

Balestier, 'bite-size' history



◀ Houses No. 319, 321, 323 and 325 Balestier Road used to have plaster figures like this depicting the Chinese Revolution of 1911. Only this panel at No. 319 Balestier Road remains today.



◀ The Burmese temple at the end of Tai Gin Road moved here from Kinta Road in Little India. It is a community gathering place for the Burmese community, and houses a large marble Buddha. There is a mural depicting the history of the temple in the main hall. From the roof, one can see a view of the area.

▶ Balestier is also associated with Tan Tock Seng Hospital — legacy of the great philanthropist who opened Singapore's first free hospital in 1844 in Pearl's Hill. On Balestier Hill are still many early bungalows and low rise old hospital wards in a pleasant garden setting.



▶ The free water dispenser at the corner of Balestier Road and Boon Teck Road was once very common in Singapore. They were placed by charitable organisations such as Clans and places of worship, to provide free drinking water for the servants and drivers of the horse carriages (and later, cars) for the rich, while they waited for their employers. ☺

