

Early Days of JOO CHIAT and KATONG

Joo Chiat Road, early 1900s

Originally known as Confederate Estate Road, Joo Chiat Road was a simple dirt track running through coconut and cotton plantations from Geylang Serai to the East Coast seaside.



Chew Joo Chiat (1857-1926)

The "King of Katong", Chew Joo Chiat, was a prominent gambier, nutmeg and coconut plantation owner, and philanthropist. Joo Chiat is named after him for his generosity towards the area's development.



Zubir Said (1907-1987)

"Majulah Singapura", the National Anthem of Singapore, was composed by Zubir Said, also affectionately known as Mr Mari Kita, from his home in Joo Chiat Place in 1958.



Old Palace Theatre

In the 30s-60s, Palace, Odeon-Katong and Roxy Cinemas sprung up amidst the area's rapid development in the "Heart of Katong".



Old Joo Chiat Police Station

Built in 1928, it was said that Singapore's most infamous once frequented this former police station.



Geylang Serai Malay Kampong 1960s

As one of the oldest Malay settlements in Singapore, Geylang Serai had an extensive cultivation of lemongrass plants, thus its name ("serai" meaning "lemongrass" in Malay).

Geylang Serai Malay Village

Built in 1989, it is a museum-styled exhibition site to preserve the Malay heritage and promote Malay cultural activities. After 23 years, it was demolished in 2011.

Telok Kurau English School

Started in 1926 at Lor J Telok Kurau, TKES was the only English school in the east of Singapore before 1950. The late former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was a student from 1930. In 2021, the school merged with Eunos Primary School and is presently located at Bedok Reservoir Road.

EARLY DAYS OF EUNOS

Mohammed Eunos Bin Abdullah (1876-1933)

One of Singapore's most notable Malay community leaders in the 1920s, Mohamed Eunos actively championed for the academic, social and political advancement of all Malays. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Jalan Eunos Malay Settlement in 1929.

