

NO. 38 OXLEY ROAD – BUNGALOW ARCHITECTURE AND COMPARABLES

Evolution of Bungalows in Singapore

1 Bungalows are independent dwelling units. In the old days, they were typically one or two storeys high. Built mainly as residences for the wealthy, they were mostly located in serene and wooded environments away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

2 When the British started building bungalows here, they brought the Anglo-Indian bungalow hybrid to Singapore and Malaya. This hybrid was further adapted to suit our tropical climate by incorporating architectural features such as raised-floor construction, verandahs and overhanging roof eaves.

3 The blend of influences from the East and West, and from vernacular buildings, give a variety of styles to our landscape. They can be broadly categorised into the five architectural styles:

- (a) Early style
- (b) Victorian style
- (c) Black and White style
- (d) Art Deco style
- (e) Modern style

4 See **Appendix A-1** for images.

Comparison of 38 Oxley Road

5 Of the more than 200 old bungalows conserved to-date in Singapore, 16 are Early style. The house at 38 Oxley Road belongs to this style built in the late 19th and early 20th century. Basically, bungalows of this style are one-storey high and have timber floors elevated on brick piers or timber posts to allow air circulation underneath. The pitched tiled roofs are supported on columns and broad, open verandahs are located under the wide eaves.

6 Within this Style, there are variations as some owners chose to add features such as turret, orthogonal entrance porch, and exterior ornamentation. Variations are also observed in the number and locations of the front entrance stairways.

ANNEX A
(continued)

7 The house at 38 Oxley Road has close resemblance to two of the conserved Early style bungalows i.e. 733 Mountbatten Road (1929) and 9 Buckley Road (1900s). See **Appendix A-2**. In plan, their layout is compact, symmetrical and divided into three to five bays. The front entrance steps, located along the central axis, lead from the prominent entrance porch to the deep verandah which line the entire front facade.

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ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF CONSERVED BUNGALOWS



Early Style



Victorian Style



Art Deco Style



Black & White Style



Modern Style

CONSERVED BUNGALOWS WITH COMPARABLE ARCHITECTURE



733 Mountbatten Road



9 Buckley Road