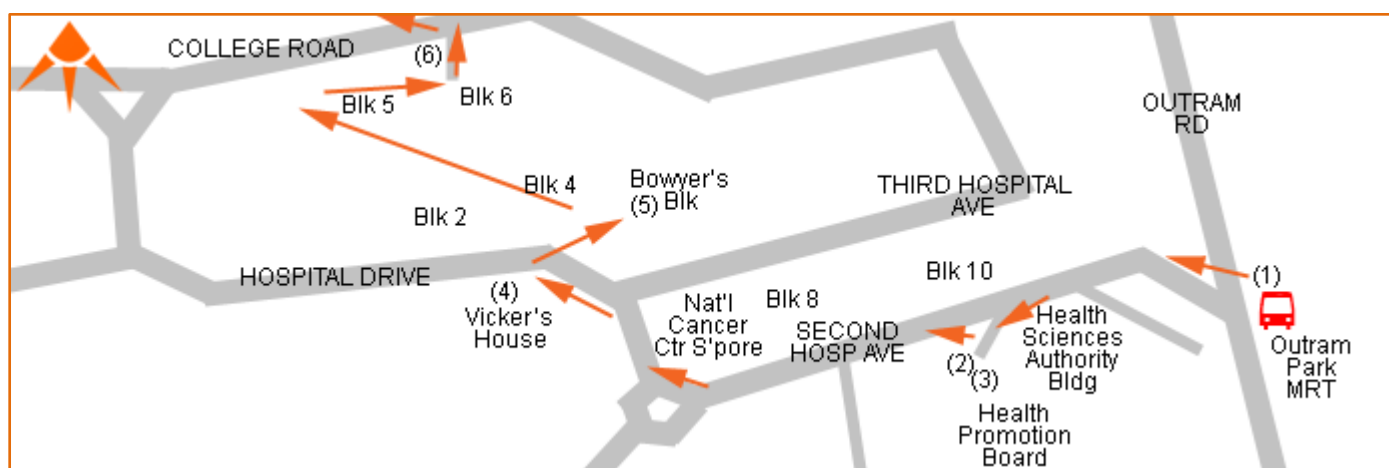


# SGH Walkabout



Outside Outram Park MRT Station, near the escalator to the overhead bridge, it is where the foundation stone for Singapore's first civil prison was laid a short distance from this location on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1847. The prison was officially known as H.M. (Her Majesty's) Prison, but was probably better known as 'Outram Prison' (1). This is the only large prison facility until Changi Prison was built in 1936. Outram Prison was also the first regular female prison located within the main wings of the prison and was also the first major prison facility to use single cells to enhance security in Singapore. The Prison was once the site for the public execution of prisoners.

Where the Health Promotion Block is presently located, you will find **The First Public Dental Clinic (2)** storyboard. Dental education and modern dentistry in Singapore began here in 1929. The original Clinic and Dental School of the King Edward VII College of Medicine had its beginnings on this site in the Norris Block of the General Hospital. In 1938, the clinic expanded into a purpose-built facility adjacent to Norris Block. The Japanese military occupied the clinic from 1942 to 1945. The Clinic and School reopened in 1945 in the same premises. The School was eventually relocated in 1986 to Kent Ridge, while the clinic at the old site continued as the Government Dental Clinic. In 1997, this old site was demolished when the National Dental Centre was commissioned.

Still at the same location, this was the site of **Norris Block (3)**. Previously known as the Lower Blocks, it was renamed in memory of an officer who had been closely associated with the hospitals of Singapore before the war, and died during the war. It first accommodated the third class male wards and sub-administration offices in the early days. At the basement of Norris Block was home to the Department of Occupational Therapy. This block was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the construction of the new Singapore General Hospital.

#### **School of Nursing & Vicker's House (4).**

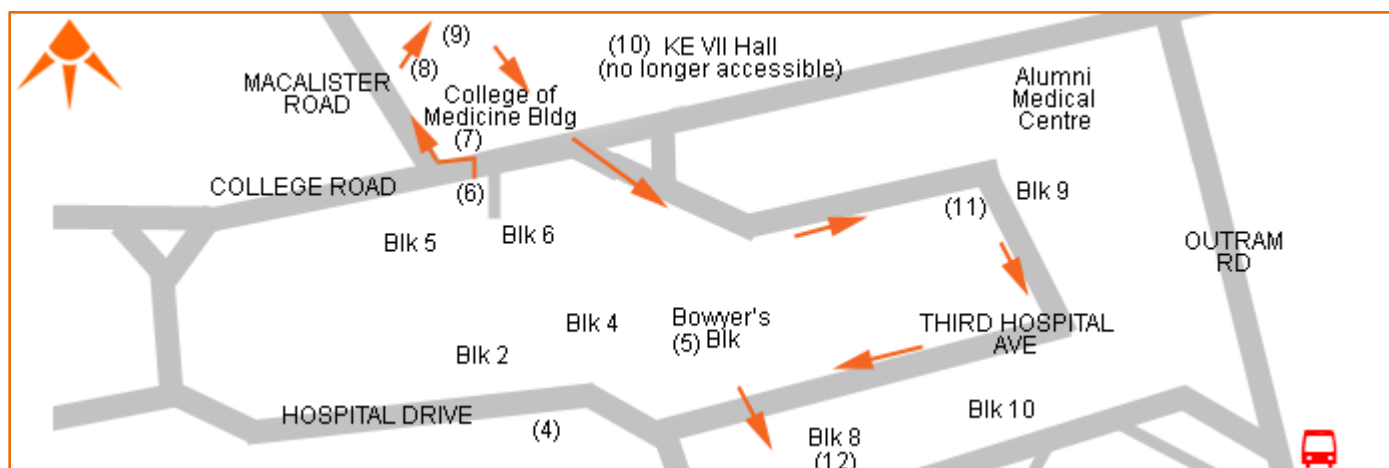
In the early years after the founding of Singapore, nursing duties were first performed by convicts. It was only until 1885, with the arrival of 11 convent sisters from England that female nurses made their presence at the hospital. The war had served as a catalyst for public recognition of nursing services. In 1949, all nurses are to be registered for practice in Singapore. In 1951, the General Hospital saw its first batch of local nurses to be promoted to Ward Sister. To cater for the increasing demand for more trained nurses, Vicker's House, a new Nurses' Hostel was declared opened on 29 Jul 1953, while a new Nurse training School and Nurses' Hostel (PTS Hostel) were formally opened on 10 Sep 1956. With the increase intake of student nurses, a new School of Nursing, constructed on the site of the old Maternity Hospital was opened in Sep 1959.

The modern history of SGH began with 800 beds in the Bowyer, Stanley and Norris Blocks on 29 March 1926. Initially known as Upper Block and was renamed **Bowyer Block (5)** after 1946. Named after Dr John Herbert Bowyer, the Chief Medical Officer in the then Outram Road General Hospital. He died at Sime Road Interment Camp during the Japanese Occupation on 1 November 1944. In the pre-war days, it accommodated the first and second class male wards and first class female wards. There were operating theatres on the ground floor and also Ear, Nose and Throat Department (1926-1951). The Block also houses the other departments. Part of the Bowyer Block was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the construction of the new Singapore General hospital.

#### **In Memoriam Of Fallen Students (6).**

During WW2, shelling was intense at Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Yoong Tatt Sin, a medical student at King Edward VII College of Medicine, was seriously injured whilst on duty in one of the wards on 14 Feb 1942 and died on the same day. Tatt Sin's colleagues, a group of 25 medical students congregated at the golf ground in front of the College of Medicine Building to give him a proper burial. Unfortunately, the same Japanese Gunners who hit Tatt Sin arrived at the General Hospital with a barrage of shelling and killed another 10 medical students. No burial could take place that day & it was on 16 Feb 1942 that the 10 students together with Tatt Sin were given a respectful burial.

# SGH Walkabout



Singapore's first medical school was founded in 1905, converted from an old Female Lunatic Asylum at Sepoy Lines. Known then as the Straits and Federated Malay States Government Medical School, it was renamed the King Edward VII Medical School in 1913 and then to King Edward VII College of Medicine in 1924. In 1920, a new College building was commissioned, and the **College of Medicine Building (7)** was officially opened on 15 Feb 1926. In 1949, it merged with the Raffles College to become the University of Malaya, and became its Faculty of Medicine. In May 1982, the faculty moved to Kent Ridge Campus. This building underwent renovations in 1985. Today, the College of Medicine is home to the Ministry of Health headquarter and the College of Family Physicians.

**Tan Teck Guan Building (8)** was an addition to the Federated Malay States Government Medical School in 1911. Construction was funded by Mr Tan Chay Yan, in memory of his father, Mr Tan Teck Guan. As part of the then King Edward VII College of Medicine, the building housed the Principal's office, a lecture theatre, a pathology museum and a library with a reading room. There used to be adjoining buildings of Anatomy and Physiology to the Tan Teck Guan Building. This building was recommended for preservation in 1985 together with the College of Medicine Building.

**Harrower Hall (9)** was originally used as a lounge and dining hall for medical students staying in the former Federated Malay States (FMS) hostel. It was renovated in 1959 and 1962 to house the Department of Pharmacology. It was not uncommon to see the undergraduates staying back in the evening to complete their practical. They would have their dinner at Ah Leng's canteen located just next door, then proceeding on with their practical sessions. The Department of Pharmacology eventually moved to Kent Ridge Campus in 1982. In the same year, the University's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery acquired Harrower Hall for the development of its research facilities. Since 2 Jan 2002, Harrower Hall has been occupied by the Singapore Pharmacy Board.

The FMS Hostel, the predecessor of King Edward Hall, was first opened in 1916 to provide accommodation for 72 students. In 1955, the FMS hostel was demolished, and a new building – **King Edward VII Hall at Sepoy Lines (10)**, was erected. While King Edward VII Hall celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1982, its era at Sepoy Lines came to an end when the hostel was moved to Kent Ridge. The King Edward VII Hall at Kent Ridge was officially opened by President Wee Kim Wee on 25 Nov 1988.

**Mistri Wing (11)** played an important role in the development of Paediatrics and Child Health in Singapore. The building was built through a generous donation from philanthropist Mr Navroji Rustomji Mistri, whose last wishes was that there should be a special ward built at the Singapore General Hospital for children. Mistri Wing was officially opened in 1955. The wing incorporated two complete paediatric units, each with a 150 bed complement, providing the most up-to-date facilities for the treatment of sick children. In 1994, the Singapore Heart Centre opened at the Mistri Wing, serving as a one-stop centre for cardiovascular diseases. The centre was redesignated as the National Heart Centre in 1998.

The current site of Block 8 of SGH was where **Stanley Block (12)** once stood. It was formerly known as the Middle Block of the General Hospital. Stanley Block first housed the second and third class female wards when it opened in 1926. In the early 1960s, the Occupational Therapy Department moved to occupy the third floor of Stanley Block. Stanley Block was the meeting point for the majority of the Allied Health Services, which incidentally encapsulated the early concepts of the Rehabilitation Centre, which is now found in all hospitals in Singapore. This block was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the construction of the new Singapore General Hospital.