prominent example of garrison-style housing, characterised by simplified classical ornamental features. They are reflective of the distinctive style and material palette used back in 1930s Singapore by the colonial establishment, seen also in quarters built contemporaneously in Changi Cantonment. - Character-defining elements like ventilation blocks and hip-gable roofs with deep eaves highlight the climate-appropriate design features which were employed to manage internal thermal temperatures. - These features remain highly intact today and confer on the housing cluster a high degree of heritage legibility.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- These units housed high-ranking military personnel from the British regiments and key staff who worked for the nearby garrison school, alongside resident servants or 'amahs' who assisted with domestic work. - The shared outhouses positioned between the semi-detached houses suggest a degree of communal living and interaction between families in adjacent units.	3	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- The belt of houses was aligned to the ridge line of Friendly Hill and oriented towards the South, providing the residents with a prime vantage point over the entire Gillman Barracks camp and southern straits of Singapore. - The siting of the units provided the children of these families with direct and convenient access to the garrison school, which was situated conveniently at the top of the hill.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	19 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	76 %	

Table 5.6.3 Building significance evaluation table for 3-16 Preston Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.6.11 1958 view of Preston Road terraces constructed along the ridge line of Friendly Hill, which leads up to the Alexandra garrison school pitched at the hill summit. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Preston Road Housing Cluster

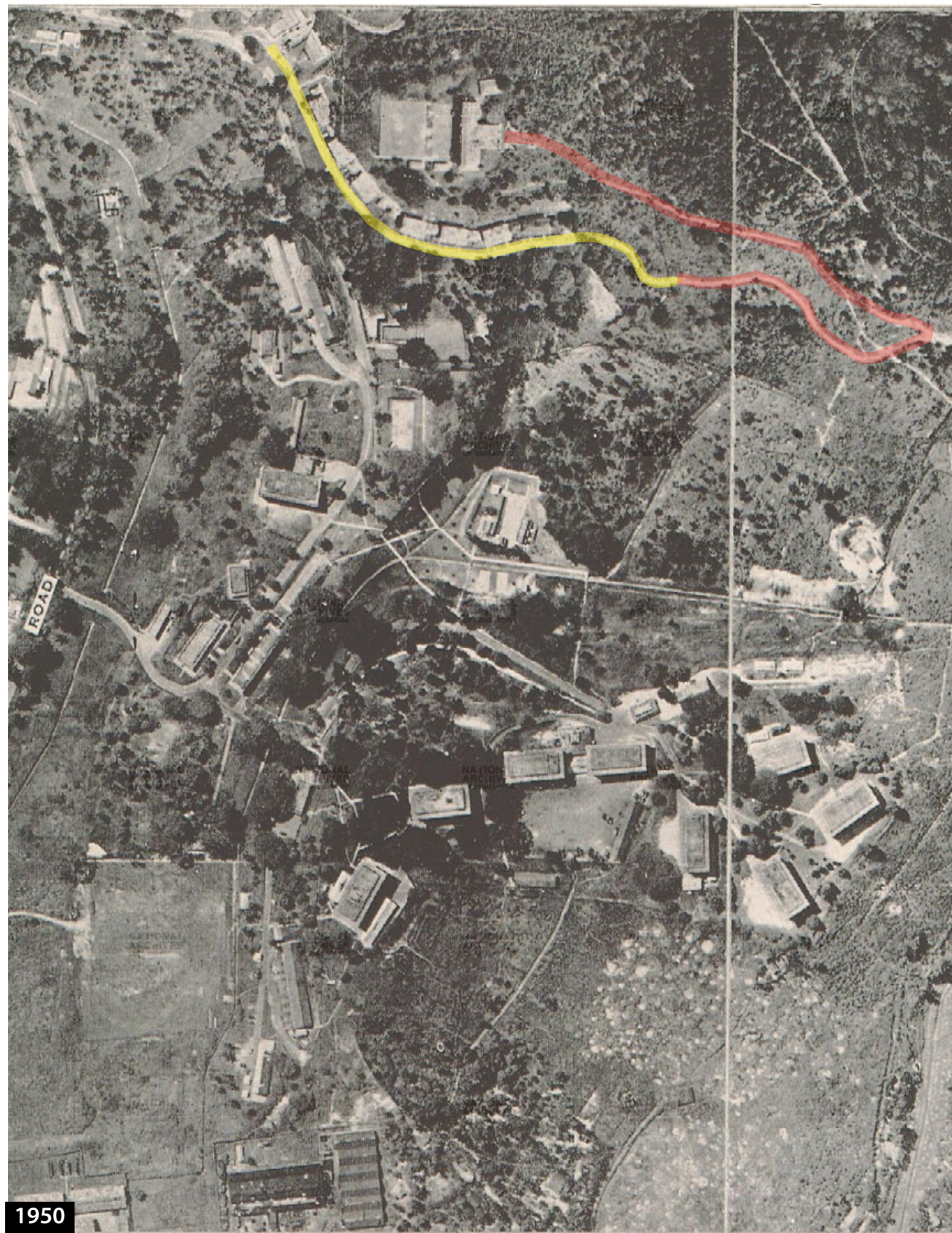


Fig. 5.6.12 Extract from 1950 aerial survey conducted by the British Royal Air Force. The yellow line indicates part of Preston Road that still exists today while the red line indicates the expunged portion of Preston Road. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

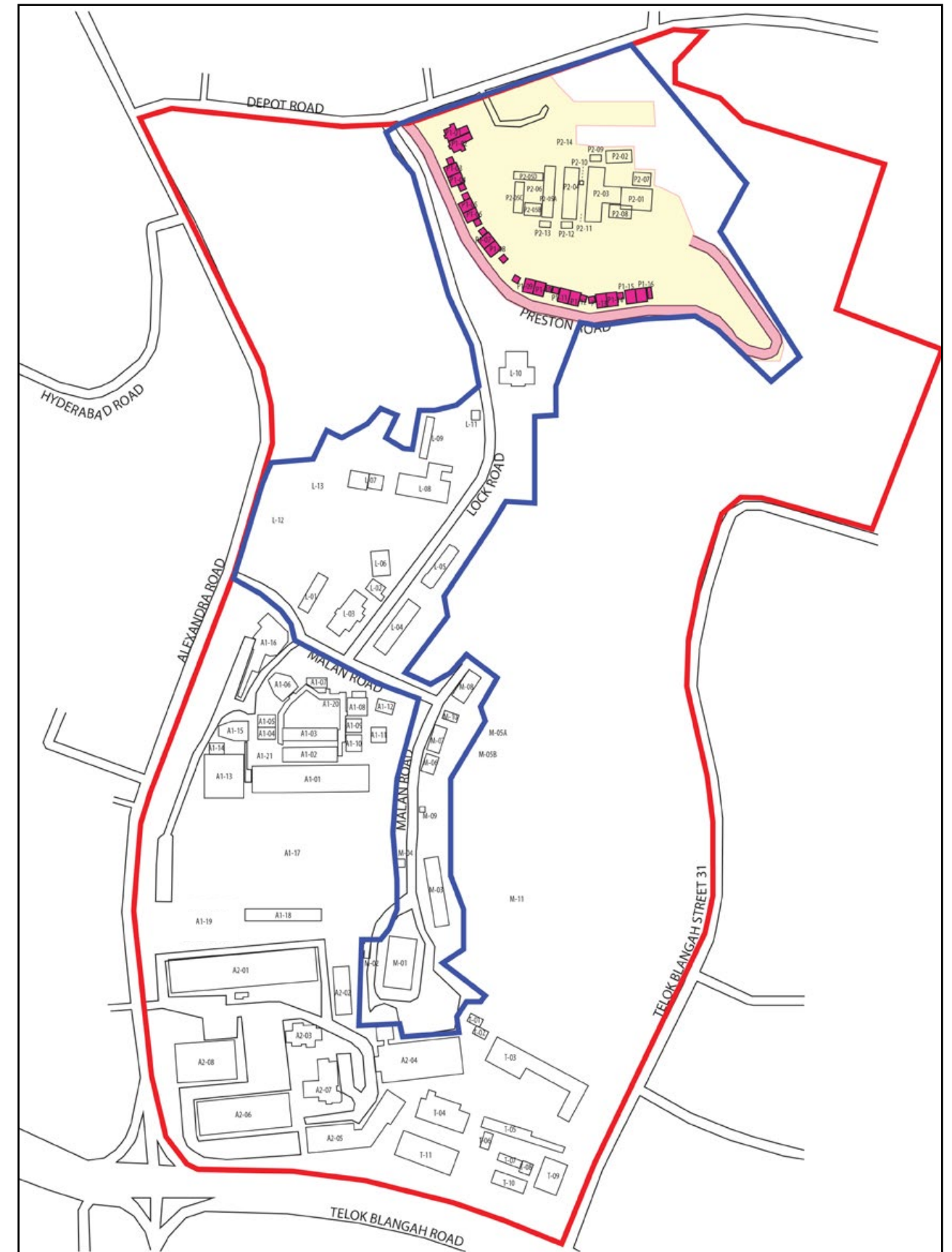


Fig 5.6.13 Overview of Preston Road Housing Cluster with assessment of structures.

Preston Road School Cluster

Preston Road School Cluster

Preston Road School Cluster (ID: P2-)

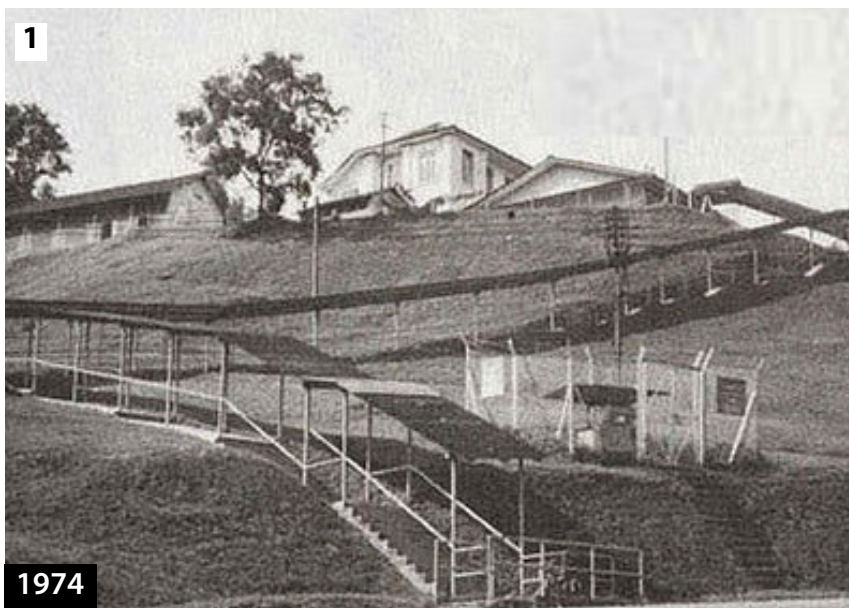
The garrison school at the end of Preston Road, Alexandra School, was originally constructed and opened in 1939. It had a main block (presently Block 3), "a green two-storeyed building, [surmounting] the highest hill-top in the area," (The Straits Times, 1939) with classrooms enough for 250 children aged between five and eight years old. It also had playing fields for sports. The leaving age was eventually raised to 15 years of age, and in 1954, after the junior and infant cohort was moved out to a new premises at Pasir Panjang, Alexandra School was expanded to include Alexandra Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools. This restructuring was accompanied by the construction of new blocks and facilities within the compound.

In 1964, the institution was once again reorganised into Bourne School, which operated two compounds - Alexandra and Gillman Sections - up until 1971. It was used subsequently by Henderson Secondary School from 1974-1976, Friendly Hill Primary School from 1976-1978, and Friendly Hill Vocational Institute until 1982. ISS International School moved into the premises in 1983 and is still the present occupant today.



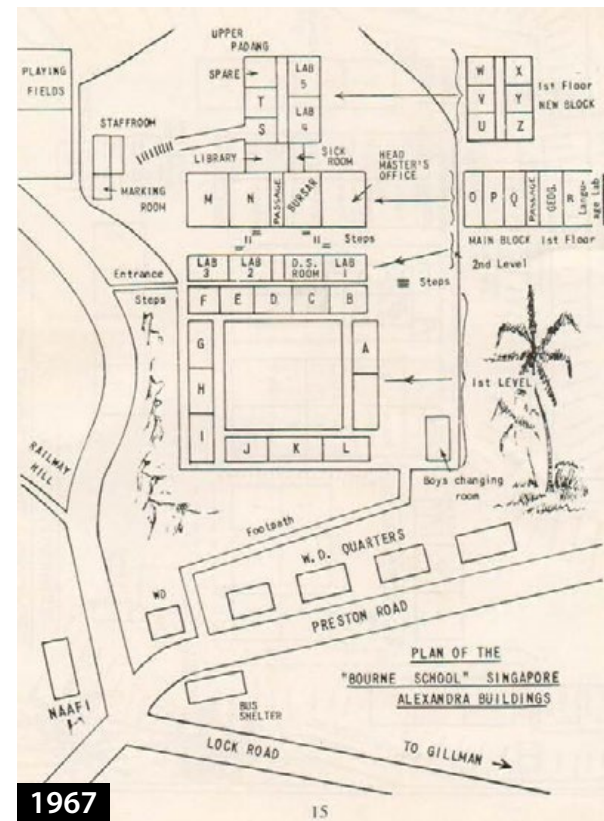
1939

Fig 5.7.1 Alexandra School upon its opening in 1939. Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission



1974

Fig 5.7.2 1974 View of the steps leading into the school.
Source: Henderson Secondary School, The Henderson Annual 1974-1994



1967

Fig 5.7.3 Site plan of Alexandra Section of Bourne School Source: Peter Garvey



Fig 5.7.4 Detail of insignia along front facade.
Source: Studio Lapis Collection

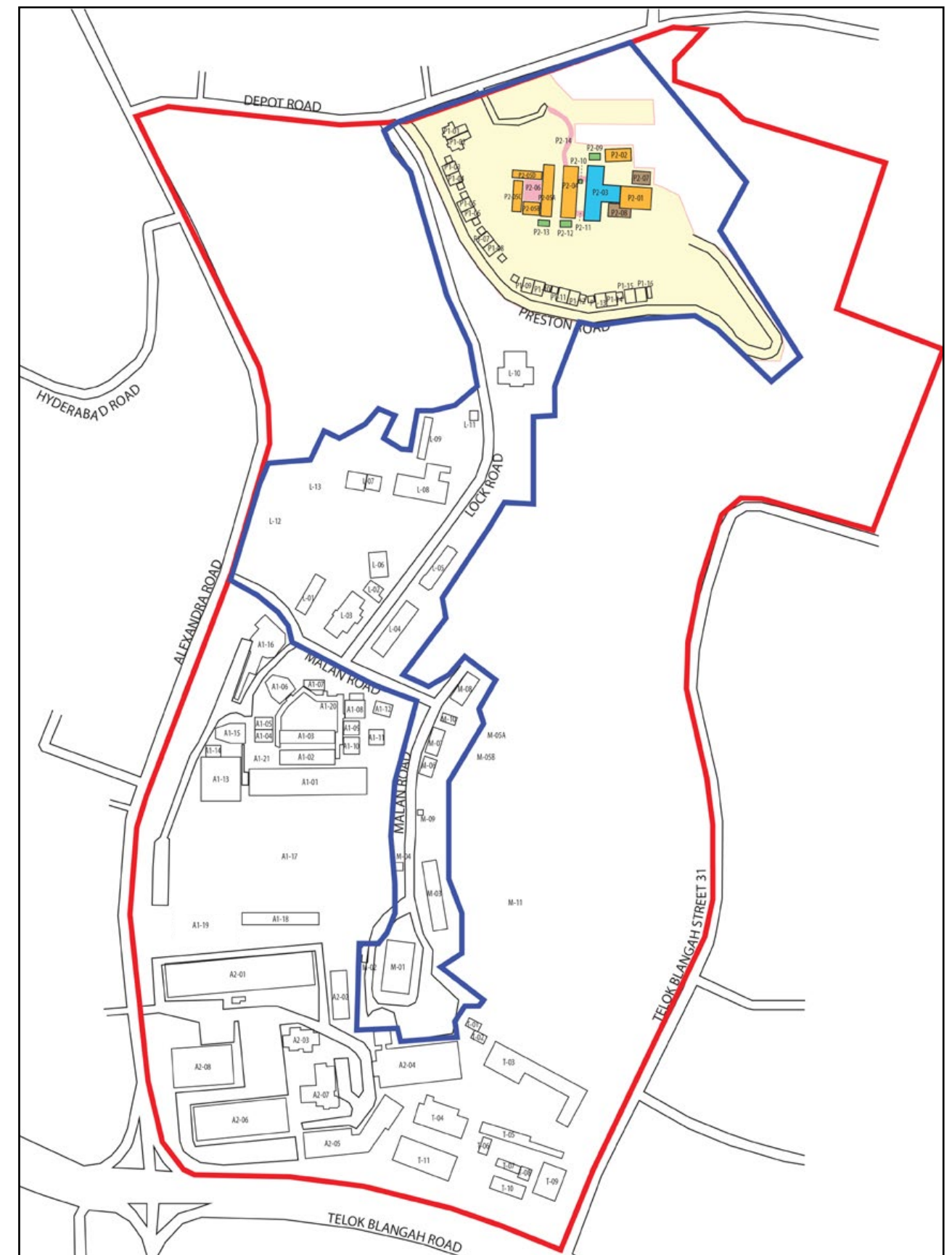


Fig 5.7.5 Overview of Preston Road School Cluster with assessment of structures.

Preston Road School Cluster

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- Located on top of a natural hill, named Friendly Hill, which also marks the western end of Faber Ridges.
- Elevated siting gives the cluster an ideal vantage over the site and some physical separation from the main camp to the south.
- Elevated terrain surrounded by lush greenery reinforcing a tranquil, idyllic and sheltered refuge.
- The school compound is surrounded by natural, mature trees and lush secondary forest. Some of the tree canopies hang over blocks within the compound.

Layout

- Due to the natural topography of the hill, the built area of the cluster is relatively closely spaced in a compact layout. These are constrained by the existing ridge line, which is surrounded by a steep slope on all sides.
- In the original set up, the main building was sited highest relative to the other classroom blocks, providing it with a commanding view. This also made the block visible from most parts of the school compound.
- Post-war Block 1 was added to the rear of the main building, with minimal intrusion or impact on the key façade of the latter.
- With Preston Road ending at the rear (east end) of the compound, the rest of the school is only accessible via sheltered walkways.

Buildings

- Functional Types: school classrooms, canteen, assembly spaces, staff offices
- Morphology: low density, 1- to 2-storey blocks, most with a simple rectangular footprint and pitched roof, with the exception of the main block which is 'T'-shaped
- Architectural style: stripped classicism
- Materials (buildings): reinforced & mass concrete, brick masonry, plaster and paint, pre-cast balustrades, mild steel windows and timber doors, clay roof tiles

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- There are three major open areas. These are the parking lot between the entrance gate and Block 1, the mini amphitheatre between Block 3 and Block 2, and the courtyard at Block 5, surrounded on all four sides. These are functional open spaces.
- Minor open areas include the green slope located between the various platform levels. These are generally defined by retaining walls and stepped pathways.
- Physical boundaries: footpaths, slopes, steps, fencing.

Designed Landscapes

- Drainage – the compound is served by a network of lined ditches on the slopes and perimeter drains
- Earthworks – at least four platforms were cut into the hill, starting from the highest to the east and progressively stepping down to the lowest platform to the west end of the compound
- Sparse and small plantings can be found in the green verges within the compound itself
- A central courtyard is presently covered with astroturf
- Sheltered linkways connecting the parking lot near Depot Road to the school compound, and connecting the blocks within the school compound itself
- Hardscape features – parking lot, paved pathways and steps with sheltered linkways



Fig 5.7.6 Undated, photo of school children at the outdoor sheltered staircases at Alexandra School. Source: BFPO schools.

Preston Road School Cluster

Cluster Significance

High Historical Value

The former Alexandra School located at 21 Preston Road is a rare and outstanding example of a twentieth-century garrison school complex in Singapore. The cluster is also remarkable for its continuity of use as a place of childhood education from pre-war up until the present-day, a feature that has served to preserve many of its tangible and intangible attributes as a heritage asset, including amongst others, its architectural intactness and its role in the tutelage and cultivation of young people. Today, it is the oldest remaining purpose-built military children's school complex on the island. Its strong historical associations to British domestic welfare policy, as well as the network of diaspora who regularly rotated across the imperial territories, therefore demonstrate the added international significance of the former Alexandra School.

High Social Value

During the interwar years, it became an administrative and moral imperative to address the question of citizen welfare including those of children and dependents of servicemen whose needs were laid bare after the turbulence of the first World War. Such responsibilities were increasingly being shifted from charities to state bodies and institutions. The set up of a purpose-built garrison school with formal facilities showcased the War Office's concerted efforts in developing the island of Singapore as a 'family station' amongst its territories in the Far East, thus allowing greater opportunities for highly mobile servicemen to be relocated together with their family unit. Notably, this came a few years ahead of the reforms introduced in the 1944 Education Act and the establishment of the British Families Education Service (BFES) and Operation Union to unite families of military personnel in 1946.

To date, the school cluster has continued to host generations of young schooling-age people, both locally and from abroad, continuing its relevance and legacy as a place deeply rooted in education and childhood development.

High Contextual Value

Organisational structures, curriculum, staffing, and expenditure required for the education of military children in Singapore continued to be adapted to the growing population of overseas service families and their similarly growing needs. In the post-war years, the former Alexandra School underwent frequent physical additions, a change of user demographics, and restructuring including opening its intake to children of civilian families. The school's constant contending with its spatial limitations also meant that it developed flexible and fluid relations to the wider Gillman Barracks site, with children frequently seen using the camp facilities for out-of-classroom curriculum. In other cases, barracks or mess halls were used for some years as dedicated school structures.

High Architectural Value

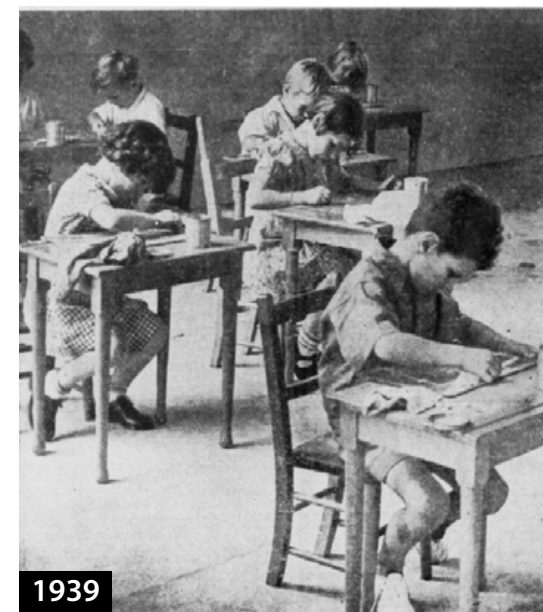
Alexandra School is an exceptionally rare and highly intact example of an inter-war garrison school and the implications that modern twentieth-century pedagogy and public health reform movements had on the design and architecture of the school typology. Hygiene, lighting and ventilation were aspects acknowledged to provide comfort and influence learning. Flexible classroom layouts, experiential learning and out-of-classroom activities were integrated into this complex with its variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, communal areas and cross-compound campus. The complex comprises pre- and post-war blocks with elements that reflect the pedagogical priorities of the respective eras.

Similar British army school complexes: Changi Grammar School (est. 1950s, new additions in 1964), UWCSEA @ Dover Road (former St. John's School) (1964)



c1960s

Fig 5.7.7 Aerial view of the garrison school perched on Friendly Hill, overlooking the blocks of Gillman Barracks seen in the background. Source: R.P. Gaskell



1939

Fig 5.7.8 The Alexandra School took in children of a wide range of ages upon its opening in 1939. Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission



1984

Fig 5.7.9 ISS Students standing at present-day Block 5, with a view of the historic garrison school building (present-day Block 3) in the background. Source: ISS International School Singapore, ISS Yearbook 1984-1985

Preston Road School Cluster

Overview of Preston Road School Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
P2-01	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 1	1959-1966	ISS School	School	School	3	2	5	4	16	Moderate Significance
P2-02	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 2	1939	ISS School	School	School	4	1	4	3	13	Moderate Significance
P2-03	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 3	1939	ISS School	School	School	5	5	5	5	25	Exceptional Significance
P2-04	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 4	1950 - 1958	ISS School	School	School	4	1	5	4	15	Moderate Significance
P2-05A	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5	1950 - 1958	ISS School	School	School	4	2	5	4	17	Moderate Significance
P2-05B	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5	1950 - 1958	ISS School	School	School	4	2	5	4	17	Moderate Significance
P2-05C	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5	1950 - 1958	ISS School	School	School	4	2	5	4	17	Moderate Significance
P2-05D	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5	1950 - 1958	ISS School	School	School	4	2	5	4	17	Moderate Significance
P2-06	Preston Road School	N/A	1939	Open Courtyard	Playing field	Recreation	- Since the school's construction in 1939, this area was an open field used by students for outdoor sports. - The courtyard was used by the school for a range of flexible, curriculum and casual uses, to gather, play and congregate. - The courtyard, although smaller in size since the original version, retains its spatial character of openness and view of the main block at the higher elevation. It ties together the pavilion-type classrooms on all four sides and is a unique and remarkable area within the campus.					High Significance
P2-07	Preston Road School	N/A	2010s	Pavilion	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
P2-08	Preston Road School	N/A	2010s	Pavilion	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
P2-09	Preston Road School	N/A	1960s	W.C.	Marking room	School	3	2	0	2	9	Low Significance
P2-10	Preston Road School	N/A	1939	W.C., store	Latrine, store	Outhouse	3	2	0	2	9	Low Significance
P2-11	Preston Road School	N/A	1939	External staircase	External staircase	Staircase	- Highly intact - Constructed together with the original Main Block (Blk 3) in 1939 - The external staircases come as a pair flanking the front elevational view of the main block and provides circulation to the lower ground of the campus - These staircases should be taken as integrated with the Main Block which they frame					High Significance
P2-12	Preston Road School	N/A	1960s	W.C.	Unknown	Latrine	3	2	0	2	9	Low Significance
P2-13	Preston Road School	N/A	1960s	Pump Room	Unknown	Utilities	3	2	0	2	9	Low Significance
P2-14	Preston Road School	N/A	1939	Entrance steps	Entrance steps	Staircase	- An important recognisable and functional feature of Alexandra School, likely added during post-war expansion efforts to increase accessibility. The entrance steps have been highly-used by many generations of school children. - The entrance steps, having been used on a daily basis, form a backdrop to everyday memories of the site shared by groups of school mates. The social proclivity of this seemingly mundane element is evident in the numerous figures captured in this highly-photographed area. - The entrance steps mediate the interaction between users and the natural landscape, allowing increased accessibility to the school complex set atop the high hill.					High Significance

Table. 5.7.1 Overview of building and non-building features in Preston Road school cluster.

Preston Road School Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 21 PRESTON ROAD, BLOCK 3 (ID: P2-03)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	- Block 3 at 21 Preston Road is historically significant as the original purpose-built building constructed to host the Alexandra garrison school during its opening in 1939. - It is exceptional for being the first centralised school built for Army service children in Singapore and the largest of 4 service schools in 1947, all of which are likely non-extant today. It remains the oldest purpose-built military children's school complex on the island. - The school at 21 Preston Road is closely associated with both the pre-war and post-war development of British service education in Singapore, and reflects the reformation of British education policies for service children over the years.	5	High
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- Block 3 at 21 Preston Road is a unique example of a garrison school building which consolidated all classrooms together with a school hall within a permanent, concrete structure. This stood out from other garrison schools which typically housed classrooms in repurposed existing buildings. - The school block is notable for its size and scale which enabled it to accommodate a large student body, including almost all the Army children on the island for a time upon opening in 1939. - The building design capitalised on its elevated siting with lofty, open interiors and climate-sensitive design features to circumvent the tropical heat. - Block 3 is also significant as a rare example of the use of Shanghai Plaster in a garrison school typology.	5	High
Social and Communal (20%)	- The establishment of the centralised garrison school conveys a strong representation of the development of Gillman Barracks as a "family station" which was designed to engender a structured community (Morning Tribune, 1936). - The garrison school was a central anchor amid frequent relocations for many Army service children, and therefore holds enduring international significance for the global community of former service children. 21 Preston Road has maintained a long and continuous use as an educational institution from the pre-war years to today, serving the needs of both local and expatriate students over the years. - As the main block housing classrooms and the assembly hall, it has therefore amassed a continuum of social and institutional memories and served as an anchor for a large diaspora of people.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- Situated at the highest point at Friendly Hill, the centralised school was prominently located as a clear landmark of Gillman Barracks for service children who resided in other areas of Singapore. - The school was constructed at a high elevation among the Preston Road and Railway Hill married quarters, which provided the children with a short daily commute.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	25 / 25	Exceptional
	Percentage Score	100 %	

Illustrations

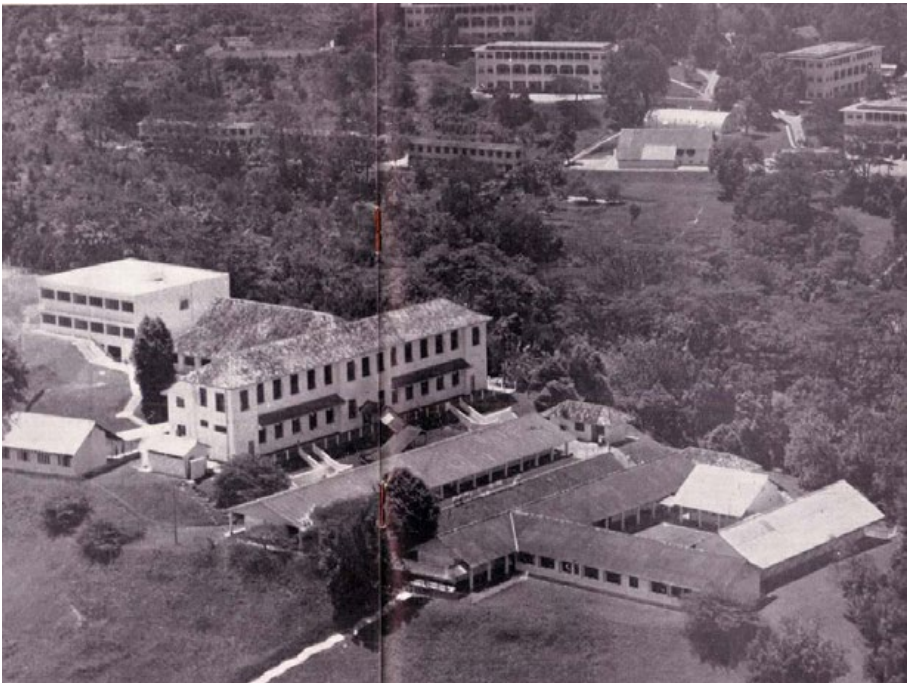


Fig 5.7.10 1960s view of the former garrison school at Preston Road. Source: Peter Garvey

Table 5.7.2 Building significance evaluation for Block 3, 21 Preston Road.

(Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster

(Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster**(Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster (ID: A1-)**

The Academy of Singapore Teachers premises and structures originally housed St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC). SAJC, the sixth junior college opened in Singapore, was built and opened in 1976 on the site of the former Gillman Barracks recreational fields to the west of Malan Road. The school was designed by DP Architects and featured 11 blocks that could accommodate 600 students in its first year. The open track field largely overlapped with the British-era recreational grounds of the Barracks.

SAJC moved out in 2005, and the premises came to be used by River Valley High School as an interim campus between 2006 and 2010. It was then taken over by the present users, the Academy of Singapore Teachers, in 2011.

Character Area SummaryTopography and Landscape Elements

- Natural low, undulating terrain (mounds and slopes) in the northern half of the cluster and flat, exposed land in the southern half.
- Foliage here was likely low ground cover such as grass and shrubs with sparse tree plantings.
- The stream which ran from Berlayar Creek was originally situated along the west side of this cluster, connecting to what later became the ravine or 'The Gap' parallel to Lock Road.

Layout

- The north section of the site occupying a trapezoid plot is characterized as the built-up area of the school complex.
- The large buildings are concentrated along an 'L'-shaped layout with its centre marked by around a quadrant courtyard. The other smaller blocks are arranged in a ring to the north.
- The south section of the site occupying a rectangular plot is characterised by the sports field, which remains largely unchanged in morphology and character since the military phase.
- The blocks are connected by a series of sheltered corridors and walkways.

Buildings

- Functional Types: classroom blocks, multi-purpose hall, lecture halls and auditorium, canteen, library, staff offices
- Morphology: mix of long-span or large multi-purpose blocks that generally have a rectangular footprint, and functionally specific structures with hexagonal footprint (lecture halls and auditorium). Most of the historically significant structures sported

metal pitched roofs.

- Architectural style: modern – strong geometry with tropical adaptations
- Materials (buildings): reinforced concrete, plaster and paint, port holes, brise soleil, brick masonry pavers, aluminium windows and handrails, corrugated metal roofs

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- Blocks, brick pavers and a series of planters integrated with seating help define common courtyards.
- The sports field is primarily experienced in three ways – (1) from the elevated vantage of the main block which provided unobstructed views to the towards the field, (2) from within the field itself defined by the sweeping curve of the running track, and (3) from outside the field spanning to the boundaries of Malan Road, the parking lots beside Alexandra Road and the spectator gallery to the south.
- Physical boundaries: road, pathways, planters and verges, running track, fencing, buildings

Designed Landscapes

- Outdoor courts and playing fields – sports courts, running track and turfing
- Earthworks – platform levelling at the north section of the cluster
- Orderly planting at common areas with a variety of small-medium trees for shade, low-level shrubs and turfing to provide soft edges between buildings and along pathways. These plantings have been maintained overall with replacements in some areas.
- Hardscape features – Brick-paved courtyards, paved roads, and sheltered walkways.
- Sheltered walkways provide a range of vantages throughout the site by linking individual blocks through a series of interstitial spaces. These help the user navigate the site whilst being comfortably shaded.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster



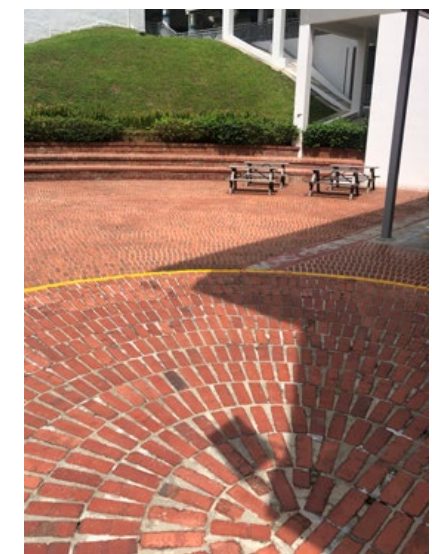
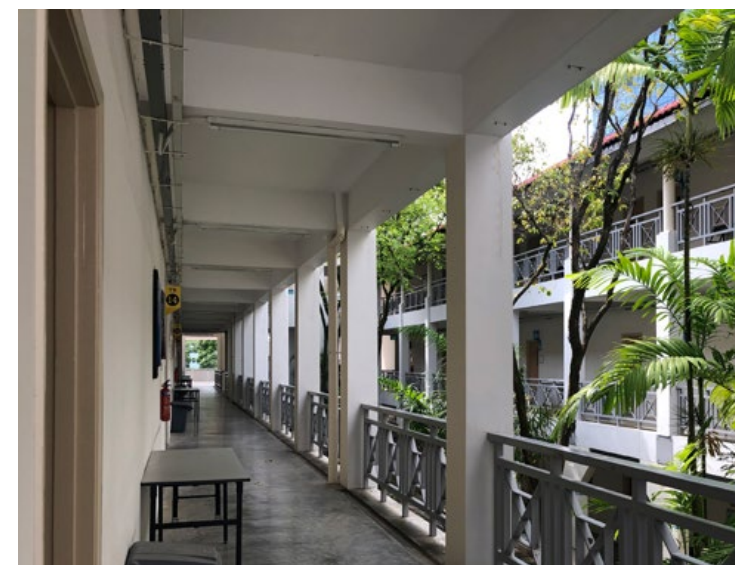
[TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT]

Fig. 5.8.1 Overview of the Centre Plaza with a sheltered linkway in the background. Benches are provided for seating. A turfed slope with shrubs at the base provide a soft backdrop to the hardscape.

Fig. 5.8.2 Brick masonry is an important material and repeated across the site. In this instance it is used for the raised planter which doubles up as a ledge for sitting.

Fig. 5.8.3 A series of sheltered and unsheltered pathways enable and guide circulation across the cluster and the various levels.

Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



[SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT]

Fig. 5.8.4 View of the running track and wire fence separating Academy of Singapore Teachers campus from Malan Road. Close up of the brick pavers used at the Centre Plaza.

Fig. 5.8.5 View of the slope within the campus compound leading from the north end of the cluster down to the large multi-purpose Block A.

Fig. 5.8.6 The later 1990s classroom blocks make use of verandahs to maintain a close connection between interior and exterior spaces.

Fig. 5.8.7 Close up of the brick pavers used at the Centre Plaza.

Source: Studio Lapis Collection.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster

Cluster Significance

Moderate Historical Value

St. Andrew's Junior College was an institution set up by the joint efforts of the Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches of Singapore, and incorporated as part of the Telok Blangah New Town urban plan, the third New Town developed by the Housing Development Board. It was one of the earliest five junior colleges to be established in the country, alongside two others in 1977.

High Architectural Value

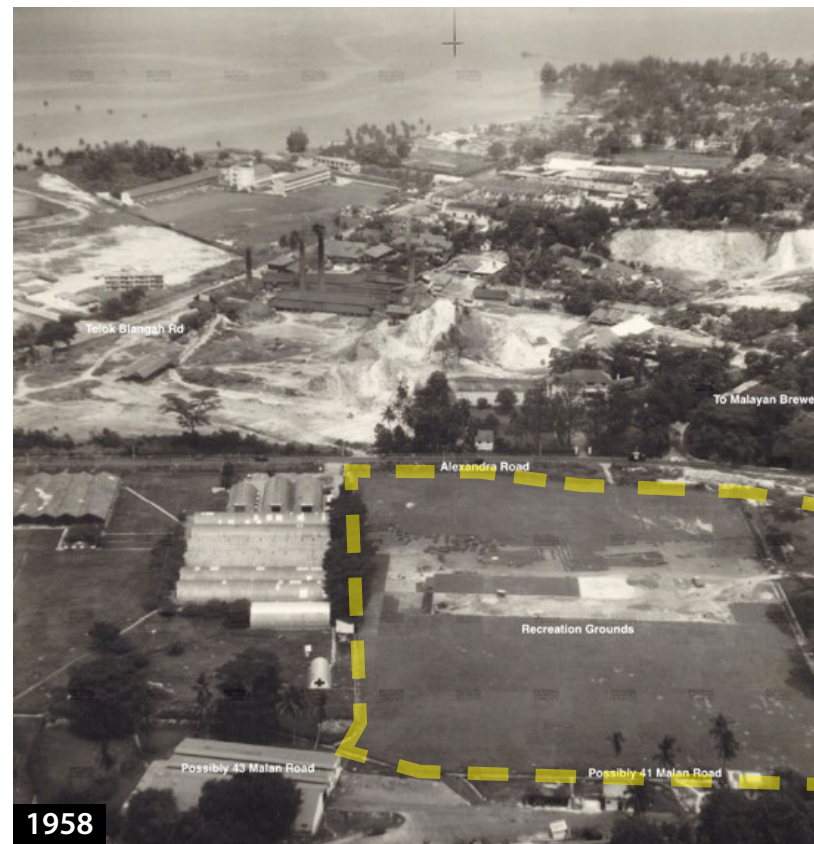
The campus was originally designed by DP Architects with an emphasis on functionality, climate-responsiveness and a clear modernist language that responded to educational pedagogy in the post-independence period. The design sought to foster social interaction and an atmosphere of informality, reflected in the deliberate avoidance of formal entrances and the use of porous blocks and circulation passages that remain visually accessible from multiple directions. The character of the campus was further reinforced through the organisation of three primary architectural focal points: the main block facing the track field, the central plaza, and the 500-seat auditorium. Together, these elements articulate a coherent spatial hierarchy and design approach. Alteration works undertaken between 1994 and 1995, including the addition of new enclosures and extensions to existing blocks, have partially obscured the legibility of the original campus design.

High Social Value

The campus, inaugurated in 1979, is significant as a recognisable landmark in the Alexandra Road and Telok Blangah area, and holds important social and institutional memory for generations of college-going students and educators. The strong social character of this cluster is also evident in the spaces of the campus that promote formal and casual interactions, as well as through anecdotes provided by alumni. The campus contributes towards continuing legacies in the field of education as it presently houses the Academy of Singapore Teachers, who provide professional development for the Ministry of Education's staff from across the country and who teach at various levels of education.

High Contextual Value

The planning of the campus demonstrates a strong response to its natural site context, particularly the existing landform characterised by a hilly and sloping northern half and a flat southern half. The campus site planning successfully integrates built forms with the natural topography and shapes the relationship between buildings, open spaces, and movement networks. The Junior College was notably remarkable as a state-of-the-art campus and this was evidenced in its feature in overseas design publications. The spatial sensitivity of the campus has also importantly preserved the legibility of the earlier military history demonstrating contextual continuity in the area. In particular, the flat and open track field retains in its original location the site context of the historical military recreation grounds which were used by servicemen and also as an assembly area for school children of Alexandra and Bourne schools.



[LEFT, TOP DOWN] Fig. 5.8.8 1979, SAJC Courtyard and facade of Main Block. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979

Fig. 5.8.9 1980, tutorial block with open-sided classrooms facing Main Block. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1980

[ABOVE] Fig. 5.8.10 1958, Aerial view of the Gillman Barracks recreation grounds and land form before construction of SAJC on land marked by dashed boundary line. On the southern half (left image) is the flat field, and on the northern half (right) is a hilly area with a grove of trees. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster

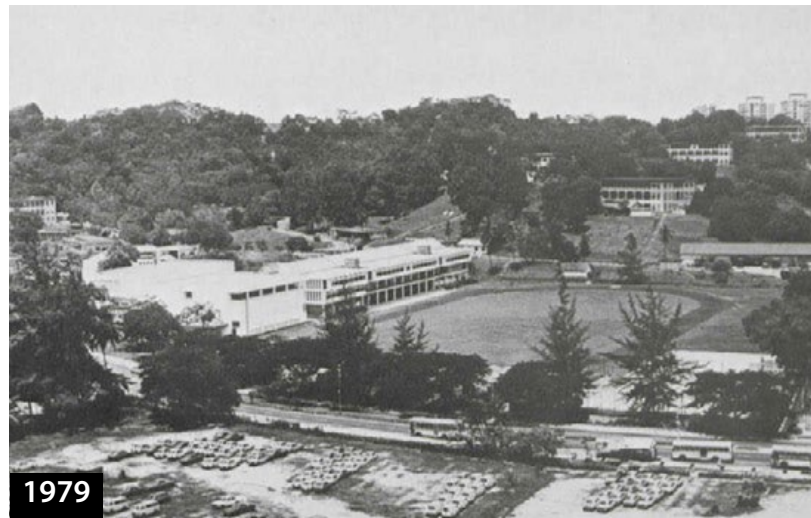


Fig. 5.8.11 1979 view of the former St Andrew's Junior College with the blocks of barrack hill seen in the background. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979

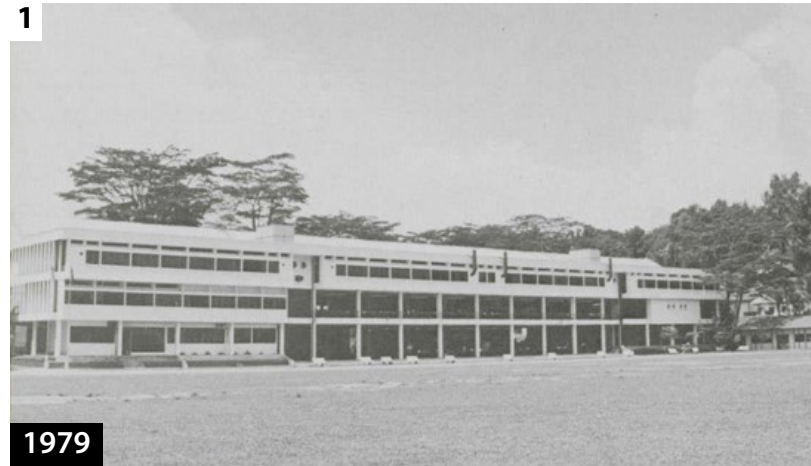


Fig. 5.8.12 A 1986 view of the south elevation of the main block, taken from the recreational field. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1986

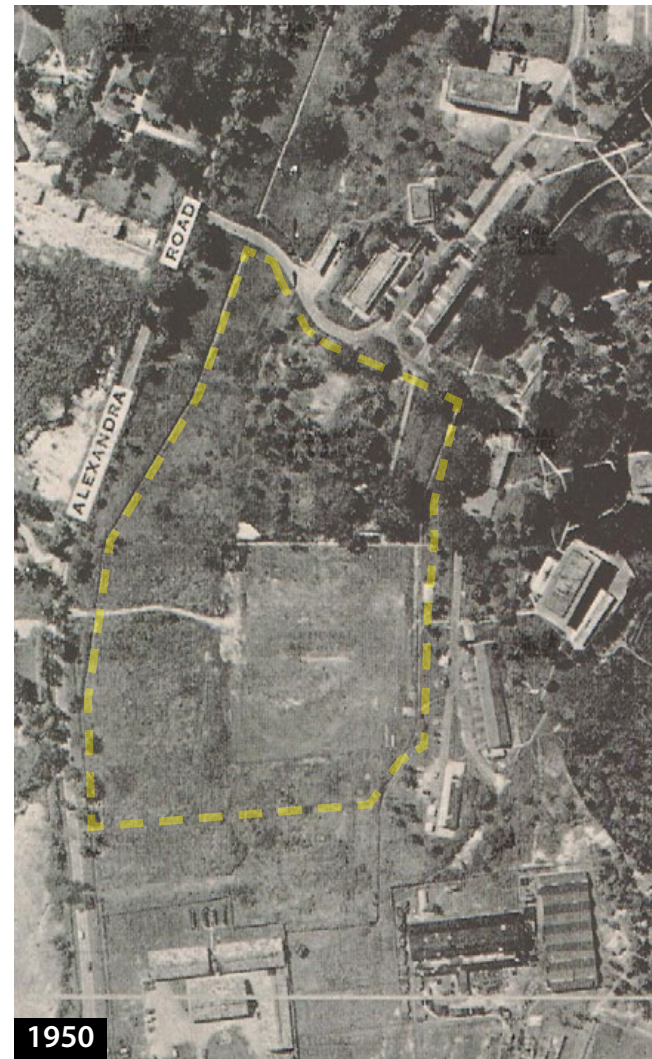


Fig. 5.8.13 Location of the former SAJC campus, marked by dashed boundary line, extracted from 1950 aerial survey conducted by the British Royal Airforce. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

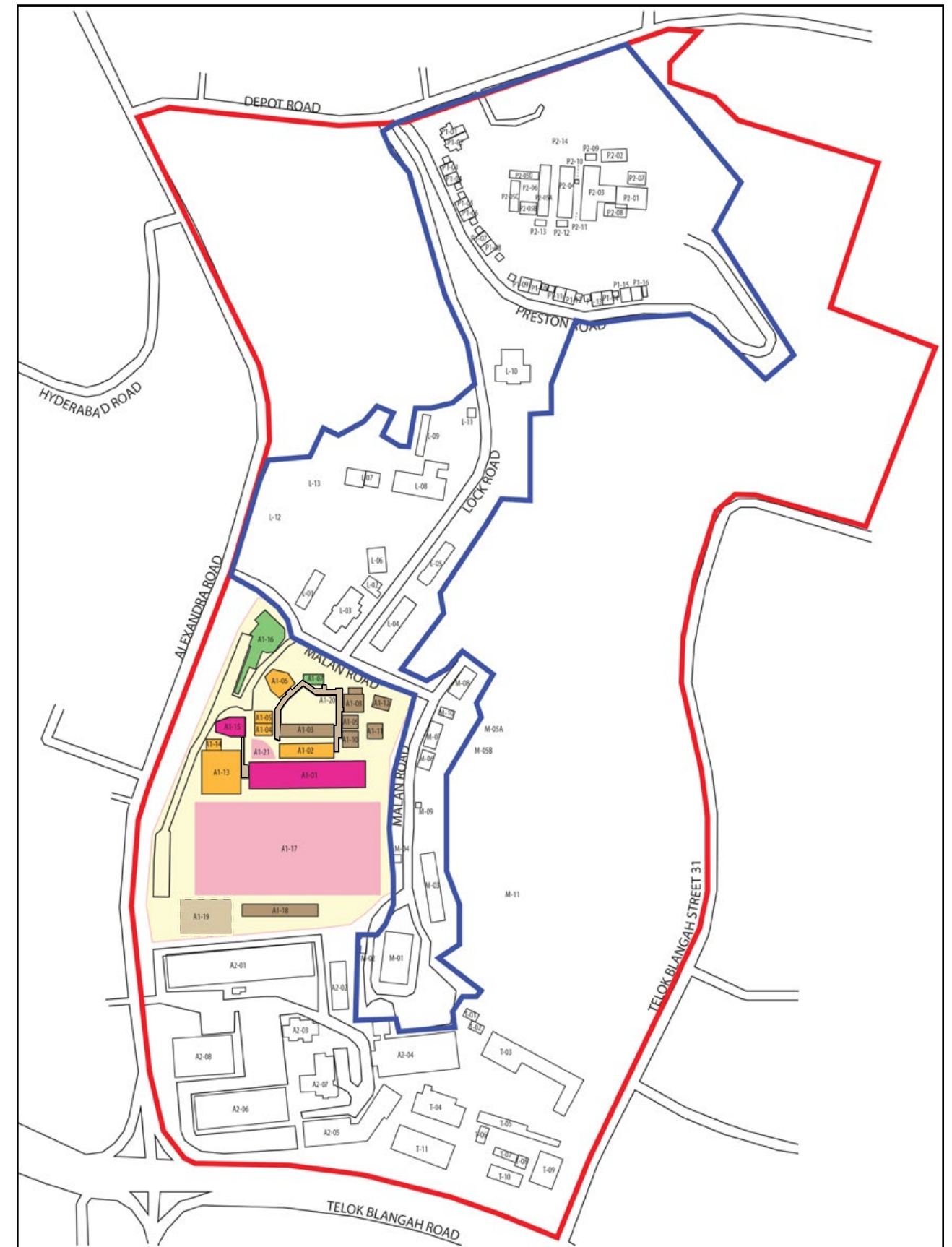


Fig. 5.8.14 Overview of St Andrew's Junior College Cluster with assessment of structures.

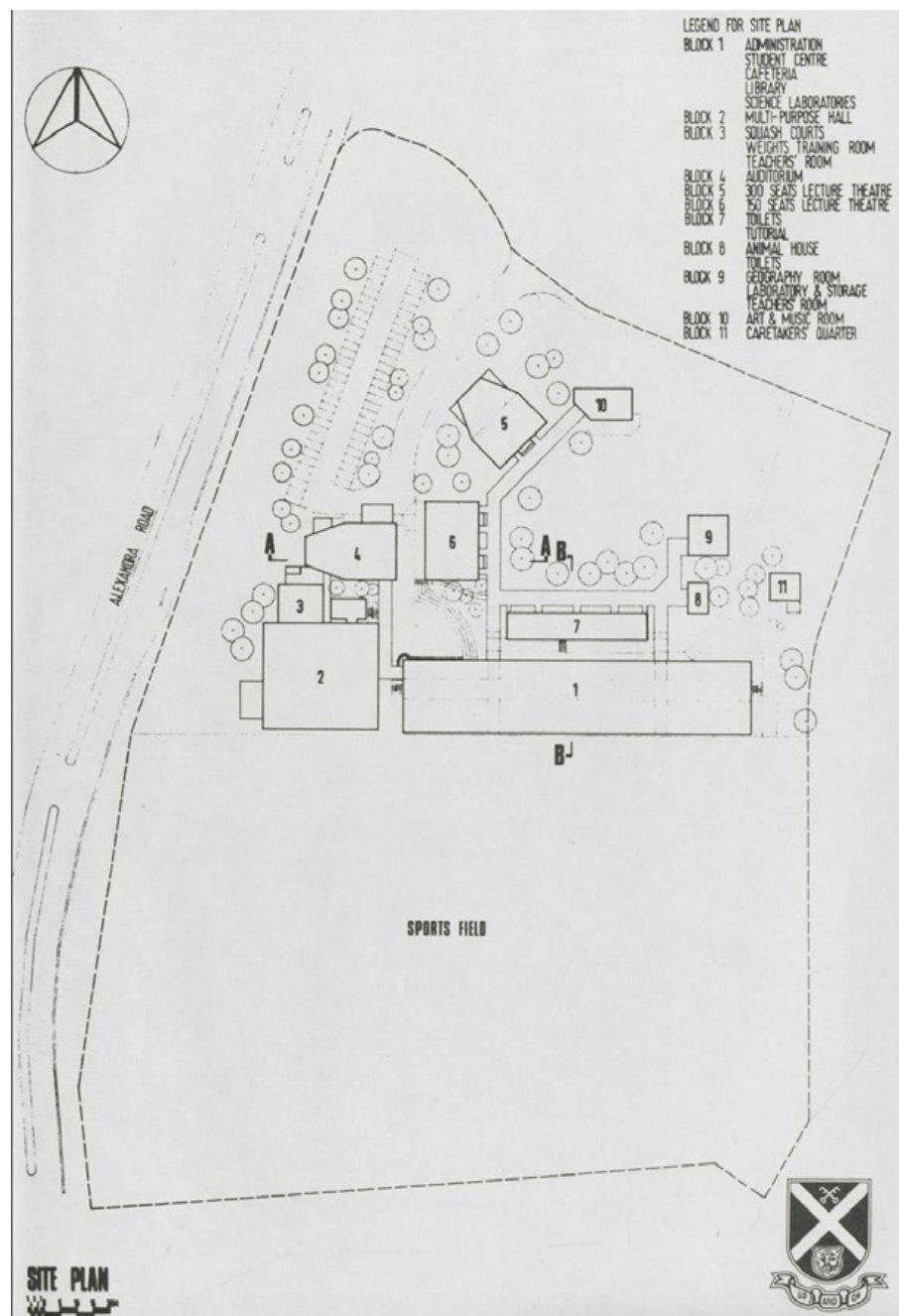


Fig. 5.8.15 Projection plans and drawings of 1976 predominantly showing blocks planned for Phase 1.
Source: St Andrew's Junior College, St. Andrew's 1976

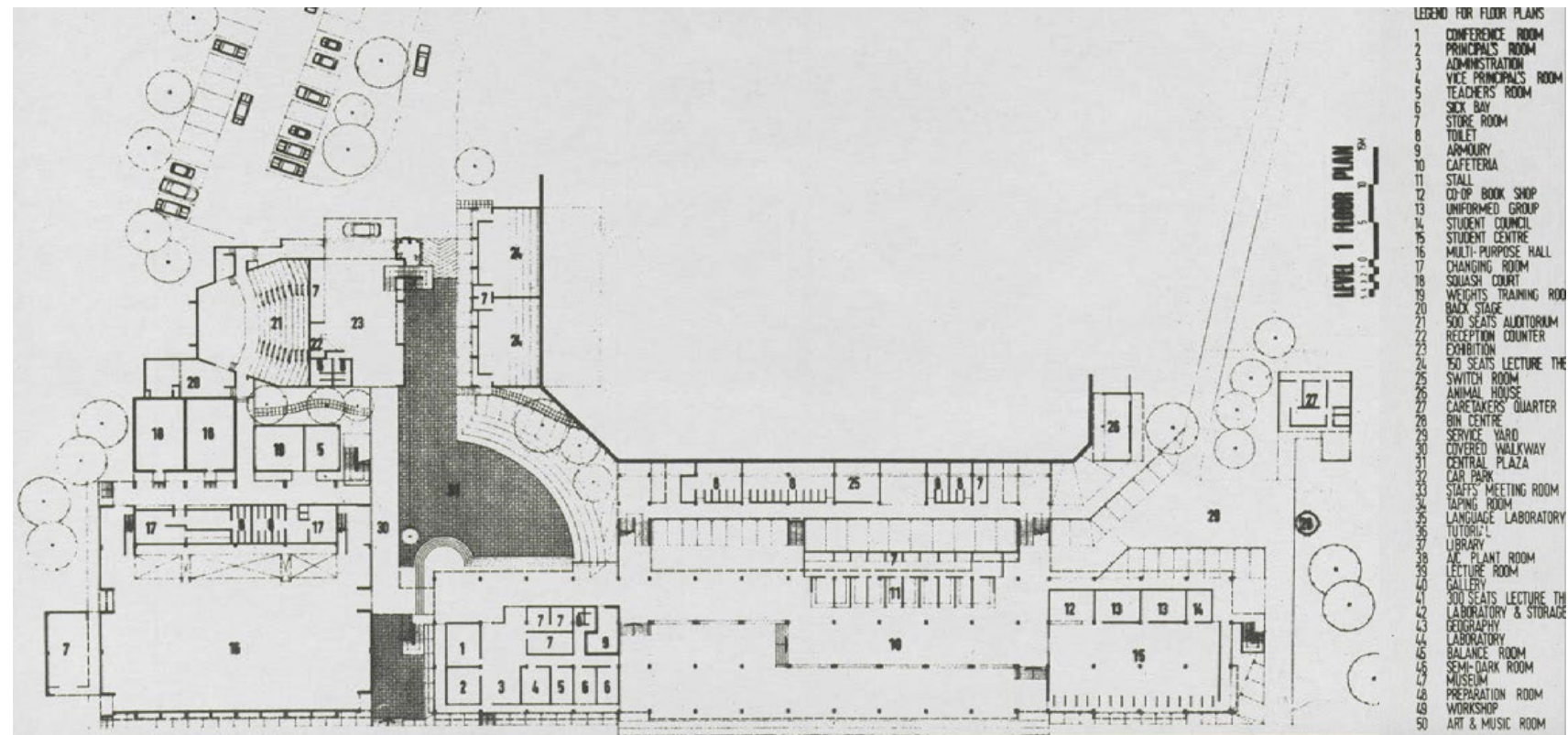


Fig. 5.8.16 1979 Inter-college games along a sloping road near the Auditorium entrance
Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979

Phasing

Construction of the former SAJC Campus began in September 1976, planned in two phases with 11 blocks and additional space for future expansion.

Phase 1 primarily consisted of the Main Block, Tutorial Block, Lecture Theatres, along with Science labs, a Language Lab, a Library, Staff & Admin Rooms, Lecture & Tutorial Rooms, a Cafeteria, a Students' Centre, a Toilet Block, and Caretaker's Quarters. Projection plans of 1976 show the blocks that were expected to be completed by November 1977 for the first 1200 students in 1978. The phase was eventually completed in January 1978 for the first 600 students. Phase 2 planned for the construction of the Multi-Purpose Hall, Sports Centre, a 500-seat Auditorium, a 300-seat Lecture Theatre, a Geography Room, Art Rooms and Music Rooms, expected to be completed by April 1978.

Renovations started in April 1992 with 7 phases to alter the Lecture Theatres, Auditorium, Library, Staff & Admin Rooms, and included a new Amphitheatre and Performing Arts Centre, along with covered linking walkways across college grounds. The Science Labs, Drama Centre, Cafeteria, and Multi-Purpose Hall were also renovated, with upgrades to the Athletic Track and Field. Extensions included Classrooms, Seminar Rooms, Science Labs, an AV Theatre, an LT, and the Spectator's Gallery. During this set of Additions & Alterations, various new architectural gestures were included that tended to obscure the original character-defining elements of the campus' significance; these works included the addition of pitched roofs, resort-style linkway shelters, the addition of new MPH solid facade and extension, bright colour accents and the removal of the mural walls.

Sloping Terrain

The difference in level between the hilly northern half and flat southern half of the site is about 14.5 metres, a distinct feature that allowed informal engagement and individual buildings such as the Lecture Theatres, Geography Room, and Art and Music Rooms to be dispersed across the slopes. The raked seating of the lecture halls generally followed the slope profiles.

Beyond being a backdrop, the terrain became an active participant in activities such as school events by creating these naturally elevated views around the site, visible through classrooms and serving as spectator points, as well as introducing various rhythms across the compound connected by walkways.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster | Campus

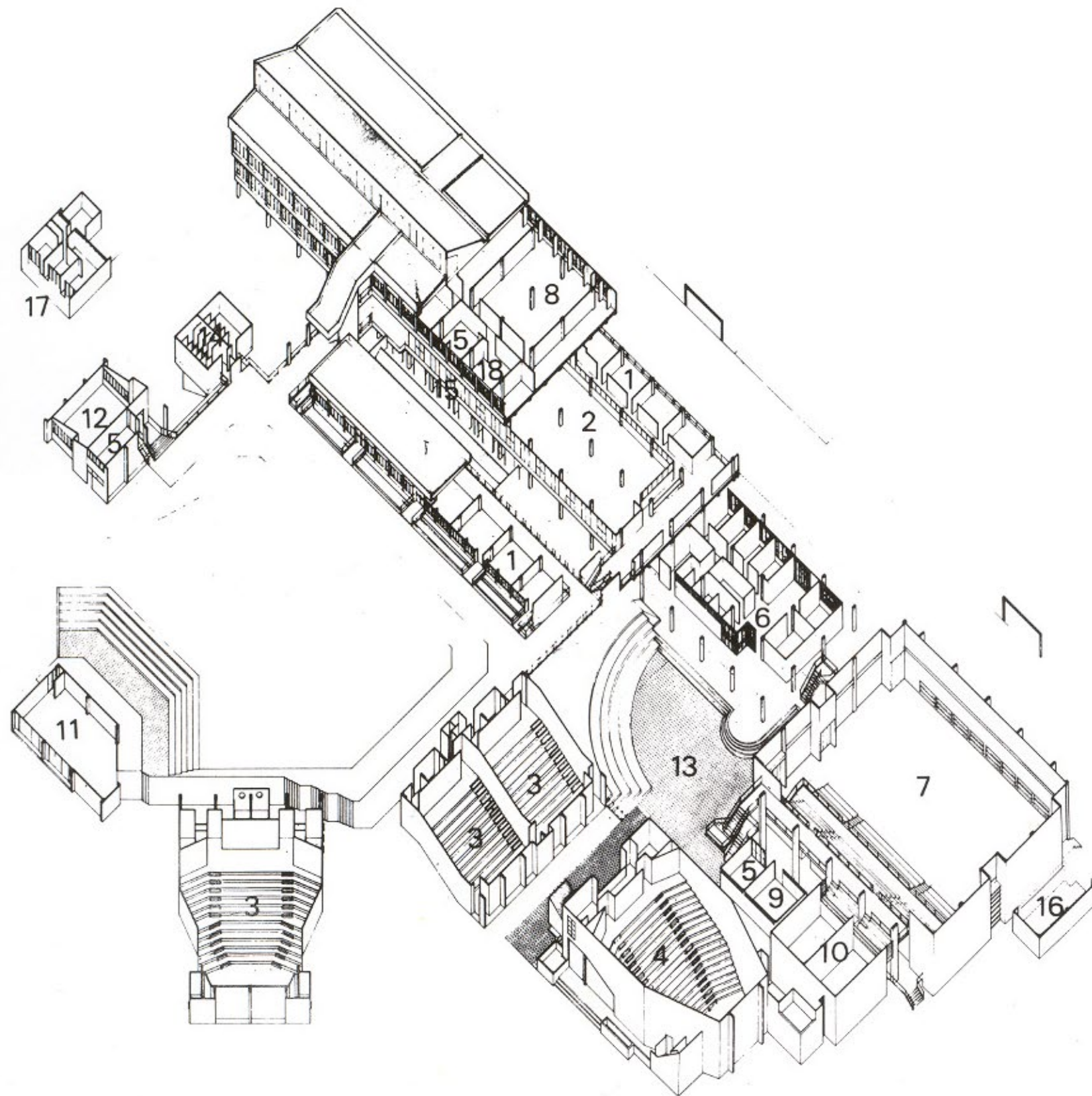


Fig. 5.8.17 Axonometric Drawing of the Campus reflective of Phase 1
Source: Courtesy of DP Architecture

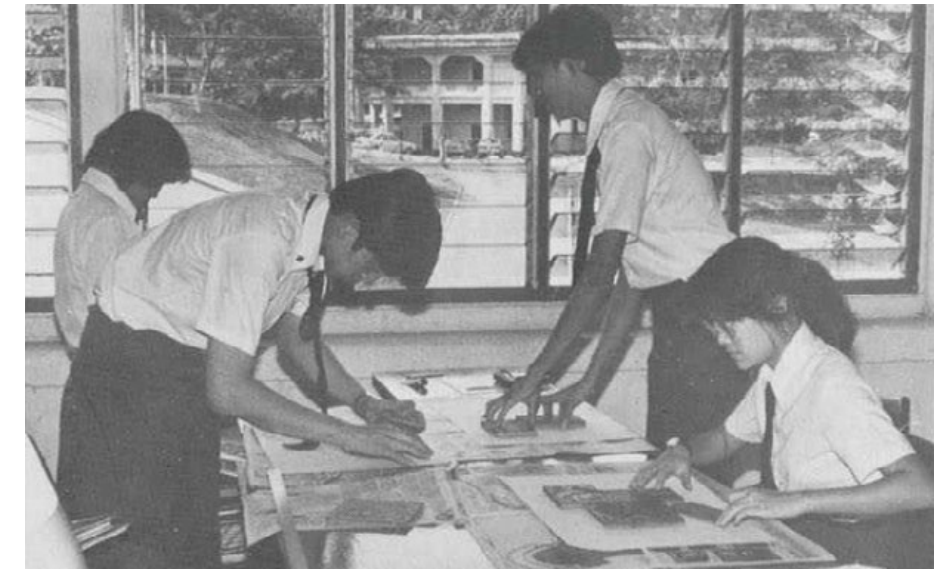


Fig. 5.8.18 1980 view inside an art class with a barrack block visible in the background (likely Block 6)
Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJcian 1980

1. Tutorial
2. Library
3. Lecture theater
4. Auditorium
5. Teachers' room
6. Administration
7. Multi-purpose hall
8. Laboratory
9. Weight lifting room
10. Squash courts
11. Art and music room
12. Geography
13. Center plaza
14. Toilets
15. Hawkers' stalls
16. Storage
17. Caretakers' quater
18. Preparation room

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) St Andrew's Junior College | Courtyards

Central Plaza

Capitalising on the natural contours of the site, lecture theatres with raked seating were placed on the slopes, with the multi-purpose hall positioned on the lower flat ground. In between, a main courtyard, also known as the Central Plaza, became a focal point of the school.

Intended as a gathering space, the open, brick-paved plaza greets the route from the auditorium entrance. The space often acted as a backdrop for events and yearbook photos, visible from multiple directions.



Fig. 5.8.19 Jurong Brickworks used across the central plaza. Source: Studio Lapis Collection



Fig. 5.8.20 A SAJC Concert Band performance in 1980. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1980



Fig. 5.8.21 Courtyard space between the tutorial blocks, where the rhythm and profiles of the columns and railings have been retained. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

Site Plan

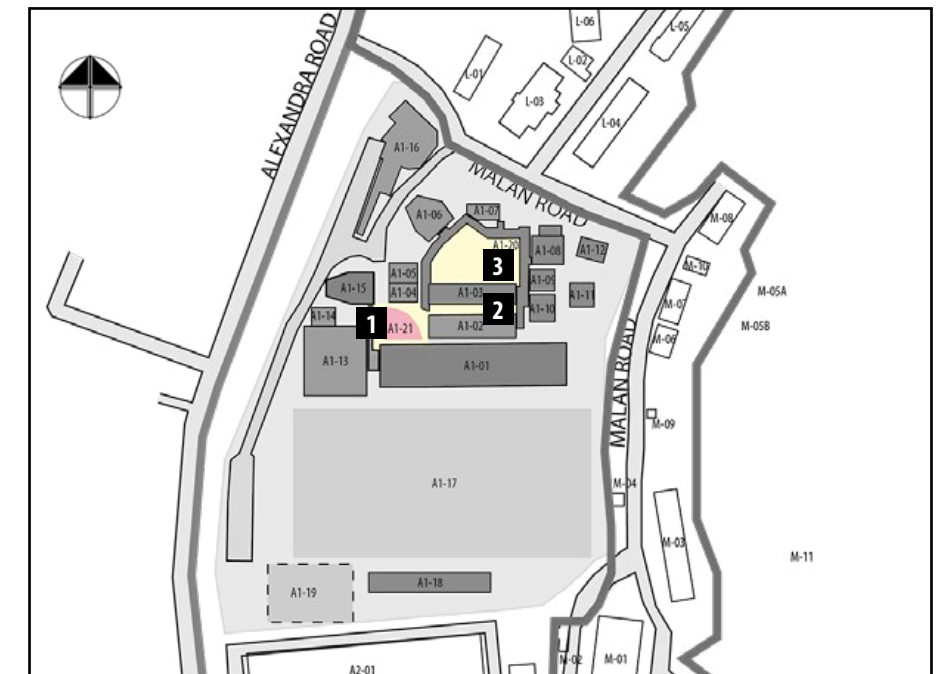


Fig. 5.8.22 Site Plan. Source: Studio Lapis (1) Central Plaza (2) Tutorial Blocks (3) Courtyard Steps

Central Plaza



Fig. 5.8.23 View of rear facade of present-day Block A which opens up to the Central Plaza. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979



Fig. 5.8.24 1994 view of courtyard space between tutorial blocks. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1994



Fig. 5.8.25 Four rows of steps adorn the open courtyard, arching to create a gathering space. Source: Studio Lapis Collection

Other Courtyards

Apart from the central plaza, other courtyards nearby such as the open space between the tutorial blocks and the larger space behind have retained their key features.

This includes the rhythmic railing modules and haunched beam-columns of the tutorial blocks, as well as the curved courtyard steps of the larger space.



Fig. 5.8.26 A 1994 image of the courtyard steps. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1994

(Former) St Andrew's Junior College

Overview of (Former) St Andrew's Junior College Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
A1-01	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk A	1978	Library, cafeteria, offices, training rooms	School	School	3	4	5	5	21	High Significance
A1-02	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk B	1978, A&A in 1994	Training rooms	School (tutorial block/ classrooms)	School	3	1	5	3	13	Moderate Significance
A1-03	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk C	1994 - 1995	Training rooms	School	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-04	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk D	1978	Lecture theatre	School (150-seat lecture theatre)	School	2	2	5	3	14	Moderate Significance
A1-05	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk E	1978	Lecture theatre	School (150-seat lecture theatre)	School	2	2	5	3	14	Moderate Significance
A1-06	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk F	1978 - 1979	Auditorium	School (300-seat lecture theatre)	School	2	2	5	3	14	Moderate Significance
A1-07	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk G	1978 - 1979, A&A 1994	General Office	School (Art and music room)	School	2	1	3	3	10	Low Significance
A1-08	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk H	1994 - 1995	Seminar rooms	School	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-09	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk I	1994 - 1995	Music practice rooms	School	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-10	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk J	1994 - 1995	Seminar rooms	School	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-11	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk K	1994 - 1995	Performing arts centre	School	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-12	SAJC	2 Malan Road	1994 - 1995	Substation	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-13	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk M	1978 - 1979	Multi-purpose Hall	School (multi-purpose hall)	School	2	2	5	4	15	Moderate Significance
A1-14	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk N	1978 - 1979	Exercise research lab	School (squash court)	School	2	2	5	3	14	Moderate Significance
A1-15	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk O	1978 - 1979	Auditorium	School (500-seat auditorium)	School	3	3	5	4	18	High Significance
A1-16	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk P	1994 - 1995	Offices	Chapel of the Resurrection	Chapel	1	1	4	2	9	Low Significance
A1-17	SAJC	N/A	1978 - 1979, 1993	Track field	Recreation grounds (1935)	Landscape feature	- Originally the site of the recreation grounds of Gillman Barracks, and later converted into the sports field and running track of SAJC, retaining its use as a key gathering space across all developmental periods - Strong marker of the site in the social memories of its past and present users - The open, flat ground retains much of its historical spatial character and relation to the adjacent roads and buildings. - It remains a highly recognisable landmark in the area and provides unobstructed view between Alexandra and Malan Roads.					High Significance

Table. 5.8.1 Overview of building and non-building features in (Former) St Andrew's Junior College cluster (continued on following page).

Overview of (Former) St Andrew’s Junior College Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
A1-18	SAJC	N/A	1993 - 1994	Viewing gallery	Recreation grounds	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-19	SAJC	N/A	1993 - 1994	Basketball & Netball courts	Basketball & Netball courts	Recreation	• Recreation facilities provided as part of the school compound.					Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-20	SAJC	N/A	1994 - 1995	Sheltered walkway	Sheltered walkway	School	• Sheltered structure constructed to provide covered circulation network between SAJC blocks.					Neutral/ Intrusive
A1-21	SAJC	Central plaza	1978	Courtyard	School	Landscape feature	• Highly intact • Part of the first phase of SAJC construction and an original feature • Unique in its design and layout, the courtyard seamlessly creates an interstitial space between the main block, tutorial and lecture blocks and Auditorium and assists in navigation and wayfinding. • Visually distinct from the surrounding built elements due to the use of red brick as pavers and planters. • Often the choice backdrop for commemorative group photography, this courtyard is a well-remembered space by both students from SAJC and teachers-in-training from AST alike.					High Significance

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES

(Former) St Andrew’s Junior College Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 2 MALAN ROAD, BLK A (ID: A1-01)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	- As one of the earliest Junior College campuses built, the former SAJC campus represents a key phase in the development of post-secondary institutions in Singapore and a shift in design procurement beyond projects completed solely by the Public Works Department. - Designed by Design Partnership in 1974, the campus is locally and internationally recognised in SIA's 1981 Rumah Journal and Japanese journal Process Architecture as an architecturally distinguished piece of work. Block A stands as an integral part of the campus design and demonstrates clearly its characteristic design intent. - The school was incorporated as part of the Telok Blangah New Town plan and extensive redevelopment efforts in the area after the British Withdrawal. As with SAJC, parcels of the site were gradually released for new uses and increased accessibility to the general public.	3	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The Main Block (Blk A) was part of the first phase of campus construction and arguably the most prominent feature of the complex as a whole. - It was planned as a megastructure to accommodate a large collection of programmes so as to allow for a more sprawling, low-intensity allocation to other smaller blocks on higher elevations. - The Main Block features a clear architectural expression of the functions at different segments, showcasing a modernist approach to architectural rationalisation of space. A range of shading devices is used across the building to best suit the particularities of each elevation.	4	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- As a central hub that consolidated the school's main functions and programmes, the Main Block at Block A stood at the core of daily routines of learning and social interaction and serves as a holder of enduring social memories for generations of past SAJC staff and students. - The design and layout of the school were intended to create an atmosphere of informality and to foster social interactions. Many events held at the sports field/ race track were observed from the canteen and the open verandah of the Main Block and this is evident in the block being highly photographed and featured in school commemorative publications. - The campus continues its legacy as an institute for education today, with Block A continuing to function as a key central space as the main library under the Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST) and the Singapore Teachers’ Academy for the aRts (STAR).	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- The Main Block at Block A holds a strong spatial relationship with the open sports field, designed akin to a spectator stand overlooking the sports ground which retains its historic spatial character within the Gillman Barracks site. - The SAJC campus served the growing demographic of residents resettled around the Telok Blangah New Town and other neighbouring estates along the west coast of Singapore.	5	High
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	21 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	84 %	

Table 5.8.2 Building significance evaluation for Block A, 2 Malan Road.

Illustrations

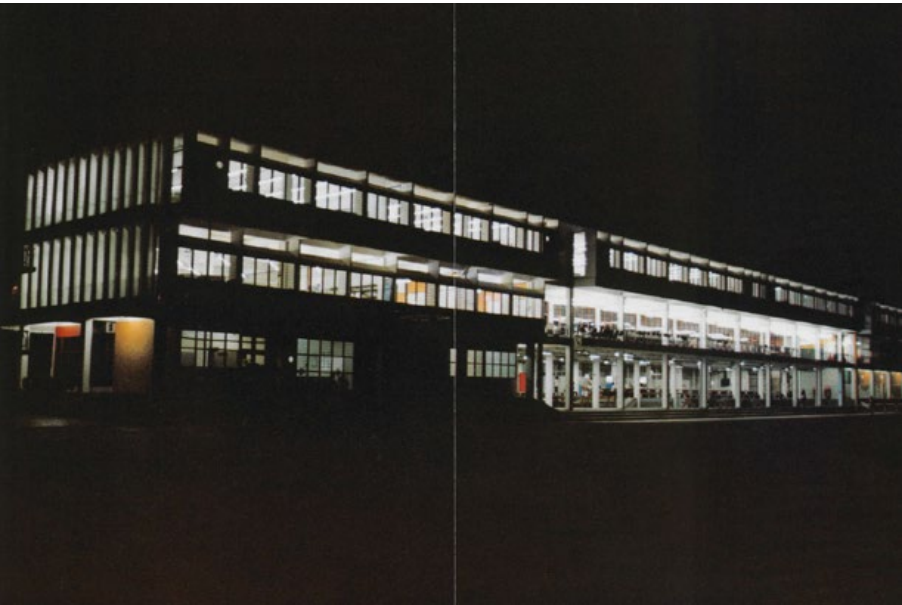


Fig. 5.8.27 1980, Night view of SAJC Main Block. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1980

Evaluation of Building Significance - 2 MALAN ROAD, BLK O (ID: A1-15)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	- The campus at 2 Malan Road represents the first purpose-built facility for St. Andrew's Junior College, with the Auditorium at Block O constructed in 1978 during the second stage of its development. - As one of the earliest Junior College campuses built, the former SAJC campus represents a key phase in the development of post-secondary institutions in Singapore and a shift in design procurement beyond projects completed solely by the Public Works Department. - Designed by Design Partnership in 1974, the campus is locally and internationally recognised in SIA's 1981 Rumah Journal and Japanese journal Process Architecture as an architecturally distinguished piece of work. Block O demonstrates clearly the unique campus design and its characteristic circulatory design. - The school was incorporated as part of the Telok Blangah New Town plan and extensive redevelopment efforts in the area after the British Withdrawal. As with SAJC, parcels of the site were gradually released for new uses and increased accessibility to the general public.	3	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The Auditorium, intentionally designed as an informal entrance into the school, is a clear reflection of the campus-wide design intent to replace formal entrances with flexible spaces to encourage a more autonomous environment - The Auditorium functioned as a key circulation anchor, housing one of the school's two main stair cores and an open lobby that seamlessly connects the covered walkway to the central plaza and surrounding blocks. - Designed as a self-contained volume with its trapezoidal form and raked seating, the Auditorium articulates a deliberate, purpose-built design intent that distinguishes it from the conventional secondary school typology.	3	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	- Beyond its architectural function as a large-capacity gathering space, the Auditorium served as the setting for milestone ceremonies, performances and formal school events and is deeply linked to key memories of achievement and celebration in the school. - Events such as open houses and inter-college games along the adjacent slope towards the Auditorium, as well as the connection with the Central Plaza also position it as a key spatial node in the campus landscape.	5	High
Contextual (20%)	- Designed as a key point of entry into the school, the Auditorium serves a key role in the legibility of the campus design and cluster. - SAJC campus was planned, programmed, and designed in relation to the existing terrain of the site with blocks and circulation articulated in sensitive and innovative ways to mediate the various levels creating an overall cohesive space. - SAJC campus served the growing demographic of residents resettled around the Telok Blangah New Town and other neighbouring estates along the west coast of Singapore.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	18 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	72 %	

Table 5.8.3 Building significance evaluation for Block O, 2 Malan Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.8.28 Front facade of the Auditorium during the SAJC Open House in 1999. Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1999

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster (ID: A2-)

Prior to the opening of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute in 1972, reports make mention of the area being used as a military transport depot with large workshops and possibly other sheds and hangar-type facilities. In his opening speech, Dr Lee Chiaw Meng, then-Minister of State for Education, made explicit mention of the government adaptively reusing “the army transport depot [...] and [turning] it into the biggest and best institution offering training in the metal trades in this region.” (Singapore Ministry of Culture, 1972) The campus was eventually renamed as ITE Pasir Panjang and closed its doors in 2000. One extant structure dating back to the pre-1950s still remains (991C Alexandra Road), whilst at least four others from the Vocational Institute era (1970s) have also been retained for present-day commercial, F&B, and office spaces at 991 Alexandra Road. Of the stock of vocational training campuses set up between 1969 and 1975 across the country, other extant campuses include the former Baharrudin, Bukit Merah and Geylang Serai Vocational Institutes, though these today survive to varying degrees of intactness and legibility.

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- The topography of this area is naturally flat as it was situated at the edge of swamp land located at the foot of Faber Ridge.
- Foliage here was likely low ground cover such as grass and shrubs with sparse tree plantings.

Layout

- Large plot located at the junction of Telok Blangah and Alexandra trunk roads.
- Once converted into a Supply Reserve Depot and later Military Transport Depot, the buildings were widely spaced with large expanses of open grounds for parking of vehicles and cargo.
- Similar building types were clustered together, such as the Nissen sheds laid out in neat rows at the north end of the cluster.
- The buildings today are mostly oriented with their long facades facing the north and south directions.

Buildings

- Functional Types: warehouse stores, workshops, offices, seminar rooms
- Morphology: low rise blocks (2 to 4 storeys), predominantly rectangular footprint with pitched metal roofs or multi-storey office blocks with glass and aluminium-cladded curtain wall
- Architectural style: light industrial, modern

- Materials (buildings): reinforced concrete, steel, plaster and paint, aluminium framed glazing, glass and aluminium curtain wall, metal roof

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- Transport Depot – Open spaces included parking, driveways, and unsheltered yards
- These were loosely defined by dirt and gravel surfaces and bounded by widely spaced layout of sheltered stores and workshops
- PPVI – Open spaces include outdoor courts, gardens, parking and roads
- These were defined in a structured layout with turfed green verges, low border hedges and sheltered walkways, and bounded between a series of long, rectangular seminar and workshop blocks

Designed Landscapes

- Military Depot – largely featureless, low ground cover (grass).
- PPVI – green verge between roads, outdoor courts and buildings, and sparse tree planting and hedges
- Paved steps and pathways connected Lock Road to Preston Road and continues up to the school on top of the hill
- Hardscape features (Military Depot) – paved and dirt driveways
- Hardscape features (PPVI) – sheltered walkways, paved paths, lamp posts and fence

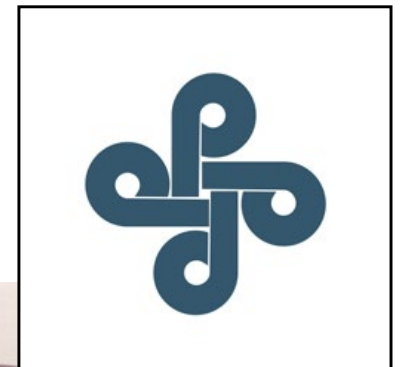


Fig. 5.9.1 Logo of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Singapore Graphic Archives.

Fig. 5.9.2 c.1970s, Entrance to Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Institute of Technical Education



Fig. 5.9.3 President Benjamin Sheares visits Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

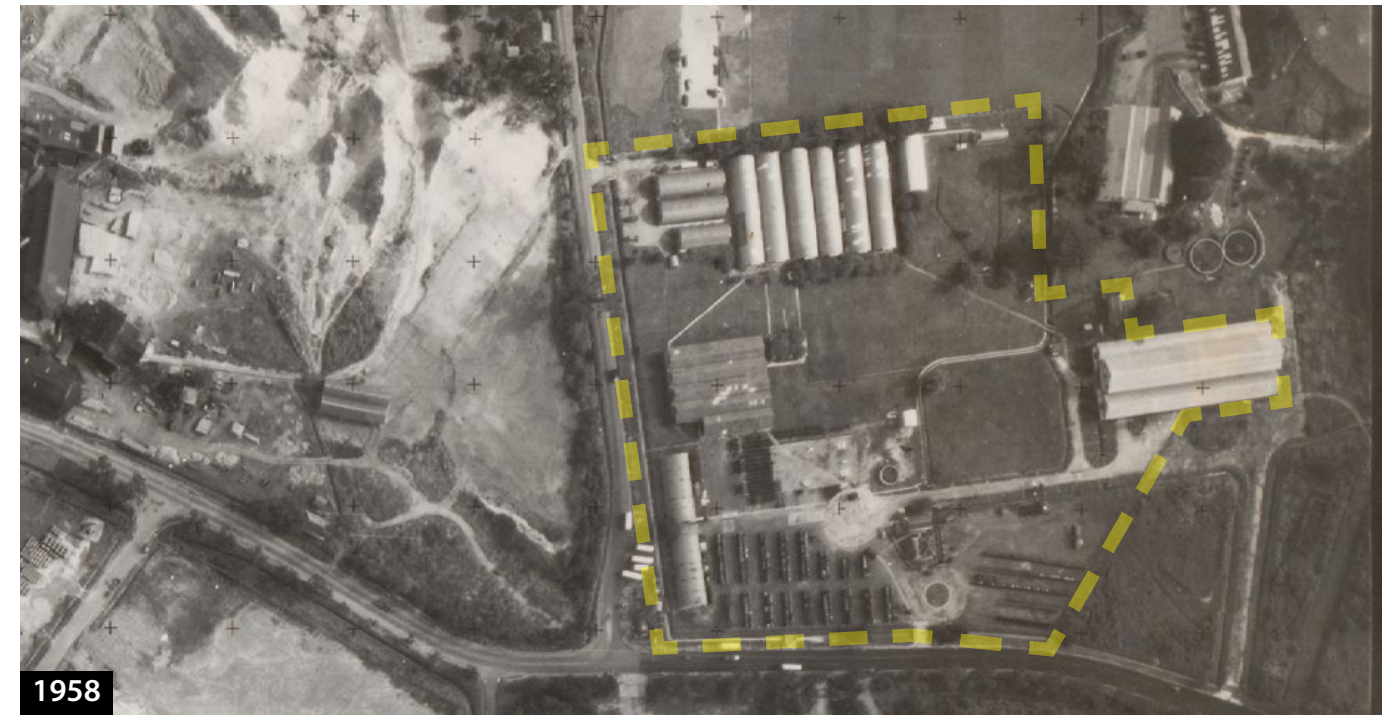


Fig. 5.9.4 1958, Aerial view of the Supply Reserve Depot / Military Transport Depot site, marked by dashed boundary line, prior to takeover by Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster



Fig. 5.9.5 Present-day verge planting, perimeter drains. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.9.6 Present-day parking lot with shrub and tree planting. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.9.7 Present-day hardscape and sheltered walkway connecting the blocks. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.9.8 1987, students playing at outdoor area of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

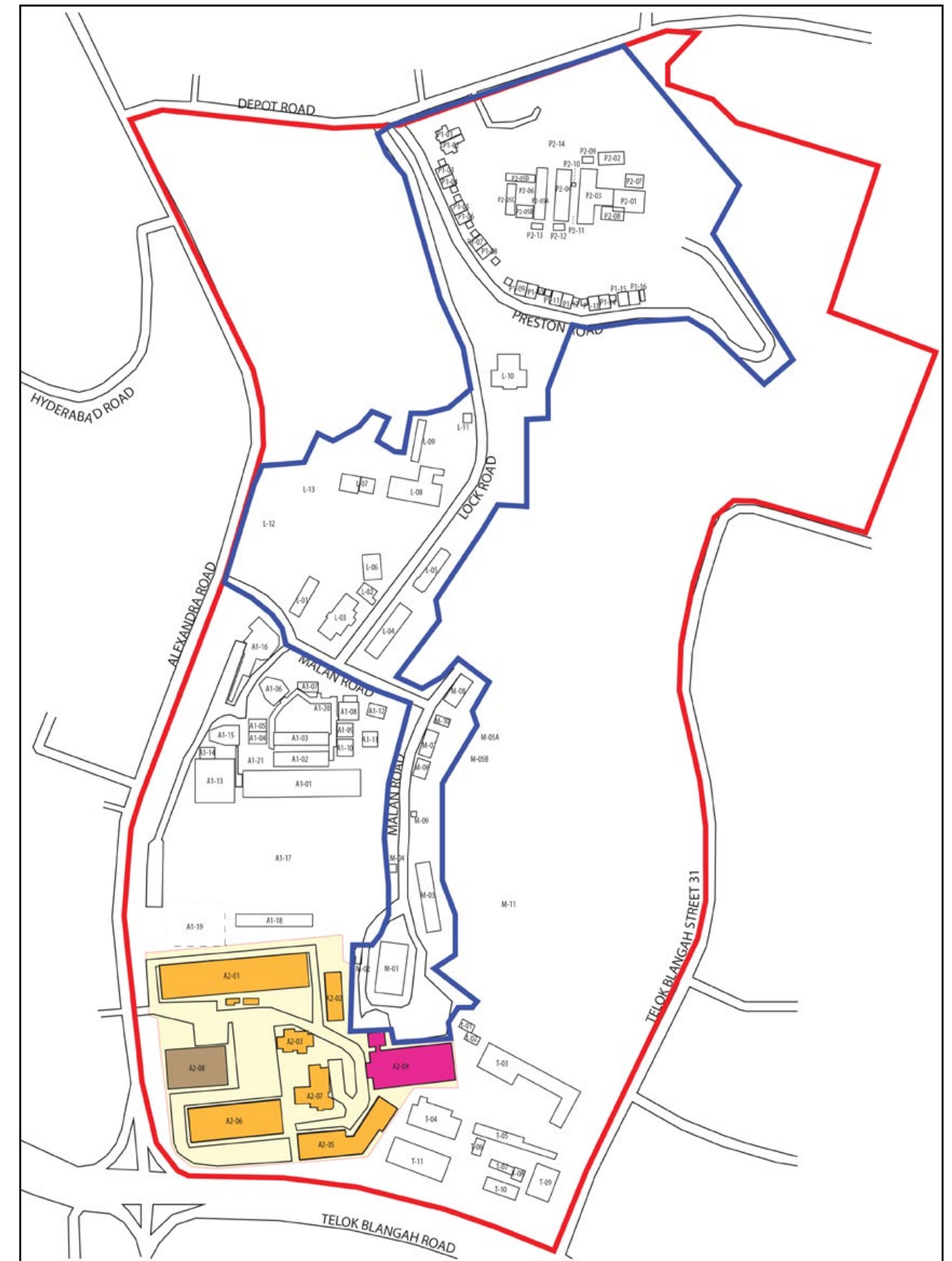


Fig 5.9.9 Overview of Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster with assessment of structures.

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES (Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

Cluster Significance

Moderate Historical Value

The Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (PPVI) Cluster is a site that encapsulates wide-reaching historical and contextual significance, although the material and technological fabric of the institution has largely been altered.

The institute with a focus on metal trades was set up in 1972 as part of a growing network of vocational institutes established across the country. This number grew from only three in 1968 to nine by 1972 and demonstrated the thrust of a national policy that was committed to building up a skilled workforce to meet the demand for the wide range of industrial trades required to sustain economic growth. Under the stressors of self-governance and changing global trade relations, the Government had drawn up an economic strategy that required a shift from its traditional approach of entrepot trade to a policy of rapid industrialisation, and then again after separation with Malaya, an export-oriented one. It was recognised early on that technical education, vocational training and robust apprenticeship programmes had to be rapidly introduced to meet the needs of an increasingly industrialised society and create domestic employment opportunities in the immediate term.

High Contextual Value

In the wake of recent and unprecedented independence, the compulsion to set up training institutions came with both acute time and cost pressures. As a result, many of the early generation of vocational training institutions opened by the Technical Education Department, including PPVI, utilised existing building stock of workshops and other industrial infrastructure to site their campuses. The location of PPVI at the former military transport depot at Pasir Panjang was therefore a result of a carefully considered and pragmatic approach to optimise cost and save construction time in order to rapidly expand the technical and industrial training programmes.

High Social Value

Furthermore, PPVI's metal trade industrial training campus was well-sited with proximity to the Port of Singapore and dockyards with its associated industries. By the early 1970s, it was quickly revealed that Singapore faced a shortage of welders and metalsmiths in the face of increasing demand for ship repairs and offshore oil rigging and refinery in the Southeast Asian archipelago, in tandem with the Apprenticeship training scheme offered by the Sembawang Shipyard after British Withdrawal. This drove an expansion of training programmes with full-time, ad-hoc and part-time courses offered for trainee welders. PPVI became the biggest and most well-equipped school offering metal trades in the region. Teaching staff were well-trained locally under the Colombo Plan and bilateral aid exports, whilst others completed training in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Germany.

Moderate Architectural Value

The structures of this cluster are functional but architecturally conventional structures of the workshop and classroom/seminar block typology, with a greater degree of modifications and replacements from the 1990s and lower overall intactness and legibility.

Similar complexes developed as Vocational Training Institutes: Baharuddin, Bukit Merah, and Geylang Serai Vocational Training Institutes.



Fig. 5.9.10 Students at Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute in 1987. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 5.9.11 President Benjamin Sheares visits Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute in 1971. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

5 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF GILLMAN BARRACKS AND ITS STRUCTURES

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

Overview of (Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
A2-01	PPVI	991 Alexandra Road	1983 - 1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1980s	School	2	1	4	3	11	Moderate Significance
A2-02	PPVI	991A Alexandra Road	1970 - 1975	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1970s	School	3	2	4	3	14	Moderate Significance
A2-03	PPVI	991B Alexandra Road	1975 - 1978	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1970s, likely recladded	School	3	1	4	3	12	Moderate Significance
A2-04	PPVI	991C Alexandra Road	1943 - 1948	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	Transport Lines/ School	4	3	4	4	18	High Significance
A2-05	PPVI	991D Alexandra Road	1983 - 1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1980s	School	2	1	4	3	11	Moderate Significance
A2-06	PPVI	991E Alexandra Road	1983 - 1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1980s	School	2	1	4	3	11	Moderate Significance
A2-07	PPVI	991F Alexandra Road	1975 - 1978	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 1970s	School	3	1	4	3	12	Moderate Significance
A2-08	PPVI	991G Alexandra Road	2008 - 2009	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot, current structure built in 2000s	School	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive

Table. 5.9.1 Overview of building and non-building features in (Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute cluster.

(Former) Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - 991C ALEXANDRA ROAD (ID: A2-04)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	991C Alexandra Road is a historically significant structure that was constructed either during the Japanese Occupation or the immediate post-war years. - It served as critical infrastructure used as the Base Supply Depot immediately after the war as supplies were gradually transported there to free up space in godowns at the Singapore Harbour Board. - Soon after, it became the Supply Reserve Depot HQ run by the Royal Army Service Corps which was crucial in the post-war recovery efforts in Singapore and Malaya. SRD RASC was overseen by the Supply and Transport Directorate GHQ FARELF. 991C Alexandra Road is the last remaining structure in this cluster hailing from the SRD RASC period of use. 991C Alexandra Road was also used as part of the Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute period and post-independence development.	4	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	991C Alexandra Road is a good example of military supply and transport facilities that could be catered to both industrial and logistical functions. - It is therefore a structure that sheds light on both the development of Gillman Barracks camp from pre- to post-war and also those of other similar army establishments built in Singapore. - The building envelope and structure are moderately intact, with its generally massing and solid-void composition remaining largely legible. Doors and windows, roof coverings, finishings, and fit-outs have been replaced.	3	Moderate
Social and Communal (20%)	991C Alexandra Road has maintained a long and continuous use as an industrial facility, first for the military and subsequently under Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute for the training of young apprentices in the skills of metal trades. - The structure therefore forms the backdrop to social and institutional memories, in this case, as a place for training and work of servicemen and later, young Singaporeans. - Furthermore, the facility provided the physical infrastructure to scaffold Singapore's post-war recovery efforts which had far-reaching community impact. - The structure demonstrates good symbolic value and remains a recognisable landmark through various phases of development.	4	Moderate
Contextual (20%)	- It is an important remnant of the Supply Reserve Depot, as virtually all other structures from this period have been demolished and replaced. 991C Alexandra Road is also sited in close proximity to primary supply routes, including the Singapore Harbour Board wharves and estates, and storage tanks to the south and the Ordnance Depot located north of the site. - It therefore has significant contribution to the site's legibility and continued heritage presentation.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	18 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	72 %	

Table 5.9.2 Building significance evaluation for 991C Alexandra Road.

Illustrations



Fig. 5.9.12 1992 General View of the Telok Blangah Estate with PPVI in frame (blue roofs), taken from 30th Storey, Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) Building. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster (ID: T-)

The Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster located at the junction of Telok Blangah Road and Telok Blangah Street 31 consists of various structures erected from the late 1970s. This includes the former PUB Telok Blangah Complex (more recently used as SP PowerGrid District Office), made up of various large and small structures, PUB's Telok Blangah Pumping Station, as well as the Telok Blangah Substation designed by the local firm Kumpulan Akitek. The infrastructure here was important for the service of the Telok Blangah Satellite Town conceived from 1968. The collection of structures that make up the pumping station is likely to be reconstructed or have undergone extensive additions & alterations in more recent years.



Fig. 5.10.1 Present-day view of Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster from the rear, Telok Blangah Drive coach parking area. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.



Fig. 5.10.2 Present-day view of Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster from the front, Telok Blangah Road, with the fence, signages and crash barrier in view. Source: Studio Lapis Collection.

Character Area Summary

Topography and Landscape Elements

- The topography of this area is naturally flat as it was situated at the edge of swamp land located at the foot of Faber Ridge.
- Foliage here was likely low-lying grass and shrubs with sparse tree plantings.

Layout

- The cluster sits at what was previously near the entrance to Kampong Heap Guan San.
- Land parcels are defined by Telok Blangah trunk road to the south and small kampong road to the east.
- The layout of structures here is therefore compact and neatly arranged with predominantly north-south facing.
- Predominantly low-rise (three and four storey) buildings contribute to the low-density character.

Buildings

- Functional Types: offices, public utilities and infrastructure – pumping station, 66kV electrical substation
- Morphology: low- to mid-rise buildings, predominantly flat roof reinforced concrete structures.
- Architectural style: modern industrial
- Materials (buildings): reinforced concrete, brick masonry, plaster and paint, aluminium framed windows with glazing (louvered and fixed)

Enclosure & Definition of Open Spaces

- The SP PowerGrid District Office (former PUB Telok Blangah Complex) defines an open area used as parking space for the complex.
- The main entrance to the complex is from Telok Blangah Road. A more discreet second entrance is located at the opposite end of the complex at Telok Blangah.
- A signposted wire fence, and in some locations a crash barrier, clearly demarcate the extent of the complex, clearly communicating the cluster's primary use for public infrastructure and character of higher security and lower accessibility.
- Physical boundaries: roads, wire fencing, crash barrier, gate posts, slope

Designed Landscapes

- Sparse tree planting with pruned low-lying shrubs along fences and block boundaries.
- Hardscape features – roads and parking lots, paved pathways, signage.



Fig. 5.10.3 1977 View of the 66kv substation commissioned by the Public Utilities Board and used to house electrical transformers and ancillary apparatus. Source: Kumpulan Akitek.



Fig. 5.10.4 1992 General View of the Telok Blangah Estate with PPVI in frame (blue roofs), taken from 30th Storey, Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) Building. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

Cluster Significance

Moderate Historical Value

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster was a group of important early infrastructure that supported the launch of Telok Blangah New Town development announced in 1969 when HDB's low-cost housing and resettlement project was well underway. Furthermore, the cluster was also the former integrated Telok Blangah Complex complete with a training school block to run the Trade Training Scheme. It also housed the Water Department District Office (1980).

High Contextual Value

The electrical substation, the Telok Blangah Pumping Station and what was originally PUB Telok Blangah Complex, were set up in anticipation of the Telok Blangah New Town construction which began at the end of 1971 and intended to service 70,000 residents across 5 neighbourhoods (1978). From the 1970s up until today, the public utilities cluster has played a major infrastructural role within the extended urban landscape and exhibits strong functional, operational and spatial relations to the Telok Blangah Town area.

Moderate Architectural/ Technological Value

A notable structure in this cluster is the 66kV electrical substation, which is a critical infrastructure responsible for sub transmission, connecting distribution mains to the electrical loading needs of local areas and regular consumers. Beyond the locality of Telok Blangah, this was part of a holistic development scheme to increase power provision to the growing country and to meet forecasted needs. Between 1967 and 1973, the International Bank of Reconstruction and Redevelopment (IBRR) provided loans totalling approximately US\$40 million to the Public Utilities Board for the expansion of the power distribution system including the 66kV network of which the building at Telok Blangah was a part (1974). Formulated around the layout and size of electrical equipment, the highly rationalised infrastructure building was designed by the notable local firm Kumpulan Akitek led by Victor Chew who was also the architect of the now-gazetted Subordinate Courts (1975) and Highpoint Apartments (1974) produced around the same time. The Telok Blangah 66kV electrical substation was featured in the Singapore Institute of Architect's publication RUMAH: Contemporary Architecture of Singapore (1981) as an architecturally distinguished work. The other structures of the cluster are more typical and less specialised constructions of the 1970s period. Others have been fully or partially altered.

Low Social Value

While the cluster primarily houses electrical and hydro-infrastructure and equipment with restricted access and is not characteristically a place of notable social character, this collection of public infrastructure serves a wide range of inhabitants in the public and private housing estates along the Telok Blangah area and is therefore attributed to some social value.

Similar structures: 66kV Marina Centre Substation (1970s)

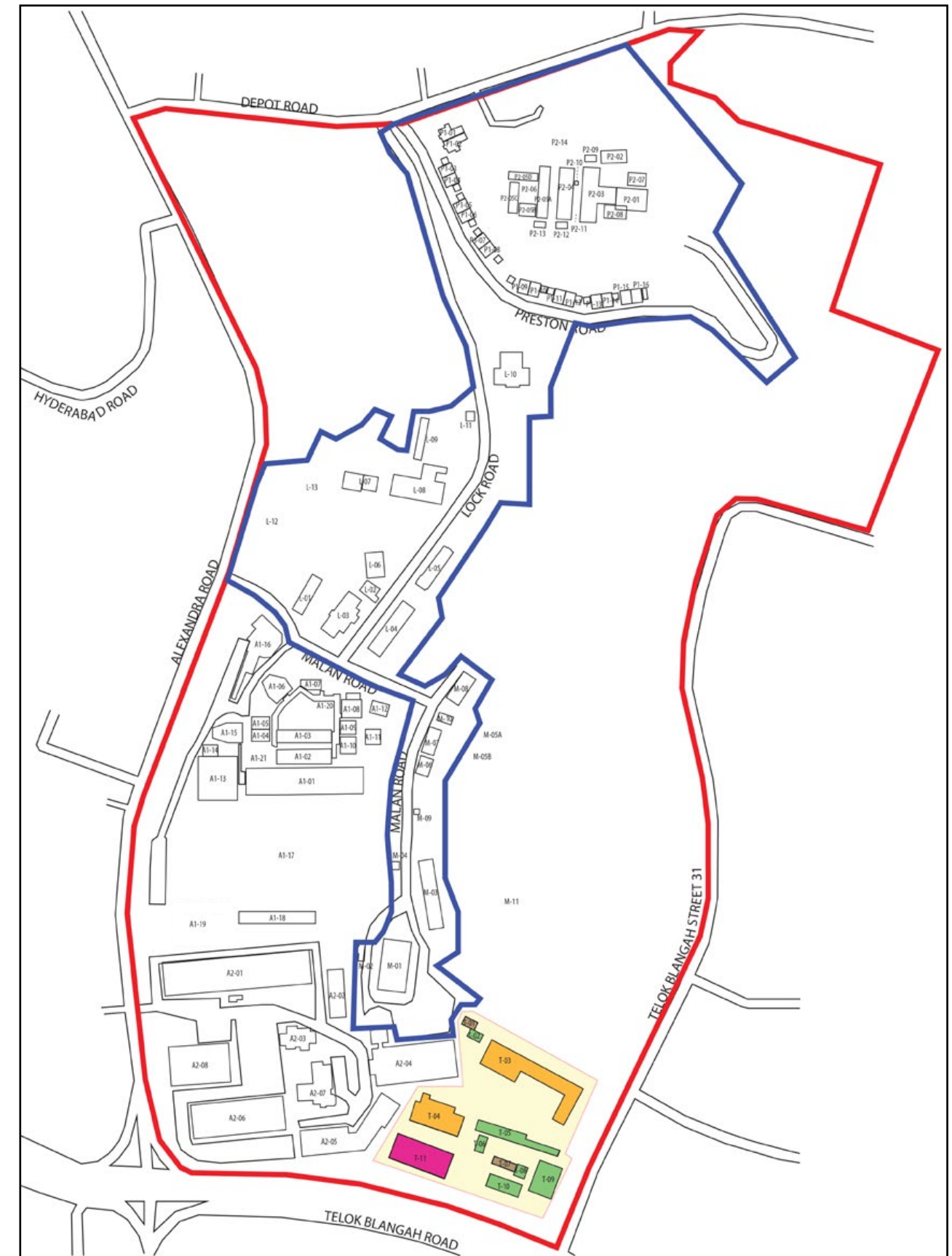


Fig. 5.10.5 Overview of Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster with assessment of structures

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

Overview of Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Original Build Date	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points	Significance
							Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & Communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]		
T1-01	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP PowerGrid District Office	N/A	Store	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
T1-02	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP PowerGrid District Office	1975 - 1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	3	2	0	2	9	Low Significance
T1-03	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group District Office	1975 - 1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	3	2	2	2	11	Moderate Significance
T1-04	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP PowerGrid District Office	1975 - 1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	3	2	2	2	11	Moderate Significance
T1-05	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	1974 - 1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	3	1	1	4	10	Low Significance
T1-06	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	1974 - 1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	3	1	1	4	10	Low Significance
T1-07	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	N/A	Carpark shelter	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	Neutral/ Intrusive
T1-08	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	1974 - 1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	3	1	1	4	10	Low Significance
T1-09	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	1974 - 1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	3	1	1	4	10	Low Significance
T1-10	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station	1974 - 1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	3	1	1	4	10	Low Significance
T1-11	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group Telok Blangah Electrical Substation	1974	Substation	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Substation	Public Utilities	3	5	1	4	18	High Significance

Table. 5.10.1 Overview of building and non-building features in Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster.

Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster

Evaluation of Building Significance - TELOK BLANGAH ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION (ID: T1-02)

Heritage Value	Description	Raw Score (1-5)	Value Significance
Historical (20%)	- The Telok Blangah Substation is a critical piece of infrastructure that is representative of the intensification of the power distribution system during Singapore’s developing years in the 1970s. - The construction of the substation was also integral to the launch and support of the Telok Blangah New Town, Singapore’s third self-contained housing estate.	3	Moderate
Architectural and Technological (40%)	- The substation demonstrates the influence of global trends in functionalism and technological expressionism like the British High-Tech movement, with local adaptations to Singapore’s tropical context to manage ventilation and temperature control. - Designed by Singapore’s pioneering architecture firm Kumpulan Akitek, the substation stands as a testament to their architectural ambition and innovation expressed in a piece of civic infrastructure. - The substation stands as a remarkable example of a local adaptation of functionalist architectural trends, with its form and original material palette still intact today.	5	High
Social and Communal (20%)	Built before the PUB introduced remote controlling and monitoring of their networks in 1979, the substation was likely manually operated by a community of PUB workers during its early years.	1	Low
Contextual (20%)	- The siting of the substation along Telok Blangah Road is significant for its function as a lifeline for the developing Telok Blangah Satellite Town located adjacent to the site. - The Telok Blangah Substation is also clustered among other utility structures, which collectively supported the development of the adjacent New Town.	4	Moderate
	TOTAL (after aggregation)	18 / 25	High
	Percentage Score	72 %	

Table. 5.10.2 Building significance evaluation for 66kV Telok Blangah Electrical Substation.

Illustrations

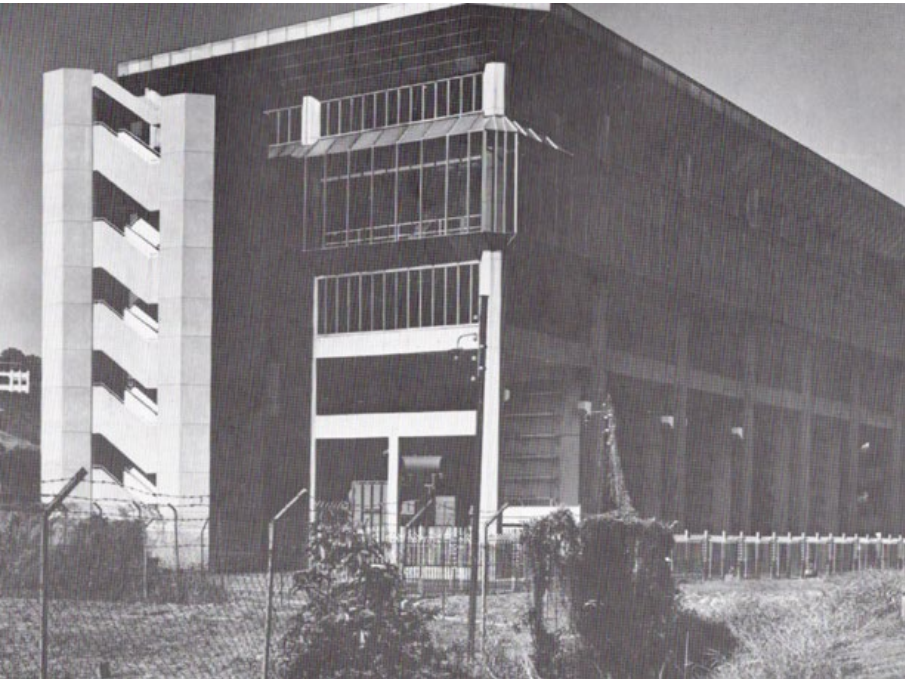


Fig. 5.10.6 1977 view of the 66kV substation from Telok Blangah Road
Source: Kumpulan Akitek

6. Heritage Impact Assessment

Heritage Impact Assessment | Overview

The site of Gillman Barracks and the Study Area is slated for future redevelopment into a new housing estate and will feature both public and private housing, as well as a range of public amenities. At present, none of the structures within the Study Area come under any statutory heritage protection.

The future brownfield development to accommodate Gillman area's new use and user demographic will involve clearing some extent of secondary forests, adjusting ground levels, demolition of some existing structures, and other major above and underground works.

LEVELS OF MITIGATION FOR HERITAGE IMPACT

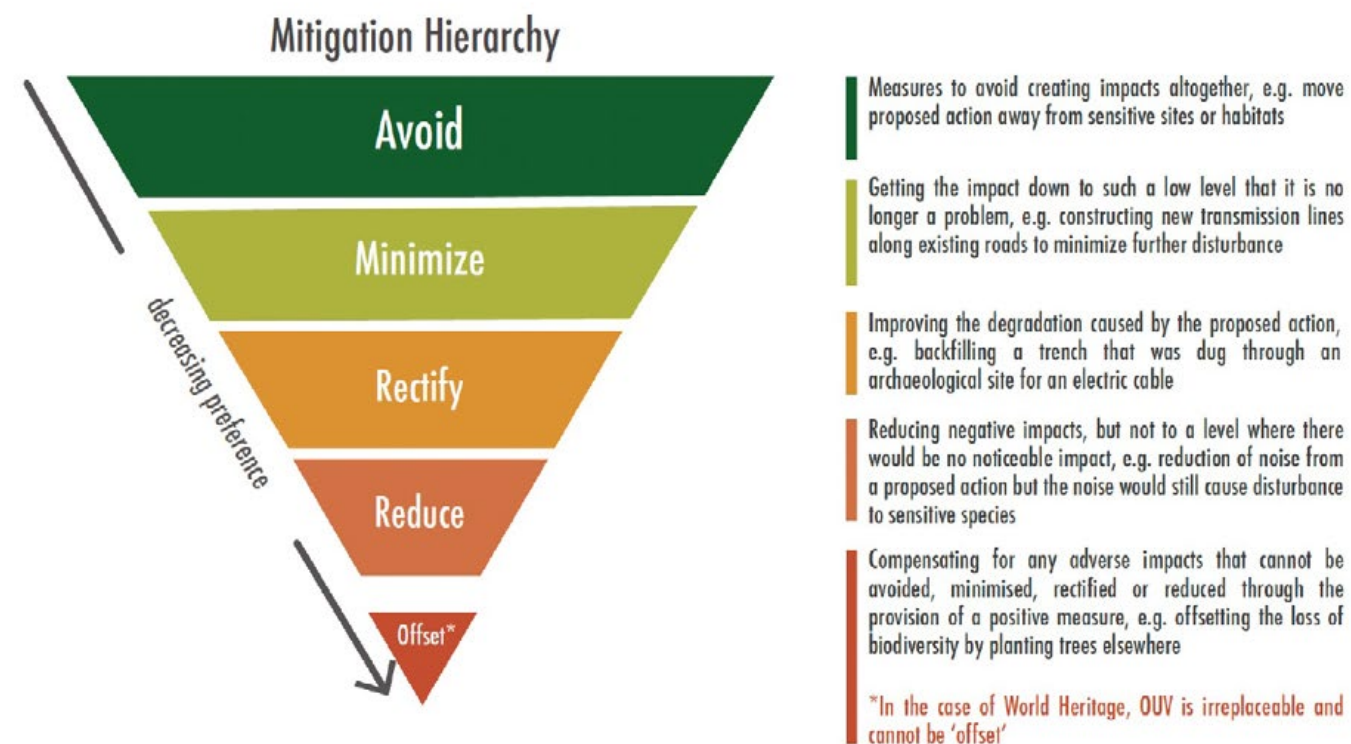


Fig. 6.1 Mitigation hierarchy for Heritage Impact Assessment. Source: UNESCO World Heritage Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) focuses on minimising and avoiding harm to cultural heritage assets while highlighting opportunities to preserve cultural resources. HIA studies are often conducted and integrated as part of the planning process in places such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Hong Kong and the United States of America. Drawing upon their common approaches, in summary the HIA involves identifying a range of potential impacts and mitigation measures which broadly include:

- **Holistic approach**, considering all mitigation measures together as part of the overall development proposal.
- **Conservation and preservation** of important heritage assets including restoration, repair and maintenance.
- **Design mitigation**, including adaptive reuse of existing buildings, setting design parameters for new development near historic properties, and compatible/ sympathetic design of new structures for a cohesive visual impact.
- **Careful setting and landscape considerations** including scale and site context, new developments should be carefully sited to minimise their visual impact on the landscape and surrounding heritage areas, as the setting can significantly contribute to the asset's overall significance.
- **Documentation and reporting**. Conditions on planning consents may require recording, reporting and written schemes of investigation to document the state of heritage assets before and after development, and to inform future interventions.
- **Site management**, including strategies to manage the development of the site such as screening, site protection and monitoring plans, and even staging and sequencing of works or development parcels.
- **Stakeholder considerations**, including consultation with past user groups and owners, to identify and assess potential impacts. These may directly or indirectly be used to develop cultural heritage management plans, placemaking projects, and Heritage Interpretation for the site.
- **Archaeological investigations** at areas where there is potential for archeological discoveries. Investigations may be conducted to document and preserve any heritage remains.

The UNESCO World Heritage Guidance and Toolkit for Heritage Impact Assessments recommends taking a 'Mitigation Hierarchy' approach, one that prioritises 'Avoiding' and 'Minimising' negative impacts as first steps over those that manage the consequences of such impacts.

Overall Impact

Following MND's announcement in 2024 and in line with the rezoning of Gillman Barracks area to "Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)" under URA's gazetted Master Plan 2025, agencies have been studying the redevelopment of Gillman Barracks into a residential estate. The proposed conceptual plan provided by agencies aims to sensitively redevelop the area for residential use with supporting amenities, capitalising also on the character and charm of the former barrack buildings. The plan also takes into consideration the existing topography and biodiversity of the site, which are separately informed by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that ran concurrently with this HIA study. It is expected that some re-contouring of the site may be necessary to meet technical requirements associated with construction of new housing and road networks.

Demolition of select structures

Some extant structures, both historic and non-historic, are proposed to be demolished due to physical and technical constraints placed by redevelopment which includes the construction of new housing, supporting amenities and required new roads.

Retention, restoration and retrofit of retained structures

The conceptual plan proposed the retention of all 4 buildings scored as 'Exceptional' and 21 out of 27 buildings scored 'High'. These include 37, 38, 47 Malan Road, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 22, Lock Road, and 1-6, 9-16, 21 Preston Road.

The retention of heritage buildings, especially those of relatively high significance, presents opportunities to couple integration into redevelopment together with a place identity and character that is unique to Gillman Barracks. Retained structures that are sensitively restored hold the potential to carry and convey cultural, educational and social meaning in perpetuity for future generations through the stories and knowledge they encompass.

Restoration involves the sensitive repair of these historic structures using materials and methods that are compatible and do not cause detriment to the original fabric of the structure itself. Often, interim protection measures are introduced to prevent accidental damage to these structures during the course of the works.

Retrofitting and adaptive reuse is often considered in order to introduce new uses, enabling these structures to remain relevant and meaningful. This includes introducing new design elements at areas on building features that have higher tolerance for change, or upgrading building systems (e.g. structural, mechanical, electrical, etc.) to meet updated building codes and standards.

Changes to urban morphology

The proposed change in land use from general lifestyle and F&B functions to residential use will significantly alter the urban morphology of the site. The introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing developments is likely to impact the site context, overshadow extant historic structures, and diminish the heritage legibility of the clusters.

New roads required to serve future developments may further reduce the extent of the cluster, resulting in irreversible loss of the historic built landscape and potential fragmentation of historic clusters and road networks, thereby placing the overall legibility and continuity of the historic environment at risk.

Changes to topography and landscape context

Future earthworks, site levelling and the introduction of new roads may significantly alter or obscure the historic undulating topography of Gillman Barracks and the landscape setting of the former Barrack Hill. While the conceptual plan is shaped by the existing topography of the site, some re-contouring of the site is inevitable for redevelopment. Such interventions risk diminishing what remains of the site's historic terrain and landscape context, resulting in the partial or irreversible loss of its topographical character and spatial relationship with the surrounding environment.

Changes to degrees and types of accessibility

Gillman Barracks historically catered to a limited user group. The redevelopment presents opportunities to enhance accessibility to the site through new infrastructure such as roads and active mobility options. With a live-in resident population and visitors to the future amenities in the area, Gillman Barracks has potential to become much more inclusive and vibrant.

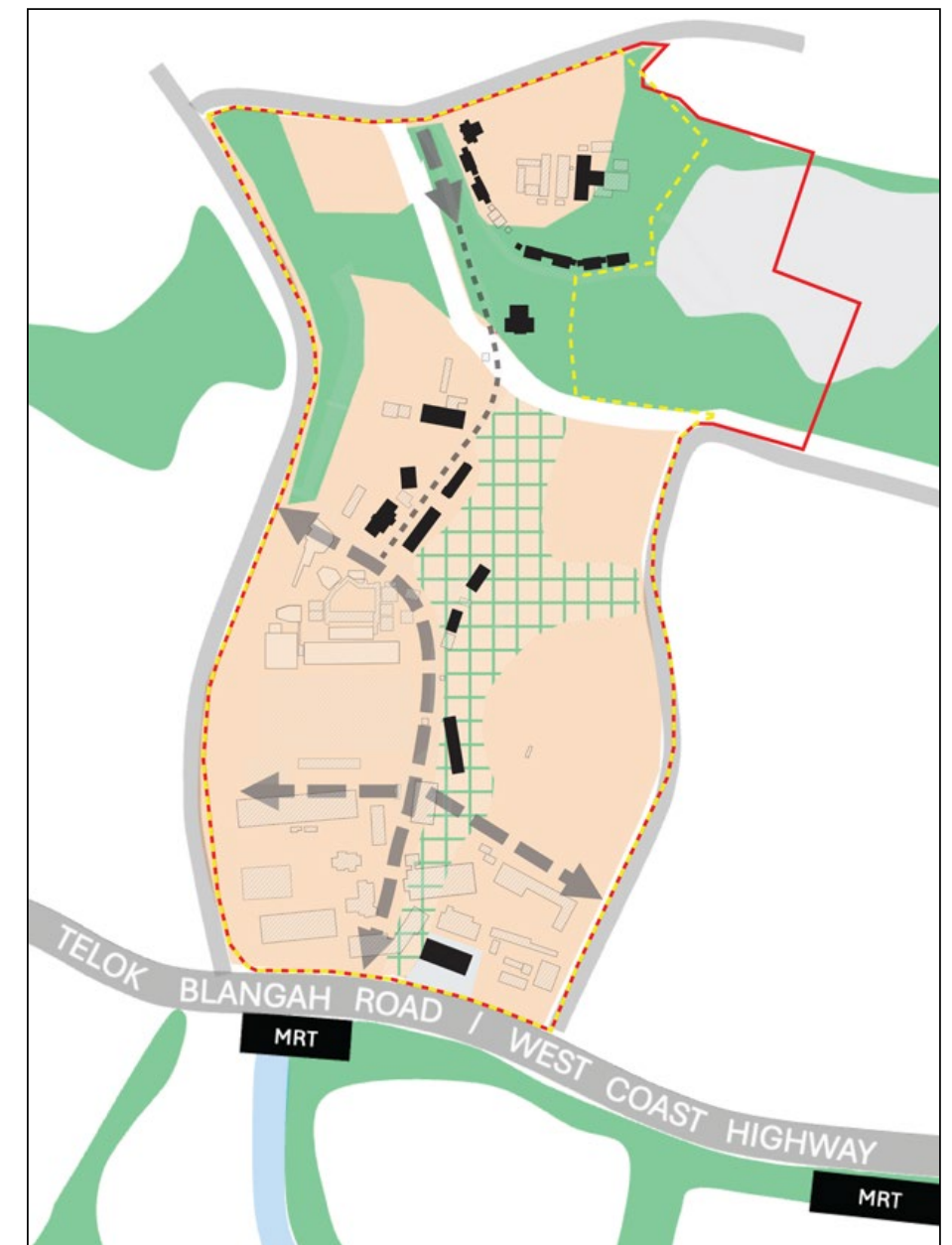


Fig. 6.2 Conceptual plan with buildings studied to be retained. Source: HDB/ URA

Legend for Conceptual Plan

- Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)
- Park
- Utility
- Waterbody
- Existing Road
- Proposed Roads
- Proposed Pedestrianised Route
- Proposed Green Corridor/ Park
- Study Area
- Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
- Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Note: The conceptual plan used is intended solely for the purposes of the heritage impact assessment, and is subject to further detailed planning and technical studies that agencies are still undertaking.

Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation strategies for the Gillman Barracks area should adopt a holistic and site-wide approach that balances future development needs with the conservation of heritage significance, landscape character and spatial legibility. The mitigation strategies outlined in this report should be read as indicative recommendations rather than commitments or mandatory actions. They are intended to inform future planning and may be adopted, adapted or refined by agencies, where appropriate. The conceptual plan has taken into consideration the collection of historic clusters which contain historically or thematically related structures within a proximate area so that historic significance is accumulated and relayed more effectively compared to an isolated, standalone structure.

During construction, retained structures should be protected through appropriate buffer zones, hoarding, monitoring and structural instrumentation to minimise accidental damage, settlement and instability arising from nearby excavation and earthworks. Opportunities should also be taken to sensitively restore retained buildings through the reinstatement of character-defining features and removal of insensitive later additions. For structures and landscapes that cannot be retained, meaningful documentation through measured surveys, photographic records, oral histories and material salvaging should be undertaken to preserve knowledge of the site’s heritage values and integrated into heritage interpretation strategies.

Future development should carefully manage plot intensification, building setbacks, circulation networks and earthworks to reduce fragmentation of the historic site and maintain key spatial relationships, view corridors, topographical features and historic landscape character. New roads and circulation routes should be sensitively integrated to improve connectivity while minimising truncation of historic clusters and prioritising pedestrian, cycling and public transport access. Existing terrain, platform levels, green corridors and characteristic landscapes should be retained wherever feasible and incorporated into future planning and landscape design strategies.

New uses and programmes should remain compatible with the architectural, spatial and cultural character of the site, with heavier loading or more intensive functions accommodated primarily within new-build structures. Opportunities should also be explored to sustain continuity with former uses and communities through compatible programming, adaptive reuse and cohesive heritage interpretation strategies. A comprehensive and integrated approach to interpretation, wayfinding and landscape design can help communicate the cumulative significance of Gillman Barracks, reconnect fragmented histories and strengthen public appreciation of both retained and lost heritage elements within the future development.

Potential new uses for retained historical structures

Type	Example	Suited for
Civic amenities	Police post/ station	8 Lock Road, 37, 38 Malan Road
Community buildings	Child care/ infant care/ kindergartens, community clubs/ hubs, elder care facilities, polyclinics and private clinics, library/ reading room, residential clubs	6, 7, 9 Lock Road, 47 Malan Road, 21 Preston Road
Sports	Rest stops, bicycle rental, chess, bridge club	37, 38, 47 Malan Road, 22 Lock Road
Retail, F&B	Food courts, restaurants, coffee shops, laundromat, tailor, dry cleaning, pet care, supermarket, mini-mart	37, 38, 47 Malan Road, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Lock Road
Residential	Private housing, service apartments, co-living	1-6, 9-16 Preston Road
Gallery	Heritage, ecological gallery	22 Lock Road

Table 6.1 Potential new uses for retained historical structures.

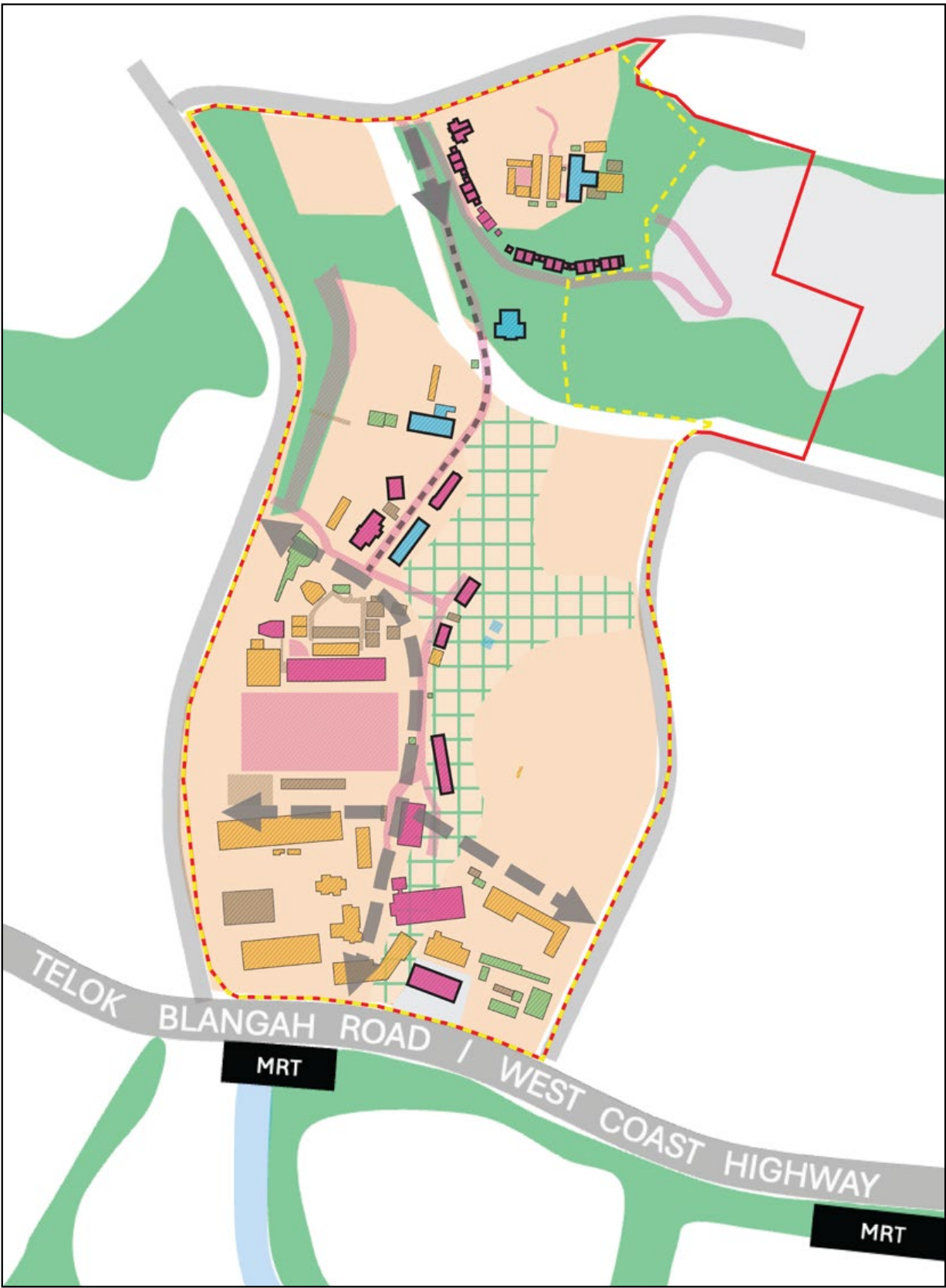


Fig. 6.3 Conceptual plan overlaid with significance mapping. Source: HDB/ URA

Heritage Impact Assessment Overview

In this chapter, each cluster is broken down into the following four common planning themes:

- 1) **Fabric & Form** looks into the physical form and architectural qualities of built structures and design landscapes within the cluster which contribute to the overall heritage presentation and legibility.
- 2) **Function** examines the purpose and programming of the heritage cluster to evaluate how future development aligns with or deviates from its historic use, ensuring compatibility with its surroundings and relevance to the community.
- 3) **Access** considers the ability of the public to access the cluster by considering internal circulation layouts and available infrastructure as well as its external connectivity to means of transportation to ease of access.
- 4) **Context** takes into account the setting and historical landscape elements which contribute to the cluster’s distinct visual characteristic, as well as its role in relation to the wider or extended surrounding landscape.

Each is assigned a Tolerance for Change appraisal based on its characteristics and values. Thereafter, the list spells out the **Potential Heritage Impacts** that can be identified at this stage based on the conceptual plan and informed by the findings of the heritage and environmental studies conducted. It also presents **Opportunities, Recommendations and Mitigation Strategies** to address these impacts. Agencies are studying to retain all 4 buildings scored as ‘Exceptional’ and 21 of 27 buildings scored ‘High’.

Legend for Conceptual Plan

- Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)
- Park
- Utility
- Waterbody
- Existing Road
- Proposed Roads
- Proposed Pedestrianised Route
- Proposed Green Corridor/ Park
- Study Area
- Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
- Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

- Exceptional Significance
- High Significance
- Moderate Significance
- Low Significance
- Neutral/ Intrusive
- (Non-building)

Note: The conceptual plan used is intended solely for the purposes of the heritage impact assessment, and is subject to further detailed planning and technical studies that agencies are still undertaking.

6 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Heritage Impact Assessment | Malan Road Cluster

The proposed redevelopment of the Malan Road Cluster would result in some notable impact to the site’s physical fabric, character, and contextual legibility. While several existing buildings and landscape elements would be demolished to accommodate new development and infrastructure, three high significant structures would be retained and integrated within the redevelopment plans, preserving key references to the cluster’s historic identity.

The introduction of new residential and public amenity uses would alter the site’s current arts and F&B character, while changes to Malan Road and the surrounding circulation network are likely to improve accessibility and connectivity. The addition of high-rise development and modifications to roads and open spaces would substantially transform the cluster’s setting and spatial character, although the retention of the topographical relationship between Malan Road and Barrack Hill would maintain an important aspect of the site’s landscape identity.

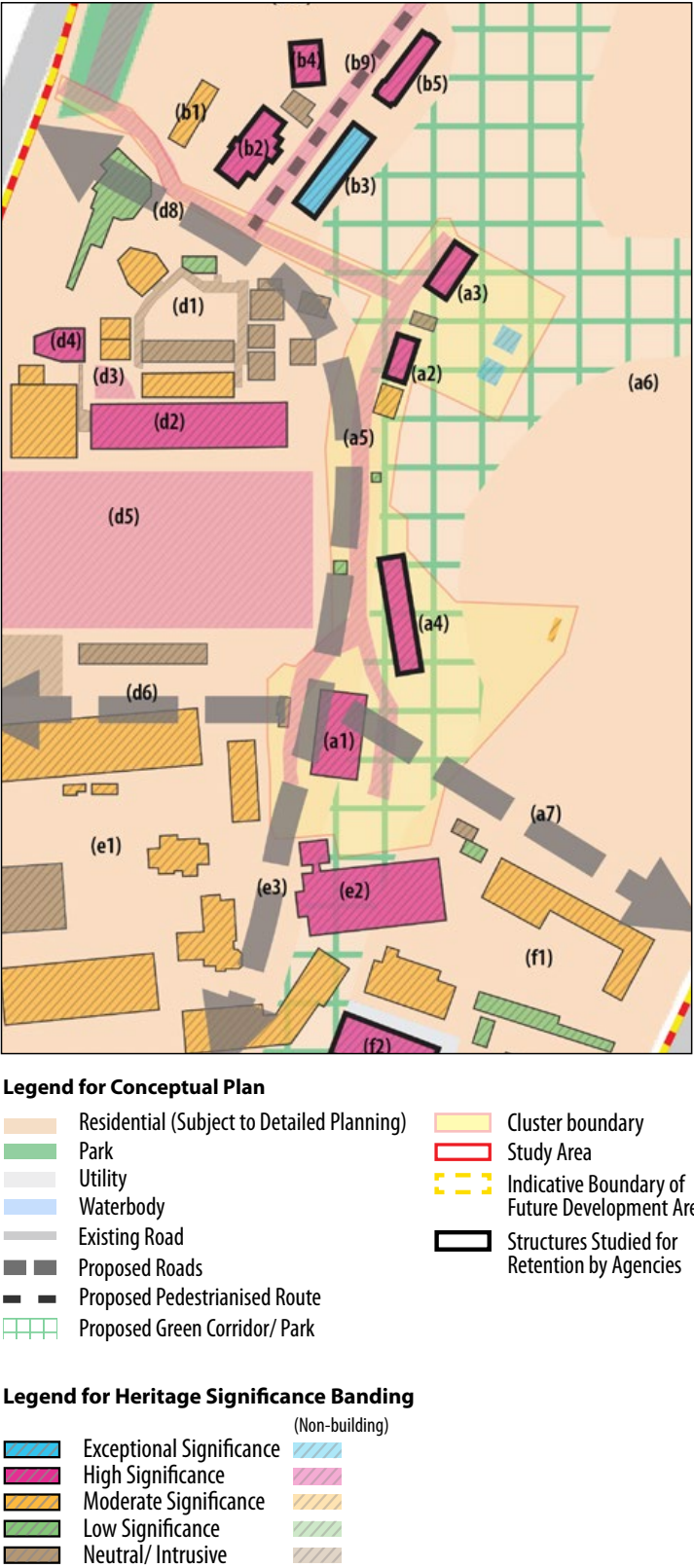
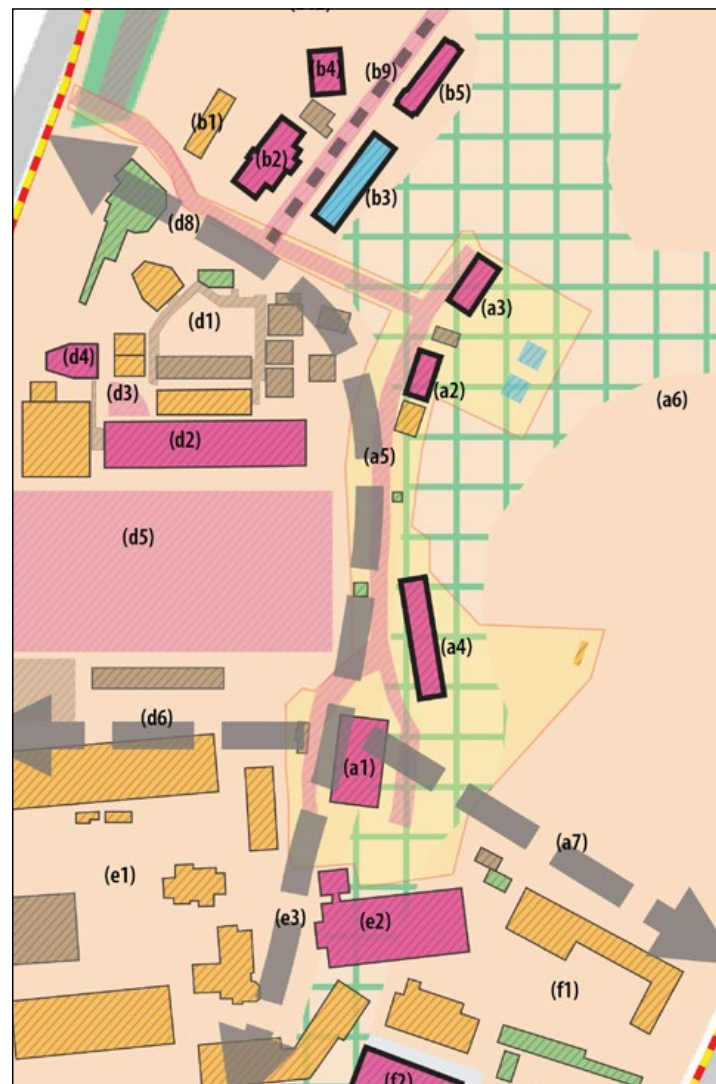


Fig. 6.4 Overview of annotated conceptual plan for Malan Road cluster. Source: HDB/ URA

(a) Malan Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
I. Fabric & Form	Low tolerance: This is due to the fact that many of the structures in this cluster date back to 1935-1950s periods of development, are highly intact, and now are rare remnants of the historic barrack site.	<u>For historic structures that are to be demolished:</u> High impact on Fabric & Form. One high significance structure, 43 Malan Road, is proposed to be removed to make way for new roads to serve the future developments (see (a1) on map). This will cause irreversible loss to historic built landscape and significantly reduce the extent and legibility of the cluster.	WRT (a2) (a3) (a4) (a5)	<u>Building protection:</u> installation of buffer zones, safety barricades, and hoarding barriers during site works will minimize risk of accidental damage caused by passing heavy vehicle and equipment during site works.
		<u>For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as high and exceptionally significant 37, 38, and 47 Malan Road of this cluster; (see (a2) (a3) (a4) on map)</u> Low impact on Fabric & Form.	WRT (a2) (a3) (a4)	<u>Monitoring & instrumentation:</u> based on the extent of soil and excavation works required for site preparation, a professional engineer may need to advise which structures are located within impact zone and these should be regularly monitored using settlement markers or braced to minimize risk of settlement and uncontrolled collapse during the works.
		<u>Risk of accidental or incidental damage during site works:</u> Low to moderate impact on Fabric & Form.	WRT (a2) (a3) (a4)	<u>Opportunity for sensitive restoration of character defining features</u> with regards to retained structures; A comprehensive development plan that considers heritage impact provides opportunity for careful and cohesive restoration for the reinstatement of characteristic features of a building or cluster. This includes removal of insensitive latter-day additions that obscure features of the building or use of suitable materials for repairs. An example is the possible reinstatement of verandas at 37 Malan Road.
		<u>Updated building codes:</u> Low impact on Fabric & Form. A&A works often introduce upgrades to bring heritage buildings up to date with current building codes and standards. This often produces a range of impact to building fabric although some can be avoided or mitigated. Malan Road structures are relatively small and single-storey so the stress of updated codes are not likely to be too severe in this case (see (a2), (a3), (a4) on map).	WRT (a1)	<u>Practical and meaningful documentation of structures to be demolished:</u> structures of heritage significance that will be demolished for future development are recommended to be meaningfully documented. Documentation measures may include measured building surveys, professional photographic records, and the salvaging of historic materials for future interpretive use, enabling the heritage value of the site to be conveyed to future users. Additional documentation methods such as scanning and mapping, point cloud documentation, and inclusion in the Singapore architecture collection may also be considered.
			General	<u>Heritage Interpretation:</u> well-conveyed building-specific interpretation provides opportunities to deepen the public’s appreciation for architectural, engineering and construction related technologies and styles, and can be used to draw comparisons and link histories to other similar sites (e.g. Changi camp) and even other countries (e.g. Malaysia, United Kingdom). Heritage Interpretation can also be used to relate information and context about demolished structures.

Table 6.2 Assessment of heritage impact on Malan Road cluster based on conceptual plan (continued following pages).

Heritage Impact Assessment | Malan Road Cluster



Legend for Conceptual Plan

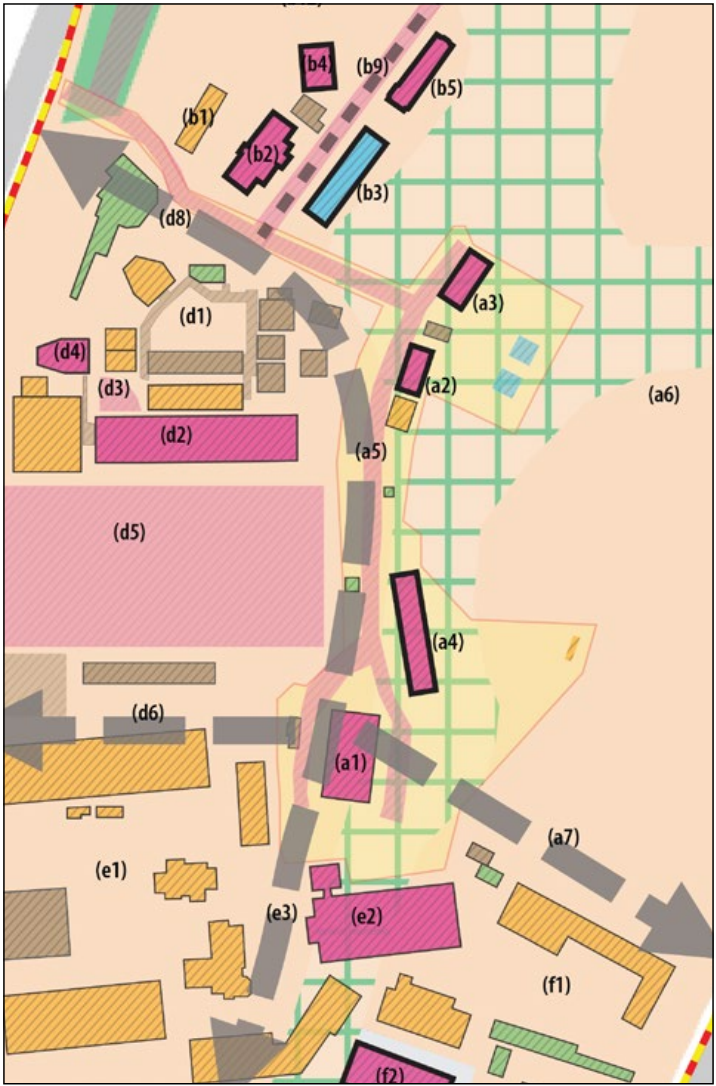
 Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)	 Cluster boundary
 Park	 Study Area
 Utility	 Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
 Waterbody	 Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies
 Existing Road	
 Proposed Roads	
 Proposed Pedestrianised Route	
 Proposed Green Corridor/ Park	

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

 Exceptional Significance	 (Non-building)
 High Significance	
 Moderate Significance	
 Low Significance	
 Neutral/ Intrusive	

(a) Malan Road Cluster

Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
II. Functions Benchmarked against historical use	<u>Moderate to high tolerance:</u> - The structures at Malan Road have undergone multiple rounds of functional change to meet contemporary needs and recent users. - This is not unlike its developmental history and adaptability during periods of use as a military compound - Flexibility is largely enabled by their larger open floor plan and column-free spaces (in some cases) to be able to accommodate a range for various functions.	For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as 37, 38, and 47 Malan Road - potential <u>change of use and programming</u>; (see (a2), (a3), (a4) on map) Retained Malan Road structures will be integrated within a green corridor area. Future zoning and use have not been specified at this stage although some initial assessment on change of use may be explored in relation to the development of the surrounding areas for cohesiveness. <u>Increased loading requirements based on new use</u>; (see (a2), (a3), (a4) on map) Buildings may need to undergo structural strengthening to meet updated live, dead, and wind load requirements. The extent of additional strengthening can only be determined later with a developed proposal for new uses. <u>Introduction of new uses and user base in future development</u>; New developments within the Malan Road cluster will bring in a new swathe of users and amenities to the site with their own set of stakeholder interests.	General WRT (a6), General WRT (a2) (a3) (a4) WRT (a2) (a3) (a4)	Finding a balance for intensification in appropriate zones; Future plans may include a mix of high-rise public and private housing developments and lower-rise amenities. A holistic approach should be adopted to ensure buildings of high and exceptional heritage significance are not unduly burdened by plot ratio intensification. For instance, land use optimisation can still be achieved by designating higher-rise higher-density developments to less significant zones of the site or those areas that have already undergone extensive redevelopment and are less historically intact. <u>New designated uses and programmes should remain cohesive with the spirit and character of the heritage site</u>; new programming should be planned along the intersection of heritage and nature/ recreation to enliven future residential communities and make best use of the place identity of Gillman Barracks. New green corridors and park connectors should incorporate existing landforms, secondary forests, and characteristic landscapes of the site. Historic pedestrian networks such as the original extent of Malan Road and walkways to the former swimming pool, can also be reinstated and activated as general pedestrian, nature and heritage trails. <u>New functions should remain compatible with historic architecture and spatial character</u> of the buildings with minimal added loading requirements to historic structures where necessary; new uses with high loading requirements and strict code compliance should be catered for in new-built structures so as not to put undue stress on heritage buildings with regards to structural strengthening and performance upgrades. <u>Through continuity of programmes or through heritage interpretation</u>, steps can be taken to <u>acknowledge and celebrate the site's historic uses and communities</u>; 37 & 38 Malan Road structures had previous uses as medical centre and civilian canteen amongst other phases. More recently, these have been used as gallery spaces. Opportunities to adopt the same of similar programmatic uses can be employed to create resonance between the old and new and inject creative and novel public spaces and nodes with a unique charm and quality into the future estate.



Legend for Conceptual Plan

Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park

Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

(Non-building)

Exceptional Significance

High Significance

Moderate Significance

Low Significance

Neutral/ Intrusive

Exceptional Significance

High Significance

Moderate Significance

Low Significance

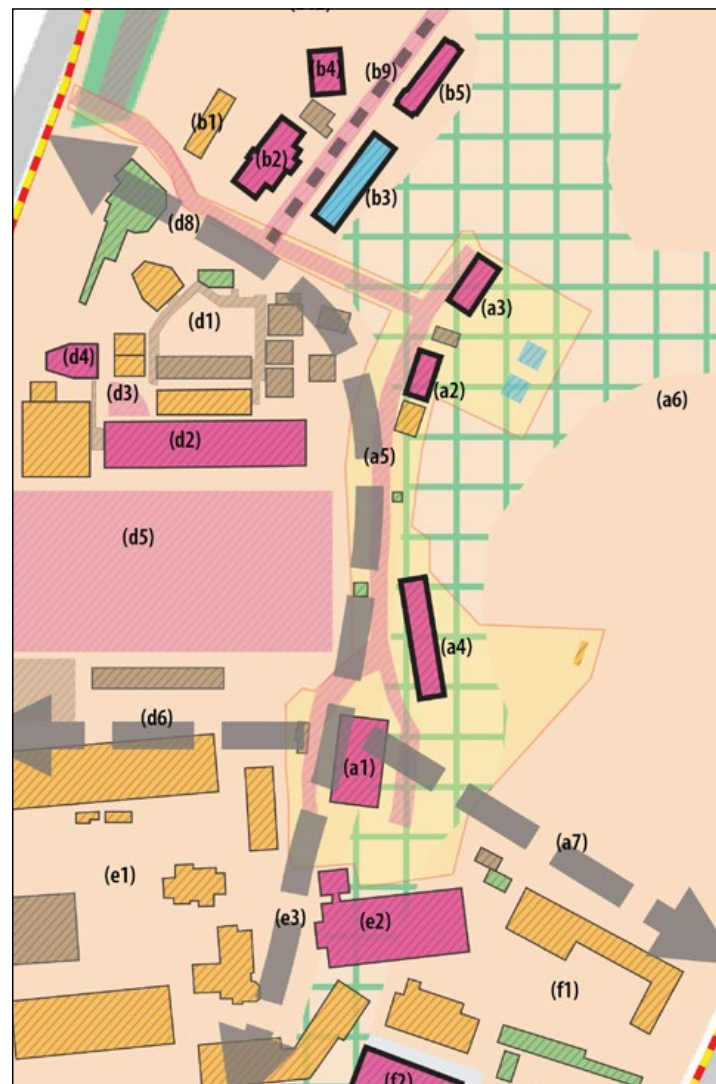
Neutral/ Intrusive

(a) Malan Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
III. Access	<u>Low to moderate tolerance:</u> - The landscape of this cluster is defined by frontage to what remains of historic Malan Road and is an integral component of the site. Malan Road itself exhibits Low tolerance for change - New vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress to increase connectivity to the cluster may be sensitively explored, thus the cluster exhibits moderate tolerance.	<u>Malan Road carriageway adjustment:</u> (a5) High impact on Access. Malan Road will still be connected to Alexandra Road, but adjustments will be needed to the alignment and width of Malan Road to accommodate future traffic needs.	WRT (a5), (a7)	<u>New circulation routes and roadways should be sensitively designed so as not to truncate and further fragment the historic site which would cause further loss of legibility. Carefully considered road alignment and grade line controls can enable sensitive addition of new roads to suit the cluster’s spatial definitions and reduce obstructions at key view corridors.</u>
		<u>The extension of covered walkways:</u> In development of brownfield sites, the introduction of covered pedestrian walkways, especially at road junctions where height is increased for vehicular passage, have presented challenges in the form of visual impact on heritage landscapes and the legibility of these sites. Malan Road at present has a series of covered walkways linking the various blocks within the Gillman Barracks. This network might be extended to connect future housing estates.	WRT (a5), (a7)	<u>Increase connectivity between main trunk roads and Malan Road:</u> At present, there is one main ingress from Alexandra Road, whilst the other is an indirect route from Depot Road through Lock Road. If introduced sensitively, Malan Road structures stand to be benefit from enhancement of public access and better connectivity to Telok Blangah Road and Telok Blangah Street 31 as well as integration with current and future residential estates.
		<u>Connection to green corridor;</u> (see (a2), (a3), (a4) on map) Moderate impact on Access. 37, 38 and 47 Malan Road are planned to be integrated within a new green corridor that will connect the existing Southern Corridor towards Telok Blangah Road and Labrador Nature Reserve - a conduit to be centrally located within the new residential development zone. This will likely provide increased pedestrian accessibility to the site.	WRT (a5), General	<u>Interconnectivity within the site:</u> Varied modes of access should be planned for including walking, cycling and bus priority lanes to reduce dependence on private vehicles and resultant need for wider roads that could fragment the site.

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Legend for Conceptual Plan

 Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)	 Cluster boundary
 Park	 Study Area
 Utility	 Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
 Waterbody	 Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies
 Existing Road	
 Proposed Roads	
 Proposed Pedestrianised Route	
 Proposed Green Corridor/ Park	

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

 Exceptional Significance	 (Non-building)
 High Significance	
 Moderate Significance	
 Low Significance	
 Neutral/ Intrusive	

(a) Malan Road Cluster

Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Low tolerance: - Today, only a fragment of the built and natural landscape of Malan Road cluster remains, with much of the original barracks already having given way to demolition in the 1990s. - Malan Road cluster is strongly defined by the open recreation grounds to the west and the sloping face of Barrack Hill to the east, creating a well-framed view of the cluster from Alexandra Road towards which most of the buildings here face. - The cluster still displays a clear mark of the early man-made and natural hybrid landscape to which it responds and by which it is characterized.	For historic structures that are to be <u>demolished</u>; (see (a1) on map) High impact on Context. One high significance structure, 43 Malan Road, is proposed to be removed to make way for new vehicular traffic roads serving future estates. This will cause irreversible loss to historic built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster which will be reduced in extent. For historic structures that can be retained <u>in-situ</u> such as 37, 38, and 47 Malan Road; (see (a2), (a3), (a4) on map) Low impact on Context. Majority of key structures of this cluster will not be greatly affected by future development. Furthermore, these are proposed to be integrated within a central green corridor that will provide pedestrian connectivity between the northern and southern ends of the study area. <u>Introduction of new structures in future development</u>; (see (a6) on map) Moderate to High impact on Context. Adjacent plots to Malan Road cluster includes area for residential use. The likely introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing estates presents the most probable impact to the site context and the heritage legibility of this cluster. <u>Potentially significant loss of historic topography</u>; (see (a6) on map) High impact on Context. Either through earthworks, levelling of development sites or laying of new roads, the historic topography of Malan Road and its backdrop of the former Barrack Hill which have a difference in elevation of 25-30 meters may be rendered illegible, significantly altered, or at the very least obstructed by future works.	WRT (a5) (a6), General General WRT (a6) General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback</u>; consider particularities in topography and characteristic landscape features of this cluster such as the slope of Barrack Hill behind 37, 38 and 47 Malan Road as a key historic landscape and view axis, and the vantage point from the flat recreation field (now AST track field) towards Malan Road. <u>Consolidate and preserve existing platform levels wherever feasible to reduce need for earthworks, cutting and backfilling works</u>; whilst it may not be possible to retain all existing platform levels across the cluster, future residential development zones can be consolidated across a few stepped platform levels set in relation to the terrain with circulation facilitated via elevated walkways and passages. <u>Heritage Interpretation</u>; This is important to convey site and cluster relationships between structures and landscapes and can enhance the resident/ visitor appreciation of the cumulative significance of the site in totality. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters as well as new development to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks. <u>Opportunities for recollection of former heritage spaces should not be limited to just presently extant structures and landscapes</u>; Lost but important landscapes such as those of Barrack Hill cluster and the former Parade Grounds at the end of Malan Road should be recalled where feasible in the new development through strategies such as situating shared precinct amenities, reference to historic names, or site planning principles, etc. <u>Landscape design</u>; elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks' heritage landscape – its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

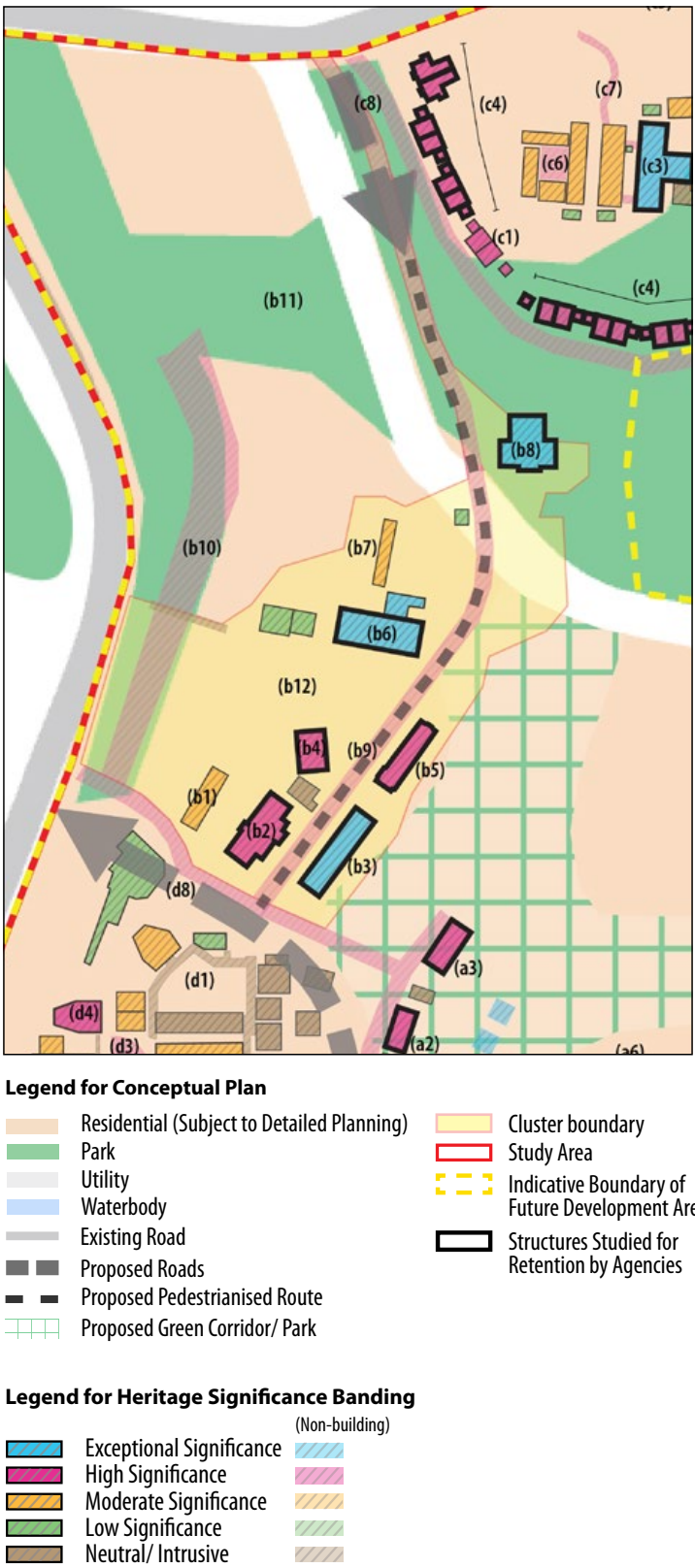


Fig. 6.5 Overview of annotated conceptual plan for Lock Road cluster. Source: HDB/ URA

The proposed redevelopment of the historic Lock Road cluster at Gillman Barracks will retain, with limited exceptions, all 6 buildings of exceptional and high significant historic value, thereby preserving the character and legibility of the cluster. New residential uses introduced through rezoning may require the adaptive reuse and retrofitting of historic buildings of varying scales; any structural strengthening works should therefore be sensitively designed to minimise impact on the buildings’ character and integrity.

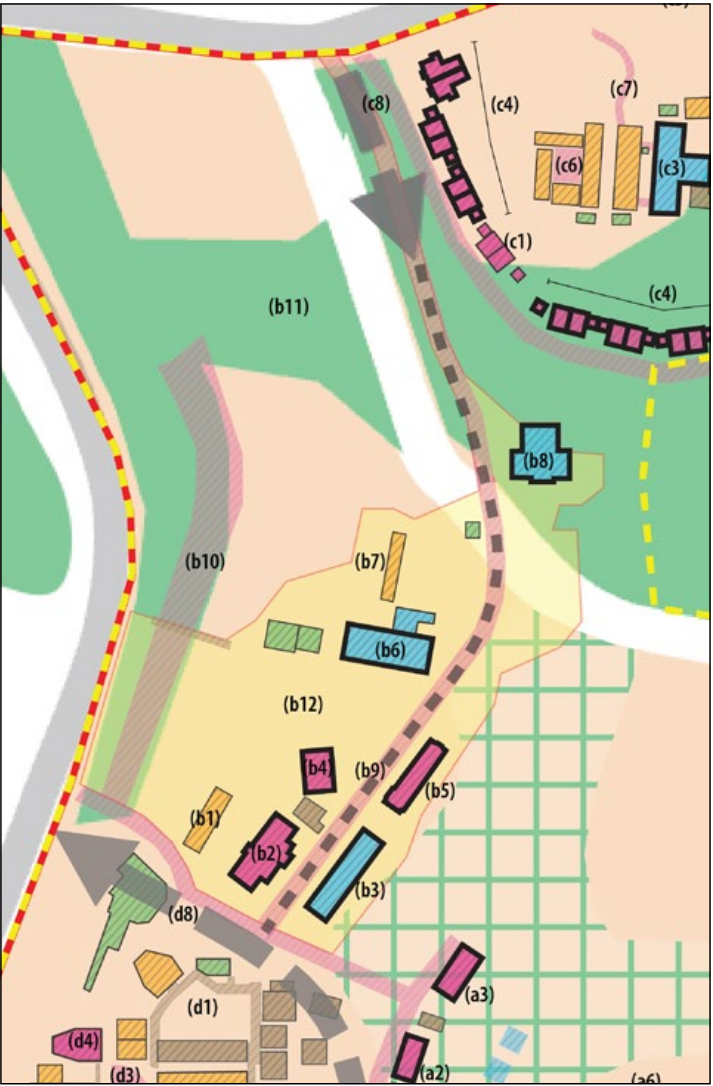
The proposed pedestrianisation of Lock Road, with limited vehicular access retained at its northern end, presents opportunities to integrate the historic streetscape into the wider residential development as a recreational and communal spine. While the demolition of selected structures and fragmentation of Lock Road may reduce the overall extent and historic legibility of the cluster, these impacts can be mitigated through sensitive planning approaches that respect existing topography, minimise earthworks, and reinforce historical continuity through heritage interpretation strategies, programmes, and exhibits.

(b) Lock Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
I. Fabric & Form	Low tolerance: This is due to the fact that many of the structures in this cluster date back to 1935-1950s periods of development, are highly intact, and now are rare remnants of the historic barrack site.	For historic structures that are to be demolished: High impact on Fabric & Form. Two moderately significant structures, 1 and 10 Lock Road may in the future be considered for demolition to facilitate future residential development (see (b1) and (b7) on map). This will cause irreversible loss to the historic built landscape and cause a substantial reduction to the legibility of the cluster.	WRT (b2) (b3) (b4) (b5) (b6) (b8)	Building Protection: installation of buffer zones, safety barricades, and hoarding barriers during site works will minimize risk of accidental damage caused by passing heavy vehicle and equipment during site works. Structures of higher vulnerability include 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Lock Road.
		For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as high and exceptionally significant 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 22 Lock Road of this cluster; (see (b2) to (b6), (b8) on map) Low impact on Fabric & Form.	WRT (b2) (b3) (b4) (b5) (b6) (b8)	Monitoring & instrumentation: based on the extent of soil and excavation works required for site preparation, a professional engineer may need to advise which structures are located within impact zone and these should be regularly monitored using settlement markers or braced to minimize risk of settlement and uncontrolled collapse during the works.
		For removal of Annex of 9 Lock Road; (see (b6) on map) The single-storey annex of 9 Lock Road has undergone notable latter-day modifications and does not significantly contribute to the architectural quality of the cluster. Its removal therefore has a low impact and causes low reduction to the legibility of the building and cluster.	WRT (b1) (b7)	Opportunity for sensitive restoration of character defining features with regards to retained structures; A comprehensive development plan that considers heritage impact provides opportunity for careful and cohesive restoration for the reinstatement of characteristic features of a building or cluster. This includes removal of insensitive latter-day additions that obscure features of the building or use of suitable materials for repairs.
		Risk of accidental or incidental damage during site works; Low to moderate impact on Fabric & Form.	General	Practical and meaningful documentation of structures to be demolished; structures of heritage significance that will be demolished for future development are recommended to be meaningfully documented. Documentation measures may include measured building surveys, professional photographic records, and the salvaging of historic materials for future interpretive use, enabling the heritage value of the site to be conveyed to future users. Additional documentation methods such as scanning and mapping, point cloud documentation, and inclusion in the Singapore architecture collection may also be considered.
		Updated building codes; Low impact on Fabric & Form. A&A works often introduce upgrades to bring heritage buildings up to date with current building codes and standards. This often produces a range of impact to building fabric although some can be avoided or mitigated.		Heritage Interpretation; well-conveyed building-specific interpretation provides opportunities to deepen the public’s appreciation for architectural, engineering and construction related technologies and styles, and can be used to draw comparisons and link histories to other similar sites (e.g. Changi camp) and even other countries (e.g. Malaysia, United Kingdom). Heritage Interpretation can also be used to relate information and context about demolished structures.

Table. 6.3 Assessment of heritage impact on Lock Road cluster based on conceptual plan (continued following pages).



(b) Lock Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
II. Functions Benchmarked against historical use	Moderate tolerance: - The structures at Lock Road have undergone multiple rounds of functional change to meet contemporary needs and recent users. - This is not unlike its developmental history and adaptability during periods of use as a military compound. - Structural strengthening to increase loading allowance of the buildings is possible but often has impact on aesthetic and fabric and should only be considered where necessary.	For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 22 Lock Road - potential <u>change of use and programming</u> ; (see (b2) to (b6), (b8) on map) Retained Lock Road structures will be integrated within the future residential estate. Detailed zoning and land use for the retained blocks have not been specified at this stage although some initial assessment on change of use may be explored in relation to the development of the surrounding areas for cohesiveness.	General	Finding a balance for intensification in appropriate zones; Future plans may include a mix of high-rise public and private housing developments and lower-rise amenities. A holistic approach should be adopted to ensure buildings of high and exceptional heritage significance are not unduly burdened by plot ratio intensification. For instance, land use optimisation can still be achieved by designating higher-rise higher-density developments to less significant zones of the site or those.
		<u>Increased loading requirements based on new use</u> ; (see (b2) to (b6), (b8) on map) Buildings may need to undergo structural strengthening to meet updated live, dead, and wind load requirements. The extent of additional strengthening can only be determined later with a developed proposal for new uses.	General	New designated uses and programmes should remain cohesive with the spirit and character of the heritage site; new programming should be planned along the intersection of heritage, communal living, and nature/ recreation to enliven future residential communities and make best use of the place identity of Gillman Barracks. New green corridors and park connectors should incorporate existing landforms, secondary forests, and characteristic landscapes of the site.
		<u>Introduction of new uses and user base in future development</u> ; New developments within the Lock Road cluster will bring in a new swathe of users and amenities to the site with their own set of stakeholder interests.	WRT (b2) to (b6), (b8), (b12)	New functions should remain compatible with historic architecture and spatial character of the buildings with minimal added loading requirements to historic structures where necessary; new uses with high loading requirements and strict code compliance should be catered for in the new-built structures so as not to put undue stress on heritage buildings with regards to structural strengthening and performance upgrades.
			WRT (b6), (b5)	Through continuity of programmes or through heritage interpretation, steps can be taken to acknowledge and celebrate the site's historic uses and communities; 9 and 7 Lock Road that was historically used for more social functions (messes and recreational) could once again serve as focal points within the new residential development for social amenities with common access. Opportunities to adopt the same of similar programmatic uses can be employed to create resonance between the old and new and inject creative and novel public spaces and nodes with a unique charm and quality into the future estate.
			General	Where structural strengthening is required in specific cases for retrofit and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, strategies and methods should be sensitively explored to reduce impact on the building's significant features and avoiding visibility on key facades.



Legend for Conceptual Plan

Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park

Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

Exceptional Significance

High Significance

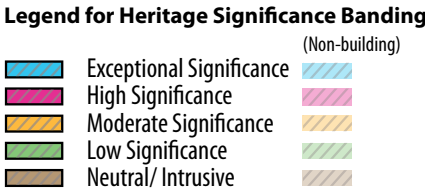
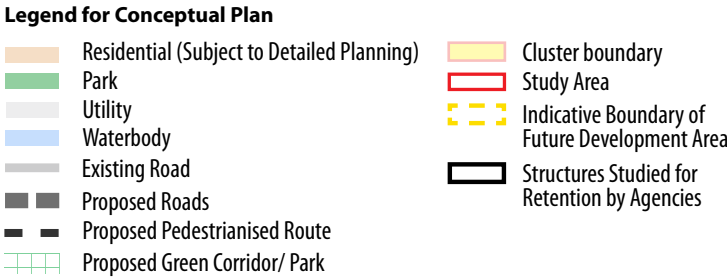
Moderate Significance

Low Significance

Neutral/ Intrusive

(Non-building)

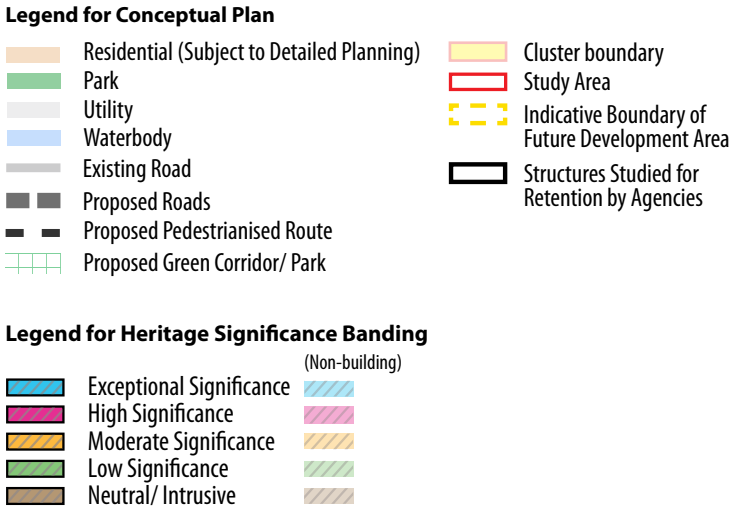
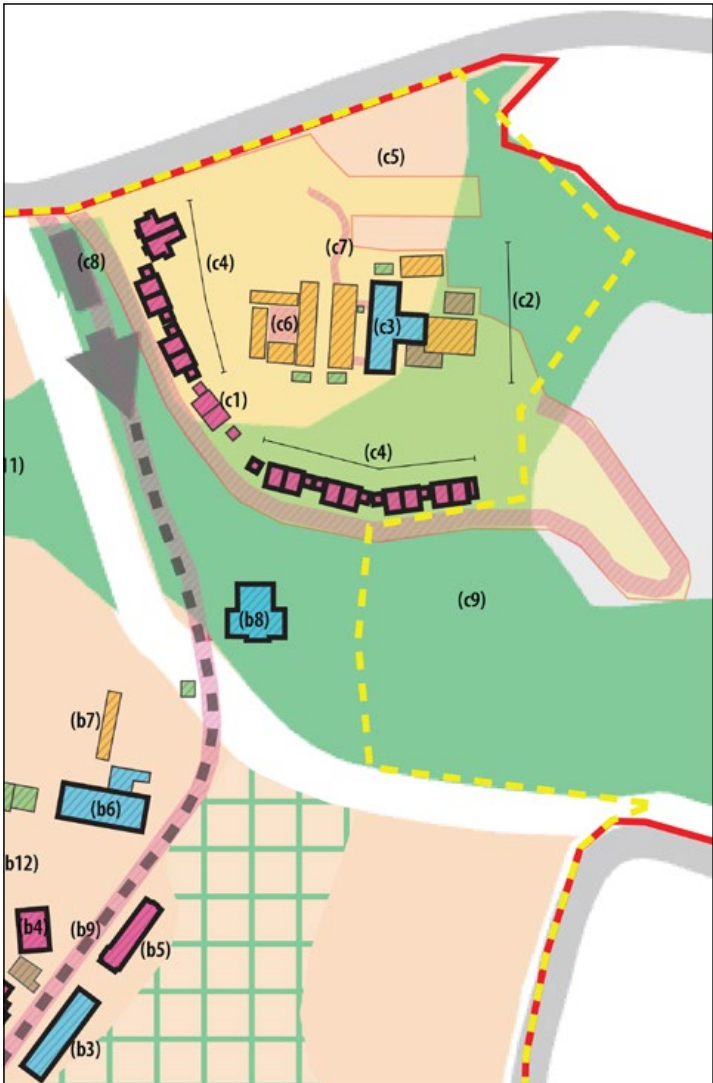
(b) Lock Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
III. Access	Low tolerance: - The landscape of this cluster is defined by its orientation along Lock Road and is an integral component of the site. Lock Road itself exhibits Low tolerance for change. - As much of the terrain to the east and west of Lock Road remains undulating and the existing cluster is spread across various elevations, options for new vehicular ingress is mostly limited.	Possible widening of the northern section of Lock Road and pedestrianisation of the southern section; (see (b9) on map) Moderate impact on Access. As a central area for recreation and amenities, the Lock Road cluster historically functioned as a largely pedestrian-oriented area which likely saw low levels of vehicular traffic. The potential pedestrianisation will therefore have minimal adverse impact on connectivity to the intact Lock Road structures. However, the potential segmentation of Lock Road may fragment Lock Road's functional character and purpose as the main arterial spine of Gillman Barracks that links the Preston Road residential area with the rest of the site. The extension of covered walkways; In development of brownfield sites, the introduction of covered pedestrian walkways, especially at road junctions where height is increased for vehicular passage, have presented challenges in the form of visual impact on heritage landscapes and the legibility of these sites. Lock Road at present has a series of covered walkways linking the various blocks within the Gillman Arts Cluster. This network might be extended to connect future housing estates. Connection to green corridor; (see (b8), (b11) on map) Moderate impact on Access. 22 Lock Road is planned to be integrated within a new green corridor that will connect the existing Southern Corridor towards Telok Blangah Road and Labrador Nature Reserve – a conduit to be centrally located within the new residential development zone. This will likely provide increased pedestrian accessibility to the site.	General	New circulation routes and roadways should be sensitively designed so as not to truncate and further fragment the historic site which would cause further loss of legibility. Carefully considered road alignment and grade line controls can enable sensitive addition of new roads to suit the cluster's spatial definitions and reduce obstructions at key view corridors.
			WRT (b9)	Retaining and managing accessibility of Lock Road as circulation spine; At present, Lock Road connects Alexandra Road via Malan Road to the south and Depot Road to the north. The road therefore serves as a main circulation spine, with the southern end forming a spatial cluster with the intact Lock Road military structures (see (b2) to (b6) on the map). The pedestrianisation of Lock Road will help to safeguard the legibility of the road and retain the spatial relationship between the landscape and built structures in the cluster.
			General	Interconnectivity within the site; Varied modes of access should be planned for including walking, cycling and bus priority lanes to reduce dependence on private vehicles and resultant need for wider roads that could fragment the site.

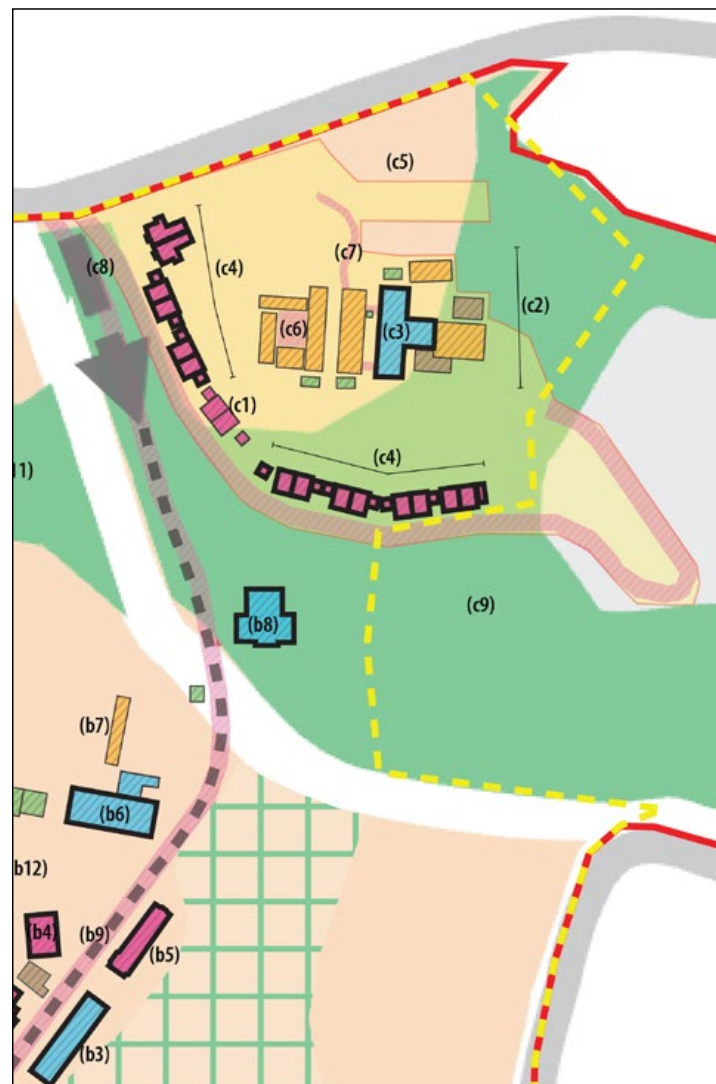


(b) Lock Road Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Low tolerance: - The manmade landscape of this cluster is strongly defined by its orientation along Lock Road. - The spatial context and site planning of this cluster remains largely intact. - The cluster still displays characteristics of early landform and natural topography around which the manmade landscape was planned.	<u>For historic structures that are to be demolished;</u> (see (b1), (b7) on map) High impact on Context. This will cause irreversible loss to historic built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster which will be reduced in extent.	WRT (b9), (b10) General	<u>Retaining orientation of key facades towards nodes and key view corridors in future development;</u> Many of the significant structures in this cluster are oriented towards Lock Road or southwards overlooking the site at lower elevations. During detailed land use planning, agencies should be cognisant of these frontages and avoid unsuitable placements of new structures and the obstruction of key historic facades (e.g. avoid locating a bin centre across from the front elevation of 9 Lock Road).
		<u>Fragmentation of Lock Road as circulation spine;</u> High impact on Context. This may likely cause altered legibility of the site context as the buildings are arranged in progression along this road, connecting the structures from Malan Road directly to those in Preston Road .	WRT (b12), General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback;</u> consider particularities in topography and characteristic landscape features of this cluster such as the increasing elevation as Lock Road proceeds northwards and the key view axis of the street in relation to the built structures to either side.
		<u>For historic structures that can be retained in-situ</u> such as 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 22 Lock Road; (see (b2) to (b6), (b8) on map) Low impact on Context. These high and exceptionally significant structures will be integrated within the future residential developments and amenities.	WRT (b12)	<u>Consolidate and preserve existing platform levels wherever feasible to reduce need for earthworks, cutting and backfilling works;</u> whilst it may not be possible to retain all existing platform levels across the cluster, future residential development zones can be consolidated across a few stepped platform levels set in relation to the terrain with circulation facilitated via elevated walkways and passages.
		<u>Introduction of new structures in future development;</u> (see (b11), (b12) on map) Moderate to High impact on Context. Adjacent plots to Lock Road cluster include zones for residential use and park space. The introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing estates presents the most probable impact to the site context and the heritage legibility of this cluster.	General	<u>Heritage Interpretation;</u> This is important to convey site and cluster relationships between structures and landscapes and can enhance the resident/ visitor appreciation of the cumulative significance of the site in totality. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters as well as new development to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks.
		<u>Potential significance loss of historic topography;</u> High impact on Context. Either through earthworks, levelling of development sites or laying of new roads, the historic topography of Lock may be rendered illegible, significantly altered, or at the very least obstructed by future works.	General	<u>Landscape design;</u> elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks' heritage landscape- its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

6 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Heritage Impact Assessment | Preston Road Housing and School Clusters





Legend for Conceptual Plan

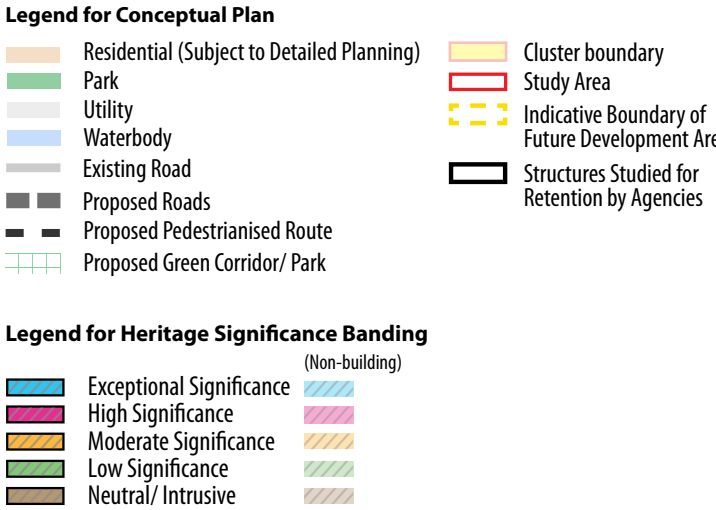
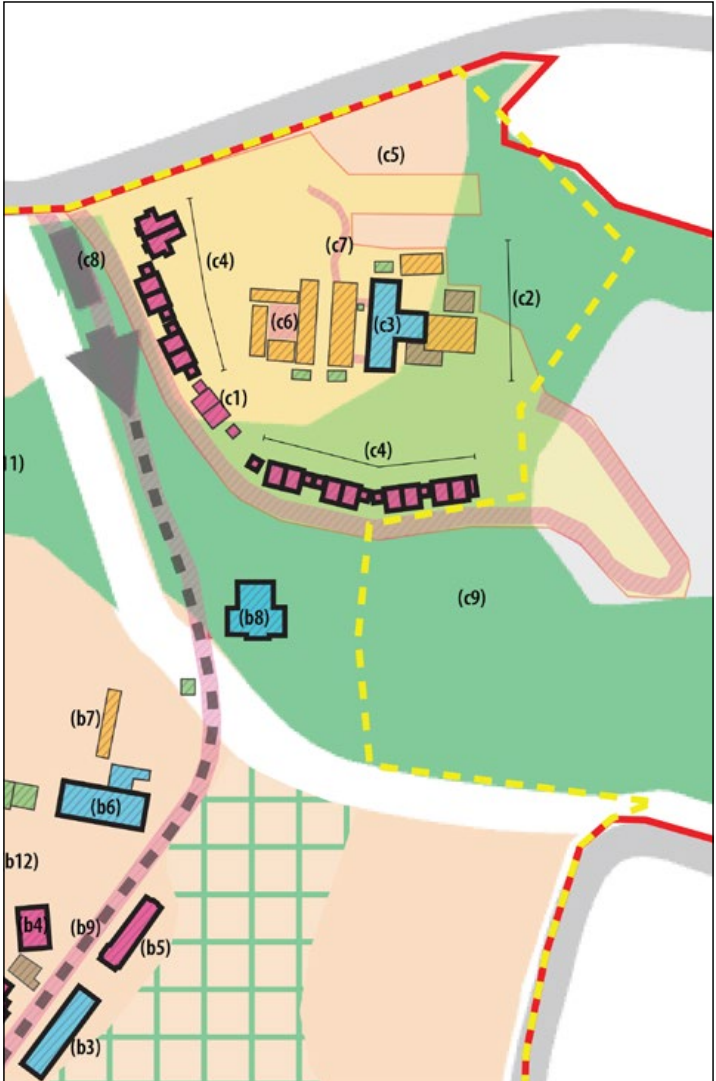
Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)	Cluster boundary
Park	Study Area
Utility	Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
Waterbody	Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies
Existing Road	
Proposed Roads	
Proposed Pedestrianised Route	
Proposed Green Corridor/ Park	

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

Exceptional Significance	(Non-building)
High Significance	
Moderate Significance	
Low Significance	
Neutral/ Intrusive	

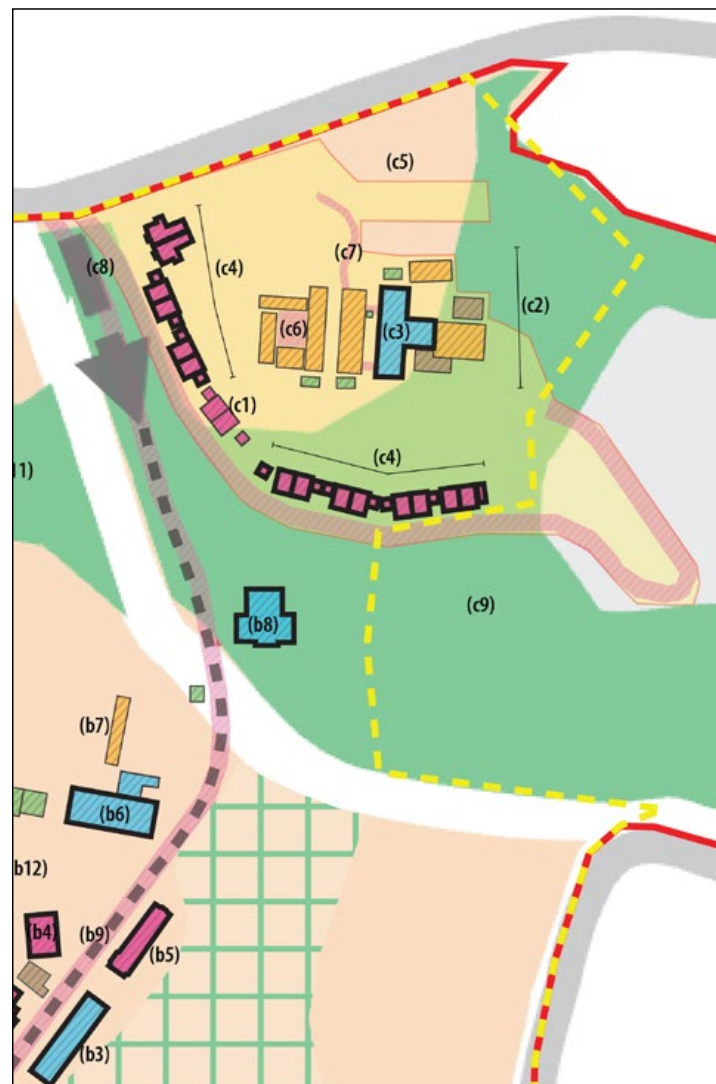
(c) Preston Road Housing and School Clusters

Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
II. Functions Benchmarked against historical use	Moderate tolerance: - Whilst Preston Road structures have practical, rectangular floor plans, interior spaces are discretely separated and laid out specific to their original functions. - Structural strengthening to increase loading allowance of the buildings is possible but often has impact on aesthetic and material fabric and should only be considered where necessary/ unavoidable.	For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as 1 to 6, 9-16, and 21 Preston Road – <u>potential change of use and programming</u>; (see (c3), (c4) on map) Retained Preston Road structures will be integrated within the future residential estate. Detailed zoning and land use for the retained blocks have not been specified at this stage although some initial assessment on change of use may be explored in relation to the development of the surrounding areas for a cohesive land use plan. <u>Increased loading requirements based on new use</u>; (see (c3), (c4) on map) Buildings may need to undergo structural strengthening to meet updated live, dead, and wind load requirements. The extent of additional strengthening can only be determined later with a developed proposal for new uses. <u>Introduction of new uses and user base in future development</u>; New developments within the Preston Road cluster will bring in a new swathe of users and amenities to the site with their own set of stakeholder interests.	General General WRT (c5), General WRT (c3) (c4) WRT (c3) (c4)	<u>Finding a balance for intensification in appropriate zones</u>; Future plans may include a mix of high-rise public and private housing developments and lower-rise amenities. A holistic approach should be adopted to ensure buildings of high and exceptional heritage significance are not unduly burdened by plot ratio intensification. For instance, land use optimisation can still be achieved by designating higher-rise higher-density developments to less significant zones of the site or those. <u>New designated uses and programmes should remain cohesive with the spirit and character of the heritage site</u>; new programming should be planned along the intersection of heritage, communal living, and nature/ recreation to enliven future residential communities and make best use of the place identity of Gillman Barracks. Green corridors and park connectors should incorporate existing landforms, secondary forests, and characteristic landscapes of the site without too much disturbance. <u>New functions should remain compatible with historic architecture and spatial character</u> of the buildings with minimal added loading requirements to historic structures where necessary; new uses with high loading requirements and strict code compliance should be catered for in the new-built structures so as not to put undue stress on heritage buildings with regards to structural strengthening and performance upgrades. <u>Through continuity of programmes or through heritage interpretation</u>, steps can be taken to <u>acknowledge and celebrate the site's historic uses and communities</u>; 21 Preston Road, that has since its inception been used as a school, holds significant social value and could once again serve as a focal point within the new residential development for common amenities and a gathering space. Opportunities to adopt the same of similar programmatic uses can be employed to create resonance between the old and new and inject creative and novel communal spaces and nodes with a unique charm and quality into the future estate. <u>Where structural strengthening is required in specific cases for retrofit and adaptive reuse of historic buildings</u>, strategies and methods should be sensitively explored to reduce impact on the building's significant features and avoiding visibility on key facades.



(c) Preston Road Housing and School Clusters				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
III. Access	Low tolerance: - The landscape of this cluster is strongly defined by the steep mount of Friendly Hill around which Preston Road wraps and provides access. Preston Road itself exhibits Low tolerance for change. - At present, Preston Road has one point for both ingress and egress from Depot Road and consist of a single lane carriageway in each direction. - As Friendly Hill is a relatively small peak, options for new vehicular ingress are mostly limited.	<u>Preston Road carriageway</u>; (see (c8) on map) Moderate impact to Access. Based on the conceptual plan, Preston Road may be partially re-routed to connect to Lock Road. Such adjustments would need to be closely coordinated to accommodate smooth traffic entering and exiting future residential parcels.	General	<u>New circulation routes and roadways should be sensitively designed so as not to truncate and further fragment the historic site which would cause further loss of legibility. Carefully considered road alignment and grade line controls can enable sensitive addition of new roads to suit the cluster’s spatial definitions and reduce obstructions at key view corridors.</u>
		<u>Preston Road School pedestrian entrance steps</u>; (see (c7) on map) No immediate or specific plans regarding the existing set of entrance steps have been indicated in the conceptual plan so far.	WRT (c7)	<u>Retention and continued use of pedestrian access provided by historic Entrance Steps</u>; The entrance steps which have been a long-standing feature of the Preston Road school used by all its existing and previous users should be retained to provide continued convenient pedestrian access between Depot Road and the structures on top of Friendly Hill.
		<u>Connection to green corridor</u>; (see (c9) on map) Low impact to Access. Preston Road is currently connected to the Southern Ridges via elevated boardwalks. These pedestrian circulation paths may be retained or reconstructed as part of the future development to increase connectivity between Southern Ridges and the new residential parcels.	WRT (c8)	<u>Retaining and managing accessibility of Preston Road</u>; The mouth of Preston Road that meets Depot Road may undergo carriageway adjustments. With the expected increase of user access to the future residential parcel, circulation and traffic access of Preston Road should be carefully managed to facilitate access whilst safeguarding the legibility of this historical cluster.
			General, WRT (c8)	<u>Interconnectivity within the site</u>; Varied modes of access should be planned for including walking and cycling lanes where feasible to reduce dependence on private vehicles and resultant need for wider roads that could fragment the site.

Heritage Impact Assessment | Preston Road Housing and School Clusters



Legend for Conceptual Plan

Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)	Cluster boundary
Park	Study Area
Utility	Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
Waterbody	Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies
Existing Road	
Proposed Roads	
Proposed Pedestrianised Route	
Proposed Green Corridor/ Park	

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

Exceptional Significance	(Non-building)
High Significance	
Moderate Significance	
Low Significance	
Neutral/ Intrusive	

(c) Preston Road Housing and School Clusters

Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Low tolerance: - The landscape and organization of structures within this cluster is strongly defined by the natural topography of Friendly Hill and siting of Preston Road in relation to this Hill. - The spatial context and site planning of this cluster remains largely intact.	For historic structures that are to be demolished along Preston Road; (see (c1) on map) Moderate impact on Context. This will cause irreversible loss to a limited number of historic buildings but the impact is reduced as the affected structure is a repeated typology and limited demolition will not significantly affect the legibility of the cluster still evident in the remaining structures.	WRT (c3) (c4) (c5) (c6)	<u>Retaining orientation of key facades towards nodes and key view corridors in future development;</u> The houses of Preston Road are directly fronting the road and were originally meant to boast generous vantages out across the lower parts of Gillman Barracks and the coast to the south. Meanwhile, the main block of Alexandra School sits on the peak of Friendly Hill, is west-facing and overlooks low-rise classroom pavilions and a small open field at lower terraces along the slope. During detailed land use planning, agencies should consider these configurations and vistas to avoid unsuitable placements of new structures and the obstruction of key historic facades.
		For historic structures that can be retained in-situ such as 1 to 6, 9-16, and 21 Preston Road; (see (c3), (c4) on map) Low impact on Context. These high and exceptionally significant structures will be integrated within the future residential development and amenities.	WRT (c5), General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback;</u> consider particularities in topography and characteristic landscape features of this cluster such as the contour, slopes and shoulders of the Hill and how best to accommodate locating new structures whilst preserving the legibility of the cluster landscape. Where the new road diversion along Preston Road will be introduced, ample set back between the preserved structures and the road edge should be planned to provide a seamless streetscape and pleasant experience of the site for all users.
		Introduction of new structures in future development; (see (c5) on map) Moderate to High impact on Context. Adjacent plots to Preston Road cluster include zones for residential use and green corridor. The introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing estates and the road adjustment presents the most probable impact to the site context and the heritage legibility of this cluster.	General	<u>Consolidate and preserve existing platform levels wherever feasible to reduce need for earthworks, cutting and backfilling works;</u> whilst it may not be possible to retain all existing platform levels across the cluster, future residential development zones can be consolidated across a few stepped platform levels set in relation to the terrain with circulation facilitated via elevated walkways and passages.
		<u>Potential significance loss of historic topography;</u> (see (c3) to (c5) on map) Moderate impact on Context. Either through earthworks, levelling of development sites or laying of new roads, the historic topography of Preston may be rendered illegible, significantly altered, or at the very least obstructed by future works.	General	<u>Heritage Interpretation;</u> This is important to convey site and cluster relationships between structures and landscapes and can enhance the resident/ visitor appreciation of the cumulative significance of the site in totality. Since Alexandra School was developed as a complex, content showing the historical extent of the school, its various blocks, the uses and users, and development over time would be a key component of the documentation. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks. <u>Landscape design;</u> elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks' heritage landscape- its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

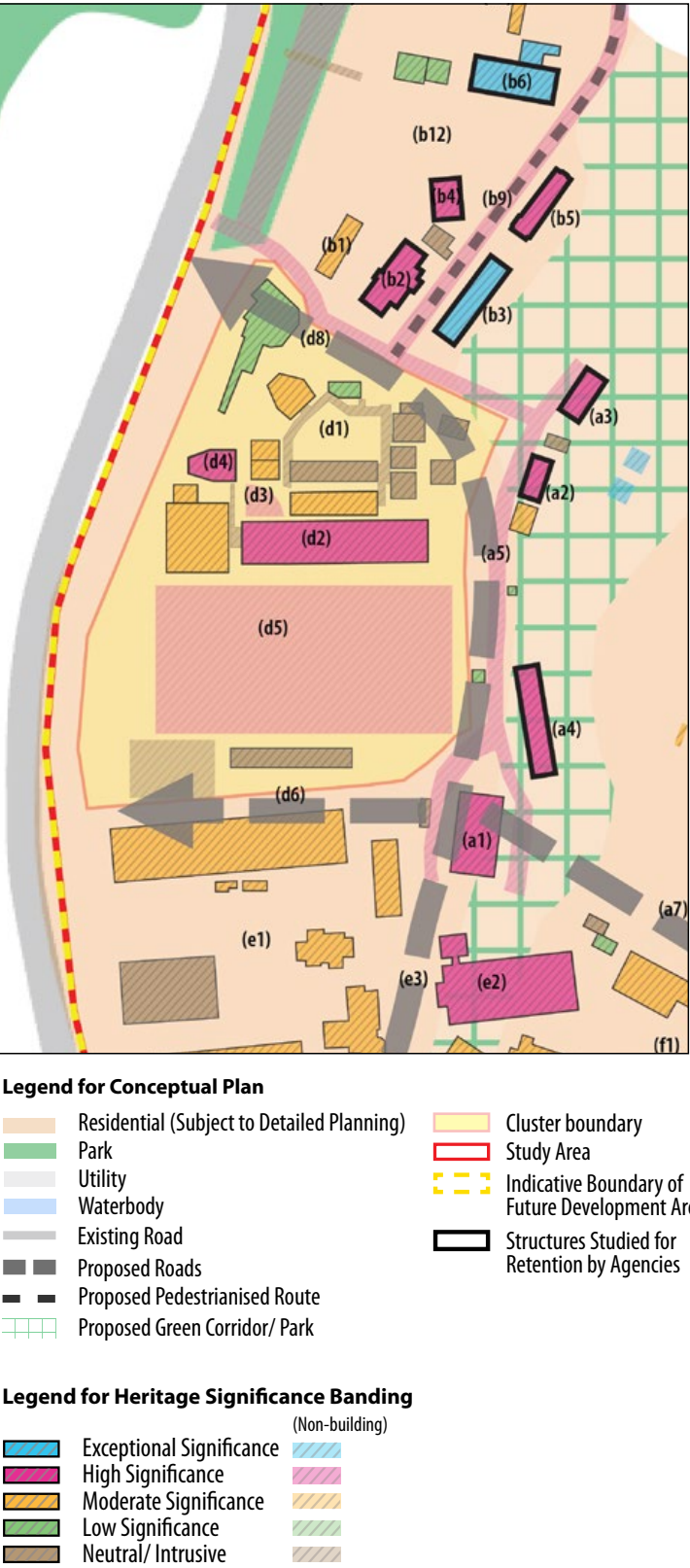


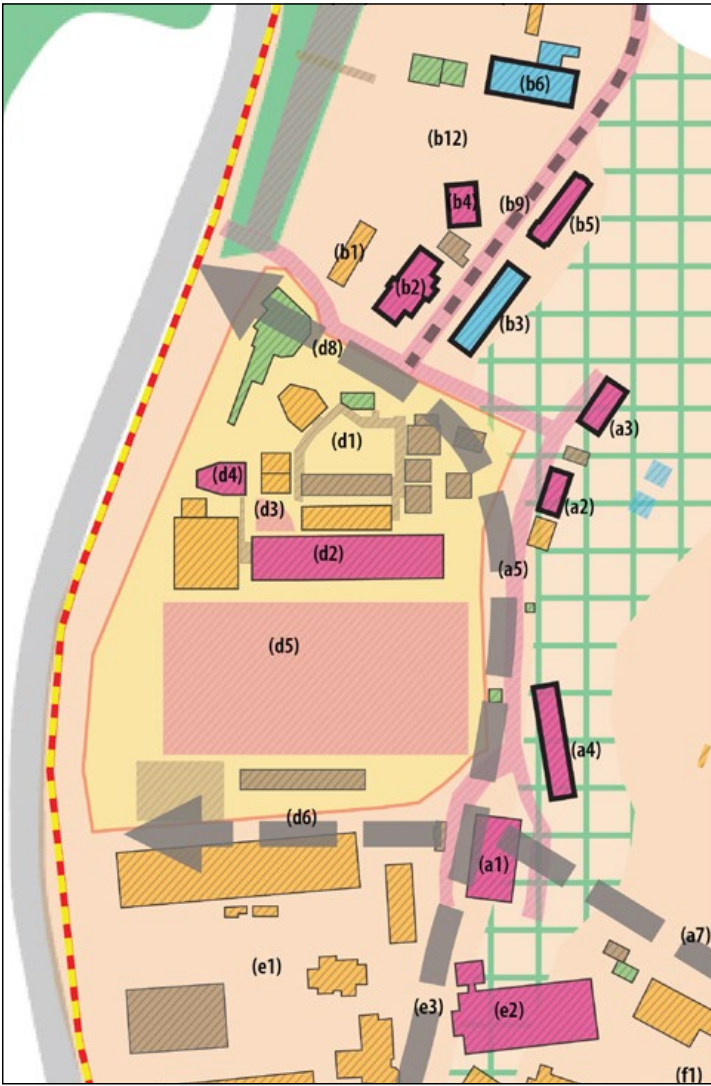
Fig. 6.7 Overview of annotated conceptual plan for former SAJC cluster. Source: HDB/ URA

The proposed conceptual plan for the Former St. Andrew's Junior College cluster entails the complete demolition of all existing structures and re-zoning of the site from its current institutional/school use to future residential development. This would constitute a high heritage impact due to the permanent and irreversible loss of the cluster's historic physical fabric, spatial legibility and communal associations.

In the absence of retained structures as familiar landmarks for continued habitation and use, the history and significance of the site may instead be conveyed through integrated heritage interpretation strategies within the future development. Potential approaches could include the salvaging and reuse of architectural elements, incorporation of design references within new architectural language, and interpretation through panels, landscape features, public art or sensitive programming. Such measures may be implemented either as cluster-specific interventions or, more effectively, as part of a wider site-wide heritage narrative.

(d) Former St. Andrew's Junior College Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
I. Fabric & Form	Moderate tolerance: - The campus was originally built in 1979 with further additions and alterations in 1993. - The structures were constructed in reinforced concrete in tropical modernist design with expressed facades featuring shading and ventilation devices.	Demolition of key structures including high significance structures; (see (d2) to (d5) on map) High impact on Fabric & Form. As the cluster is situated within a zone planned for new residential development, the existing structures of the former campus will be demolished to make way for new development. This will cause irreversible loss to historic built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster.	WRT (d1), (d5) General	Retain semblance of open area, at least in part, where the recreation grounds of Gillman Barracks and later the running track and field of the former St Andrew's Junior College used to be, in the form of public plaza, parks and/or playgrounds. This is perhaps the most historically cohesive and immediately recognisable feature of the cluster and should be recalled in the future estate in lieu of demolition and redevelopment. Practical and meaningful documentation of structures to be demolished; structures of heritage significance that will be demolished for future development are recommended to be meaningfully documented. Documentation measures may include measured building surveys, professional photographic records, and the salvaging of historic materials for future interpretive use, enabling the heritage value of the site to be conveyed to future users. Additional documentation methods such as scanning and mapping, point cloud documentation, and inclusion in the Singapore architecture collection may also be considered. Heritage Interpretation; well-conveyed building-specific interpretation provides opportunities to deepen the public's appreciation for architectural, engineering and construction related technologies and styles seen here and in other similar sites. Characteristic building elements may be salvaged and reused, either as-is or in a reconfigured in a meaningful way, in the new development. New structures may draw on design gestures or features of the extant buildings for unique, place-specific design styles. Interpretation mediums may also employ panel exhibits, landscape design, public art or associated/ sensitive programmes to name a few.

Table. 6.5 Assessment of heritage impact on Former St. Andrew's Junior College Cluster based on conceptual plan (continued on following pages).



Legend for Conceptual Plan

Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park

Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

Exceptional Significance

High Significance

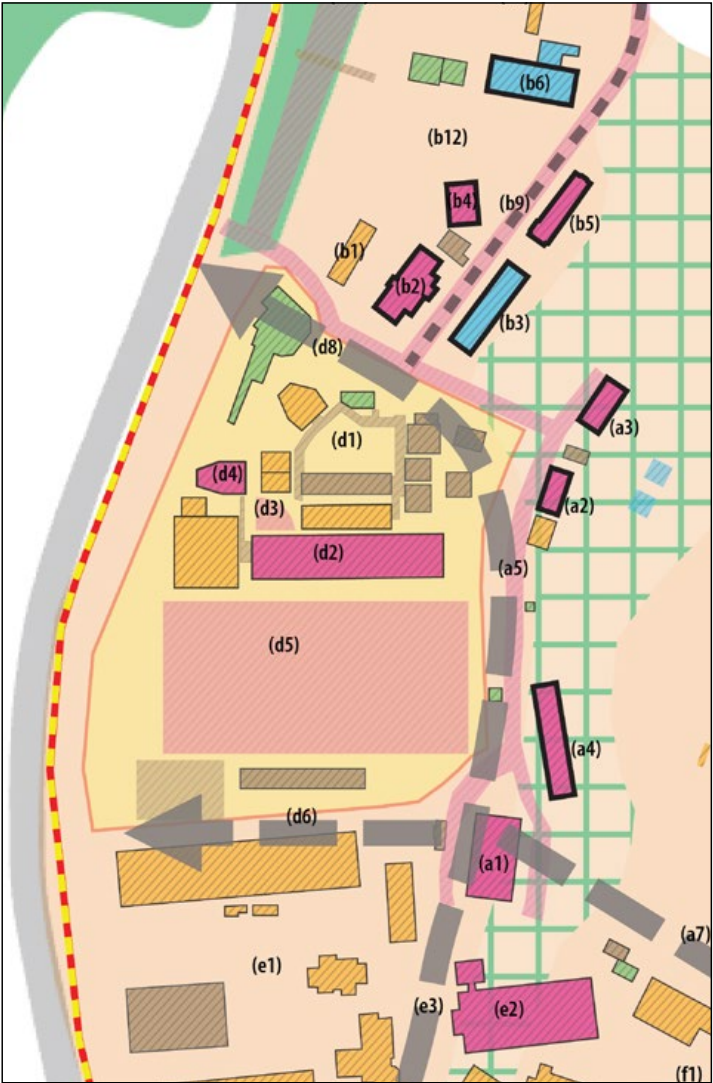
Moderate Significance

Low Significance

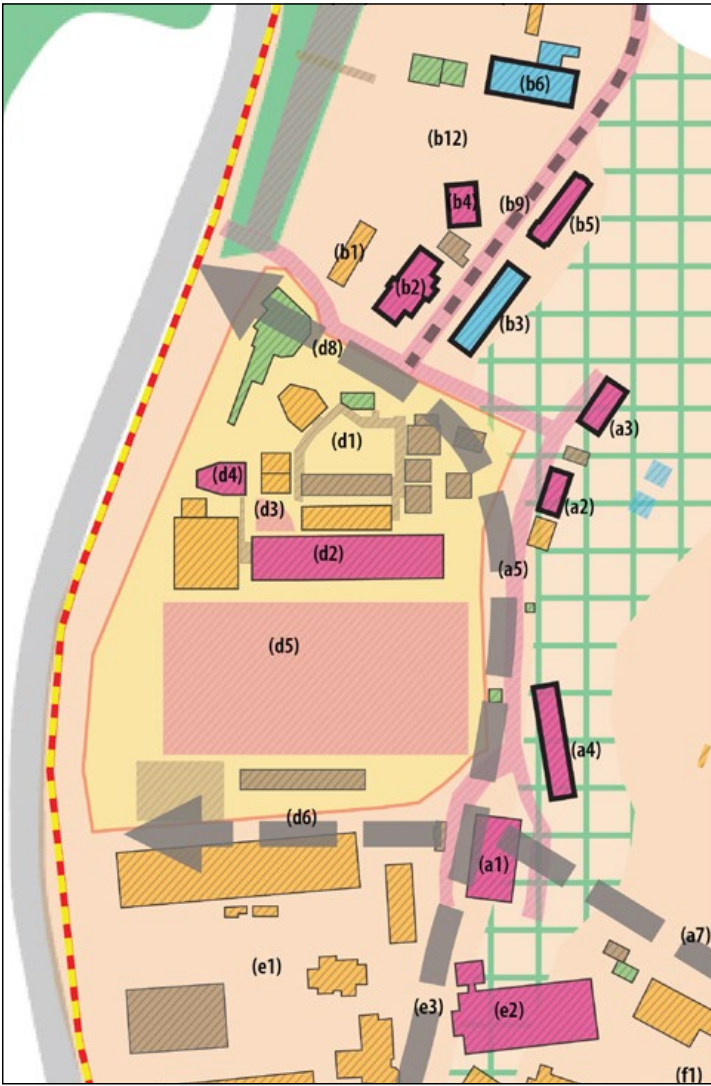
Neutral/ Intrusive

(Non-building)

(d) Former St. Andrew’s Junior College Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
II. Functions Benchmarked against historical use	<u>Moderate to High tolerance:</u> There is a combination of larger megastructures with rectangular floor plate (tutorial blk, main blk) and other more specialised, purpose-built structures (e.g. lecture theatres, auditoriums) located within the cluster. The former type is generally more flexible to be adapted whilst the latter type is more challenging to convert for new use.	Introduction of new uses and user base in future development; New developments within the former SAJC cluster will bring in a new swathe of users and amenities to the site with their own set of stakeholder interests.	General	<u>Finding a balance for intensification in appropriate zones;</u> Future plans may include a mix of high-rise public and private housing developments and lower-rise amenities. A holistic approach should be adopted to ensure buildings of high and exceptional heritage significance are not unduly burdened by plot ratio intensification. For instance, land use optimisation can still be achieved by designating higher-rise higher-density developments to less significant zones of the site or those.
			General	<u>New designated uses and programmes should remain cohesive with the spirit and character of the heritage site;</u> new programming should be planned along the intersection of heritage and nature/ recreation to enliven future residential communities and make best use of the place identity of Gillman Barracks.
			General	<u>Through continuity of programmes or through heritage interpretation,</u> steps can be taken to <u>acknowledge and celebrate the site’s historic uses and communities;</u> the former SAJC campus was purpose-built as an educational institution and continues to function in a similar capacity under occupation by the Academy of Singapore Teachers. The cluster therefore has a long legacy of strong and vibrant communities bound together through shared experiences in education. Opportunities to adopt the same or similar programmatic uses can be employed to create resonance between the old and new and inject creative and novel communal spaces and nodes with a unique charm and quality into the future estate.

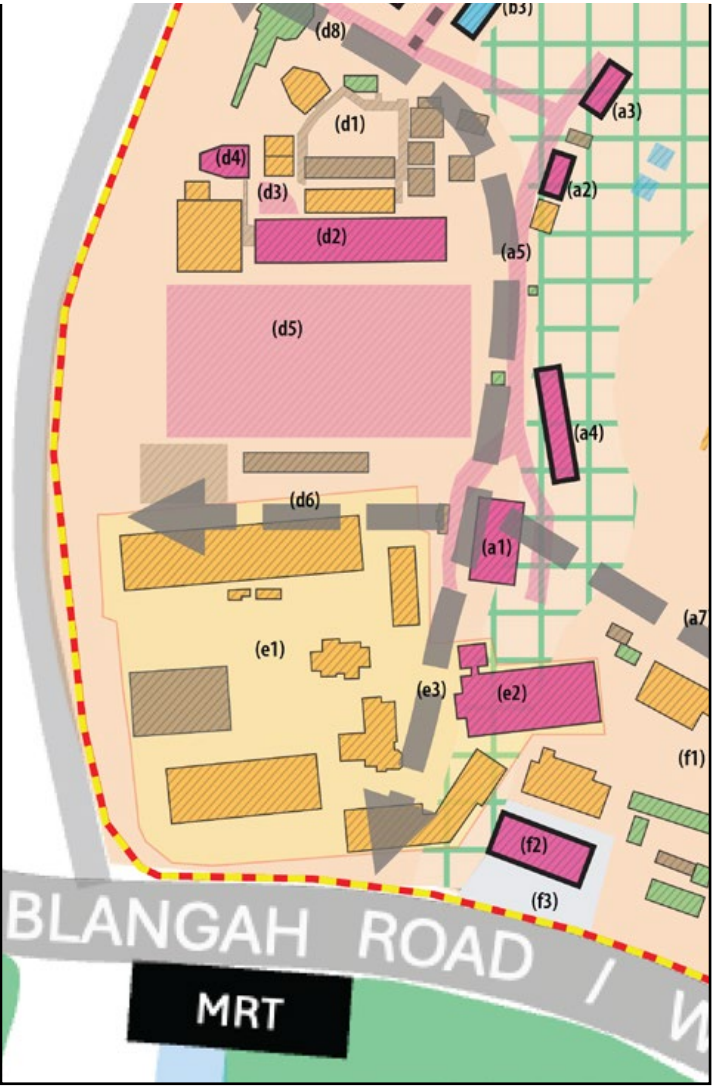


(d) Former St. Andrew's Junior College Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
III. Access	Moderate tolerance: - The Former SAJC cluster is located between Alexandra Road and Malan Road and is easily accessed by both either via vehicular roads or sheltered pedestrian walkways. - The northern half of the cluster is located on sloping terrain with block sited at various platform levels. - The southern half of the cluster is mostly flat and open and therefore easily accessed from all sides.	Addition of new road along the southern edge of the cluster; A new road extending westwards from Telok Blangah Street 31 is proposed to be located at the southern end of the cluster near to where the viewing gallery is currently located (see (d6) on map). This is likely to increase accessibility to the cluster and Malan Road and thus will have high impact on Access.	WRT (d6), (d8)	<u>New circulation routes and roadways should be sensitively designed so as not to truncate and further fragment the historic site which would cause further loss of legibility. Carefully considered road alignment and grade line controls can enable sensitive addition of new roads to suit the cluster's spatial definitions and reduce obstructions at key view corridors.</u>
		<u>Reconfiguration of vehicular roads within the cluster/ zone;</u> New roads and access points to service future developments are likely to be drawn up and will either partially or fully replace existing driveways within the cluster. Depending on the extent of road revisions and earthworks proposed, the impact of such changes may result in moderate to high degree of impact to Access.	WRT (d6), (d8)	<u>Retaining and managing accessibility to former SAJC cluster via Malan Road;</u> New carriageways are proposed to be added to the site. With the expected increase of user access to future residential plots, circulation and trafficability via Malan Road should be carefully managed to facilitate access whilst safeguarding the legibility of the road and the historical clusters.
			General	<u>Interconnectivity within the site;</u> Varied modes of access should be planned for including walking and cycling lanes where feasible to reduce dependence on private vehicles and resultant need for wider roads that could fragment the site.



(d) Former St. Andrew’s Junior College Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Low tolerance: - The landscape and organisation of structures within this cluster is defined by the natural topography of the area. - The northern half of the cluster is located on sloping terrain with block sited at various platform levels. - The southern half of the cluster is mostly flat and open, as it has been since 1935, and therefore easily accessed from all sides. - The spatial context and site planning of this cluster captures both pre- and post-independence era of development.	Introduction of new structures in future development; (see (d5) on map) High impact on Context. The introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing developments with no retention of extant structures as representative of the cluster presents the most probable impact to the site context and the heritage legibility of this cluster.	General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback</u>; consider particularities in topography and characteristic landscape features of this cluster such as the contour and slopes in the north and flat ground to the south to set appropriate planning controls for future development whilst preserving the legibility of the cluster landscape.
		<u>Potential significance loss of historic topography</u>; (see (d1) on map) High impact on Context. Either through earthworks, levelling of development sites or laying of new roads, the historic topography of the former SAJC cluster may be rendered illegible, significantly altered, or at the very least obstructed by future works.	WRT (d1) area, General	<u>Consolidate and preserve existing platform levels wherever feasible to reduce need for earthworks, cutting and backfilling works</u>; whilst it may not be possible to retain all existing platform levels across the cluster, future development zones may be consolidated across a few stepped platform levels set in relation to the terrain to better preserve the topography of the site.
			General	<u>Heritage Interpretation</u>; This is important to convey site and cluster relationships between structures and landscapes and can enhance the resident/ visitor appreciation of the cumulative significance of the site in totality. Since the former SAJC was developed as a complex, content showing the historical extent of the school, its various blocks, the uses and users, and development over time would be a key component of the documentation. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks.
			General	<u>Landscape design</u>; elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks’ heritage landscape- its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

Heritage Impact Assessment | Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster



Legend for Conceptual Plan

Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park

Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

Exceptional Significance

High Significance

Moderate Significance

Low Significance

Neutral/ Intrusive

(Non-building)

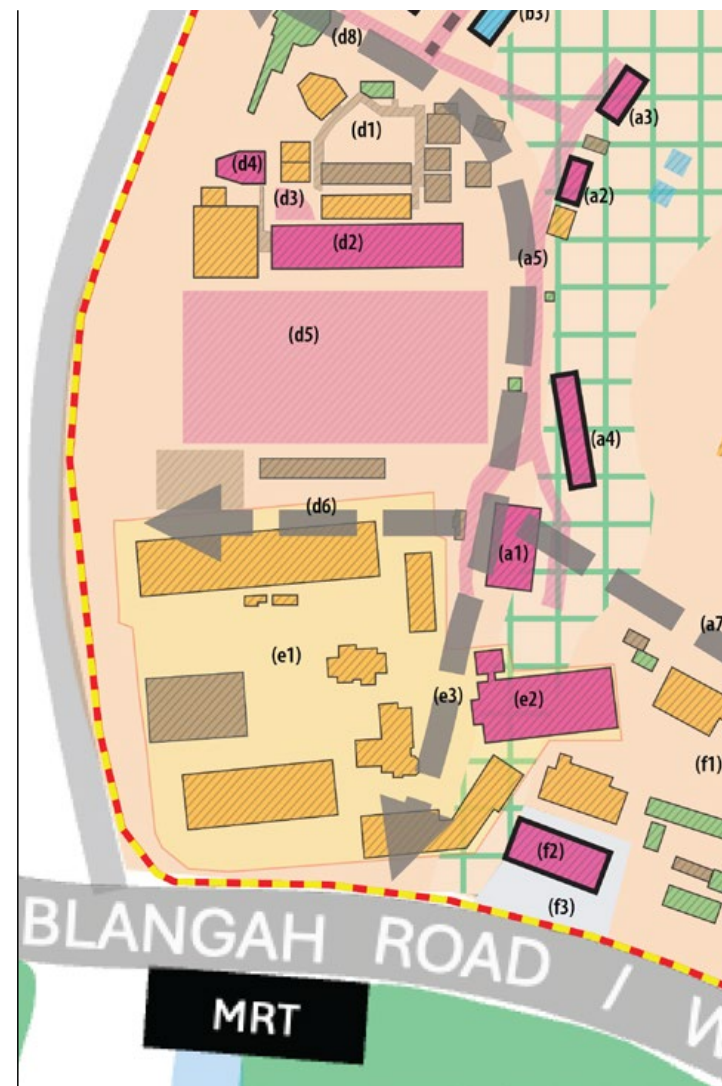
Fig. 6.8 Overview of annotated conceptual plan for former PPVI cluster. Source: HDB/ URA

The proposed redevelopment of the Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute cluster near Gillman Barracks will involve the demolition of all existing structures to accommodate future residential development and associated rezoning of the site. This constitutes a high level of heritage impact, resulting in the permanent and irreversible loss of the cluster’s historic physical fabric and legibility. In the absence of retained buildings as familiar historical landmarks, the history and significance of the cluster may instead be communicated through integrated heritage interpretation strategies within the future development.

Given the limited availability of surviving artefacts, interpretation approaches are likely to rely on media such as interpretive panels, landscape design, public art, and temporary programmes or events, either as standalone initiatives or, more effectively, as part of a wider site-wide heritage narrative.

(e) Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
I. Fabric & Form	Moderate to High tolerance: - The institution was set up in 1972, having made use of numerous structures inherited from the military period of use. At least one of these still remains. - A&A works were carried out in 1975 and 1986 involving replacement of some buildings and construction of new purpose-built administrative and classroom blocks.	For historic structures that are to be demolished; (see (e1) and (e2) on map) High impact on Fabric & Form. Based on the conceptual plan, the cluster is situated within a zone planned for new residential developments. All existing structures within this cluster are studied to be demolished to make way for new development. This includes highly significant 911C Alexandra Road (e2) which was constructed in the 1940s. This will cause permanent and irreversible loss to historic built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster.	WRT (e1), General General	Practical and meaningful documentation of structures to be demolished; structures of heritage significance that will be demolished for future development are recommended to be meaningfully documented. Documentation measures may include measured building surveys, professional photographic records, and the salvaging of historic materials for future interpretive use, enabling the heritage value of the site to be conveyed to future users. Additional documentation methods such as scanning and mapping, point cloud documentation, and inclusion in the Singapore architecture collection may also be considered. Heritage Interpretation; well-conveyed building-specific interpretation provides opportunities to deepen the public’s appreciation for architectural, engineering and construction related technologies and styles seen here and in other similar sites.

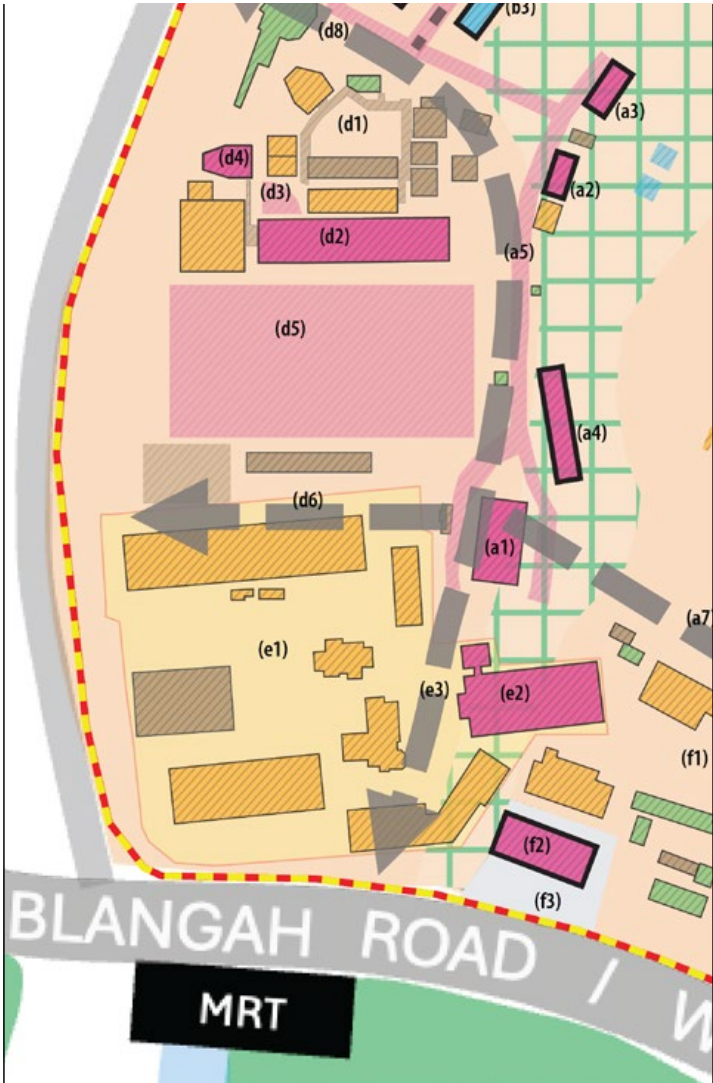
Table 6.6 Assessment of heritage impact on Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster based on conceptual plan (continued on following pages).



(e) Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster

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Heritage Impact Assessment | Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster



(e) Former Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Moderate to High tolerance: - The cluster is situated at the junction of major and early transport arteries - Alexandra and Telok Blangah Roads. - The cluster is mostly sited on flat ground at the southern end of the study area. It has undergone extensive and multiple rounds of redevelopment across time. - Many of the structures in this cluster were built between 1986 and 2012, although a few remain of earlier periods. Group value of this cluster is less legible and less apparent. - The group value of this cluster is less legible and less apparent.	Introduction of new structures with new uses in future development; (see (e1) on map) High impact on Context. New high-rise, high-density housing developments pose the greatest impact to legibility of the cluster site context, which has already been diluted.	WRT (e1), General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback</u>; consider the new residential developments in relation to historic roads and future green corridors to explore how best to express the characteristics of the cluster landscape and framing the views to the site.
			General	<u>Heritage Interpretation</u>; This is important to convey cluster history to compensate for the demolition of majority of the existing cluster, and to continue communicating the layered histories of this area for a more holistic heritage appreciation of the site. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks.
			General	<u>Landscape design</u>; elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks' heritage landscape – its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

Legend for Conceptual Plan

- Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park
- Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

- Exceptional Significance

High Significance

Moderate Significance

Low Significance

Neutral/ Intrusive
- (Non-building)

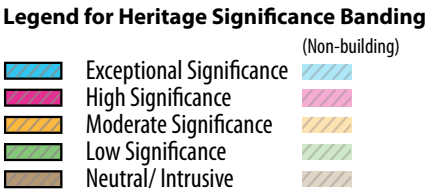
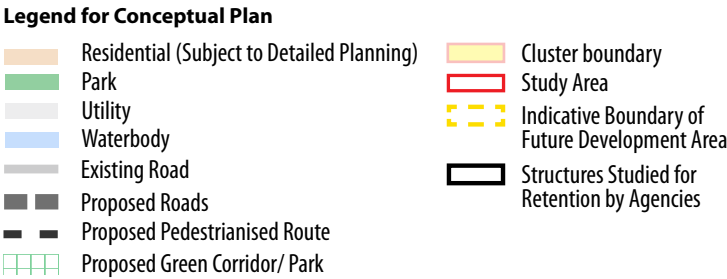
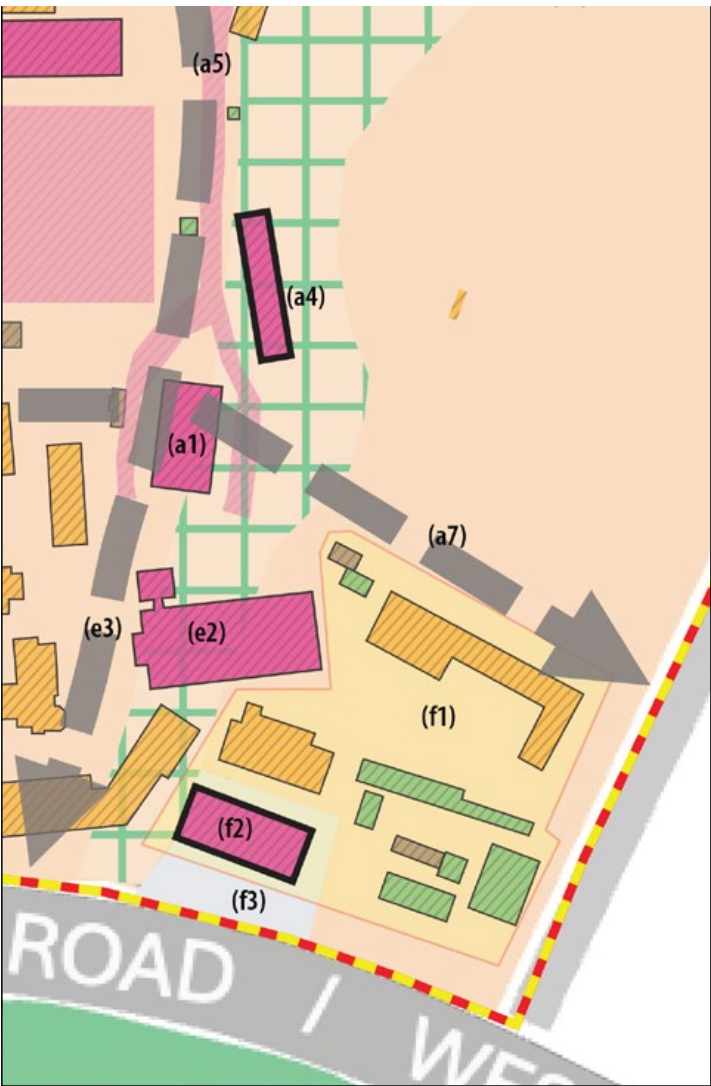


Fig. 6.9 Overview of annotated conceptual plan for Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster.
Source: HDB/ URA

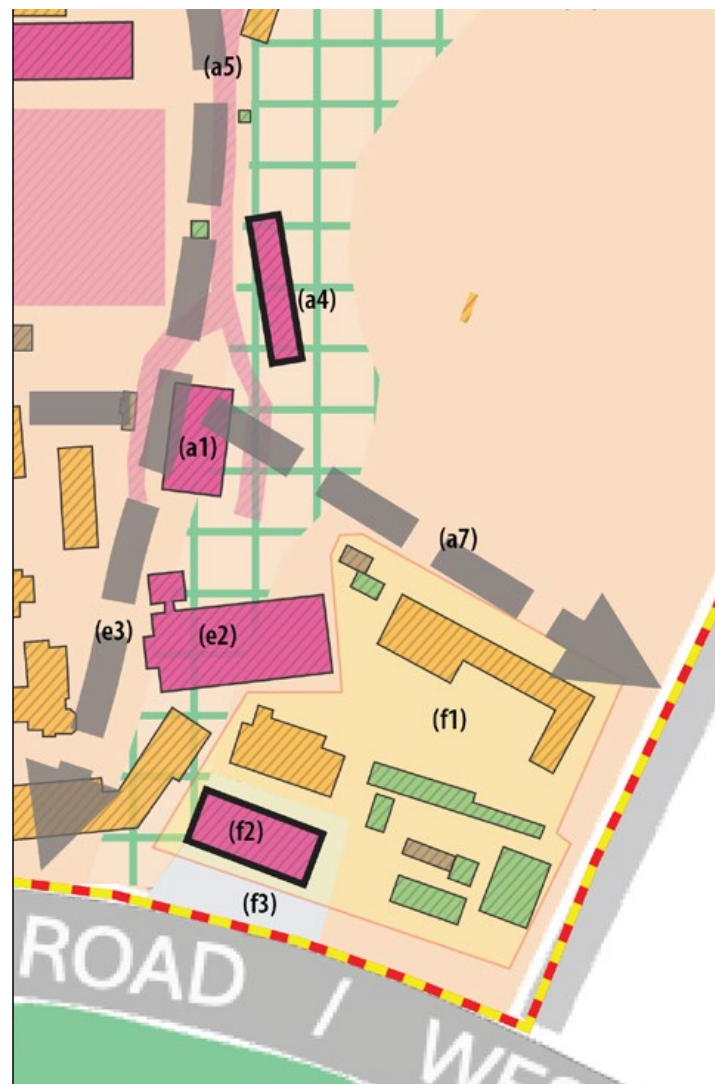
The proposed redevelopment of the Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster near Gillman Barracks will result in substantial change to the existing cluster, as most structures of low to moderate heritage significance are proposed for demolition to accommodate new residential development. Nevertheless, the retention of the 66kV electrical substation, a key piece of infrastructure associated with the development of the Telok Blangah housing estate in the early 1970s, will preserve a representative element of the cluster’s historic public utilities function. While the site will transition primarily from public utilities use to residential use, the retained substation will continue to operate as essential infrastructure serving the future estate and may require upgrading and associated structural works, subject to further detailed study.

Given the cluster’s relatively limited size and lack of historically significant circulation routes, new vehicular and pedestrian access arrangements may be introduced with greater flexibility. Although the overall contextual and heritage legibility of the cluster will be reduced by the loss of most extant structures, the retention of the substation as a representative historic element will help mitigate these impacts.

(f) Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
I. Fabric & Form	Moderate tolerance: The structures of this cluster built in the mid- to late-1970s are both materially expressive and utilized modern approaches of form following function as a character defining feature.	<u>For existing structures that are to be demolished;</u> (see (f1) on map) High impact on Fabric & Form. Structures within the Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster are proposed to be removed to make way for new residential estates. This will cause irreversible loss to existing built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster which will be greatly reduced in extent.	WRT (f2) if applicable	<u>Building protection;</u> installation of buffer zones, safety barricades, and hoarding barriers during site works will minimize risk of accidental damage caused by passing heavy vehicle and equipment during site works.
		<u>Retention of 66kV substation;</u> (see (f2) on map) Low impact on Fabric & Form since the 66kV substation is proposed to be retained in-situ. Any works to or around the building will likely be for the purpose of ensuring it can continue to serve its function and to meet current day technical requirements.	WRT (f2) if applicable	<u>Monitoring & instrumentation;</u> based on the extent of soil and excavation works required for site preparation, a professional engineer may need to advise which structures are located within impact zone and these should be regularly monitored using settlement markers or braced to minimize risk of settlement and uncontrolled collapse during the works.
		<u>Risk of accidental or incidental damage during site works;</u> Low to moderate impact on Fabric & Form.	General	<u>Practical and meaningful documentation of structures to be demolished;</u> structures of heritage significance that will be demolished for future development are recommended to be meaningfully documented. Documentation measures may include measured building surveys, professional photographic records, and the salvaging of historic materials for future interpretive use, enabling the heritage value of the site to be conveyed to future users. Additional documentation methods such as scanning and mapping, point cloud documentation, and inclusion in the Singapore architecture collection may also be considered.
		<u>Updated building codes;</u> Low impact on Fabric & Form. A&A works often introduce upgrades to bring heritage buildings up to date with current building codes and standards. This often produces a range of impact to building fabric although some can be avoided or mitigated.	General	<u>Heritage Interpretation;</u> well-conveyed building-specific interpretation provides opportunities to deepen the public’s appreciation for architectural, engineering and construction related technologies and styles.

Table 6.7 Assessment of heritage impact on Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster based on conceptual plan (continued on following pages).

Heritage Impact Assessment | Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster



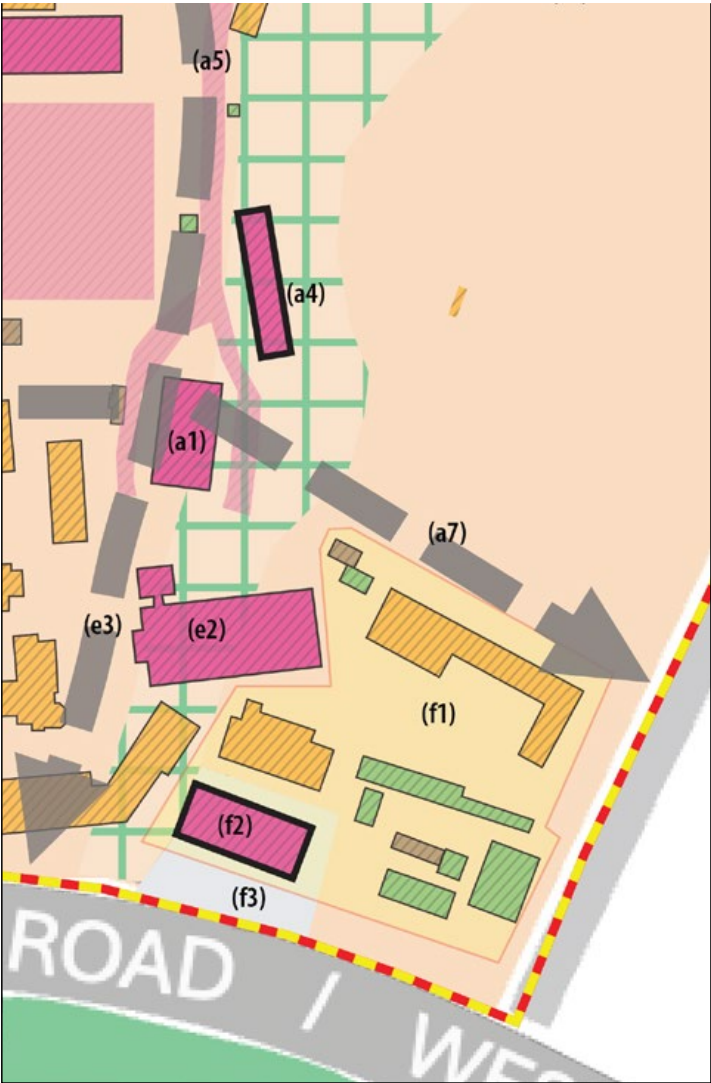
Legend for Conceptual Plan

 Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)	 Cluster boundary
 Park	 Study Area
 Utility	 Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area
 Waterbody	 Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies
 Existing Road	
 Proposed Roads	
 Proposed Pedestrianised Route	
 Proposed Green Corridor/ Park	

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

 Exceptional Significance	 (Non-building)
 High Significance	
 Moderate Significance	
 Low Significance	
 Neutral/ Intrusive	

(f) Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
II. Functions Benchmarked against historical use	Low to Moderate tolerance: - Some of the existing structures have highly specialized forms – such as the 66kV substation and pumping station. These have limited tolerance for change in function without major alterations to the building fabric - Other structures in this cluster have more adaptable layouts and forms such as the former PUB Telok Blangah Complex at the upper part of this cluster.	Intensification and upgrading capacity for use as public infrastructure; (see (f2) on map) Low impact on Functions. While the structures of low to moderate heritage significance are proposed for demolition, the 66kV substation, if retained, can continue to house electrical equipment and serve the surrounding areas. Should upgrading works be required to expand the capacity of the electrical substation, there may be a need for structural strengthening or extension of existing floor plates. <u>Increased loading requirements based on new use;</u> (see (f2) on map) Buildings may need to undergo structural strengthening to meet updated live, dead, and wind load requirements. The extent of additional strengthening can only be determined later with a developed proposal for new uses. <u>Introduction of new uses and user base in future development;</u> (see (f1) on map) New development zones within and adjacent to the Telok Blangah Public Utilities cluster are for residential use. Such development will bring in a new swathe of users and amenities to the site with their set of stakeholder interests and considerations.	General WRT (f2) if applicable General	<u>New designated uses and programmes should remain cohesive with the spirit and character of the broader Gillman Barracks area;</u> new programming should be planned along the intersection of heritage and nature/ recreation to enliven future residential communities and make best use of the place identity of Gillman Barracks. <u>For retained structures, new functions should remain compatible with existing architecture and spatial character</u> of the buildings with minimal and strategic approaches to strengthening of existing structures where necessary for upgrading and adaptive reuse. <u>Through continuity of programmes or through heritage interpretation,</u> steps can be taken to <u>acknowledge and celebrate the cluster's former uses and communities;</u> Opportunities to adopt the same of similar programmatic uses can be employed to create resonance between the old and new to a unique charm and quality into the future estate.
III. Access	High tolerance: - Previously used to house key public infrastructure, the cluster had limited accessibility to the general public. - Roads or points of ingress within this cluster are not of any particular significance	<u>Addition of new roads joining towards Telok Blangah Street 31 and Telok Blangah Road;</u> (see (e3) on map) High impact to Access. New access points can be quite freely explored, and the new road proposed may provide more direct vehicular access with the rest of the Gillman Barracks site. <u>Public infrastructure and utilities zone will remain out of bounds to general public;</u> (see (f3) on map) Low impact to access in this area as there would be no substantial change in degree of accessibility.	WRT (a7), (f1) General	<u>New circulation routes and roadways should be sensitively designed so as not to truncate and further fragment the site</u> which would cause further loss of legibility. Carefully considered road alignment and grade line controls can enable sensitive addition of new roads to suit the cluster's spatial definitions and reduce obstructions at key view corridors. <u>Interconnectivity within the site;</u> Varied modes of access should be planned for including walking, cycling and bus priority lanes to reduce dependence on private vehicles and resultant need for wider roads that could fragment the site.



Legend for Conceptual Plan

- Residential (Subject to Detailed Planning)

Park

Utility

Waterbody

Existing Road

Proposed Roads

Proposed Pedestrianised Route

Proposed Green Corridor/ Park
- Cluster boundary

Study Area

Indicative Boundary of Future Development Area

Structures Studied for Retention by Agencies

Legend for Heritage Significance Banding

- Exceptional Significance

High Significance

Moderate Significance

Low Significance

Neutral/ Intrusive
- (Non-building)

(f) Telok Blangah Public Utilities Cluster				
Planning Theme	Tolerance for Change	Potential Heritage Impact	Ref	Opportunities, Recommendations, and Mitigation Strategies
IV. Context	Moderate tolerance: - The context of this cluster is its functional relation to the Telok Blangah estate, houses, offices, and public amenities, as opposed to context specific to the topography of the site or combined landscape. - The cluster is mostly situated on flat ground.	<u>For structures with some heritage significance that are to be demolished; (see (f1) on map)</u> High impact on Context. Many of the Telok Blangah Complex structures are proposed to be removed to make way for future housing estates. This will cause irreversible loss to historic built landscape and affect the legibility of the cluster which will be reduced in extent.	WRT (f1), General	<u>Planning controls and setting appropriate plot ratio and building setback;</u> plot ratio and building setback can be used to preserve view axes and the clusters' spatial relation and connectivity to Telok Blangah Road.
		<u>Retention of 66kV Substation; (see (f2) on map)</u> Low impact on Context. If retained, the 66kV substation will remain as the last physical representation of this cluster and phase of development. Furthermore, if feasible for continued use as a substation or other public infrastructure, it retains the functional relevance and relation to the wider Telok Blangah estate and underground utilities network.	General	<u>Heritage Interpretation;</u> This is important to convey site and cluster relationships between structures and landscapes and can enhance the resident/ visitor appreciation of the cumulative significance of the site in totality. A cohesive, site-wide approach to heritage interpretation should be introduced at strategic locations such as key view corridors within historic clusters as well as new development to better integrate the old and new spaces of Gillman Barracks. There is also opportunity to employ Heritage Interpretation to recall the former Kampong Heap Guan San sited in this area before urban renewal.
		<u>Introduction of new structures in future development; (see (f1) on map)</u> Moderate to High impact on Context. New residential zones within this cluster will result in the introduction of new high-rise, high-density housing estates and presents the most probable impact to the site context and the heritage legibility of this cluster.	General	<u>Landscape design;</u> elements of landscape design, soft and hardscaping and wayfinding can be utilized to create a coherent and unifying visual language to define and communicate Gillman Barracks' heritage landscape- its spatial, historical, topological and ecological values.

7. Heritage Interpretation Plan

Overview

Heritage interpretation is an important component of the overall Heritage Impact Assessment. The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) provides the bridge between the historical research, site analysis and heritage significance established in the preceding chapters, and the ways in which these values may be meaningfully communicated to future audiences. While the earlier chapters set out the site's historical development, social history, built fabric, landscape context and heritage values, the HIP considers how these findings may be translated into accessible, engaging and site-responsive forms of storytelling.

ICOMOS defines heritage interpretation as the full range of activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage sites. These may include printed and digital media, lectures, installations, educational programmes, community activities, guided walks and other interpretive tools. In this sense, interpretation is not limited to the presentation of factual information. Rather, it is concerned with how information is selected, structured, communicated and experienced by different audiences.

This approach is also informed by the early principles of interpretation set out by Freeman Tilden in *Interpreting Our Heritage* (1957), written in the context of the United States National Park Service. Tilden emphasised that effective interpretation should relate what is being presented to the personal experience of the visitor; that interpretation is not merely information, but revelation based upon information; and that its chief aim is not instruction, but provocation. He further argued that interpretation should present a “whole” rather than a collection of discrete facts, so that visitors leave with a clear impression of the essence and significance of a place, rather than a fragmented body of information.

This is particularly relevant to the present site, where the interpretive potential lies not only in individual historical facts, architectural features or events, but in the wider relationships between them. The HIP therefore considers the site in relation to its broader social, cultural, historical, spatial and environmental contexts. This includes its different phases of development, the communities and individuals associated with the place, its physical surroundings, intangible associations, and wider cross-cultural or thematic significances. In doing so, the HIP seeks to identify interpretive themes that can connect the site's heritage values to contemporary audiences in a clear and meaningful way.

The approach adopted in this chapter is therefore to first review the site's physical and heritage features, including the existing building stock, spatial character and contextual opportunities for interpretation. The history and social history presented in the preceding chapters are then considered in totality to identify potential interpretive themes. These themes reframe the site's historical narratives into clearer and more accessible storylines, whether by connecting past events to present-day concerns, highlighting human experiences, or drawing out wider ideas embedded within the site's development.

From these themes, suitable interpretive strategies and toolkits may then be considered. These may range from more conventional forms of interpretation, such as panels, publications and guided walks, to more active or participatory formats, such as educational workshops, public programmes, community engagement activities, digital media, exhibitions or site-based installations. The intention is not to prescribe a fixed interpretive scheme at this stage, but to provide a framework through which future interpretation can be planned in a coherent and meaningful way.

The recommendations and suggestions set out in this HIP should therefore not be read as a comprehensive or mandatory set of actions. Rather, they are intended as a set of possibilities for agencies and stakeholders to consider alongside future plans for the site. These recommendations may evolve over time in response to changing needs, available technologies, stakeholder priorities, and the physical, operational and technical constraints of the site.

Response to Context | Access and connectivity

Potential connection to Parks and Existing Green Corridor

The Gillman Barracks site is strategically located between the Southern Ridges Park Network to the north and Labrador Nature Reserve to the south. This positioning allows heritage interpretation access points to align naturally with existing park access points and broader landscape narratives. Interpretation nodes can be clustered along key park connections and thoroughfares to leverage existing and future pedestrian footfall.

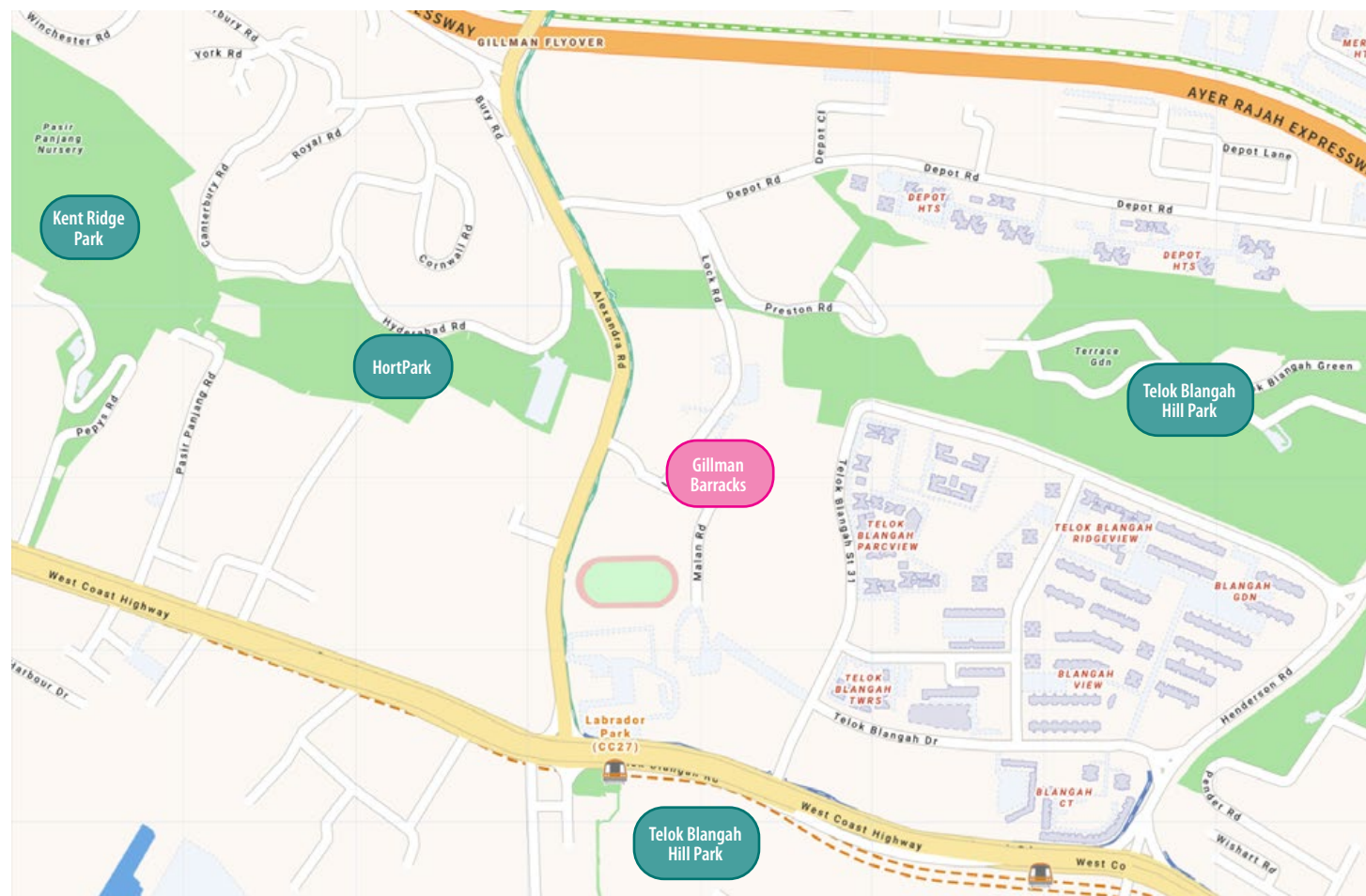


Fig. 7.1 Location of Gillman Barracks in relation to the surrounding Southern Ridges Park Network and Labrador Nature Reserve. Base Map Source: SLA

Views and Vantage points

The site includes several elevated points, particularly along the Southern Ridges ridgeline to the north (near Telok Blangah Hill Park) and along the forested eastern areas where former barracks and the parade square once stood. These locations can serve as landscape-level orientation points for understanding the wider site introducing broader historical and contemporary landscape narratives, including the recall of changed or lost landscapes. Panoramic viewpoints, rest stops, and interpretation elements can be developed in response to these views.

Key axial and visual relationships between remaining heritage clusters should be maintained through selective vegetation clearance - while safeguarding conserved trees - to reinstate historic sightlines. These connections can be reinforced through wayfinding, landscape treatment, and visual cues. Some historic material, including military insignia and archaeological remains, remains within forested zones. These areas may likewise be selectively and carefully cleared to improve access, visibility, and interpretive potential.



Fig. 7.2 Interpretation panels can be placed facing key views. Case study: Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park, California. Source: The National Parks Service



Fig 7.3 Interpretation panels can be placed facing key views with rest points at Kinross Heritage Trail. Source: David F Wilson

Response to Context | Wayfinding

Decision-Making Points and Wayfinding Network

Given the scale of the site, a clear wayfinding network should be established and anchored to key historic buildings and interpretation nodes.

Wayfinding strategies may include free-standing or landscape-integrated maps that reference former landscapes and historic spatial relationships. Signage and paths can incorporate historic place names and references to former uses, functioning both as interpretive devices and navigational tools. All wayfinding elements should integrate seamlessly with existing park trails, including the Southern Ridges Trail.



Fig 7.5 Wayfinding markers should recall historic names and stand out against the larger landscape. Case Study: Park Linzeegen. Source: Isslw, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Fig. 7.4 Wayfinding sign for a trail at Vale dos Cristais, similar maps should be introduced and standardised across the site to orientate visitors. Source: Márcia Larica, photo by Jomar Braganca



Fig. 7.7 Wayfinding paths can creatively incorporate historic photographs and other basic information of the site. Case study: "Time River" water feature, which is part of the urban micro-renewal project for University Road in Chengdu, China. The project was designed by the landscape architecture firm Lab D+H. Source: Lu Bing, Liang Xiang Design, Vanke



Fig. 7.6 Interpretation at the landscape level can incorporate mappings and markings on flooring with subtle demarcations using material differences to indicate proposed heritage trail. Case study: Chesapeake Bay Watershed interpretation, Town of Port Hedland. Source: Matt Brown, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Fig. 7.8 Interpretive maps can creatively incorporate relief to recall the lay of the land. Case Study: Bedfordshire interpretation map. Source: BPeter Phillipson, TellTale, Buxton, Derbyshire, England

Theme 1 | Terrain and Strategy

Spurred by the rapidly developing news of an incoming war and the fog of uncertainty, **Gillman Barracks** became part of the larger movement under the **Singapore Strategy**. Reports of potential Japanese attacks meant that materials and resources were quickly deployed to strengthen defences. While the Strategy's main focus was the construction of the naval base and naval forces, it also meant that the **plans for building a series of land barracks and armaments in very short succession became more urgent**. There was thus a pressing need for efficiency.

The **1930s barrack typology**, typified in Gillman Barracks, mirrored this utilitarianism, urgency, and efficiency. Buildings were standardised with **chamfered beams, precast concrete, and long narrow blocks aligned to contour** reflecting both cost and material efficiency and climatic logic.

Media/sub-themes to be developed:

• Defence Structures of the Southern Seas

Show how Gillman Barracks fit within the larger defensive landscape of the southern coast, the ridges, gun batteries, and naval installations guarding Keppel Harbour. These could be illustrated with large-scale military maps and topographic overlays.

• The Mutiny and Military Planning

Explore the 1915 Sepoy Mutiny and how it reshaped British military planning - leading to the creation of self-contained garrisons like Gillman. These could be illustrated with maps, photos, and recollections of where the mutiny broke out.

• Engineering the Barracks

Focus on the making of the 1930s barracks - their precast construction, adaptation to hill terrain, and efficiency of assembly. These could be illustrated with building plans, structural diagrams, and a short axonometric animation showing assembly on the slopes.

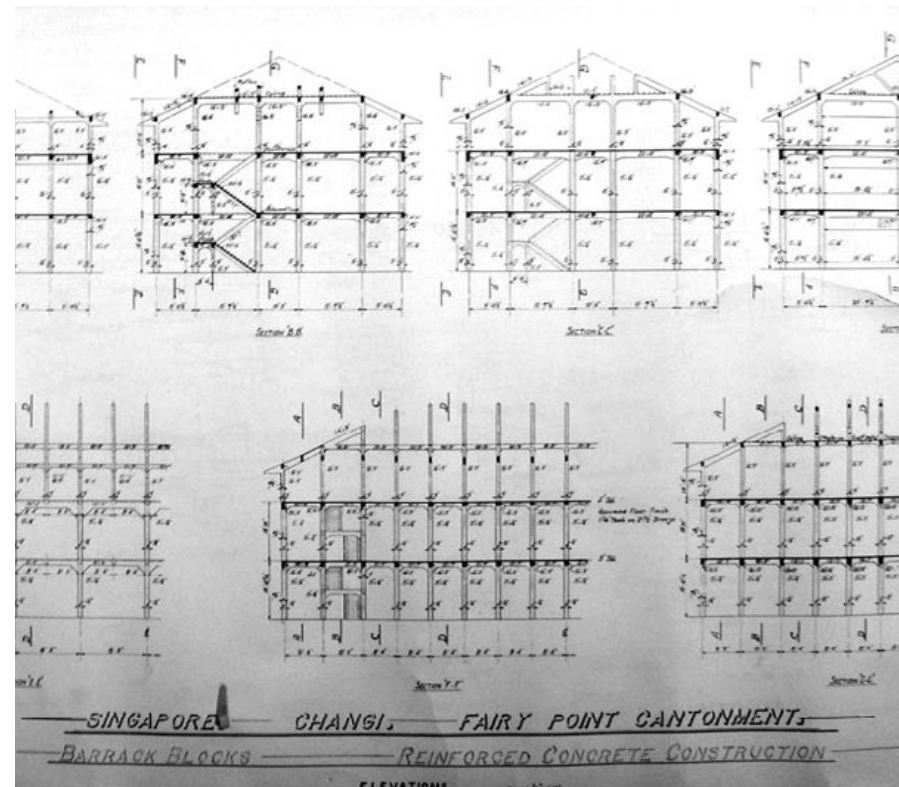


Fig. 7.10 Section of the barrack at Fairy Point, c. 1927. The barracks are constructed with a RC frame structure and adopts haunched beam profiles in its construction. Source: The National Archives UK; Reproduced in "A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience" by Chang Jiat-Hwee

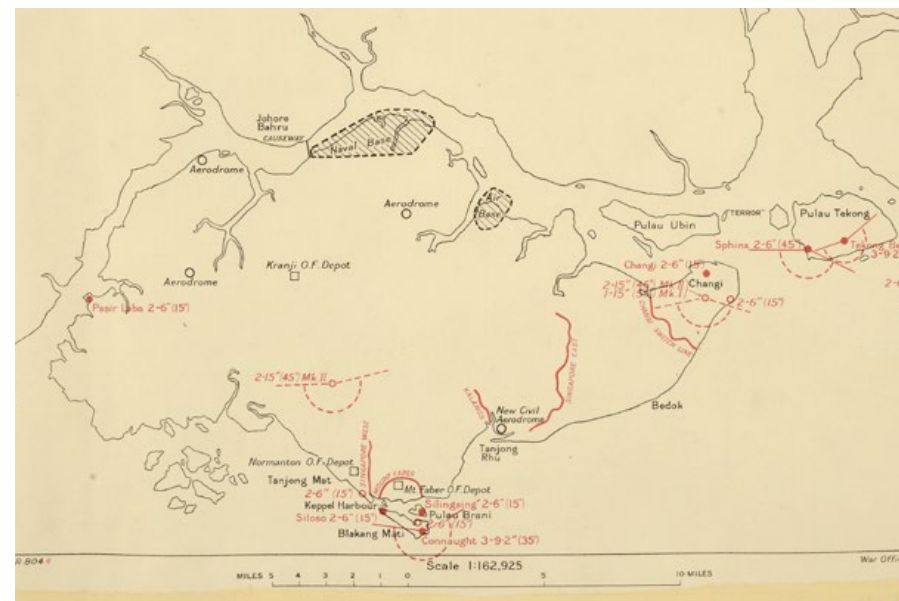


Fig. 7.11 Map indicating the location of defensive positions and armaments installations in Singapore, 1937. The location of such positions and installations populate the south and the east of the island illustrate the anxieties of the colonial government in keeping the Singapore Straits accessible between the Indian Ocean and South China Sea by deterring the anticipated Japanese threat from the east. Source: The National Archives (TNA) courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Roberts Barracks, 1945
(Source: John Rosson via Australian War Memorial)



Selarang Barracks, 1950
(Source: National Archives of Singapore)



Gillman Barracks, 1960
(Source: Gordon Thompson)

Fig. 7.12 Series of Photos showcasing the various Barracks built across in Singapore around the 1930s, their design feature similarities.

Theme 1 | Terrain and Strategy

Terrain and Technology

When the **Royal Engineers (the “Sappers”)** were stationed here after WWI, their work depended on the same terrain logic. Although few records survive of their exact activities at Gillman, their wider responsibilities building bridges, operating railways, managing water supply, communications, and demolitions required diverse and uneven ground. The choice of site was no accident: the **ravines, slopes, and forested edges** of Gillman provided an ideal natural laboratory for technical training.

After independence, this logic continued under the **SAF**. The Combat Engineers Division inherited not only infrastructure but an understanding that topography itself could teach. The SAF used the area for bridging and engineering drills, transforming the colonial site into a national training ground. In both eras, the land acted as an instrument of pedagogy a place where soldiers learned by contending with the terrain.

The terrain enabled exercises such as:

- **Bridging practice** across gullies and depressions;
- **Camouflage training** within forest cover;
- **Demolition or fortification simulations** on lower, less visible slopes.

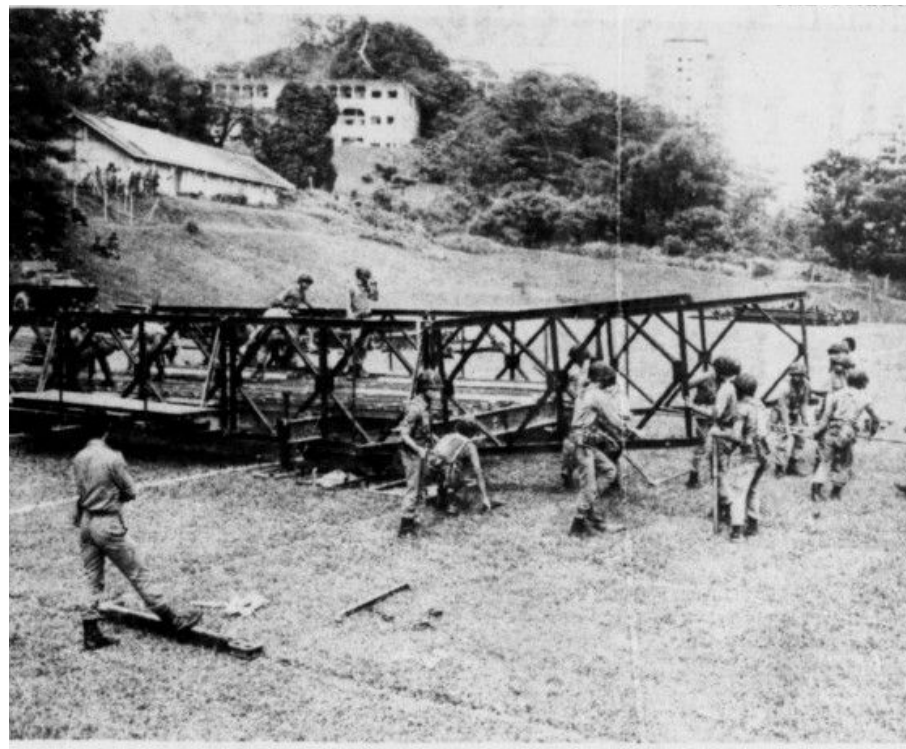


Fig. 7.13 1978, SAF Combat Engineers building the Bailey bridge likely as part of their training at the Gap.
Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.

Demilitarisation and Contemporary Terrain

By the 1990s, as the military withdrew, the landscape began to reclaim its autonomy. Parade grounds softened, slopes reforested, and the strict geometry of discipline gave way to organic regrowth. The area's conversion into an **arts and cultural precinct** marked a symbolic inversion: what was once regimented became a site of experiment and expression. Artists drew inspiration from its layered terrain.

Subsequently, the incorporation of **Gillman Barracks** into the **Southern Ridges Park Network** deepened this transformation. **NParks** recognised the site's potential as a gateway between urban fabric and forest corridor, turning a former garrison into part of Singapore's ecological spine.

Today, the same terrain that once signified control has become a **landscape of return** to nature and collective use. Forests once cleared for visibility now obscure the past's boundaries; the ground that trained soldiers now welcomes hikers, families, and artists. Yet, as parts of the forest make way for new development, the question remains: **what will become of this terrain, and how much of its form and memory will endure?**



Fig. 7.14 Contemporary image of the Canopy walk across the Pasir Panjang Range and nature trail
Source: Aldwinteo at en.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Fig. 7.15 1930s Aerial photograph of Gillman Barracks (demolished section).
Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board



Fig. 7.16 1958, Aerial photograph of Gillman Barracks showing the Schools at Preston Road (left), the Lock Rd cluster (right) and the ridge in the background. Source: Aerial photographs by the British Royal Air Force between 1940 to 1970s, from a collection held by the National Archives of Singapore. Crown copyright.

Theme 2 | Welfare and Wellbeing

Thematic Focus

This theme looks at how the design and daily operation of Gillman Barracks were guided by ideas of **health, welfare, and community** how architecture served both physical and moral wellbeing, and how the **rhythms of barrack life** connected to broader social policies of the time. It also asks what these historic ideas of care and everyday life might mean for us now: how do we plan for wellbeing today? Can the site's heritage of welfare be extended into future mixed-use or residential developments in the ethos of neighbourhood planning?

Welfare and Wellbeing in Design

The concern for health and welfare lay at the very foundation of Gillman Barracks' planning. The **1863 Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army** had exposed the high mortality rates among British soldiers in tropical colonies, attributing them to intemperance, poor hygiene, and bad ventilation. This prompted a shift in design philosophy: barracks were to promote **health through architecture**.

At Gillman, that translated into **drainage and anti-malaria measures**, buildings raised for air circulation, and interiors designed with **high ceilings, generous verandas and cross-ventilation**. The architecture of the tropics became a tool that sought to keep the soldier healthy and in order.

Yet "welfare" also meant **mental and moral wellbeing**. Barracks were intentionally self-contained worlds, an idea rooted both in health reform and in the lessons of the 1915 Mutiny. Because military compounds had to be isolated from the colonial town, they also had to be self-sufficient, providing controlled environments where recreation replaced vice and daily routines structured behaviour. The design of Gillman thus embodied the Victorian faith in architecture as **moral technology, as an instrument to improve body and mind alike**.

Within this world, **recreation structured the rhythms of daily life**. Oral histories recall **football matches, annual athletic championships, swimming at the pool during off-duty hours, and film screenings at the barracks cinema** run by the Army Kinema Corporation. The mess was central to daily life where daily meals and many parties were held. These traditions persisted under the SAF, where the mess continued to host **film nights, parties, and even weddings**, carrying forward the social heartbeat of the site.

Welfare also extended to **education and family**. From the 1930s, the War Office promoted Singapore as a "family station" so that servicemen could be accompanied by their families. Schools were planned within garrisons: **Alexandra School**, built on the hill, being a key example. This approach reflected the desire for stability and continuity within transient military service. The site layout still hints at this logic: family quarters on higher, cooler slopes, single men's barracks below, and schools mediating between the two.

Behind these ordered lives worked the **local civilian staff** the ahmas, sew-sews, and batmen whose domestic labour sustained everyday comfort and hygiene. Their routines, often invisible in official records, were part of the social ecosystem of the barracks and linked the military world to the local one.

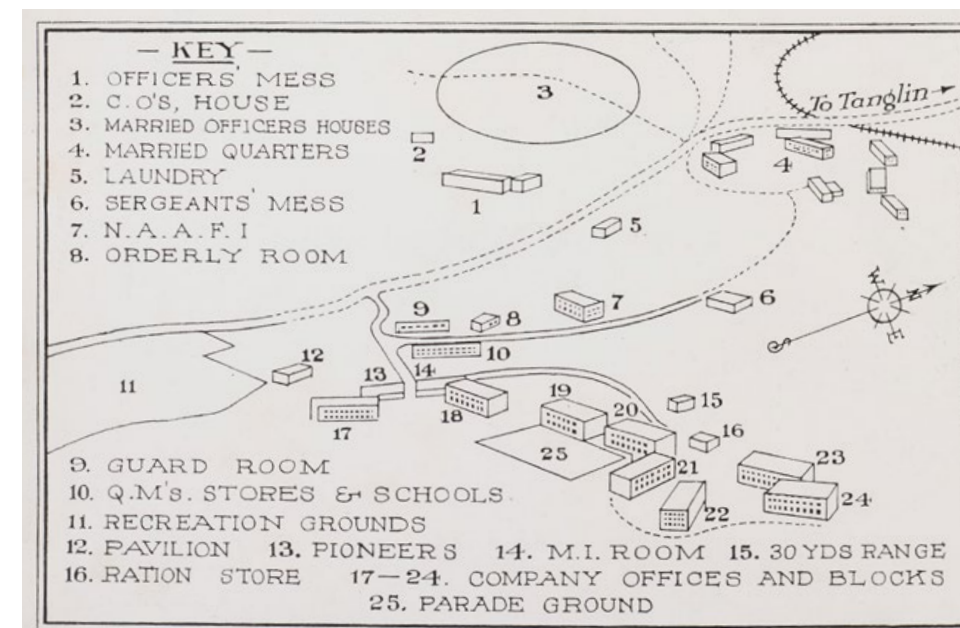


Fig. 7.17 1936, Postcard of the sites and building uses at Gillman Barracks. Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board



Fig. 7.18 1960, Cover page for An Introduction to Singapore for Service Families Guide. Source :Singapore Graphic Archives, Courtesy of Bill and Bobby Roberts



Fig. 7.19 Regal cinema by the Army Kinema Corporation (AKC) along Lock Road
Source: Philip Song; Permission provided on behalf by Tom O'Brien, Coordinator of Memories of Singapore website

Theme 2 | Welfare and Wellbeing

Media/sub-themes to be developed:

• Designing for Health and Wellbeing

Trace the genealogy of **tropical architecture** as it shaped the design logic of the barracks

(Illustrate with building plans, comparative photographs of barracks in other colonies and in Singapore, and annotated diagrams explaining key design decisions.)

• Life in the Barracks

This sub-chapter focuses on the individual stories of the people who lived and worked in the Barracks. Different battalions rotated through Gillman during the British period before the SAF took over, bringing a mixture of officers, engineers, and trainees whose stories illuminate both continuity and change in the culture of the camp.

Oral and personal histories include:

- **Lt Robin Eccles** – excitement about posting to Singapore; daily life in the officers' mess; work in the military offices; leisure at the beaches; friendship and camaraderie.
- **Lt England** – the “work-hard, play-hard” rhythm of logistics duty at the docks; evenings of rest and laughter in the barracks.
- **Albel Singh (SAF era)** – training at the bridge, jogging around the camp, his wedding at the mess, and the solemnity of passing-out ceremonies.
- **Winston Wong (SAF era)** – recollections of parties, gatherings, and enduring friendships forged at the mess.

Exhibits: Military badges, military paraphernalia through collection drives (SAF)

Evolving Communities and Ideas of Welfare

Who is the site hosting today? The planned integration of **Gillman Barracks** into new **residential developments** is not a radical departure from its past, but rather a continuation of its long history as both accommodation and recreation as “a city by itself, with all its amenities.” The site has always been a place where people lived, worked, and played within a contained landscape.

Today, as planning shifts toward **mixed-use and residential reintegration**, there is an opportunity to reinterpret what **welfare and wellbeing** mean in contemporary terms. New HDB design philosophies emphasise **wellness through sports, recreation, and access to nature**, principles that resonate deeply with the site's

historic logic. The challenge, and the promise, lies in finding ways to **bring these themes back**: creating spaces for activity and rest, social connection and solitude, all within the same terrain that once balanced duty and daily life.

This narrative of evolving welfare can also extend into **community-based interpretation**. A **live mapping of how contemporary users enjoy and move through the site** could be developed alongside a reconstruction of **daily life at the historic barracks**, combining photographs, oral histories, and interactive digital content. Such a project could actively involve **SAF alumni, former school alumni**, and their families alongside new residents, artists, and park users to create a living **dialogue between past and present communities**.



Fig. 7.22 A sew-sew tailor who helped with clothes alterations. Source: Howard Tomlinson



Fig. 7.20 Royal Engineers relaxing on the flat roof of the barrack blocks. Source: Brown via Military Survey Historic Archive



Fig. 7.23 1964, Relaxing at the Sergeants' Mess. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London



Fig. 7.21 Corridors of Gillman Barracks. Source: William Wee Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 7.24 1930s, Games at the Recreation Grounds. Source: Courtesy of National Army Museum, London

Thematic Focus

This theme examines the long arc of **education and learning** across the Gillman Barracks area. From the early garrison schools for military families to post-war vocational institutes and the junior-college system of independent Singapore. Education here reflected broader social, political, and economic transitions: from empire to nation-building, from moral discipline to technical skill, from enclosed compounds to open campuses. It also looks forward: **how might this terrain once again become a place of learning and play for new generations?**

Provisions for the Garrison Children

Education in the Gillman precinct began with the **Alexandra School**, later **Alexandra Modern School**, and over time extended to **St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC)** and the **Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (PPVI)**. These institutions form a lineage linking the site's earliest concern for the welfare of soldiers' families to Singapore's larger educational development.

In the early twentieth century, most schools in Singapore served the town's colonial and mercantile population. The establishment of schools within garrisons stemmed from the **War Office's encouragement for Singapore to become a "family station"** in the East. Every major barracks compound was expected to house or adjoin a school so that the children of British servicemen could be educated close to home. This domestic layer softened the military landscape: playgrounds and parade squares overlapped, and lessons unfolded within earshot of bugle calls.

British pedagogy of the time followed reforms proposed by the **Hadow Committee** in Britain, which stratified education into infant, junior, grammar, modern, and technical levels each with specialised curricula suited to the developing child. Architectural design mirrored these ideas. Influenced by nineteenth-century **sanatoria principles** and public-health movements, classrooms were large, bright, and well-ventilated, with good orientation, shaded verandahs, and sometimes provision for meals. Alexandra School's plans showed dedicated **geography rooms, language and art studios, music rooms, and science laboratories** - a diversity that reflected a holistic educational ethos.

The setting itself supported this openness. Children used the **military Recreation Grounds** for sports days, swam in the

barracks pool, and moved freely between the school and the wider compound. Learning extended beyond the classroom into a kind of informal pedagogy of space: teamwork, discipline, and physical health as extensions of moral education.



Fig. 7.25 Bourne School students gathered for an assembly in the quadrangle of the Gillman Section. Source: Maurice Hann

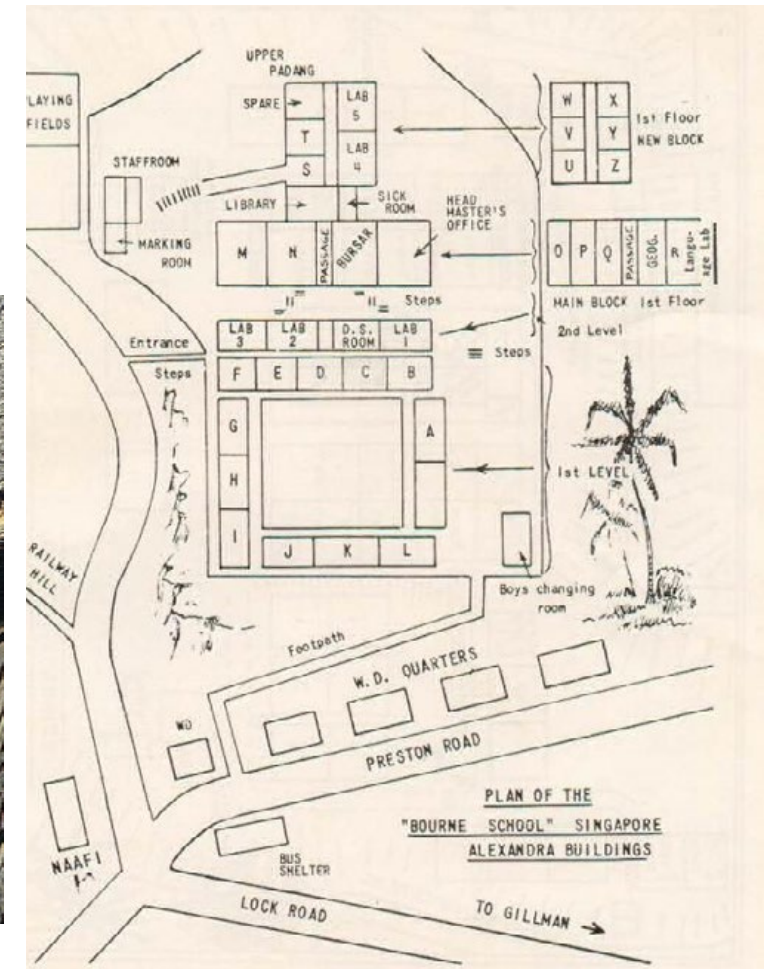


Fig. 7.26 1967, Plan of Bourne School. Source: Peter Garvey



Fig. 7.27 1950s Laboratory at Alexandra Grammar School. Source: Memories of Singapore



Fig. 7.28 1964, School children at the Gillman pool. Source: John Yates



Fig. 7.29 1967, Sports meet at the Recreation Ground. Source: D. Newell

Theme 3 | Evolving Curricula

Transfer of Education

The building of the **Gillman branch of Alexandra School** marked the expansion of intake and inclusion. Notably, the establishment of a **Gurkha branch** demonstrated the effort to provide for all garrison communities, including those less visible within the British hierarchy.

From 1951, parts of the barracks were adapted for the **70 Army Education Centre**, which ran courses for servicemen themselves. By the post-war years, education was no longer only for children: it became essential for reintegration. Across the British Empire, demobilised servicemen were being retrained through **vocational and professional courses** in engineering, medicine, law, accountancy, and surveying to help them return to civilian life. The Army Education Centre at Gillman formed part of this global movement, linking military service to lifelong learning.

When the British withdrew, this framework of technical education evolved into a local structure. Programmes under the **Bases Economic Conversion Department (BECD)**, led by **Hon Sui Sen** in 1968, trained Singaporean workers for new industries and coordinated the handover of skills from the **Royal Engineers Department** to the **Singapore Engineer Department (1956–1971)**. Knowledge and technology transfer during this period bridged colonial and national engineering traditions and seeded Singapore's early technical workforce.

Post-War Educational Needs

Between 1959 and 1968, Singapore's shift from colony to self-governing state, and then to independence, created a new urgency for education. Economic survival demanded a workforce skilled in **science, engineering, and technology**. Schools and institutes became engines of industrialisation.

The **Pasir Panjang Vocational Institute (PPVI)**, built by the **Adult Education Board (AEB)** in the 1970s, epitomised this transformation. It offered technical training aligned with the expanding port and maritime industries nearby. Its focus on **metal trades and welding** was directly tied to shipbuilding and port construction especially with the setting up of nearby Jurong port. The institute's facilities were utilitarian many adapted from existing military structures reflecting the speed and economy of a nation racing to educate its industrial workforce.



Fig. 7.30 1960s, The Gurkha children Source: Maurice Hann



Fig. 7.31 Army Education Centre at Gillman Barracks for Soldiers. Source: AGC Museum

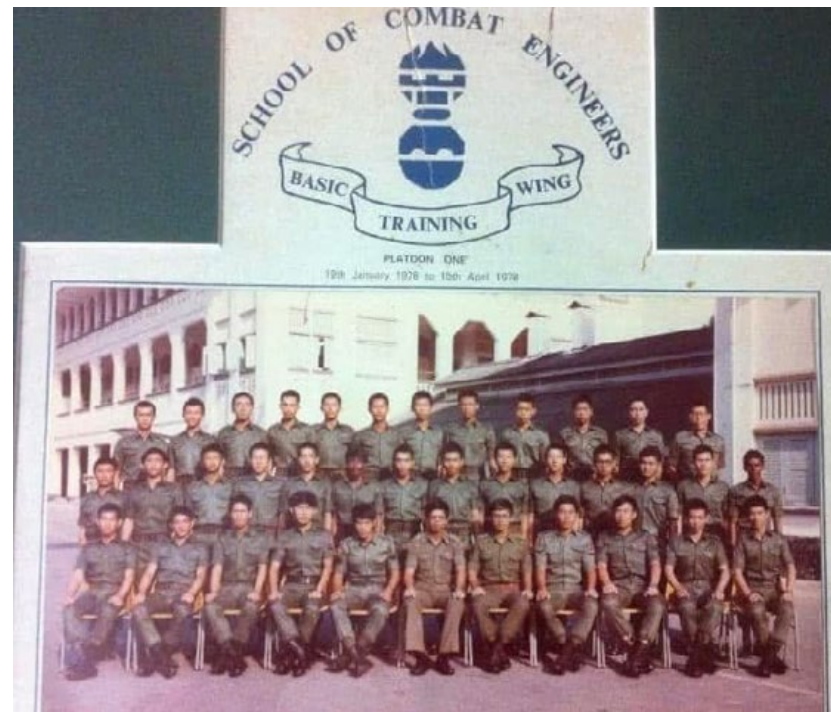


Fig. 7.32 1978, Basic Military Training at School for Combat Engineers, Gillman Barracks. Source: Jeremiah Seah



Fig. 7.33 1976, A Lesson at the PPVI. Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Tertiary Education and the Junior Colleges

The rise of **junior colleges** in the 1960s further transformed this educational landscape. As part of Singapore's survival strategy, the government sought to build a sustainable base of scientists, engineers, and professionals. Minister Ong Pang Boon's 1965 blueprint centralised pre-university education into new JCs to optimise teachers and laboratory resources. **National Junior College** opened in 1970, followed by **St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC)** in 1976.

The SAJC campus at Gillman was designed by **DP Architects**, its planning sensitive to the rolling terrain. The open, informal layout: large halls, sports facilities, auditoria, and specialised rooms for art, music, and geography reflected the diversity of modern curricula and encouraged interaction. Alumni also fondly recall after school activities and the primary social space - a sunken courtyard recalled school as the "haven," a place that fostered identity and community.

Continuing the Narrative of Learning

Education has remained a defining presence on this site. The northern end continues to host an **international school**, while the former SAJC campus now houses the **Academy of Singapore Teachers (est. 2011)**. The Arts and Culture cluster have also commonly incorporated themes of learning and play into their exhibits and artistic outreach with temporary installations such as The Forest Institute responding to the forest overgrowth. The continuity of educational use speaks to the terrain's enduring suitability for learning: open, green, and adaptable.

Looking ahead, the site could once again embrace **innovative forms of education** for instance, Forest School Singapore or other **nature-based learning programmes** that use the landscape itself as classroom. The combination of nature, hills, and open field offers unique potential for **experiential, ecological and historical** education, linking directly to the area's history of teaching through environment.

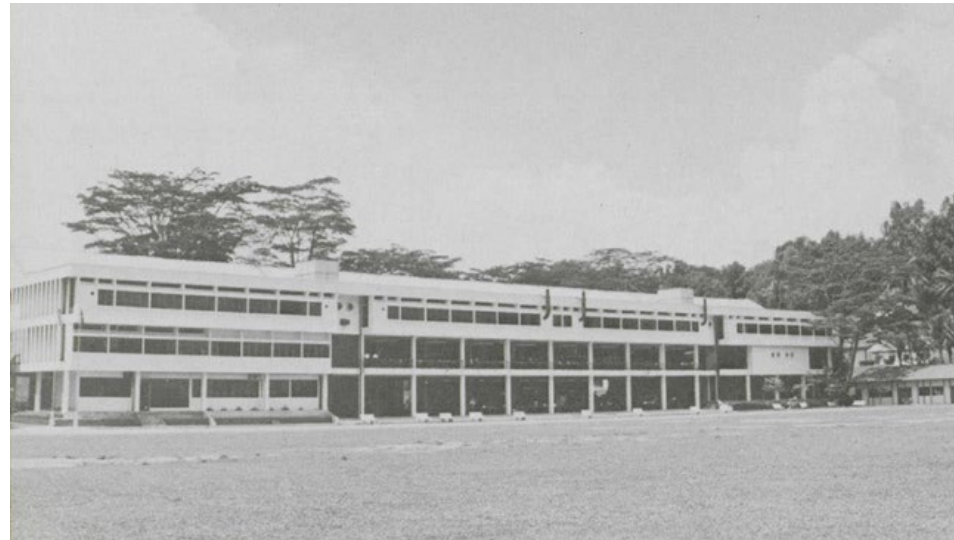


Fig. 7.34 A 1986 view of the south elevation of the main block, taken from the recreational field.
Source: St Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1986



Fig. 7.35 1979, Opening Ceremony with Main Block on the left and sports grounds and running track on the right.
Source: St. Andrew's Junior College, The SAJCian 1979



Fig 7.36 A lesson at NTUC outdoor School Singapore. Source: Outdoor School Singapore



Fig. 7.37 The Forest Institute, 2022, Gillman Barracks, Singapore. Courtesy of Robert Zhao.
Source: TRAhgnahs, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Other Themes | Sgt. Strange's Stories, a Glimpse into WWII

Though little is recorded about Gillman Barracks' direct role during the Second World War, it was part of the wider story of the **fierce fighting along Pasir Panjang and the southern ridges**. The surrounding landscape was a frontline: heavy clashes erupted to the east around **Alexandra Brickworks and Alexandra Hospital**, while Japanese forces advanced from both the **southern coast** and the **western approach**. From the high points of these hills, soldiers would have witnessed the chaos spreading across the southern corridor of Singapore.

This site became one of the **last stands** in the defence of the island, as soldiers fought not only for Empire but for their home ground. The **Sergeants' Mess** was temporarily converted into a **battle headquarters**, while the **parade square and nearby barracks** were likely used as a **makeshift medical centre**, marked with a Red Cross on the ground for incoming wounded soldiers.

Gillman's **connection to the railway** also played a crucial role. The rail line facilitated the **transport of injured soldiers to Alexandra Hospital**, and likely also brought casualties into this site when it was functioning as a temporary field hospital.

One of the few surviving records from this period are the **wartime sketches of Sergeant S. Strange of the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)**, drawn from memory while he was held as a prisoner of war. His drawings vividly capture the barracks under fire, the Sergeants' Mess as headquarters, the parade ground with the Red Cross, and the surrounding buildings adapted for emergency care.

Heritage media:

- Sketches of Sgt. S. Strange – scenes of Gillman Barracks and its surrounds during the Battle for Singapore.
- Maps of the Japanese approach and attack and the larger events

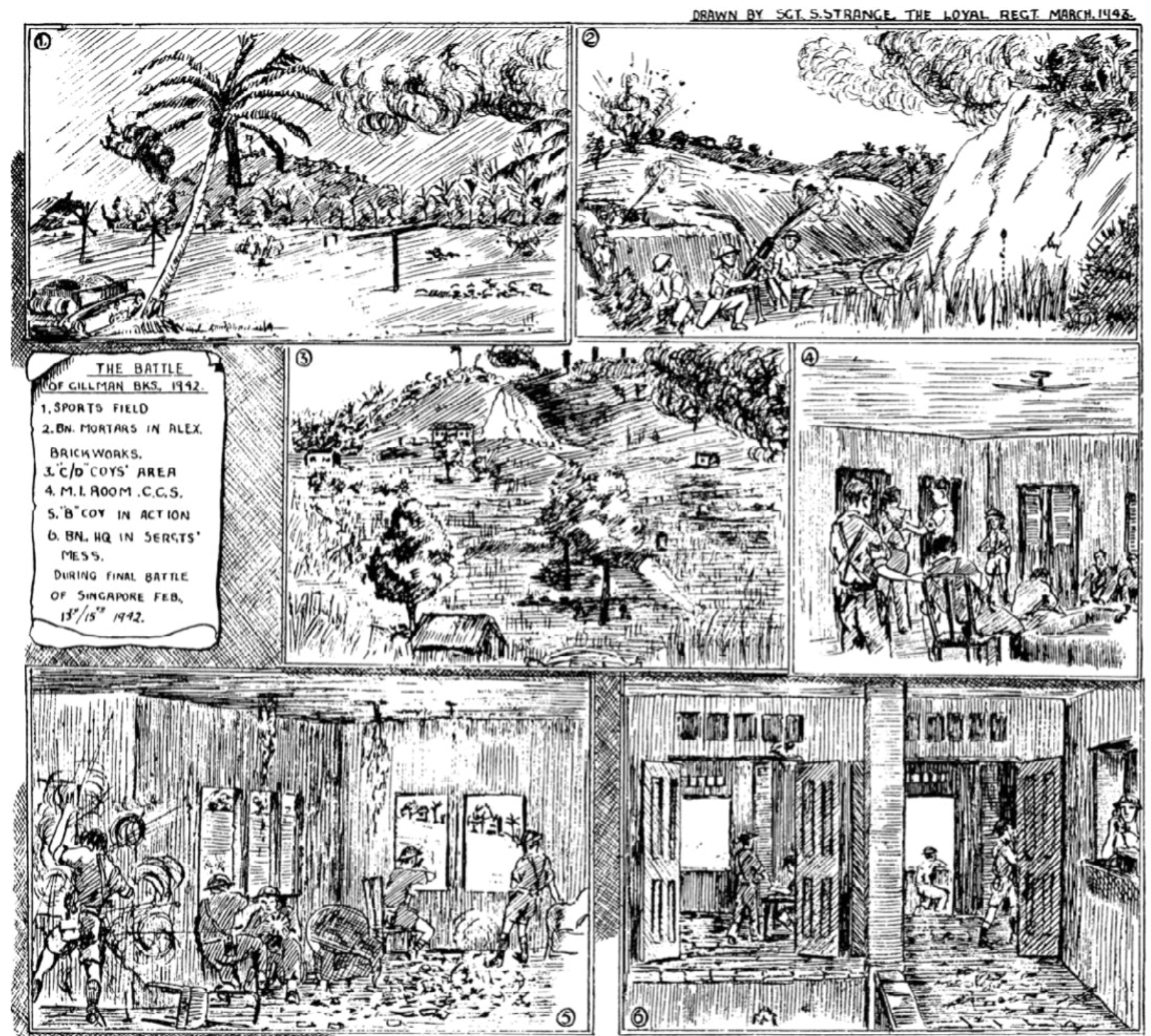


PLATE II.

Fig. 7.38 Sketches of Gillman Barracks during the final battles from 13 to 15 February 1942 made by Sgt S Strange, The Loyal Regiment, 1943.
Source: Taken from "In Defence of Singapore Scenes and Personal Sketches before and after the Fall of Singapore" by A.V. Toze & S. Strange, Preston (England)

Heritage Interpretation Strategies | Heritage Gallery

Some of the historic buildings and its grounds could function as the **interpretive hub** of the heritage experience and host a **central gallery**, giving an overview of the site's evolution, while the surrounding landscape can act as an **orientation zone introducing all themes**, connecting visitors to subsequent interpretation areas through visual cues, signage, and designed pathways.

The **central gallery** could maintain appreciation of the original architecture with **freestanding and lightweight panels** wherever possible. Exhibits can anchor around A **concise historical chronology of the site** can be placed here as an introduction to the entire interpretive trails around the site.

Theme 1 - Terrain and Strategy

Some examples of heritage interpretation installations include a **topographical relief installation** or **digital interactive map** could ground visitors in the site's setting and larger strategic context. Where possible, visual elements such as large-scale maps and aerial photos of southern Singapore's military defences and ridges can help visitors visualise the terrain logic and its relationship to wider colonial planning.

Theme 2 - Welfare and Wellbeing

A **compact interpretive gallery** with some recreated or **salvaged artefacts** like bunk beds, tables and screens evoking its former domestic function: perhaps a short oral-history or video section on Theme 2: Men of the Barracks, with recollections of daily life, rest, and camaraderie.

Photographs of the various battalions personnel, SAF personnel and Barracks themselves at a more intimate scale should be the main focus of this section of the exhibition. **Building plans and site plans** can accompany these exhibits along with **military paraphernalia such as badges or uniforms**. This can be supported by **audio or video stations** where visitors can listen to excerpts of oral history interviews of the former users of the site

Scrapbooks, personal albums and other personal paraphernalia could also form part of the exhibit to showcase daily life in peace times. A particularly exceptional exhibit is **Private Robert J Tarrant's scrapbook** currently housed at the Heritage Conservation Centre which is a collection of personal photos and paraphernalia.



Fig 7.39 Topographical installations can anchor this theme in the exhibition room. This relief model is between two information boards which describe possible construction methods of the Stone Circle and Avenue of Calanais. Source: Barbara Carr, Relief Model of Calanais



Fig. 7.40 Interactive photograph exhibits can be used to flesh out individual stories of users of the site. Source: Olybrius, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

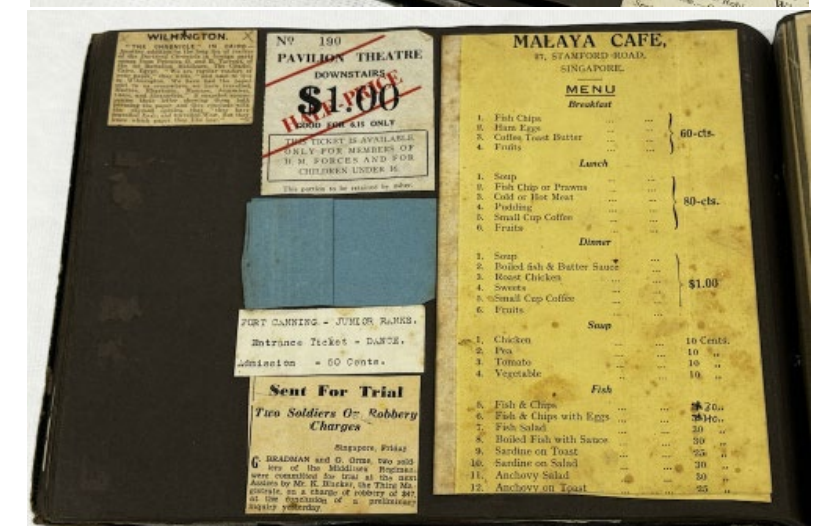


Fig. 7.41 Private Robert J Tarrant's personal Scrapbook and artefacts at his time in Gillman Barracks. Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board. Photograph courtesy of Heritage Conservation Centre.



Fig. 7.42 Part of the rooms can be curated as a heritage gallery recalling the former uses of the Barracks. Case study at the General George Patton Museum of Leadership, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Source: Jenn Dehaan, Fort Knox News

Heritage Interpretation Strategies | Heritage Gallery

Theme 3 - Evolving Curricula

This narrative can be further developed within heritage galleries through a **through line of archival and community materials**, drawing on **published curriculum books, school magazines, uniforms, badges, and private photo albums**, many of which are already available online. A **collections drive** could invite contributions of photographs, yearbooks, exercise books, and oral histories from teachers, students, and families. These materials could then be **reproduced and exhibited** as part of a **community-based gallery**, co-curated with **school alumni and educators**, to showcase classroom life, lesson materials, and the spirit of youth that shaped these institutions.



Fig. 7.43 The gallery can focus on showcasing published material by the various schools.
Source: Alexmar983, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

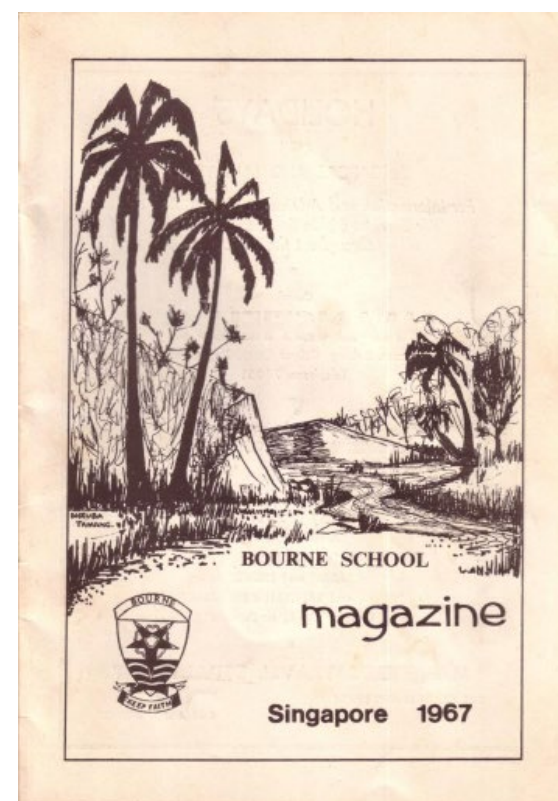


Fig. 7.44 1967 Bourne School Magazine.
Source: Mike Johns and Mal Baxter

Commercial use and concept stores

Alternatively, other buildings with prominent location and commercial potential could have interpretation that is light-touch but evocative, blending into future mixed uses such as commercial or other uses. This may evoke a sense of the former use of the site and the daily activities in a more casual setting for passing visitors. Some strategies may include:

- A **small gallery space** could sit adjacent to concept stores or F&B tenants, tying heritage interpretation into everyday public use.
- One of the buildings on site was used formerly as a N.A.A.F.I and later a Mess, its gallery component can briefly introduce **N.A.A.F.I as a historic institution**, showing **posters of typical goods and rations**, with references to its networked supply chain reaching back to the Metropole.
- Exhibits such as **photographs and reprinted ration cards**, **historic posters or store ledgers** could creatively re-imagine daily activities at the N.A.A.F.I



Fig. 7.45 WWII British military recruitment poster. Source: Imperial War Museum



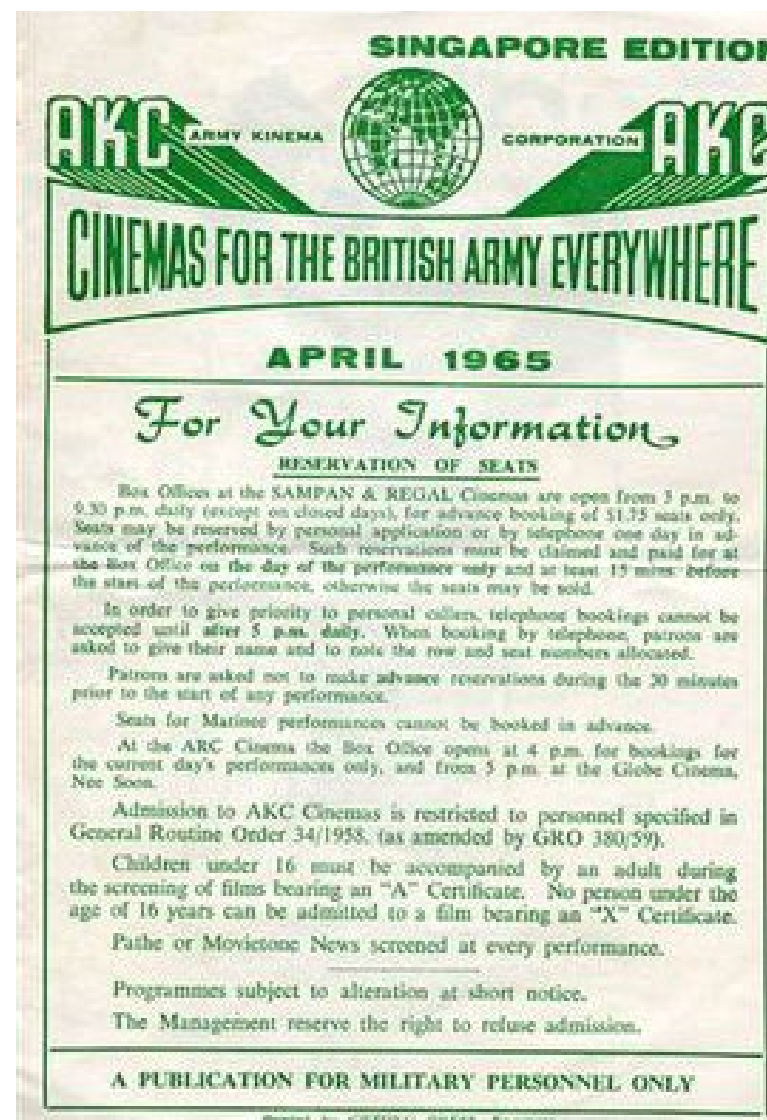
Fig. 7.46 NAAFI ration card. Source: Etan J. Tal, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Heritage Interpretation Strategies | Integrating heritage interpretation into new uses

Cinemas and screening rooms

Originally the **Regal Theatre** was historically an important part of the recreational life of the site hosting the AKC it was later converted into an auditorium during the SAF years, this building speaks to the emotional and recreational life of the barracks.

- A **small screening room or outdoor projection space** could revive its cinematic spirit potentially with popular AKC films or other contemporary films.
- Archival material from NAS: **film lists, show posters, and AKC schedules** can be reproduced along façades or interior panels.



Placemaking and Continuity

In line with the site's historic use for recreation especially at areas surrounding the former N.A.A.F.I and Regal Theatre as well as its association with recreational fields, leisure and communal activities; part of the landscape could remain a flexible communal space. Temporary events: film screenings, installations, small markets can animate the site while complementing interpretation, continuing the long tradition of the barracks as a place of gathering and recreation.

[LEFT] Fig. 7.47 AKC notice. Source: Memories of Singapore

[BELOW] Fig. 7.48 Sound Shell, Wellington Botanic Garden. Source: WCC Photographer, CC BY 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons



Heritage Elements as Anchors

There are heritage elements such as surviving battalion insignias from the site's military past, a critical physical link to Gillman's regimental heritage, which could serve as potential anchors. The area surrounding the insignias should be **selectively cleared and landscaped, creating a subtle demarcation or forecourt** that marks their significance.

Basic signage or low interpretive panels can contextualise each insignia's origin and meaning, while viewpoints can be arranged around them to create a panoramic node that integrates terrain, history, and memory.

Landscape and Topography interventions

The landscape design should echo the site's topographical qualities, subtly amplifying slope and contour to draw attention to the landform itself. Where feasible, a **layered ground treatment** such as graded steps or contour lines in planting or paving can help visitors feel the terrain's rise and fall, underscoring the theme of strategy and elevation.

Landscape design can also lightly mark the **former footprints of the barracks and parade square** using paving, contour, or vegetation shifts, keeping the outlines perceptible without reconstruction.



Fig. 7.49 National Military Museum of Soesterberg by H+N+S, inspiration can be drawn from such landscape design to both draw attention to the currently hidden Insignias and subtly recall the hilly landscape of the Barracks
Source: H+N+S



Fig. 7.50 Footprint of demolished buildings marked on the landscape park at the Berlin Wall memorial, similar treatment can be considered at Gillman barracks for the demolished Barracks and Parade Square . Case study at the Berlin Wall Memorial.
Source: Nikolai Benner

Heritage Interpretation Strategies | Landscape interventions

Recalling historical use and communities

The site of Gillman Barracks and its landscapes used to tie in closely with the daily rituals of the military personnel with areas specific to training the soldiers, the soldiers and staff would have their meals at the mess and conduct ceremonies in specific buildings and the parade square.

Interpretation should reintroduce the **human dimension of the site** - the meals, friendships, and routines that made the barracks a living community. The approach centres on **figurative and photographic imagery**, enabling visitors to encounter the people who once lived, worked, and relaxed here, and to glimpse the everyday activities that once filled these spaces.

Sculptures and installations

Freestanding glass or perforated-metal panels installed in significant open spaces or in front of important landmark buildings. These panels may overlay **archival photographs of military personnel** or families taken at or near that viewpoint, allowing direct comparison between **past and present views**. At certain angles, the visitor visually steps into the historical scene.

A specific area of the site to be recalled is the open recreation field first connected to the **military tenants and later to the various school communities** that has long served as a shared social space across generations. Interpretation should focus on its role in sport, ceremony, and communal recreation including:

- Install **freestanding glass, perforated-metal panels** showing artistic collage or rendition of archival images of sports days, parades, or field gatherings, allowing visitors to recall past use.
- Or **abstract sculptural gestures** (lines or frames marking play boundaries) can suggest activity



Fig. 7.51 Free standing glass panels with historic photos and silhouettes overlaid, similarly a few small installations in the forecourt can evoke past users and uses of the site. Cast Study: American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, Washington, D.C. Source: Aadair (Flickr), Rena Schild



Fig. 7.52 Heritage interpretation signs and sculptures at Poole Park, Bournemouth. Similarly such treatment can be done at the new open grounds to recollect the spirit of the site. Source: BCP Council, Poole Park Life Heritage Project.



Fig. 7.53 Silhouette sculptures may be an alternative and more maintainable form of free standing panels. Source: Wainuio, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Murals

Murals and photo collages on non-sensitive side walls or open interiors of accessible buildings. These should directly relate to the original use of each building for example, mess scenes on the former canteen wall, film posters or soldiers watching films on the Regal Cinema's façade. Imagery should use **archival photographs of site users** (soldiers, families, staff) or artist reinterpretations based on photographs or oral history descriptions.



Fig. 7.54 Murals on walls can draw directly from archival photos, showing a clear relationships of previous users and the site. Case Study: Berlin Wall Memorial. Source: Sherry Ott

Fig. 7.55 Mural of Bloody Sunday in the bogside. Source: Mural of Bloody Sunday in The Bogside by Marathon, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Informational signages

Small interpretive signage at the front of each building, briefly describing historic uses mess, club, office including excerpts from oral histories or personal photographs that humanise the stories of each building.



Fig. 7.56 A wayfinding sign in New York. Similar wayfinding signs can be placed at the frontage of buildings or at the forecourt featuring historic photos of the buildings in use. Source: Hugo L. González, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Heritage Interpretation Strategies | Recreating Sightlines

Landscape areas with key panoramic views across the wider site and terrain can be key areas to tell the story of Terrain and Strategy.

Interpretation can be integrated through a mix of panels placed at select points and along sections of the pedestrian paths. These can explain site context and the broader landscape, using **viewing ports with aerial photographs, sketches or augmented reality** to recall and reconstruct lost structures.

It is crucial to **ground all interpretation with site-wide plans** that explain the **topographical and relational logic of various heritage clusters**. For example why some areas occupy higher elevations while others sit lower, and how they connect as a whole. A master map can help viewers situate what they see within the larger site context.

Digital Tools

Historic landscape and aerial photographs can be presented through **creative overlays or AR visualisations**, allowing visitors to toggle between the present terrain and archival imagery.



Fig. 7.57 1937, View to the Barracks and Parade Square from Malan Road.
Source: Glyn Wright collection courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Fig. 7.58 AR installation by Marc Lee exhibited at Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart 2018.
Source: Marc Lee, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Physical Tools

Interpretive panels and viewing frames can orient visitors toward **demolished Barracks and Parade Square or transformed areas such as the former SAJC and PPVI blocks** inviting them to see absence as part of the site's continuing story.



Fig. 7.59 Viewing ports at the walking and boating trails on the Port des Salines, similar treatment can be considered. Source: USFWS Mountain-Prairie, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Fig. 7.60 A historical interpretive sign at the New River Trail State Park to understand transformation of identified area. Source: vastateparksstaff, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION	REFERENCE	REFERS TO
Architectural & Technological Value	Architectural and technological values relate to the aesthetic, architectural and technological merits expressed in the design and mechanical properties of the subject, which may be an infrastructural system of built parts; how representative it may be of any architectural or technological milestones or construction phases; or as its merits as a design product of particular architects, engineers, builders, developers, or planners; its quality of execution in terms of craftsmanship and detailing; and how well the design is adapted to local climate and conditions. The intactness of these character-defining historic attributes, including form, scale, spatial layout, materiality, aesthetics or even machinery is factored in as well.		Heritage assessment methodology
Barracks (Block/ Building)	Barrack blocks refer to purpose-built residential accommodation for military personnel, usually for large numbers of people belonging in the non-officer ranks of the army. They can be temporary or permanent structures. The organisation and management of barracks are often accompanied by military instruction and rituals that reinforce personal and communal discipline, hierarchy and order.	Mathieu Marly , “Barracks in Europe”, Encyclopédie d’histoire numérique de l’Europe [online], ISSN 2677-6588, published on 22/06/20 , consulted on 13/02/2025. Permalink : https://ehne.fr/en/node/12291	Military nomenclature
Barracks (Camp)	They are a set of structures typically arranged within a complex, base or station that provide accommodations and quarters for single and married military personnel with families. They often also include a host of facilities and infrastructure meant to achieve specific favourable living conditions associated to good health, leisure, discipline and order.		Military nomenclature
Battalion	A battalion is a regimental sub-unit of infantry amounting to between 500 to 1,000 soliders. It normally consists of a headquarters and three or more companies.	National Army Museum	Military nomenclature
Cantonment	An military station or township used to house and manage a large number of soldiers in a designated area. In the context of the colonies, cantonments were established as separate administrative units with its own sets of laws, systems of sanitation and security, and largely insulated from the local population to maintain order.	Directorate General Defence Estates, Government of India. 2024.	Military nomenclature
Cluster	A set of structures, artefacts and/or landscape elements that are grouped together owing to shared or common geographic, functional, historical, and physical characteristics.		Heritage assessment methodology
Contextual Value	Contextual value relates to the subject’s role as a component of a cluster of surrounding structures and spaces; the intactness and significance of its cluster in relation to the historic masterplan; whether it is shaped by or connects to its historic natural or manmade setting and the wider ecosystems beyond; and how much its built configuration reflects the historic systems and hierarchies of its occupant organisations.		Heritage assessment methodology
Supply Depot	A designated location where military supplies, equipment, and materials are stored for distribution to troops.		Military nomenclature
Garrison	A group or body of troops stationed in a fortress or town to guard it. The term can also be used to refer to the group of structures or facilities that collectively form a military base.	English Heritage Education	Military nomenclature
Haunched beams	A haunched beam is a structural element that has a varying depth along its length, typically deeper at the supports and shallower at mid-span. This design helps to optimise the beam’s strength and stiffness while reducing material usage in construction.		Architectural terminology

TERM	DEFINITION	REFERENCE	REFERS TO
Historical Value	Historical value is a measure of how well the subject bears physical testimony to historic periods, socio-cultural practices, milestones or developmental phases, or how well-associated it is to historical personalities, organisations or events. It often underlies other values, encompassing wide ranging aspects of history including politics, economics, society, culture, technology, etc.		Heritage assessment methodology
Infantry	A military unit primarily designed to engage in grounded combat force against enemy forces. They form the largest force in the Army. There are various specialised vocations and roles within the infantry.		Military nomenclature
Intactness	Intactness refers to the degree of physical integrity of the subject's character-defining attributes - a gauge of whether/ how much these have been lost, irreversibly modified, or deteriorated. It also refers to the degree of authenticity of a structure's material and formal characteristics.		Heritage assessment methodology
Landscape (Heritage)	It includes the historic character of landscapes, as well as the historic sites and monuments contained within them. The qualities of a landscape may include physical features and also particular aesthetic qualities of a site or setting, on account of its views, topography or geology.	English Heritage, 2024.	Heritage assessment methodology
Legibility	Legibility refers to the degree which the historic significance, character, or attributes of the subject, in its extant condition and context, is visually, spatially, or materially comprehensible.		Heritage assessment methodology
Mess	A space of communal dining and social gathering where military personnel, typically grouped by rank, eat, socialise and maintain unit cohesion. Each mess often has its own set of customs pertaining to etiquette, attire and social events.		Military nomenclature
N.A.A.F.I	The Navy, Army, Air Force Institutes is an organisation that was set up by the British Government in 1920 for the purpose of managing and operating recreational establishments and sale of consumer goods in service of the empire's Armed Forces. They operated canteens, trading outlets, clubs, recreational facilities, and even hotels for military personnel and their families in bases across the world. The acronym is also often used simply to refer to the building or structure in the camp within which the organisation's services and facilities were housed.	Naafi.co.uk	Military nomenclature
Operational (Facilities)	These include guard rooms, stores, administrative offices, intelligence rooms, vehicle maintenance, and training facilities.	English Heritage	Military nomenclature
Ordnance	Refers to military supplies including weapons, ammunition, armour and vehicles, etc.	Britannica Dictionary	Military nomenclature
Outhouse	A small attached or detached structure accompanying a larger, main residence (i.e.g bungalow, terrace, etc.). Outhouses were typically used to house servants/domestic staff and store goods.		Architectural terminology
Regiment	Permanent and largest organisational units of the British Army. These are a key administrative components for specific branches like the infantry, and soldiers usually serve in the same regiment or corps throughout their career.	National Army Museum	Military nomenclature
Representation	This refers to capturing the range of accrued aspects of history, events, styles, communities, and patterns depicted in the preservation and presentation of heritage, including through structures, artifacts, stories, narratives, and interpretations, in an attempt to present a holistic and comprehensive take on the historical significance of the site in its totality.		Heritage assessment methodology

Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION	REFERENCE	REFERS TO
Setting	The immediate and extended environment that is part of - and contributes to - the significance and distinctive character of a heritage asset, and through which a heritage asset is understood, seen, experienced and enjoyed.	National Planning Policy Framework, 2012.	Heritage assessment methodology
Significance	The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of the sum of its heritage interests. The interests may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence but also from its setting.	National Planning Policy Framework, 2012.	Heritage assessment methodology
Social & Communal Value	Social and communal value relates to the degree to which a site may serve as a source of identity, a community touchstone, a site that engenders social connections or structured communities, or a repository of collective memory, knowledge, or practices. It also considers if it has been in continued use for similar purposes, or even by successive generations of the same communities.		Heritage assessment methodology
Typology	The study of typologies refers to the practice of classifying and studying structures based on their shared characteristics, like form, function, construction techniques, and historical context, allowing researchers to identify patterns, common features, and to understand the evolution of architectural styles within a region.		Heritage assessment methodology
War Office (W.O.)	The British War Office was a government department and administrating body of the British Army between 1857 and 1964, including the districts and stations of the British Empire. Often used interchangeably with ‘War Department’ or ‘W.D.’	The National Archives, United Kingdom	Military nomenclature

End of Report

APPENDIX 1

Building Inventory

APPENDIX 1

Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
M-01	Malan Road	43 Malan Road		1935	1935	F&B, Lifestyle	Motor Workshops (Late 1960s)	Workshop	High	5	3	3	4	18
M-02	Malan Road	45 Malan Road		2014	2015	F&B	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
M-03	Malan Road	47 Malan Road		1943	1950	Art Gallery, F&B	Platoon Training Wing (Late 1960s)	Workshop	High	4	4	3	4	19
M-04	Malan Road	41 Malan Road		1943	1950	F&B	Store	Store	Low	2	1	0	2	6
M-06	Malan Road	39 Malan Road		1950s	1950s	F&B	Muslim Canteen (1960s)	Mess / Canteen	Moderate	3	1	4	2	11
M-07	Malan Road	38 Malan Road		1935	1935	Vacant	Pioneers (1936) FARELF Sub Aqua Club (1960s) Sick Bay (Late 1960s) MT Line, POL	Administrative	High	5	4	4	5	22
M-08	Malan Road	37 Malan Road		1935	1935	Vacant	Medical Centre (Late 1960s)	Administrative	High	5	4	4	5	22
M-09	Malan Road	Latrine		1935	1950	Toilet	Latrine, Store	Outhouse	Low	3	1	0	1	6
M-10	Malan Road	Electrical Substation		2000s	2000s	Substation	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0

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Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Built Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
L-09	Lock Road	10 Lock Road		1935	1935	F&B	Civilian Quarters (up to 1978)	Unknown	Moderate	4	2	4	3	15
L-10	Lock Road	22 Lock Road		1935	1935	Gallery	Sergeants' Mess (1936) P.M.P Sergeants' Mess (up to 1978)	Mess / Canteen	Exceptional	5	4	5	5	23
L-11	Lock Road	Latrine		1958	1969	Toilet	Latrine, Store	Outhouse	Low	2	1	0	1	5
P1-01	Preston Road Housing	1 Preston Road		1935	1935	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	5	5	3	4	22
P1-02	Preston Road Housing	2 Preston Road		1935	1935	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	5	5	3	4	22
P1-03	Preston Road Housing	3 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-04	Preston Road Housing	4 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-05	Preston Road Housing	5 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-06	Preston Road Housing	6 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19

APPENDIX 1

Building Inventory

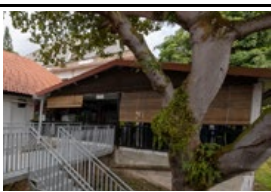
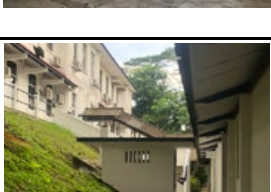
S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/High/Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
P1-07	Preston Road Housing	7 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-08	Preston Road Housing	8 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-09	Preston Road Housing	9 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-10	Preston Road Housing	10 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-11	Preston Road Housing	11 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-12	Preston Road Housing	12 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-13	Preston Road Housing	13 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-14	Preston Road Housing	14 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P1-15	Preston Road Housing	15 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19

APPENDIX 1

Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
P1-16	Preston Road Housing	16 Preston Road		1936	1939	Residential	Military Staff Housing	Staff Quarters	High	4	4	3	4	19
P2-01	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 1		1959	1966	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	3	2	5	4	16
P2-02	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 2		1939	1939	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	1	4	3	13
P2-03	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 3		1939	1939	ISS School	School	School	Exceptional	5	5	5	5	25
P2-04	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 4		1950	1958	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	1	5	4	15
P2-05A	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5		1950	1958	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	2	5	4	17
P2-05B	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5		1950	1958	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	2	5	4	17
P2-05C	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5		1950	1958	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	2	5	4	17

Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
P2-05D	Preston Road School	21 Preston Road, Blk 5		1950	1958	ISS School	School	School	Moderate	4	2	5	4	17
P2-07	Preston Road School	N/A		2010s	2010s	Pavilion	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
P2-08	Preston Road School	N/A		2010s	2010s	Pavilion	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
P2-09	Preston Road School	N/A		1960s	1960s	W.C.	Marking room	School	Low	3	2	0	2	9
P2-10	Preston Road School	N/A		1939	1939	W.C., store	Latrine, Store	Outhouse	Low	3	2	0	2	9
P2-12	Preston Road School	N/A		1960s	1960s	W.C.	TBC	Latrine	Low	3	2	0	2	9
P2-13	Preston Road School	N/A		1960s	1960s	Pump Room	TBC	Utilities	Low	3	2	0	2	9
A1-01	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk A		1978	1978	Library, Cafeteria, Offices, Training Rooms	School	School	High	3	4	5	5	21

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Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
A1-02	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk B		1978	1978 A&A in 1994/95	Training Rooms	School (tutorial block/ classrooms)	School	Moderate	3	1	5	3	13
A1-03	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk C		1994/95	1994/95	Training Rooms	School	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A1-04	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk D		1978	1978	Lecture Theatre	School (150-seat lecture theatre)	School	Moderate	2	2	5	3	14
A1-05	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk E		1978	1978	Lecture Theatre	School (150-seat lecture theatre)	School	Moderate	2	2	5	3	14
A1-06	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk F		1978	1979	Auditorium	School (300-seat lecture theatre)	School	Moderate	2	2	5	3	14
A1-07	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk G		1978	1979 A&A in 1994/95	General Office	School (Art and Music Rm)	School	Low	2	1	3	3	10
A1-08	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk H		1994	1995	Seminar Rooms	School	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A1-09	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk I		1994	1995	Music Practice Rooms	School	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A1-10	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk J		1994	1995	Seminar Rooms	School	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0

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Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/High/Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
A1-11	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk K		1994	1995	Performing arts centre	School	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A1-12	SAJC	2 Malan Road		1994	1995	Substation	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A1-13	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk M		1978	1979	Multi-Purpose Hall	School (multi-purpose hall)	School	Moderate	2	2	5	4	15
A1-14	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk N		1978	1979	Exercise research lab	School (squash court)	School	Moderate	2	2	5	3	14
A1-15	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk O		1978	1979	Auditorium	School (500-seat auditorium)	School	High	3	3	5	4	18
A1-16	SAJC	2 Malan Road, Blk P		1994	1995	Offices	Chapel of the Resurrection	Chapel	Low	1	1	4	2	9
A1-18	SAJC	N/A		1993	1994	Viewing gallery	Recreation grounds	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
A2-01	PPVI	991 Alexandra Road		1983	1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	2	1	4	3	11
A2-02	PPVI	991A Alexandra Road		1970	1975	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	3	2	4	3	14

APPENDIX 1

Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/ High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
A2-03	PPVI	991B Alexandra Road		1975	1978	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	3	1	4	3	12
A2-04	PPVI	991C Alexandra Road		1943	1948	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	Transport Lines/ School	High	4	3	4	4	18
A2-05	PPVI	991D Alexandra Road		1983	1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	2	1	4	3	11
A2-06	PPVI	991E Alexandra Road		1983	1985	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	2	1	4	3	11
A2-07	PPVI	991F Alexandra Road		1975	1978	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Moderate	3	1	4	3	12
A2-08	PPVI	991G Alexandra Road		2008	2009	Mixed-use	Site of former military transport depot	School	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
T1-01	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group District Office		N/A	N/A	Store	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
T1-02	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group District Office		1975	1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	Low	3	2	0	2	9
T1-03	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group District Office		1975	1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	Moderate	3	2	2	2	11

Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Reference Image	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (Exceptional/High/Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values				Total Score [H+2A+S+C] Max. 25 points
										Historical (20%) [H]	Architectural & Technological (40%) [A]	Social & communal (20%) [S]	Contextual (20%) [C]	
T1-04	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group District Office		1975	1983	Public Utilities	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Offices	Public Utilities	Moderate	3	2	2	2	11
T1-05	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		1974	1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	Low	3	1	1	4	10
T1-06	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		1974	1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	Low	3	1	1	4	10
T1-07	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		N/A	N/A	Carpark shelter	N/A	N/A	Neutral/ Intrusive	0	0	0	0	0
T1-08	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		1974	1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	Low	3	1	1	4	10
T1-09	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		1974	1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	Low	3	1	1	4	10
T1-10	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	PUB Pumping Station		1974	1980s	Pumping station	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Pumping station	Public Utilities	Low	3	1	1	4	10
T1-11	Telok Blangah Public Utilities	SP Group Telok Blangah Electrical Substation		1974	1974	Substation	Site of former margarine factory (post-war); Substation	Public Utilities	High	3	5	1	4	18

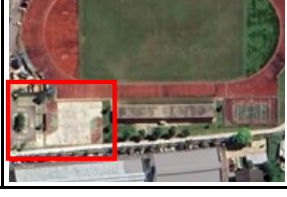
APPENDIX 2

Non-Building Inventory

Non-Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Current Image (exterior)	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values
M-05A	Malan Road	N/A		1935	1935	N/A	Middlesex Regiment Insignia	Landscape feature	Exceptional	- Rare - Materially intact w/ some damages; high degree of craftsmanship - In-situ, historically highly visible and emblematic
M-05B	Malan Road	N/A		1938	1938	N/A	Loyal Regiment Insignia	Landscape feature	Exceptional	- Rare - Materially intact w/ some damages; high degree of craftsmanship - In-situ, historically highly visible and emblematic
M-11	Malan Road	SOC Wall		1971	1993	Abandoned	SOC climbing wall	Training	Moderate	- Remnant likely from MINDEF period - Functionally specific structure, intact and unique - Remaining artefact from NS training SOC open area
M-12	Malan Road	Malan Road		1935	1935	Road	Road	Landscape feature	High	- Primary entrance and access route into Gillman Barracks - Together with steep slope of Barrack Hill, the road is essential for understanding the narrow form and orientation of adjacent buildings - Defines the operational and industrial southern section of Gillman Barracks - With the former northern split toward Barrack Hill expunged, the remaining road section is critical to understand the original layout of the compound
L-12	Lock Road	Ravine		Before 1935	Before 1935	Landscape	Edge of swamp	Landscape feature	High	- Representative of both the historical pre-militarised topography of the site as well as the sanitary and health planning policies with using anti-malarial drainage - Utilised for bridging exercises during SAF era - Similar to historical topography of the site taken into account during plan of the camp
L-13	Lock Road	Bridge		1996	2000	Out of bounds	Bridge	Landscape feature	Neutral/ Intrusive	- Likely recreated as a feature indicating historic use and legacy of Combat Engineers in this site - Continues to serve a practical function allowing more direct access from Alexandra Road to Lock Road Note: The bridge has been closed for some time likely due to need for maintenance.
L-14	Lock Road	Lock Road		1935	1935	Road	Road	Landscape feature	High	- Central organising spine of the mid to north section of Gillman Barracks, along which the main recreational and operational buildings were oriented to - Key circulation corridor which connected the hilly residential areas of Railway Hill, Preston Road to the rest of the Barracks - Gently rises northwards as a response to site's natural topography and terrain

Non-Building Inventory

S/N	Cluster	Current Name	Current Image (exterior)	Original Built Date (start range)	Original Build Date (end range)	Current Use	Historical Use	Typology	Heritage Significance (High/ Moderate/ Low/ Neutral/ Intrusive)	Heritage Values
P1-17	Preston Road Housing	Preston Road		1935	1935	Road	Road	Landscape feature	High	- Road closely follows the site's topography, wrapping around and circumambulating Friendly Hill - Key circulation route which defined the character and organisation of necklace of semi-detached houses - Framed the point at which unobstructed views over Gillman Barracks and the southern coasts were afforded
P2-06	Preston Road School	N/A		1939	1939	Open courtyard	Playing field	Recreation	High	- Since the school's construction in 1939, this area was a open field used by students for outdoors sports. - The courtyard has been documented through photography as having been used extensively by the school for a range of flexible, curriculum and casual uses, to gather, play and congregate. - The courtyard, although smaller in size since the original version, retains its spatial character of openness and view of the main block at the higher elevation. It ties together the pavilion-type classrooms on all four sides and is a unique and remarkable area within the campus.
P2-11	Preston Road School	N/A		1939	1939	External staircase	External staircase	Staircase	High	- Highly intact - Constructed together with the original Main Block in 1939 - The external staircases come as a pair flanking the front elevational view of the Main Block and provides circulation to the lower ground of the campus. - These staircases should be taken as integral with the Main Block which they frame.
P2-14	Preston Road School	N/A		1950	1958	Entrance steps	Entrance steps	Staircase	High	- An importantly recognisable and functional feature of Alexandra School, likely added during post-war expansion efforts to increase accessibility. The entrance steps have been highly-used by many generations of school children. - The entrance steps, having been used on a daily basis, form a backdrop to everyday memories of the site shared by groups of school mates. The social proclivity of this seemingly mundane landscape element is evident in the numerous figures frequently captured in this highly-photographed area. - In fulfilling a functional use, the entrance steps mediate the interaction between users and natural landscape, in this case its particularity as a school complex set atop a high hill. The entrance steps importantly increase accessibility to the cluster whilst also being a visual marker distinguished from its lush green surroundings as an ordered path.
A1-17	SAJC	N/A		1978	1979 reconstruct- ed in 1993	Track field	Recreation grounds (1935)	Recreation	High	- Originally the site of the recreation grounds of Gillman Barracks, and later converted into the sports field and running track of SAJC. - Since its first use as a central recreation grounds for British personnel, the field has retained its use as key gathering space for various users of the site across each period of its development. - The open, flat ground retains much of its historical spatial character and relation to the adjacent roads and buildings. - It remains as a highly recognisable landmark in the area and provides unobstructed views between Alexandra and Malan Roads.
A1-19	SAJC	N/A		1993	1994	Basketball & Netball courts	Basketball & Netball courts	Recreation	Neutral/ Intrusive	- Recreation facilities provided as part of the school compound.

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