

Taoist Mission supports preservation of cemetery

道协支持保留咖啡山

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Letter from Lee Zhiwang President, Taoist Mission (Singapore)

THE Taoist Mission (Singapore) wholeheartedly supports the cause to preserve Bukit Brown Cemetery.

As a religious, cultural and heritage group, our mission is not only to propagate Taoism but also Chinese culture and tradition.

We believe it is important to preserve the cemetery because it contains a rich heritage, which would be invaluable to Singaporeans as a whole. Preserving it is also an exercise of filial piety to our pioneers, who have contributed enormously to nation building.

In support of preservation efforts, the Taoist Mission has recently taken over Keng Teck Whay Building and the responsibility to restore this national monument now renamed as Singapore Yu Huang Gong Temple of Heavenly Jade Emperor.

It was built approximately 170 years ago by a group of 36 Peranakan Chinese from Malacca. The grave of one of the founders has been found in Bukit Brown and, in time to come, we should be able to rediscover other founders' graves in that area.

Having said that, the Taoist Mission understands that Singapore is land scarce. If the area cannot be preserved in its entirety, at least part of it should be, and efforts should be made to document its history and heritage.

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