

SINGAPORE

## NHB to launch nationwide survey on heritage buildings, sites

The survey aims to carry out a stock-take on the current state of Singapore's heritage buildings and sites, and to develop a broad understanding of heritage landscape for the purpose of long-term heritage planning, says NHB.

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SINGAPORE: The National Heritage Board (NHB) will launch a nationwide survey in mid-2015 as part of a stock-take on the current state of Singapore's heritage buildings and sites.

The survey will cover buildings, structures, sites and landscape features of architectural, historical and cultural interest. The survey also aims to develop an understanding of Singapore's heritage landscape for long-term heritage planning, said NHB in a news release on Wednesday (May 6). It is expected to be completed in 16 months.

Some areas of historical interest the NHB will look into include Joo Chiat, Balestier and Mount Pleasant.

The survey includes structures or sites completed before 1980, those associated with historical events which influenced the development of the nation or local community and those with social, cultural or educational significance, NHB added.

Apart from the name and address, the survey will also capture information such as typology, geographical coordinates, architecture and physical condition of the site.

Researchers will study maps, newspaper records, archival materials and publications, as well as information on current conditions of the structures.

When there is limited information on the site, interviews with locals and other informants will be conducted to get more details.

The survey will be guided by members of the newly-formed Heritage Advisory Panel, which comprises experts in fields such as architecture, geography, sociology, anthropology and history. The panel has come up with guidelines on how analysis of places of historical interest will be conducted.

"The criteria will look at some factors such as the age of the building - whether it's associated with any historical events or whether notable people have visited or lived in the place, as well as community or social memories associated with the place," said Mr Yeo Kirk Siang, Deputy Director of Impact Assessment and Mitigation at NHB.

The research data and findings will be made available to other public agencies so that heritage considerations can be incorporated during planning phases.

NHB's CEO Mrs Rosa Daniel said: "As Singapore's population grows, it is important to ensure that in tandem with intensified development, there are increased efforts to preserve our heritage. This survey is a step forward to enhance our capabilities in research, documentation and commemoration."

The survey was first announced by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Lawrence Wong during this year's Committee of Supply debate in March.

Apart from the survey on tangible heritage, another nationwide survey covering the intangible heritage of Singapore - such as traditional trades, crafts, festivals, rituals and cultural practices - will be launched at the end of the year.

- CNA/fs/dl