



In the mid 1800s, Indian washermen from the British garrisons would wash the clothes they have in the stream known as Sungei Bras Basah. The area was subsequently named Dhoby Ghaut, with 'dhoby' that stands for "washerman" in Hindi, and 'ghaut' which refers to the area along a riverbank.

**1) MACDONALD HOUSE**  
Built in 1949, it was the first building to be fully air-conditioned in Southeast Asia. Located a short distance from The Istana, the building exterior uses a special sand-faced brick from Alexandra Brickworks. It is better known as the historic site of a bombing attack in 1965 at the height of Indonesia - Malaysia confrontation. It was designated as a national monument of Singapore in 2003.

**2) THE ISTANA**  
The Istana building was built by the British Colonial government to house its governors. When Singapore attained self-government in 1959, it was handed over and renamed Istana which means "Palace" in Malay.

**3) NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE**  
The National Archives of Singapore was originally established in 1968 for the preservation and administration of the nation's archives. It holds records as far back as 1800, 19 years before the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles and the founding of the modern nation.

**4) PLAZA SINGAPURA**  
With seven levels and two basements, Plaza Singapura was the first multi-level shopping mall located along Orchard Road, Singapore's main shopping belt.

**5) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE**  
The nation's oldest museum, its history dates back to 1849. The building itself is a wondrous structure that seamlessly fuses the old yet elegant neo-classical structure with a new modernist extension of glass and metal.

**6) THE CATHAY**  
Opened in 1939, the Cathay was Singapore's first air-conditioned cinema. It was also where the Japanese flag was first flown as one of the conditions of the British surrender during World War II. The cinema was renamed Dai Toa Geiko ("Greater East Asian Theatre" in Japanese) and used to screen Japanese Propaganda films.

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