



HOLLAND VILLAGE

Art by Ronnie SC Tan

Holland Village has played a pivotal role in shaping the social and cultural landscape of the area. Initially developed in the 1930s to cater to the needs of British soldiers and their families stationed in nearby Pasir Panjang and Alexandra areas, it has undergone redevelopment over the years and now boasts a mix of upmarket retail outlets, dining establishments, and recreational venues, making it a favourite haunt for both foreigners and locals.

The name "Holland Village" is derived from that of a prominent architect and early Singapore resident, Hugh Holland. Officially named by the Rural Board on 30 July 1929, it has no connection to the country Holland.

Today, Holland Village stands as a testament to its transformation from a quiet residential area into a fashionable and diverse neighbourhood known for its vibrant and lively atmosphere.

HOLLAND VILLAGE WINDMILL

Holland Piazza now stands where the open-air Eng Wah cinema once operated. This open-air cinema, a beloved local landmark, was purchased and transformed into a mall in the mid-1980s. The mall featured a striking replica of a traditional Dutch windmill, paying homage to its namesake locale. However, in 2015, the mall closed its doors, making way for the sleek, modern development of Holland Piazza.

LORONG LIPUT & LORONG MAMBONG

Two small roads, Lorong Liput and Lorong Mambong, run through Holland Village. Antique and curio stores as well as shops selling furniture and sundries used to line these two roads. Today, the area has turned into a vibrant neighbourhood known for its diverse cuisine and bustling nightlife.

THAMBI MAGAZINE STORE

Another notable landmark in Holland Village was the Thambi Magazine Store, located along Holland Drive. Established over 80 years ago, the family business began as a newspaper distribution service in the 1940s and evolved into Thambi Magazine Store. By the 1990s, the store offered a wide range of newspapers, magazines, and reading materials. Thambi Magazine Store became a cherished part of the community until it sadly slipped into history on 5 May 2024.

CHIP BEE GARDENS

Chip Bee Gardens, developed in the mid-1960s across from Holland Village, was originally established to house British military personnel and their families. A visit by Princess Margaret to the Chip Bee estate in October 1972 underscored its growing charm at that time. After the British Armed Forces withdrew in the 1970s, the area was gradually transformed into a vibrant commercial and dining hub.