

# A Journey through Kampala's History

## KAMPALA HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND SITES



This map has been created to bring Kampala's history to life as you walk down the street.

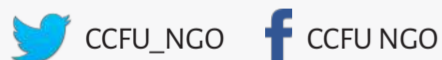
It has been designed by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, with the support of the European Union, as part of the European Union Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

Please also check out our other publications:

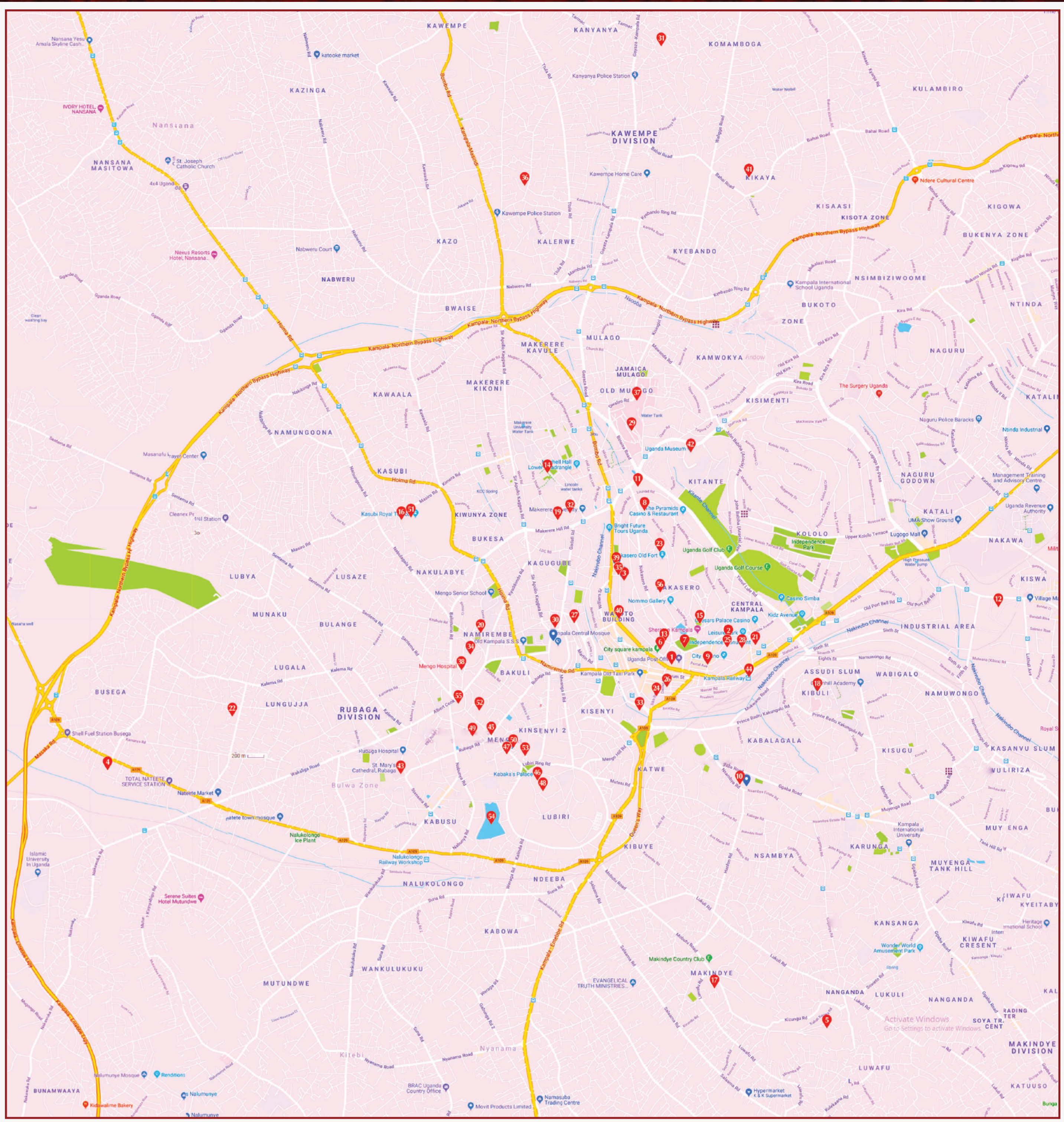
- Uganda's Built Heritage mobile app (available on Googleplay and Apple App Store)
- 'Beyond the Reeds and Bricks - Historical Sites and Buildings in Kampala, Jinja and Entebbe' – a photo book available in most bookstores
- Maps of Historical Buildings and Sites in Entebbe and Jinja – available in most bookstores

For further information, contact

The Cross-Cultural  
Foundation of Uganda  
Makerere Hill, Off Bativa Rd,  
P.O. Box 25517, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel. +256-393 294675/7  
ccfu@crossculturalfoundation.or.ug  
www.crossculturalfoundation.or.ug



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### KEY

- Historical Buildings and Sites
- Water body
- Vegetation/Gardens
- Major Highways
- Main Roads
- OP Open to the public
- NOP Not open to the public

## Kabakanjagala Road (Buganda's Royal Mile) and its Surroundings

Kabakanjagala Road, the Royal Mile, lies at the heart of Mengo, the kibuga (city) of Buganda. It connects the king's palace (Lubiri) to the parliament (Bulange). Midway is the Entawetwa roundabout, through which only the Kabaka is allowed to pass. Several buildings carrying the history of Buganda and Uganda can be found in the vicinity.

The phrase, 'Kabaka anjagala' (the King loves/needs me) was commonly used by the king's subjects when visiting the palace, or when given a candle-nut tree. It also refers to the 52 such trees (Kabakanjagala trees), one for each clan, originally planted along the road by Zakaliya Kisingiri (see # 52) upon his return from visiting the exiled Kabaka Mwanga and bringing back the seeds from the Seychelles.



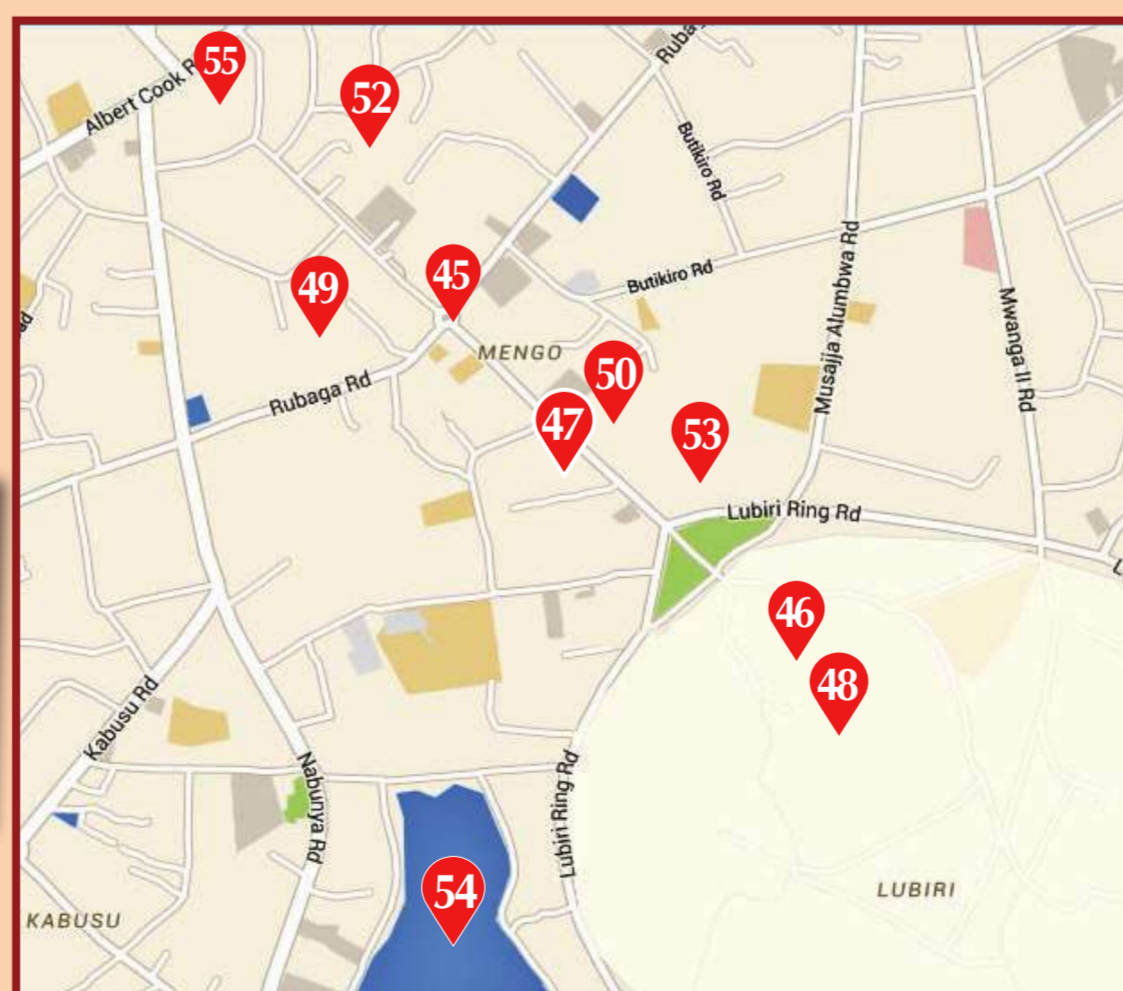
**Kisosonkole House (c.1905) – NOP**  
The residence of Tefro Kisosonkole, Buganda's prominent army commander, later Kabaka Daudi Chwa's Prime Minister, and the current Kabaka's grandfather. It now houses a charity, training needy girls.



**Tweekobe (1922-1933) – OP (grounds only)**  
The official residence of the Kabaka of Buganda, where the namulondo (Buganda's royal seat) was kept. The house, which sits in the 260-acre Lubiri (palace grounds), was occupied by the army in 1966, when the Kabaka was exiled, until repossessed in 1993 and renovated in 1998. A constant fire at the entrance symbolises the continuity of the kingdom – it is only extinguished upon a Kabaka's death.



**Hamu Mukasa Keweerimide House (1902) – OP**  
The former residence of Hamu Mukasa, Buganda's prominent and long serving Ssekiboobo (County Chief of Kyaggwe) 1905-1935. A scholar who never went to school, Mukasa was among the first boys taught by Alexander Mackay at Natete (see # 22). He co-founded Gayaza High School, Kings' College Buddo, Bishop Tucker Theological College, Mukono; and introduced the Scouts movement to Uganda.



**Basiima House (1902-1905) – NOP**  
Juxtaposing British, Arab and Ugandan architectural designs, one of the first two-storey buildings in Uganda. Built with compacted earth bricks, its construction was supervised by Sir Apollo Kagwa, the Katikikiro (Prime Minister of the Buganda Kingdom) at the time. After being confiscated by the army in 1966, it subsequently served as President Obote's seat of military intelligence.



**Butikkiro House (1929) – NOP**  
The official residence of the Katikikiro (Prime Minister) of Buganda was occupied by five Prime Ministers, from Martin Luther Nsibirwa to Mayanja Nkangi, before being taken over by the army between 1966 and 1993, when it was handed back to the Buganda Kingdom.



**Kabaka's Lake (1886) – OP**  
Possibly the largest hand-dug lake in Africa, excavated at great human cost, on Kabaka Mwanga II's command, as part of an (uncompleted) escape route from Mengo Palace (see # 46) to Lake Victoria. Buganda's clan leaders are responsible for mobilising people to keep it clean.



**Kisingiri House (1895) – NOP**  
The residence of Zakaliya Kisingiri, one of the three regents to the young Kabaka Daudi Chwa II. Kisingiri became treasurer (omuwaniika) for the Buganda Kingdom when Chwa succeeded his father Mwanga II.



**Kasubi Tombs (1880) – OP**  
A UNESCO World Heritage Site, and originally Kabaka Mutesa I's palace (1880-1884), the graves of Mutesa I, Mwanga II, Daudi Chwa II, and Mutesa II are found in the main house, the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga. Bujjabukula, the gate house is where Mutesa I lived 1880-1882, awaiting completion of the main house. Ndoga Obukaba is the house containing the royal drums. The main house was destroyed by fire in 2010 and is currently under reconstruction.



**Bank of Uganda (1969) – OP**  
Construction of the bank's first permanent premises started in 1967, one year after Uganda first issued its own national currency. Designed by Peatfield and Bodgener (see also # 21 and 28), the building's striking design is accompanied by the monument in front, a mosaic-clad structure that symbolises the new bank's authority over the nation's wealth.



**The Emin Pasha Hotel (c.1940s) – OP**  
Partly built around a renovated villa, the home of the owner of Kampala's first department store (Drapers, now DFCU Bank on Constitutional Square). A good example of a historical building renovated with care to turn it into a useful economic asset.



**Makerere Main Building (1939-1941) – OP**  
The administrative building for East Africa's oldest university (established 1922). Constructed with funding from the Colonial Development Fund, the building was designed to partly resemble the Senate Building at the University of London, to which Makerere College was then affiliated.



**Mengo Primary School (1904) – NOP**  
Christian missionaries established Kanyanja Elementary school (later Mengo Primary School) in 1895. The Chwa II Building is the oldest surviving formal education building in Uganda, financed by the Buganda Kingdom and British donations. The mvule tree King Chwa planted on its inauguration still stands in the yard. This was followed by the Muteesa I Dormitory, both buildings having thick walls made of mud and grass bricks.



**Uganda National Theatre (1956) – OP**  
Designed by Peatfield & Bodgener (see also # 1 & 28) as the National Theatre and financed by subscription and public funds, this building was meant to promote Ugandan expressive art in the run-up to independence, but was designed in the style of a Western theatre. It has nevertheless seen the involvement of many internationally recognised Ugandan writers, including Robert Serumaga, Olot p'Bitek and Byron Kawadwa (murdered by Idi Amin).



**Plot 44, Rashid Khamis Road (1930s) – OP**  
This unique example of 1920s' Art Deco architecture in Kampala was possibly built as a petrol station. It has been sympathetically renovated in recent years.



**Swaminarayan Hindu Temple (1960) – OP**  
The spiritual centre for Swaminarayan Hinduism consists of two worship halls. The temple has provided a religious, cultural and social focus point for the Gujarati community in Kampala. It is said to be the most spacious and imposing of the Swaminarayan temples in East Africa, reflecting the strength of the community in the country, especially in the mid-20th century.



**Vector Control Unit (1926) – NOP**  
Formerly the Malaria Control Unit, this building was initially for the exclusive use of colonial officials and reminds us that illness was a persistent feature of early colonial life.



**Treasury Building (1930) – NOP**  
During colonial days, this building housed the central financial administration of the protectorate government, and served as a centre of national accounting records and tax collection. Its imposing architectural style combines elements of many parts of the British Empire. Now an annex of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, it has undergone some renovation but has retained much of its original appearance, especially externally.



**Ebenezer House (1937) – OP**  
The last building of this period in central Kampala, Ebenezer House has been occupied by the Uganda Bookshop – an arm of the Church of Uganda – since 1977. The City Council has encouraged its preservation as one of the remaining historical buildings in central Kampala.



**The Kampala Club (1911) – NOP**  
This private members' club, originally known as the 'Top Club' was opened in 1911 for white officers of the colonial administration, with sister clubs in several cities. Ugandan members were permitted from the 1960s. The club was partially seized by the Government in 1972 and only returned in the 1990s, at which time comprehensive renovation was carried out.



**Nateete Martyrs' Church (1906) and Mackay's cave (1884) – OP**  
One of Uganda's oldest churches, built on the site of Alexander Mackay's original structure (1878). Mackay taught the first Anglican converts here and translated the Bible into Luganda, a 12-year task, using the press displayed at the Uganda Museum (see # 42). The brick 'cave' protected him during Kabaka Mwanga's religious persecutions.



**Parliament (1958) – OP**  
A monumental building, designed by Peatfield and Bodgener (see also # 1 & 21), to herald the optimism of the late 1950s. Although Uganda was soon to become independent, the building was commissioned and overseen by the colonial government. The arch at the gate was added later to represent independence. The light on top of the tower, when switched on, signifies that the House is sitting. A spectacular wooden mural showing Uganda's rich flora and fauna can be seen in the foyer.



**St Paul's Cathedral Namirembe (1915-1919) – OP**  
The seat of the Anglican Church in Uganda and the fourth cathedral on this site (from 1890, previous structures were destroyed by wind, termites and lightning). With its neo-gothic and byzantine features, it was constructed with clay bricks and roof tiles. Bishop Hannington (murdered on Kabaka Mwanga's orders), Albert Cook and his wife (see also # 5 & 38), and Lady Sarah Nalule (Kabaka Mutebi's mother), are buried in the graveyard.



**Watoto Church (early 1950s) – OP**  
Previously the Norman Cinema (named after N. Godinho, its builder, see # 3). The first large, lavish and well-appointed movie house in Kampala, then a performance stage (Elly Wamala, Jimmy Katumba and the Ebonies performed there), until it was turned into a church in the early 1980s.



**Buganda Road Primary School (1933) – NOP**  
Formerly named after its founder Norman Godinho, an important Goan property owner and philanthropist, the school was renamed in the 1970s after the expulsion of Asians from Uganda. Initially exclusively an Indian school, it was handed over to government, expanded in 1954, and later opened to indigenous Ugandans. See also # 40.



**Fort Jesus Building, St. Peter's School Nsambya (1895-1907) – NOP**  
The first mission house of the Mill Hill Missionaries in Uganda, after Kabaka Mwanga gave much of Nsambya Hill to the Catholic Church in 1895. This partitioned building served as a church, residence and education centre, before St. Peter's Church Nsambya was built in 1951.



**Kabaka Muteesa I Royal Mosque (1856) – OP**  
The first mosque in Uganda, originally built with earth and bamboo, until completely reconstructed in 1967. The mosque originally had two qiblas, one facing Muzibu Azaala Mpanga (see # 51) and the other Mecca. Kabaka Muteesa I's Qur'an, his kettle and wooden ablution sandals (mikalabanda), can be seen at the site.



**Nakasero Fort (1900) – NOP**  
One of the few remaining symbols of the British military presence in Uganda, the colonial administrators occupied it in 1903 after moving from Fort Lugard at Old Kampala. The fort had two canons to defend the premises and the city in case of attack. Part of the perimeter wall still stands.



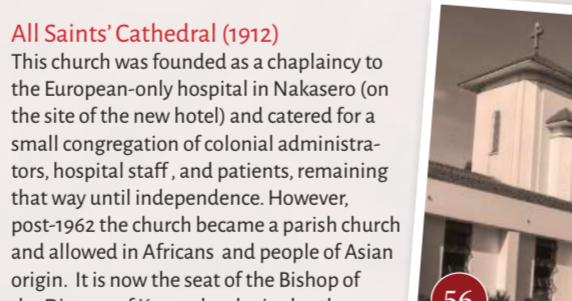
**New Mulago Hospital buildings (1962) – OP**  
This facility was completed in 1962, opening at the time of Uganda's independence celebrations. Sometimes described as 'Britain's independence gift to Uganda', it was actually built with Ugandan coffee farmers' money. Long recognised as a leading teaching hospital in the region, its construction further cemented Kampala's prominence as the new capital city of independent Uganda.



**Patidar Samaj Trust Building (1935) – OP**  
An example of Indian architecture in Kampala in the 1930s. Originally built as a social, cultural and religious centre for the Patel or Gujarati Community. It now houses the Uganda National Library.



**The Baha'i House of Worship (1958) – OP**  
Surrounded by extensive gardens, the Mother Temple for Africa was designed to fit with Uganda's culture and environment. With its nine-sided circular shape and striking dome, it was built under the supervision of the architects of the Bulange (see # 55) At the time the highest building in East Africa, it remains one of the largest religious structures in Africa.



**All Saints' Cathedral (1912)**  
This church was founded as a chaplaincy to the European-only hospital in Nakasero (on the site of the new hotel) and catered for a small congregation of colonial administrators, hospital staff, and patients, remaining that way until independence. However, post-1962 the church became a parish church and allowed in Africans and people of Asian origin. It is now the seat of the Bishop of the Diocese of Kampala who is also the Archbishop of the Province of the Church of Uganda.



**Busega Martyrs' Memorial (1984) – OP**  
A memorial to the first three Uganda Martyrs, killed in 1885 for having embraced Christianity: Noah Sserwanga, aged 19, Mark Kakumba, 16 and Yusuf Lugulama, 12.



**Government National Analytical Laboratory (1925-1927) – NOP**  
A magnificent example of early colonial architecture, this laboratory was constructed to provide specialised scientific, analytical, advisory and referral services to foster public health, a major concern during the early colonial period. Laboratory services in Uganda were introduced in 1926 at the European hospital in Nakasero (demolished) before being moved to this building.



**Makindye Sub-County (Gombolola) Building (1930) – NOP**  
An example of the administrative structures built by the Buganda Kingdom in the colonial period and used until 1966, partly as a court house and cell for prisoners.



**Nakasero Hindu Temple (1954) – OP**  
The Shree Sanatan Dharma Mandir was built by public subscription and follows the precepts of Hindu temple architecture. Building materials were imported from India and no steel bars were used. A masterpiece of Indian masonry with intricate stonework, Hindu gods stand sentry on the outside walls of the temple, while the inside is equally richly decorated.



**Old Kampala Police Station (1929) – OP**  
The only surviving building out of the first three police stations erected during the early years of the colonial period (with Entebbe and Nakasero Fort – see # 23). The lower storey, the first Commander's residence and the mango tree he planted remain, as well as another mango tree planted by Kabaka Muteesa II upon his return from exile in 1955.



**Prince Nuhu Mbogo's Tomb (1921) – OP**  
Born in 1835, the son of Kabaka Ssuwula II and brother to Kabaka Muteesa I, Prince Mbogo acquired his name when he urged Muslims to fight like emengo (buffaloes) during the religious wars. The grave is located at Kawempe, named after the papyrus shelter under which Mbogo hid from the British, shortly before being exiled to Zanzibar in 1893.



**Uganda Museum (1954) – OP**  
A striking Modernist building, designed by Ernst May. East Africa's oldest museum was established when the then British Governor directed all district heads to collect ethnographic objects in 1901. These artefacts were housed at Fort Lugard (1908), moved to the Margaret Trowell School of Art at Makerere (see also # 19) in 1941/2 and finally to this purpose-built home which opened in 1954.



**St. Mary's Cathedral Lubaga (1914-1925) – OP**  
Constructed by the White Fathers, the Cathedral sits on the hill given to the Catholic Church following the 1888 religious wars. The Romanesque cathedral contains the remains of Archbishop Kiwanuka, Uganda's first native archbishop. Images of the 22 Catholic martyrs are displayed in the stained glass windows. This is the seventh cathedral to stand on this site, after previous buildings were destroyed by misfortunes including earthquakes, wars, and being burnt down by Anglicans!



**Albert Cook's House (c.1920) – NOP**  
This stone-built home, akin to an English cottage, was the residence of Dr Albert Cook, Uganda's pioneer missionary medical doctor. Cook's wife, Katharine, helped Lady Drusilla Namaganda deliver Kabaka Muteesa II on this site in 1924.



**Coffee Marketing Board (1967) – NOP**  
By 1958, coffee had overtaken cotton as Uganda's biggest export, and this colourful and distinctive building was commissioned to increase industrial processing capacity. The building was designed by Hughes & Poringthorne Architects, a British architectural firm based in Kenya.



**Kibuli Mosque (1941-1951) – OP**  
Located on land donated by Prince Nuhu Mbogo, a prominent Ugandan Muslim (see also # 36) at a spot where the first permanent mosque with its qibla (hence 'Kibuli') was built in 1894. Outside the mosque stands the mango tree under which the first meeting to plan the construction of the current mosque took place. Prince Aly Agha Khan laid the foundation stone in 1941 and opened it in 1951.



**Mayor's Parlour (1949) – NOP**  
The Old Hall for Kampala City Council was opened by the Governor of Uganda, Sir John Hall, in 1949 and marks the time when Kampala became a city. The White Hall replaced the Old Hall in the mid-1960s.



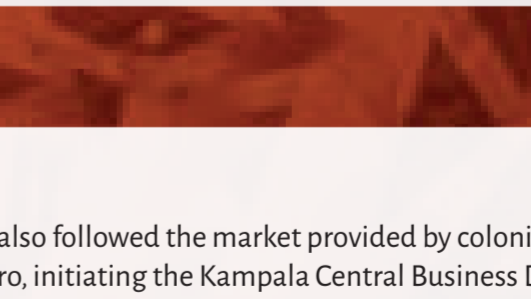
**Namasole Maasombira's Palace – (c.1930s) – OP (grounds only)**  
Located in Kanyanya, the palace of Evelyn Kulabako Maasombira, the Namasole (Queen Mother) of Kabaka Daudi Chwa II, and wife to Kabaka Mwanga II. She was buried there in 1951.



**Old Mulago Hospital buildings (1927-1937) – OP**  
Initiated by Albert Cook (see also # 5 & 38) in 1913 as a centre for treating venereal diseases and sleeping sickness, Mulago Hospital's surviving oldest buildings include the Department of Orthopaedics (1927), originally a medical training facility, the STI control clinic (1933) and a residence for hospital staff (1937).



**Luke and Katherine Wards, Mengo Hospital (1904) – OP**  
Stands where Albert Cook built Uganda's first (grass-thatched) hospital in 1897. It was rebuilt with earth and grass bricks in 1904 with most of the labour provided through 'bulungi bwansi' (community service) and is still in use today.



**Uganda Railway Station (1940) – OP**  
Built after the Uganda railway reached Kampala from Mombasa (1931), this imposing building attests to the status of the railways in the colonial period, when all of the Protectorate's foreign trade (and much of its traffic) depended on rail. Contains many original fittings.



**World Wars' Memorial Monument (1945) – OP**  
Kampala's oldest monument was built by the Protectorate Government in memory of Ugandans who died during the two World Wars. 1,389 Ugandans died from injuries or disease serving in WWI, and over 77,000 Ugandans were recruited into the armed forces to aid the Allied cause in WW2. Upon return, veterans played an important role in the struggle for Uganda's independence.



**Independence Monument (1962) – OP**  
Designed by Gregory Magoba, one of Uganda's first professional sculptors, this heralds the newly born country set free from bondage. It was unveiled on 5 October 1962 by Apollo Milton Obote, Uganda's first Prime Minister after independence.



**High Court Building (1930) – NOP**  
The High Court building provides one of the last remaining examples of neo-classical early colonial architecture in Kampala. Clearly designed to impress those who would come close to the law, it has remained substantially intact since its construction.



**Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts (1922) – OP**  
Named after the founder of the school. In 1940 Makerere College introduced Art among the subjects taught. Trowell is credited with pioneering art education in the region. The building also housed the collections of the Uganda Museum (1941-1954) (see also # 42).



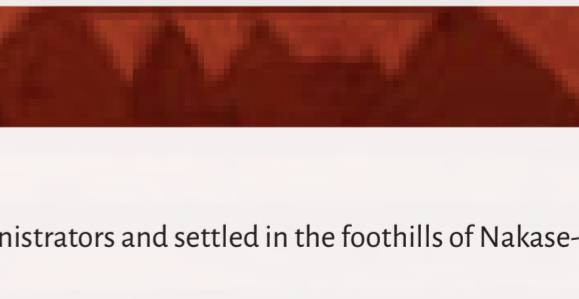
**Nakasero Market (1927) – OP**  
Constructed by the colonial administrators, this is the oldest and probably the first market built as a permanent structure. Originally located in the Lubiri (Kabaka's palace) from 1895, it was moved to Makerere-Kagugube in 1905 for better access, then to Nakasero hill in 1915 until construction at its present location.



**Old Mitchell Hall, Makerere University (1922) – OP**  
Among the first buildings at Makerere University, and originally known as Mitchell Hall (after Sir Phillip Mitchell, Governor of Uganda, 1935-1940). It housed the first residential facilities for male students, including Julius Nyerere.



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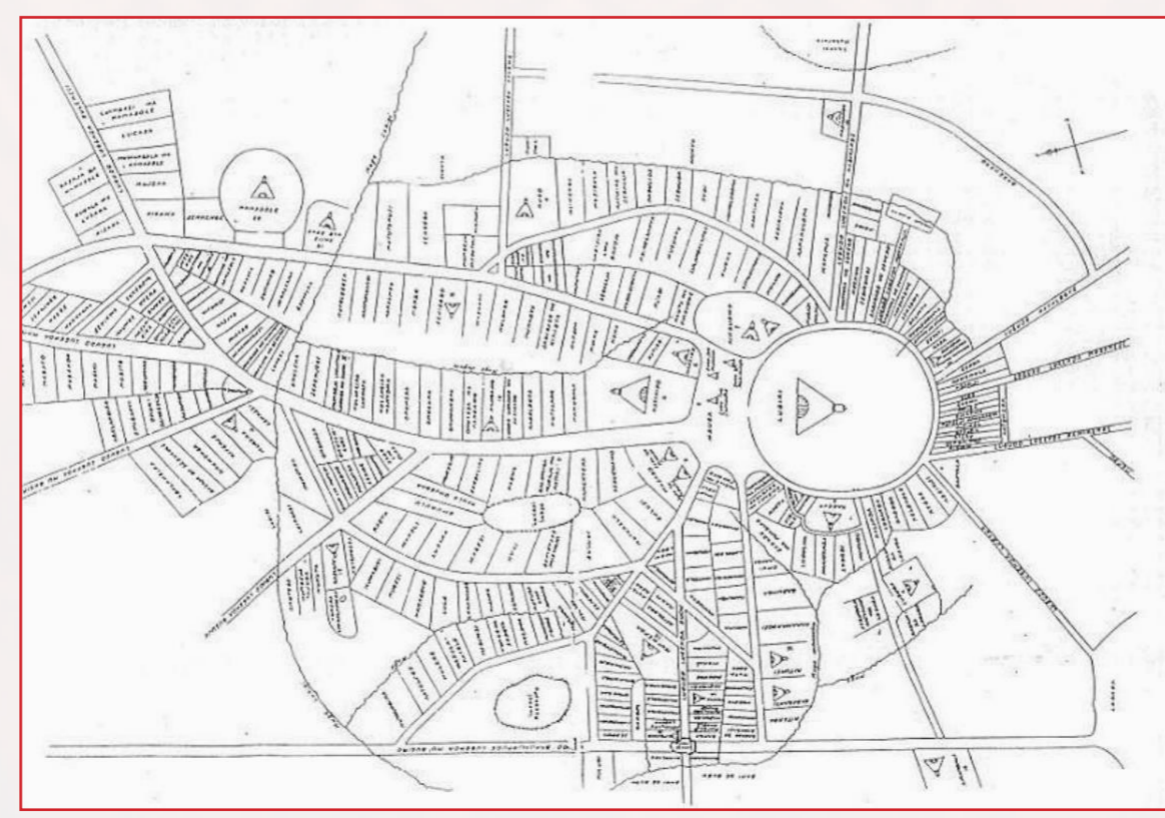
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## Kampala: A City of Many Faces

In spite of its short history (the origins of Kampala can be traced to the year 1885), Uganda's capital city has witnessed extraordinary changes, from being the seat of one of Africa's most ancient kingdoms, to a long period of British colonialism, turbulent post-independence years and the current ambitions of becoming a world class 'modern' city.

The story starts as the Buganda Kingdom and the agents of the British Empire first come into contact. From 1890, Kampala develops as the product of the (not always peaceful) coexistence of two urban traditions: that of the capital of the Kingdom – the kibuga on Mengo hill – and that of the commercial and political centre of a British protectorate on a neighbouring hill – now known as Old Kampala – until then the habitat of impala (akasozi Kempala). From the time of the establishment of the Kampala township in 1902, the boundaries of the colonial entity kept enlarging, against protestations from the Buganda government, whose direct control was restricted to the Mengo municipality.

Architecturally, apart from Kasubi Tombs, little remains of the Kiganda traditional kibuga. Most early structures are either private and public buildings that typify the colonial style, or structures built by the Asian community that settled as traders and craftsmen (having first come with trade caravans from the coast, and others having come to build the railway line). Eventually, the British colonial centre moved from Old Kampala to Nakasero Hill, while the Asian community took over Old Kampala, where many of their buildings can still be seen today. Some Asian businessmen



also followed the market provided by colonial administrators and settled in the foothills of Nakasero, initiating the Kampala Central Business District.

Meanwhile, the religious orders that also shaped the country's history took over Kampala's other historical hills – Lubaga for the Catholics (where the Cathedral stands today), Namirembe for the Protestants and Kibuli for the Muslims. Typical of the racial divide that characterised colonial cities, the African majority was relegated to distant suburbs – except in the Mengo municipality. With independence, however, this racially inspired organisation of Kampala's space gradually broke down, while monumental buildings, such as the National Parliament, heralded the arrival of the new country. The long enmity between the Buganda Kingdom and Uganda as a nation found its most violent expression in 1966 when the Government invaded the King's palace and disbanded the institution – only re-instated in 1993. The period of instability that ensued – especially in the Amin years – left Kampala a derelict city, from which it is still recovering.

This process of recovery has acquired new momentum since the late 1980s. Kampala's population has risen from 350,000 at independence to 1,500,000 today. With this rapid growth has come the proliferation of slums, of modern high-rise structures in the city centre and the destruction of many of its historical buildings. By taking an interest in Kampala's built heritage, you help to conserve it for future generations.