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PRESERVATION OF
MONUMENTS BOARD

MEDIA RELEASE

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CIVILIAN WAR MEMORIAL TO BE GAZETTED AS NATIONAL MONUMENT

War Memorial to join 64 existing National Monuments for its socio-historical merit and importance to the community

SINGAPORE 15 FEBRUARY 2013 – The Civilian War Memorial, a 67-metre structure honouring the civilians who perished during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore in 1942 - 1945, will be gazetted as a national monument this year. The Preservation of Monuments Board (PMB) will release details of the gazette at a later date.

2. The intention to gazette the Civilian War Memorial was announced by Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), Lawrence Wong, at the 46th Memorial Service for Civilian Victims of the Japanese Occupation, earlier today.

3. Acting Minister Wong said, “Our national monuments are important markers of major milestones in Singapore’s history. The Civilian War Memorial pays tribute to the civilian lives lost during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. It stands as a reminder of our commitment to defend Singapore, even with our lives. So it is apt that on Total Defence Day this year, we take this significant step to gazette the memorial as one of our national monuments. The trials and sacrifices made by our forefathers during that period of our history remind us of what it means to be Singaporeans, and why we can continue to overcome the odds if we confront our challenges ahead as one united people.”

4. Officially unveiled in 1967, the Civilian War Memorial consists of four tapering columns, symbolising the four main races in Singapore, merging into one unified nation. It is situated in the War Memorial Park in the Civic District, and is also known as “Chopsticks” to Singaporeans. The construction of the Memorial was spearheaded by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI). It had taken on the task to resettle and rebury the large amount of remains of the casualties of war who had been uncovered in various locations in Singapore. SCCCI had also raised funds for the memorial by rallying the other clans and communities.

5. Once gazetted, the Civilian War Memorial will join 64 other buildings and structures which have been conferred the status of National Monument for their socio-historical merit, importance to the community, as well as architectural merit. The PMB is guided by the Preservation of Monuments Act in the identification of buildings and structures to be gazetted as National Monuments. (Please refer to the Annex for the list of 64 national monuments)

6. National monuments are protected by the Preservation of Monuments Act and cannot be torn down or changed in any major way. Any proposed works will require formal approval from the PMB. In general, monuments have to retain their original appearance (façade). As part of PMB's outreach efforts, all 64 national monuments are promoted through programmes for schools and the general public, such as the popular Monumental Walking Tours. Through such programmes, Singaporeans are encouraged to visit our National Monuments and learn more about their rich history and significance to the Singapore story.

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993 under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA). Its mission is to foster nationhood, promote identity building, and champion the development of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore.

As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans through a shared experience. NHB manages the national museums, Heritage Conservation Centre and Preservation of Monuments Board. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Preservation of Monuments Board

The Preservation of Monuments Board (PMB) is the national authority responsible for identifying, preserving and protecting Singapore's monuments. PMB's administration of the preservation gazette is complemented by its outreach objectives to promote a renewed appreciation and understanding of monuments and their history, and encourage the public to enjoy them as sites of memory that convey a sense of place, identity and belonging. PMB's educational and public outreach efforts include school and public tours, special programmes and activities at the monuments. PMB was formed in 1972, and has been an institution under the National Heritage Board since 2009. To date, PMB has gazetted 64 structures as national monuments. For more information on PMB, please visit www.pmb.sg.

Annex

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND DATE GAZETTED

	Name of Building	Date Gazette
1	Former Thong Chai Medical Institution (1892)	28 June 1973
2	Armenian Church (1835-36)	28 June 1973
3	St Andrew's Cathedral (Rebuilt 1856-61)	28 June 1973
4	Former Telok Ayer Market (now Lau Pa Sat) (1890-94)	28 June 1973
5	Thian Hock Keng (1839-42)	28 June 1973
6	Sri Mariamman Temple (Rebuilt 1843)	28 June 1973
7	Hajjah Fatimah Mosque (1845-46)	28 June 1973
8	Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (1843-47)	28 June 1973
9	Nagore Dargah (1828-30)	19 November 1974
10	Al-Abrar Mosque (1850-55)	19 November 1974
11	House of Tan Yeok Nee (The Former Salvation Army Headquarters) (1885)	19 November 1974
12	Tan Si Chong Su (1876-78)	19 November 1974
13	Jamae Mosque (Rebuilt 1830-35)	19 November 1974
14	Sultan Mosque (Rebuilt 1924-28)	8 March 1975
15	St George's Church (1910-13)	10 November 1978
16	Hong San See (1908-13)	10 November 1978
17	Sri Perumal Temple (1855)	10 November 1978
18	Abdul Gaffoor Mosque (1907)	5 July 1979
19	Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery (1898-1912)	14 October 1980
20	Raffles Hotel (1887-1907)	4 March 1987 re-gazetted on 3 June 1995
21	Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (1924)	23 March 1989

22	Goodwood Park Hotel (Tower Block) (1900)	23 March 1989
23	Former Convent of Holy Infant Jesus Chapel (now CHIJMES Hall) (1903) and Caldwell House (1840-41)	26 October 1990
24	Istana and Sri Temasek (1867-69)	14 February 1992 re-gazette on 1 October 1993
25	Former City Hall (1926-29)	14 February 1992
26	Victoria Theatre (1856-62) and Concert Hall (1902-05)	14 February 1992
27	Former Parliament House & Parliament House Annex Building (1826-27) (now The Arts House)	14 February 1992, 26 June 1992
28	Former Supreme Court (1937-39)	14 February 1992
29	Former Empress Place Building (1864-67) (now Asian Civilisations Museum)	14 February 1992
30	National Museum (1884-87) (now National Museum of Singapore)	14 February 1992
31	Former St Joseph's Institution - Main Building (1855-67), Chapel (1911-12) and Classroom (1906-07) (now Singapore Art Museum)	14 February 1992 26 June 1992
32	Former Attorney-General's Chambers (Rebuilt c.a. 1906) (now Parliament House Block C)	14 February 1992
33	Sun Yat Sen Villa (now Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall) (1900-02)	28 October 1994
34	Yueh Hai Ching Temple (Rebuilt 1895)	28 June 1996
35	Maghain Aboth Synagogue (1878)	27 February 1998
36	Former Ministry of Labour Building (1928)	27 February 1998
37	Former Tao Nan School (1910-1912) (now The Peranakan Museum)	27 February 1998
38	Chesed-El Synagogue (1905)	18 December 1998
39	Former Hill Street Police Station (1934) (now Old Hill Street Police Station)	18 December 1998
40	Ying Fo Fui Kun (1881-82)	18 December 1998

41	Central Fire Station (1908-09)	18 December 1998
42	Former Nanyang University Library & Administration Building, Memorial and Arch (1954-56)	18 December 1998
43	The Chinese High School Clock Tower Building (1925) (now Hwa Chong Institution Clock Tower)	19 March 1999
44	Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (1930)	12 January 2000
45	Former Admiralty House (1939)	2 December 2002
46	Tan Teck Guan Building (1911)	2 December 2002
47	College of Medicine Building (1926)	2 December 2002
48	Former Cathay Building (1937) (now The Cathay)	10 February 2003
49	Church of Sts Peter and Paul (1869-1870)	10 February 2003
50	MacDonald House (1947-1949)	10 February 2003
51	St Joseph's Church (1904 - 1912)	14 January 2005
52	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes (1888)	14 January 2005
53	Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1901)	14 January 2005
54	Tou Mu Kung Temple (1921)	14 January 2005
55	Former Ford Factory (1941) (now Memories at Old Ford Factory)	15 February 2006
56	Former Raffles College (1927-1953) (now NUS Campus at Bukit Timah)	11 November 2009
57	Church of St Teresa (1928-1929)	11 November 2009
58	Former Keng Teck Whay (1847-1875) (now Singapore Yu Huang Gong Temple of Heavenly Jade Emperor)	11 November 2009
59	Command House (1939)	11 November 2009
60	Former St James Power Station (1926)	11 November 2009
61	Bowyer Block (1926)	11 November 2009
62	Former Singapore Conference Hall and Trade Union House (now Singapore Conference Hall) (1962-1965)	28 December 2010
63	Esplanade Park Memorials: Lim Bo Seng Memorial (1953-1954), Tan Kim Seng Fountain (1882) and	28 December 2010

	Cenotaph (1920-1922)	
64	Tanjong Pagar Railway Station (1929-1931)	8 April 2011

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