

II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

As of 2016, there have yet to be any comprehensive national inventory of intangible cultural heritage available. However, various government agencies, institutions, non-governmental organisations and individuals have been surveying, collecting, and documenting these elements.

For example, the National Heritage Department has established a National Heritage Register; the National Department for Arts and Culture has curated an online directory on performing arts at the national level; George Town World Heritage Incorporated also has conducted survey on traditional trades and occupations in George Town World Heritage Site; Seni Pusaka—a non-profit organisation which works to support the continuity and viability of traditional performance arts in Malaysia—has documented traditional performances such as *Wayang Kulit*, *Mak Yong* and *Main Puteri*, among others.⁹ More information of these efforts will be elaborated in the following chapters.

1. National Inventory

As indicated in the National Heritage Act (2005) Article 67(1), National Heritage can be divided into four categories: 1) heritage site, 2) heritage object, 3) underwater cultural heritage, and 4) living person. In this Act (Part I, Article 2), intangible cultural heritage is included as part of Object. Sub-categories such as Custom and Culture, Food Heritage and Performing Arts are created throughout the years to accommodate the Registered items.

According to Article 68, any person may nominate to the Minister in the prescribed form any natural heritage, tangible or intangible cultural heritage, living person or underwater cultural heritage to be declared as a National Heritage. The Heritage Commissioner is responsible to determine registration of intangible cultural heritage items, and to specify the category these items to be registered in. Since 2007, the items registered as National Heritage is announced biannually. Their statistics are summarized in the following tables:

⁹ <http://www.senipusaka.com>

Table 1: Item Registered as National Heritage (2007—2015)

Year	Category					Total
	Site	Object		Living Person	Underwater Cultural Heritage	
		Intangible	Tangible			
2007	18 16 Monuments 2 Natural Heritage	13	19	0	0	50
2009	16 3 Archeological Sites 13 Monuments	117 100 Heritage Food 17 Performing Arts	34 12 Tangible Objects 22 Fine Arts Items	6	0	173
2012	24 3 Archeological Sites 16 Monuments 5 Natural Heritage	111 17 Clothing, Textile, Ornamental Arts and Craft 9 Custom and Culture 51 Heritage Food 5 Language and Literature 12 Performing Arts 11 Traditional Games and Martial Arts 6 Traditional Medicine	10 8 Tangible Objects 2 Fine Arts Items	9	0	154
2013	-	-	-	1	-	-
2015	9 5 Archeological Sites 4 Monuments	69 12 Clothing, Textile, Ornamental Arts and Craft 3 Custom and Culture 41 Heritage Food 2 Language and Literature 4 Performing Arts 7 Traditional Games and Martial Arts	29 Tangible Objects	5	0	112
Total	67	310	92	21	0	388

Notes: Table is compiled using information extracted from *Warisan Kebangsaan* published by Jabatan Warisan Negara (2015). Categorisation is arranged according to Article 67, National Heritage Act 2005.

Table 2: Sub-Category of Item Registered as National Heritage (Object)
(2007—2015)

No.	Sub-Categories	Item
1	Clothing, Textile, Ornamental Arts and Craft	29
2	Custom and Culture	12
3	Food Heritage	192
4	Language and Literature	7
5	Performing Arts	33
6	Traditional Medicine	6
7	Traditional Games and Martial Arts	18
8	Others (Not defined)	13
Total		310

Source: Jabatan Warisan Negara (2015) *Warisan Kebangsaan*. Malaysia: Jabatan Warisan Negara.

Inventory Information

- 1) Title(s): National Heritage Register
- 2) Number of inscribed Intangible Cultural Heritage: 310
- 3) Year of establishment: 2007
- 4) Date of most recent update: 2015
- 5) Expert advisory panel: National Heritage Council
(*Majlis Warisan Kebangsaan*)
- 6) Responsible governmental organisation: National Heritage Department
(*Jabatan Warisan Negara*)
- 7) Contacts:
 - Intangible Heritage Division (*Bahagian Warisan Tidak Ketara*)
Director: Mr. Khalid bin Syed Ali
syedkhalid@heritage.com.my
 - Heritage Registration Division (*Bahagian Daftar Warisan*)
Director: Mr. Mohamad Muda bin Bahadin
muda@heritage.com.my

The complete listing of the Register is detailed in Part III.

(1) CULTURAL MAPPING PORTAL ON PERFORMING ARTS

The National Department for Culture and Arts (*Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negara, JKKN*) established the Cultural Mapping portal¹⁰ focusing on three main branches of performing arts: dance, music and (traditional) theatre. The portal contains information of performing arts and practitioners according to the state and district.

Figure 1 The Homepage of National Department for Culture and Arts' Cultural Mapping Portal



¹⁰ <http://www.jkkn.gov.my/pemetaanbudaya/>

(2) DIRECTORY OF TRADITIONAL TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS, GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE

George Town World Heritage Incorporated initiated a survey in 2012 to identify traditional trades and occupations, residents with artisan skills, and residents with artistic and cultural skills. Altogether 1,243 occurrences of traditional trades and occupations were identified within the George Town World Heritage Site the survey to identify artisans and cultural auctioneers failed to ascertain the level of skill of each individual.

The lessons learnt from this mixed result reflect the lack of understanding on the definition and categorisation of intangible cultural heritage. Since then, efforts were placed on two directions: to utilise the primary data as reference for research projects and community outreach programmes, and more importantly, to enhance the capacity of George Town World Heritage Incorporated in mastering the concepts and spirits of Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) before conducting the next survey.

A total of 611 entries on traditional trades that fulfilled the specified criteria as listed in the following six (6) criteria were included into two booklets of the Directory of Traditional Trades and Occupations in George Town (2012). The first booklet, "Directory of Traditional Trades and Occupations in George Town World Heritage 2012 (By Streets)" highlighted the geographical locations of the trades,¹¹ while the second booklet "Directory of Traditional Trades and Occupations in George Town World Heritage 2012 (By Trades)" divide the data according to 63 trades categories.¹²

- 1) Representation in trade categories;
- 2) Characteristic representation according to ethnic, cultural or religious groupings, with particular attention to minorities;
- 3) Representation according to geographical distribution in core and buffer zone, with intangible cultural heritage in core zone being given higher priority;
- 4) The Year the business was established;
- 5) As the traditional trade directories are made publicly available, a quick visual check was made to ensure that the premises were minimally presentable to visitors;
- 6) It was decided to remove the food-related trades as these would prospectively be covered more comprehensively (with the inclusion of permanent business premises and hawker stalls) in a future survey.

¹¹ Full text available at
<http://www.gtwhi.com.my/images/pdfs/Traditional%20Trades%20and%20Occupations%20Directory%20by%20Street.pdf> or at Annex 5.

¹² Full text available at
<http://www.gtwhi.com.my/images/pdfs/Traditional%20Trades%20and%20Occupations%20Directory%20by%20Trades.pdf> or at Annex 6.

Figure 2 Cover Page of Directory of Traditional Trades and Occupations in George Town Booklets

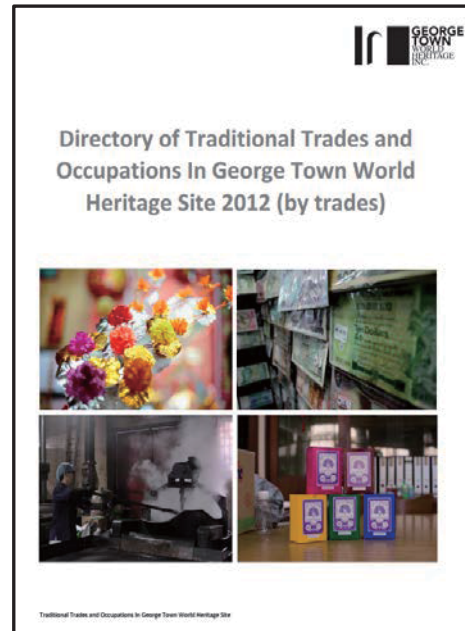
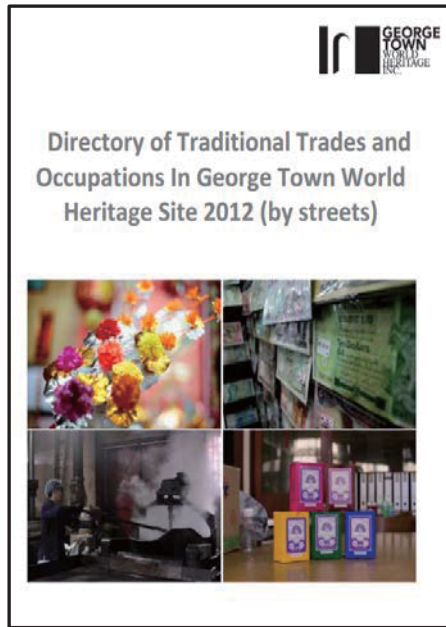


Table 3: Classification of Traditional Traders and Occupations in George Town World Heritage Site (2012—2013)

Categories	Number of Trades
Antiques, Crafts and Souvenirs	13
Art Supplies and Stationer	8
Bakery, Biscuit Shop and Traditional Cake Shop	13
Bar	1
Barber and Hair Saloon	11
Bertam Chik, Cane and Rattan Craft	5
Beverage Supplier (coffee, tea, liquor)	11
Bicycle Shop	5
Bookshop	8
Budget Hotel, Family-Run Hotel and Lodge	18
Building Industry	2
Butcher, Meat Products and Seafood Products Shop	8
Canvas and Leather Goods	4
Charcoal Shop	4
Clothing and Apparel Shop	10
Coffee Shop and Tea Shop	55
Crockery and Kitchenware	8
Dried Food Provisions and Specialised Dried Foodstuffs	34
Fine Art and Graphic Production	3
Fortune-Telling	3
Frame-Making and Glass	8
Fresh Produce Supplier	3
General Goods and Household Implements	8
Hardware Wholesale and Retail	17
Headgear and Footwear	6
Import-Export	5
Jeweler and Goldsmith	28
Keys and Locksmith	3
Laundry and Dry Cleaner	2
Marine and Vehicle Repair	6
Metalwork and Machining	14
Money-Changer	7
Newspaper and Magazine Distributor	3
Noodle and Poh Piah Skin Maker	6
Optometrist and Pharmacy	3
Pawnshop	3
Perfumery	2
Philately and Numismatics	3
Pillow Maker and Beddings Supplier	8
Publishing and Printing Industry	16

Recycling	8
Religious and Ceremonial Goods Wholesale and Retail	33
Restaurants and Eateries	29
Rubber-Stamp Maker and Electro-Engraver	6
Rugs and Carpets	3
Specialised Food and Baking Ingredients Supplier	3
Specialised Packaging	3
Specialised Supplier	13
Spice Wholesaler, Spice Mill and Fresh Spice Paste Maker	8
Stevedoring and Ship Handling	4
Stone Craft and Stone Supplier	2
Sundry Shop and Grocery Shop	25
Tailor Shop	12
Textile and Piece Goods, Wholesaler and Retailer	11
Tobacco and Cigar Shop	2
Traditional Florist	1
Traditional Massage and Blind Massage	5
Traditional Medicine and Healing	41
Traditional Occupation	2
Traditional Pastimes	2
Watch and Clock Shop	11
Weighing Equipment	3
Woodwork and Woodcarving	9
TOTAL	611

Source: George Town World Heritage Incorporated (2013) *Directory of Traditional Trades and Occupations in George Town World Heritage 2012 (By Trades)*. Malaysia: George Town World Heritage Incorporated.