BALESTIER



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Balestier was named after Joseph Balestier, first American consul from 1837 to 1852 when Singapore was a colony. He owned a 1,000-acre sugar plantation called Balestier Plain, which failed and was put up for sale. The area was named after him as it was where his plantation was located. When Balestier left Singapore due to a health breakdown after the deaths of his son and wife in 1844 and 1847, he sold his plantation to Singapore authorities and the land was leased out to Chinese farmers.

The Chinese labourers, who settled in the area, built a temple in 1847 known as Goh Chor Tua Pek Kong Temple, with the area having one of the last free-standing wayang stage in Singapore that was built in 1906 by Tan Boo Liat, a Hokkien businessman and philanthropist.

In the 1940s, a film studio, Singapore Film Studios, was set up by Shaw Brothers to produce Malay films in Singapore for their local clients. The studio was later renamed as Malay Film Productions and had played a significant role in the film industry and produced hundreds of film. However, it was eventually closed in 1967 due to the falling demand for Malay language films. This place is considered one of the most iconic places in Singapore in the early days as a form of local entertainment.

Balestier has a truly colourful and eventful history. Scan the QR code below for more interesting information from Wikipedia.

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