



PORTRAIT OF COLONIAL BUILDINGS IN MEDAN CITY

**Nabil Akbar Soufyan¹, Akhmad Fariz Al Daffa Hasibuan²,
Suthan Muzakky³, Awabi Rauf⁴, Nurul Aini⁵**
SMA UNGGULAN AL-AZHAR MEDAN

Abstract

This research will study the heritage of historical buildings in the colonial era in Medan city. Among them are the London Sumatra Building, Bank Indonesia, Post Office, City Hall Building, and Tirtanadi Tower. In obtaining the data needed to conduct research, researchers conducted a historical research method consisting of four steps: (1) Heuristics, which is collecting historical sources that are interconnected with the topic of the research study. At this stage, the author prepares to collect historical sources in the form of documents, archives, books, documentation, interviews, and tracing photos, maps. Photo and map searches can be done for verification. At this stage, the author conducts source criticism to test whether the historical sources are authentic and credible. All historical sources that have been collected will be tested through internal and external criticism. Internal criticism is carried out to find the validity of the source, while external criticism is carried out to determine the extent to which the validity and authenticity of the sources obtained can be accounted for. After these two steps are carried out, all data that has been validated is then grouped based on the topic of study to be researched. 3. Interpretation. At this stage, the author interprets historical sources into a unified understanding or story about the event. (4) Historiography At this stage, the author reconstructs the events of the past with me.

Keywords: *Potrait, Colonial Building Medan City*

INTRODUCTION

Medan City as one of the major cities in Indonesia, has a very heterogeneous population with multicultural life, which has been known since the capital of North Sumatra Province was established in the mid-16th century. Such plural life of the pre-Indonesian era is also manifested in the physical culture of the city through hundreds of attractive colonial heritage buildings, which can be seen today mainly in new functions such as houses, offices, hotels, shops, places of worship, hospitals and schools. Aesthetically, the buildings are generally a blend of Malay, Dutch, Indian, British and Chinese design and architectural styles, as an accumulation and crystallization of Medan City's own history that can be traced back to the era of Deli tobacco cultivation in East Sumatra in 1863.

As an urban area that continues to grow in the Medan City area, it holds a lot of historical heritage. Sinar (2001:65) states that: "Medan City itself after the handover of land by the Sultan of Deli to the Dutch East Indies Government", the embryo of Medan city center development began to appear, marked by the creation of the Esplanade field (Merdeka Square). Since then, along with the success of the trade of Deli Maatschappij plantation products such as tobacco and rubber in the international world, Medan city developed into a city of Trade, important buildings were erected which made Medan City rich in Dutch colonial heritage in the form of buildings.

As some historical buildings can be found in the core area of Medan City, there are at least 40 objects of historical and cultural heritage buildings that can be found in Medan City, considering the location of these historical buildings is very close in terms of accessibility to the historical building area. However, the researcher only studied some of the buildings located in area 1 in this study, which

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consisted of the following: London Sumatera Building, Bank Indonesia, Post Office, Tirtanadi Tower, City Hall Building, and Railway Station.

RESEARCH METHODS

The definition according to Kuntowijoyo (2008) explains that the historical method is an implementation and technical guide regarding source material, criticism and historical interpretation and presentation in written form. Gottschalk (2016) explains that there are 4 stages of the historical method, namely: Heuristics or collection of relevant written, oral sources. Criticism of sources that are not authentic. Summarizing historical facts from historical sources into an understanding. Writing or representing historical facts.

Thus, this research has research stages, namely Heuristics, Verification, Interpretation, and Historiography.

(1) Heuristics. Namely the process of collecting historical sources that are interrelated with the research study topic. At this stage the author collects historical sources in the form of documents, archives, books, documentation, interviews and tracing photos, maps. Photo and map searches can

(2) Verification. At this stage the author conducts source criticism to determine the authenticity and credibility of historical sources. All historical sources that have been collected will be tested through internal and external criticism. Internal criticism is carried out to assess the feasibility of the source, while external criticism is carried out to determine the extent of the validity and authenticity of the sources obtained. After these two stages have been carried out, all data that has been verified is then grouped based on the topic of study to be researched.

(3) Interpretation. At this stage the author interprets historical sources into a unified understanding or story of historical events.

(4) Historiography At this stage the author reconstructs historical events based on historical source data that has been collected and analyzed previously.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. London Sumatra Building



Gambar 1: London Sumatra Building

A cultural heritage building in Medan City that still stands strong today. It used to be the office of a plantation company owned by Harrisons and Crossfield Plc, a plantation and trading company whose headquarters are in London. The company called this building Juliana. The building was built in 1906 with a transitional style in terms of architecture. The shape of the front facade uses the architectural style characteristic of houses built facing the river in Europe during the transition period at the end of the 19th century. The ownership of this building was nationalized after independence and its name changed to PT London Sumatra Indonesia (PT Lonsum).



2. City Hall Building



Gambar 2: City Hall Building

This building is one of the most historic buildings in Medan City. The Old City Hall office was built during the Dutch colonial period in 1908 by Hulswit and Fermont. The Old City Hall building is located at Jalan Listrik No.10, Petisah Tengah, Medan Petisah District, Medan City and is the 0 (zero) point of Medan City.

3. Bank Indonesia Building



Gambar 3: Bank Indonesia Building

This white-painted building with typical European architecture stands in front of Merdeka Square. The building was erected in 1906 and handled by a Dutch architectural firm based in Batavia by architects Hulswit, Fermont and Cuypers. The building started operating in 1907 as the center of a Dutch bank called De Javasche Bank. At that time De Javasche Bank was led by L. Vonhemert. In 2000 there was a major refurbishment by reinstalling the dome that was removed in 1956. However, the original Dutch big clock that was in the house was lost.

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4. Post Office



Gambar 4: Post Office

This Post Office is located on Jalan Balai Kota Medan facing the Merdeka Field of Medan. This is where correspondence activities began to occur since it was built by the Dutch Colonial Government by an architect named Snuyf until now this post office is still operating properly even though this building has been operated since 1911..

5. Tirtanadi Tower



Gambar 5: Tirtanadi Tower

This building is one of the icons of Medan City and has been more than a hundred years old since it was built in 1908 by the Dutch government. The tower is used as a water reservoir for Medan residents. It is 42 meters high and weighs 300 tons. The tower belongs to a Dutch company called NV. Waterleiding Maatschappij Ajer Beresih is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Then since the independence era, it has become a government-owned drinking water company.

CONCLUSIONS

Ancient relics are one of the evidences of a series of human events in the past that contain historical value, which is related in the form of history, science and culture. Which at this time the condition of the existence of the historic building already represents a period of 50 years and has an important identity as a cultural heritage object that should need to be maintained and preserved without having to change the original form or be destroyed. In Medan City, there are still many historical buildings from the Dutch colonial heritage which are a historical evidence of the many series of events



that occurred in the past that we can still see its existence and can be passed on to the next generation as historical evidence in Medan City. Until now, the historical buildings can still be seen and visited in the Medan City area, among others: (1). Lamadi City Hall Building on Jl Balaikota, (2). Bank Indonesia Office on Jl Balaikota (3). Hotel De Boer on Jl Balaikota (4). Post and Giro Office on Jl Post Office (5). Railway Station

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