

THE CHENG HOON

TENG TEMPLE

BY

FAEIZ AHMAD



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Faeiz Ahmad
Final year Architecture
M.I.T
1972/73

F O R W A R D

The history of Architecture of this Country Malaysia is still not very clear due to the lack of information and lack of participants from the writers and historians to study deeply our art and architecture.

In the search of information for the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, I am very grateful to the Secretary of this temple Mr. Cheow who has kindly provides me with some valueable information.

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THE COMING OF THE CHINESE TO MALACCA

Malacca was the original capital of an ancient Malay Kingdom. In a time before Columbus discovered America, a Ming Emperor's envoy had organised China's first trade arrangement with Malacca. Following that visit trade grew throughout the country. The Chinese while doing trade, brought along their culture, custom and art to this peninsula. That easily influence is seen in many existing old temples and landmarks. The oldest Chinese Temple in Malaysia - Cheng Hoon Teng Temple is a typical example.

The relationship of China and Malacca was very close. In the 15th Century the Sultan of Malacca sent an ambassador to the court of Peking, returning with the emperor's daughter as a wifely gift to the Sultan. The princess and her retinue of hand maiden were given the "Bukit China" as a residence. Some of the oldest Chinese relics extants in Malaysia are found on the hill which, together with Bukit Gedong and Bukit Tempurong, form one of the largest Chinese burial grounds outside of China.