



George Town World Heritage Incorporate (GTWHI) was established by the Penang State Government as the State Heritage Agency in April 2010 to spearhead efforts to ensure that George Town's legacy will not be lost.

GTWHI is an organisation dedicated to protecting, promoting and preserving George Town as a sustainable city. GTWHI works in cooperation with the federal, state, and local governments as well as non-governmental organisations to manage, monitor, promote, and execute heritage-related activities. We identify the problem areas, build a strategy, and call on experts and stakeholders in our vast network to work with us towards the solution.

George Town is a living legend, but it will disintegrate before our very eyes should we fail to nurture it. Therefore, research, impact studies, site usage, public awareness, branding, promotion, public transport, tourism, and security must be given equal attention.

To ensure the sustainability of the World Heritage Site, we work with many partners and collaborators, from conservation specialists and state and city authorities for better planning, conserving and management of the physical site; to historians and arts practitioners on a programme of educational and cultural activities.

We provide advice to property owners, architects and builders; conduct skills development workshops; provide resources on George Town and heritage through our library and digital archive; and we engage with school children, students of institutes of higher learning, and the public through our programme of talks and activities.

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Muslim HERITAGE IN GEORGE TOWN



Malacca & George Town
Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca

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Malay, Jawi Peranakan, Arab Peranakan and Indian Muslim Enclaves

Penang was a territory of Kedah, until its occupation by Captain Francis Light in 1786. Most of the indigenous residents of Penang Island, before the occupation, were Kedah Malays with a history which dates more than 350 years. The urban Malays of George Town were referred to as *Orang Tanjung* or *Jawi Pekan* (*Jawi* refers to 'Malays' and *pekan* to 'town') and were mostly traders and entrepreneurs. In the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Muslims who migrated to Southeast Asia mostly settled in the port cities in the Straits of Melaka - Penang, Melaka, Singapore, Aceh, and the smaller pepper ports of East Sumatra. These Straits Muslims migrated from Asia, almost a century after the birth of Islam but settled in the Southeast Asian region more permanently from the twelfth century. Tamil-speaking communities from Muslim South India outnumbered the Arab-speaking communities. They maintained a chain of regular contact with kinsmen in Indian villages, often marrying women from their villages of origin. Some married local Malay women before taking Indian wives. These hybrid communities on Penang Island were collectively known as *Orang Tanjung* ('people of the promontory') or *Jawi Peranakan* (locally born Malay-Muslims). *Peranakan* is a Malay word which refers to the offspring of migrants who married local Malay women. Matrification through Malay women leads subsequent generations to be Malay. Currently, subsequent generations of Chinese *Peranakan* are Chinese in ethnicity, with increasing marriages to Chinese men and women.

Arab speaking communities were mostly Hadramis from Hadhramawt (Yemen). A minority were from Iraq, Oman, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. Although they were overwhelmingly Sunni Muslims of the Shafi'i school, a minority of Lebanese were Maronite, Greek Orthodox or Druze by religion. Non-Muslims, such as Oriental or Babylonian Jews, formed a significant minority. A branch of the Sephardic school of Judaism, most of them originated from Baghdad (Baghdadi Jews), northern Syria and Egypt. They were indistinguishable from Ashkenazi Jews and the community numbered about a thousand in Singapore and another thousand in Batavia. A smaller community of a few hundred settled in Penang at the turn of the century. By the end of the eighteenth century, these Middle-Eastern and South Indian entrepreneurs were among the wealthiest



communities in Southeast Asia, trading extensively in spice, wood, textiles, gold, perfumery and durable food products. Hybrid communities of Arabs who married Malay, mostly *Jawi Pekan*, *Orang Tanjung* women, were known as *Arab Peranakan* ('local born Arabs'). By the late nineteenth century, the *Jawi*, *Arab Peranakan* and Indian Muslims were elite Muslim communities and comprised the majority of the *Orang Tanjung* of George Town. Arabs in Mecca continue to refer to Muslims in Southeast Asia and in Malaysia as *Jawi*.

The early local Kedah Malays who had settled in George Town, were actively trading in rice, mangrove wood, nipah thatch, coconuts, medicinal plants and herbs, brought down by boat from the coast of Kedah. Over the mainland at Province Wellesley (Seberang Perai), trade in cattle, goat and poultry was equally active. By the early 18th century AD, Kedah Malays, Tamil Muslims and Muslim Malabaris from the Malabari Coast of India had actively utilised the water canals built by the British to take advantage of the growing trade in spices, oils and perfumery from India and the Middle-east.

Over the last 100 years, the Muslim population of George Town has decreased significantly. Existing heritage buildings are mostly *waqf*-held as public and communal assets under the management of the Penang Islamic Council or *Majlis Agama Islam, Pulau Pinang* (MAIPP).





George Town Muslim Heritage Trail

- 1 **Segara Ninda - Ku Din Ku Meh House**, 20, Jalan Penang
- 2 **Masjid Benggali**, Lebu Leith
- 3 **Facade of Noordin Family Masouleum**, Lebu Chulia (Malay Heritage Gallery)
- 4 **Nagore Dargah**, Lebu Chulia
- 5 **Masjid Kapitan Keling**, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling
- 3 **Noordin Family Masouleum**, Masjid Kapitan Keling
- 6 **Madrasah Al-Mahmoodiyah Al Arabia**, Lebu Ah Quee
- 7 **Habib, Old Gold Centre**, 111, 117, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling
- 8 **Kapitan Keling & Family Mausoleum**, Kampung Kolam
- 9 **Masjid Melayu Lebu Aceh**, Lebu Aceh
- 10 **Syed Alatas Mansion**, 128, Lebu Armenian
- 11 **JAWI House, Heritage Gallery and Café**, 85, Lebu Armenian

Jalan Penang

Segara Ninda - Ku Din Ku Meh House No. 20

This is a double storey bungalow, run as a heritage hotel, sited at the junction of Jalan Penang and Lebu Farquhar. This name should not be confused with Tunku Dhiauddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainul Rashid, sometimes referred to as Tunku Kudin, the owner of Udini House on Bukit Gambier. After a series of raids on Kedah from 1820-1897, which led to more than 80,000 Kedah Malays fleeing Kedah for Province Wellesley (Seberang Perai). the Siamese returned the areas of Perlis and Setul to Kedah under the rule of Sultan Dhiauddin Mukarram Shah. Ku Din Ku Meh was appointed Commissioner of Setul in 1897. However, the Bangkok Treaty, signed between the British and Siamese in 1909 laid out the territorial boundaries of the

Siamese over Kedah. Setul was annexed as part of Siam. Ku Din ruled Setul as a Siamese Commissioner until 1916. He never returned to Kedah.

🕒 10am-5pm;
Sunday, 10am-3pm.



Ku Din Ku Meh

Lebu Leith

Masjid Benggali, Lebu Leith

Sepoys from Bengal, serving the British military, asked for land for a Benggali settlement and mosque and were granted this site in 1803. Their previous settlement stretched to Argyll Road.

The Benggali Mosque was rebuilt in 1958 and is a fusion of Muslim and modern architecture.

🕒 Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers: 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm.

Lebu Chulia formerly Malabar Street

Noordin Family Mausoleum, Lebu Chulia

The Noordin Family Tomb originally served as the mausoleum for Mahomed Noordin Merican's mother but Mahomed Noordin was also buried there when he died in 1870.



Noordin Mausoleum

Mahomed Noordin Merican was a prominent Indian Muslim merchant who arrived in Penang with his mother and his elder brother, Kadir Mydin Merican, who became the Kapitan Keling. The Noordin Family Tomb originally housed a school called Dunam Pillay. Classes were held there for learning the Al-Quran, Arabic, Malabar, Hindi, Tamil and English.

The front portion of the Noordin Family Tomb, facing Lebu Chulia, now houses the *Galeri Seni Lukis Persatuan Pelukis Melayu Pulau Pinang* (Penang Malay Artist Association Art Gallery). Access to the tomb is from Masjid Kapitan Keling.

🕒 **Tomb:** Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers: 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm

Gallery: Opens 12-8.30pm except on Sunday.





Nagore Dargah

The original Nagore Dargah or Nagoor Dargah, located in the eastern coast of the Bay of Bengal at Nagore, Tamil Nadu, India, is a minaret built over the tomb of Hazrath Nagore Shahul Hamid (1490-1579 A.D.), a 13th generation descendant of Hajrath Muhiyudin Abd al-Qadir al-Jalani, a renowned Sufi saint. The Nagore group of merchants comprises the Maraikkayars and other lineages. They were granted land by the East India Company to build this shrine in 1801.

🕒 Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers: 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm.

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling formerly Pitt Street

Masjid Kapitan Keling

The founders of Masjid Kapitan Keling, the oldest mosque in George Town, built in 1801 were Maraikkayar seafarers, of the Marakayar or Maricar clans, now popularly referred to as Merican. They originated from Kayalpattinam on the Southern Coromandel Coast. City ports



Masjid Kapitan Keling

were referred to as *pattinam*. Other than these Tamils, ships from Porto Novo, Nagore, Madras and Nagapattinam brought in Tamil Chulia, Gujerati, Kaka Malabari and Rawther traders and merchants from districts in Coromandel, Malabar and Tamil Nadu. Early stevedores were also from Regunathamadai Ramnad district and the earliest shipping company was S.V.K. Patchee & Co, founded in 1837. The Masjid Kapitan Keling built in 1801 was named after Kader Mydin Merican, its founder, on the site of a smaller wooden mosque constructed by the Sepoy Muslim coolies of the East India Company. This became the first congregational (*Jamek*) mosque in George Town. Kapitan Keling means "Captain of Kalinga" and was a title given to the leader of the Indian Muslim community. The term *keling* has gone into disuse but was formerly a revered term, referring to the ancient Hindu kingdom of the Coromandel Coast.

🕒 Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers: 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm.

Habib, Old Gold Centre

This gold centre is a gold shop and gallery which showcases a wide selection of heritage *Jawi Peranakan* jewellery from 1950's to present times. The Habib Corporation is the largest Indian Muslim gold enterprise in Malaysia. It began as a modest family gold shop, pioneered by Haji Mohamed Abdul Habib in 1958. It is the first gold corporation to be listed in Bursa Malaysia, in 1998 and is currently managed by Dato' Meer Sadik Habib, the only son of Habib.



No.111,117, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

🕒 9.30am-6.30pm. Admission is free.

Lebuh Ah Quee

Madrasah Al-Mahmoodiyah Al-Arabia, Lebuh Ah Quee

Al-Madrasah Al-Mahmoodiyah Al-Arabia, founded in 1900, was once a leading Islamic religious school and boarding house for Muslim students. Its founder, Shaikh Abdul Hamid al-Khahirah, was an Indian Muslim jeweller, operating from Pitt Street (Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling). He collected funds from Indian Muslim merchants to build the school. It had offered Arabic and Quranic classes in the Arabic language as well as Syariah law. At the height of its popularity in the 1920's, the school had an enrolment of 200 students.

Kapitan Keling & Family Mausoleum, Kampung Kolam



Kapitan Keling Mausoleum

🕒 Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers: 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm.

This is located in Kampung Kolam and was restored in 2011. Kadir Mydin Merican's house was sited at Kampung Kolam and it was then customary for wealthy Muslims to be buried near their homes.





GEORGE TOWN

WORLD HERITAGE SITE



MUSLIM HERITAGE MAP

- LEGEND
- Former Kedah Malay Enclave
 - Former Sumatran Malay & Arab Peranakan Enclave
 - Sumatran Malay & Arab Peranakan Enclave
 - Indian Muslim Enclave
 - Former Jawi Peranakan & Indian Muslim Enclave
 - Arab Peranakan Enclave

Note: All enclave borders are approximates only.

→ Muslim Heritage Trail

World Heritage Site Core Area (109.38 hectare)

World Heritage Site Buffer Zone (150.04 hectare)

Muslim Heritage Sites and Activities

- 1 Former House of Ghulam Sarwar
- 2 Mee Agung, Larut Café
- 3 Former House of Mohd Ariff Mohd Tajoodin
- 4 *Rumah Teh Bunga*
- 5 Masjid Jamek Jalan Hatim
- 6 Former House of Shaik Mohd Ismail
- 7 *Jawi Peranakan* Mansion
- 8 Malia Bakery
- 9 Dato' Koyah Mausoleum
- 10 *Nasi Kandar Beratur*
- 11 *Songkok Maker*
- 12 S.M. Badjenid & Son, Perfumery
- 13 *Waqf Ku Pahmah, Masjid Al Munaauwar* (Small Map)

- 1 Segara Ninda - Ku Din Ku Meh House
- 2 Masjid Benggali
- 3 Noordin's Family Masoulem
- 4 Nagore Dargah
- 5 Masjid Kapitan Keling
- 6 Madrasah Al-Mahmoodiyah Al-Arabia
- 7 Habib, Old Gold Centre
- 8 Kapitan Keling & Family Masoulem
- 9 Masjid Melayu Lebu Acheh
- 10 Syed Alatas Mansion
- 11 JAWI House, Heritage Gallery and Café

Muslim Associations

- 1 United Muslim Association
- 2 *Jawi Peranakan* Heritage Society
- 3 Lebu Acheh Heritage Society
- 4 Muslim Jewellers and Money Changers Association
- 5 Muslim League and 12 affiliated Muslim Societies
- 6 Young Muslim Sports Club
- 7 Malay Chamber of Commerce
- 8 Penang Malay Society (Pemenang) (Small Map)

Note: Majority of Muslim populations have moved to other States, Seberang Perai or to other Penang districts over the last 100 years.



Lebuh Aceh

Masjid Melayu Lebuh Aceh

The mosque was founded in 1808 by Tengku Syed Hussain, a Sumatran Acehnese prince who came to George Town, with his royal entourage, on the invitation of Captain Francis Light, soon after its occupation in 1786. Tengku Syed Hussain's tomb is located in the mosque compound. The street was previously referred to as



Masjid Melayu Lebuh Aceh

'Malay Street' or 'Lebuh Melayu', by local Malays, before it was renamed Acheen Street when the Acehnese settled here. The Acehnese assimilated with local Malays and Malay became the lingua franca of the settlement. A street named Lebuh Melayu continues to exist, and this used to open out to a Malay jetty. The mosque is located on the site of an early Malay township, referred to as 'Malay Town' in Popham's map of 1798. In the mosque compound are three heritage *Arab Peranakan* houses, half-masonry and half-timber; the Al-Mashoor School at Air Itam was previously located in House No 67, while House No. 69 was the home of the legendary missionary and imam, Sheikh Omar Basheer, who quelled the Penang Riots of 1867.

Masjid Pintal Tali, along the road of Muslim 'rope-spinners' at Rope Walk, is associated with the second generation of Tengku Hussain's clan from Aceh. Formerly known as Mesjid Syed Mohamed Bilfakih, it was founded by the son-in law of Tengku Syed Hussain in the 1860s.

🕒 Best to visit in between the 5 Muslim daily prayers:
10am-1pm, 2-4pm, 5-7pm.

Lebuh Armenian formerly Malay Lane

Lebuh Armenian used to be called Malay Lane, after the Malay and *Jawi Peranakan* settlers who specialised in brassware and metal works, in the late 18th century. House lots were previously larger; *Jawi Peranakan* houses were previously half-masonry, half-timber, before the Armenians moved into this area in the early 19th century. After the Armenians left this street in the second decade of the 20th century, it was rapidly taken over by the *Peranakan* Chinese associated with the Khoo, Cheah and Yap clans and the houses took on the facade of traditional Hokkien Straits Chinese town houses with V-shaped Chinese roof tiles, wooden shutter lover windows and terracota flooring. Families lived on the first floor.



Syed Alatas Mansion No. 128



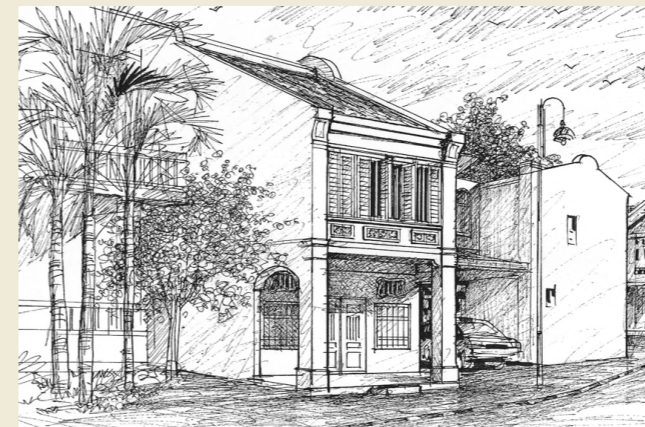
Syed Alatas Mansion

This is the former house of Syed Alatas, built in 1860 at the time of his second marriage to the daughter of Khoo Tiang Poh, a leader of the Hokkien Khian Teik or Toh Peh Kong of the Khoo Kongsu. It is an *Arab Peranakan* Straits eclectic house, typical of many, built during this period in the Straits Settlements, combing colonial arches and columns with Malay wooden windows.

🕒 This is now temporarily closed.

JAWI House, Heritage Gallery & Cafe No. 85

JAWI House has an eclectic *Jawi Peranakan*-Straits Chinese interior with a traditional Straits Chinese facade. It was previously owned by an Indian Muslim brassware maker before it was bought over by trustees of the Al-Iman Society.



JAWI House

Jawi is a term used by Arabs to mean "Muslims of the Nusantara", in particular Malays who used the Jawi script, from the time Arabs sailed to Southeast Asia as traders and missionaries in the 11th century.

JAWI House offers *Jawi Peranakan* fusion breakfast, lunch, Malay afternoon tea and pre arranged private dinners. The Gallery promotes works by local artists and vintage Malay and Asian art and crafts.

🕒 10am-6pm every day, closed on Sundays.



Activities: Highlights

2 Mee Agung, Larut Cafe Jalan Larut

"Mee Agung", which translates as "King's Noodles" became famous when a Malay king, the then Raja of Perlis, HRH Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, frequented this stall, at its former location in the Chinese Recreation Club (CRC) before he became *Agung*. It is believed to be the only stall ever frequented by a Malay *Raja* in Penang. This is a three generation noodle stall, located at the junction of Jalan Larut and Jalan Bawasah, in the Larut Cafe. One can adjust orders to be more or less spicy, vegetarian or 'special' with extra ingredients.



Mee Agung, Larut Cafe

☑ 9am-7pm; closed on Fridays.

8 Maliia Bakery No. 114, Jalan Transfer

This bakery sells the famous *roti Benggali* (lit.'Bengal bread') which is eaten with fish or vegetable curry (*dalca*). It was formerly known as the British Malaya Bakery, which closed during the Japanese Occupation (Second World War). In 1948, the bakery was rebuilt and renamed Ismailia Bakery. By 1952, the bakery was run as a co-operative - the word *penggali* refers to 'shareholders' in Tamil. However, locals mistook it for *Benggali* and the bread developed its own niche in this cosmopolitan entrepôt city. By 1962, the bakery was registered as a

family business under the name of Ismailia Bakery after Shaik Mohd Ismail. The bakery changed hands in recent years and is now called Maliia Bakery.

☑ 8.30am-8pm, every day.



Maliia Bakery



11 Haja Mohideen, the *Songkok* Maker, Osm Mohd Shariff Enterprise No. 157, Lebu King

Haja Mohideen's shop, is located at the junction of Lebu King and Lebu Chulia, adjacent to the Nagore Mausoleum. He is famed for making the Malay *songkok*, Turkish *tarbush* and Afghani *Karzai*. *Songkok* making is an endangered trade in George Town.



☑ 9am-6pm, closed on Sundays. Osm Mohd Shariff Enterprise

12 S.M. Badjenid & Son, Perfumery No. 184, Lebu Pantai

S.M. Badjenid & Sons was founded in 1938 and is today a third generation family business, specialising in traditional fragrances, such as *Dahn Al Oudh*, *Umber*, *Hajr Asward*, *Jasmine* and *Rose*. It is the region's manufacturer, exporter and retailer of *bakhoor*,



Al-Badjenid shop

agar wood and fragrance wood, from Malaysia, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Indonesia and India. For the past 50 years, this company has also gone into dealing with spices, textiles, velvets and canvas.

☑ 10am-6pm, closed on Sundays.

10 *Nasi Kandar Beratur* Concourse of Masjid Kapitan Keling

This night Indian Muslim food outlet is located at the concourse of Masjid Kapitan Keling. It opens after 10 pm and offers a variety of foods such as fish curry, fried fish, fried beef cooked in

thick spicy sauce, fried squid, chicken cooked in red sauce, boiled eggs, ocras and fried cabbage in turmeric. A typical *nasi kandar* plate is curry fish with fried beef, boiled ocras and boiled egg. *Beratur* means "queue".



Nasi Kandar Beratur

☑ 10pm-1am, every night.

List of Significant Waqf Mosques, Burial grounds Land and Buildings

Jalan Air Itam - Masjid Jamek Shaik Eusoff - 1892, 14 acres.

Jalan Burmah - Masjid Titi Papan, 1880's; Masjid Tarik Air, 1880's; *Kampung Syed* and burial ground or *waqf* Ku Pahmah binti Ku Zainal Abidin or Coopee Ammah, 1936; Masjid Tengah, 1950s.

Jalan Dato' Keramat - Masjid Haji Kassim and Kampung Makam, 1830, 7 acres; Dawoodi Bohra Islamic Cemetery - Masjid Shaik Eusoff, 1890, 7 acres.

Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong or Prangin Road (Jalan Pintal Tali junction) - Masjid Al-Jamiul AzZakirin, 1900's.

Jalan Hutton - Masjid Jamek Jalan Hatim; Imam House behind mosque, 1890's.

Jalan Kampung Dodol, off Jalan Perak - Masjid Jamek Wan Chik Ariffin and burial grounds, 0.9acres.

Jalan Kampung Rawa - Masjid Jamek Kampung Rawa, 1890s.

Jalan Kelawei (Kuala Awal) - Masjid Jamek Al-Munauwar, 1850s; reconstruction 2012.

Jalan Macalister - junction of Jalan Penang - Masjid Jamek (Hj. Wahab), Simpang Enam, 1897; Masjid Pakistan, 1940s.

Jalan Masjid - off Chulia Street - Hasharah Khana, cemetery and congregational hall (willed by Shaik Natter Sahib (Shaik Eusoff's grand-father), 1845.

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling - Masjid Kapitan Keling, burial grounds and buildings, 1801 (originally 18 acres).

Jalan Masjid Negeri - junction of Jalan Air Itam - Masjid Negeri Pulau Pinang, 1980.

Jalan Perak (junction of Jalan P. Ramlee) - Masjid Jamek Rawana, 1800s; Masjid Jamek Hashim Yahaya, 1860 (*waqf* Hashim Yahaya) 7 acres; Kampung Dodol, 7 acres, off Jalan Perak, 1860 (or earlier) rebuilt 1979. Earliest Malay village along Sg. Pinang; Dato' Keramat burial grounds, 1750's; Masjid Khan (Rajabee) Muhammad, 1820s.

Jalan Pintal Tali - Masjid Pintal Tali - formerly, Masjid Syed Mohamed Bilfakih, 1860's.

Jalan Sungai Pinang, Jalan Jelutong - Masjid Maqbul, surau in 1780's, rebuilt in 1850's, previously called Masjid Lama Sungai Pinang.

Jalan Tun Lim Chong Ewe - (junction of Jalan Masjid and Jalan Perak), Masjid Jamek Jelutong, 1900 (earmarked for redevelopment: Jalan Tengku, Jalan Kota Giam, Jalan Mat Taib, Jalan Pokok Asam, Jalan Tengah); Masjid Jamek Sungai Pinang, 2008 replaces Masjid Baru Sungai Pinang, 1860s (see Masjid Maqbul or Masjid Lama Sungai Pinang).

Jalan York - Masjid Jalan York, 1850s.

Lebuh Acheh - Masjid Melayu Lebuh Acheh, burial grounds, compound of mosque, buildings along Lebuh Acheh, on same side of mosque - 66,394 sq ft., 1819.

Lebuh Ah Quee - Madrasah Al-Mahmoodiyah Al-Arabia, 1900.

Lebuh Buckingham - *waqf* buildings, 1820's.

Lebuh Campbell - Lebuh Carnarvon, Utan Mayat burial grounds, 1850's, (inside Lebuh Carnarvon market built in 1900).

Lebuh Chulia - Masjid Alimsah Waley (Alimsahwali), 1803-1811; demolished 1976, reconstruction 2003-07; Masjid Syed Mohuddeen, 1886; Anjuman Himayathul Islam, 1890's, rebuilt 1950, Masjid Langgar - bombed WW2.

Lebuh Leith - Masjid Benggali, 1803; reconstruction 1958.

Lorong Burma - Masjid Jamek Lama, 1884.

