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Built in the 1930s, Tiong Bahru Estate is one of the oldest housing estates in Singapore. The estate had 30 apartment blocks with 900 units. Then, only the upper class could afford to live there. Many rich men bought these apartments for their girlfriends. For this reason, the estate used to be known as Mei Ren Wo (meaning den of beauties in Chinese).

After World War II, the population in Tiong Bahru boomed and the estate gradually lost its exclusive upper class status. Today Tiong Bahru retains its charm and is a bustling residential area with many coffee shops, cafes and quaint little shops.