

## The Stadthuys of Malacca in the Dutch Square



**The Malacca Dutch Square consisting of the Stadthuys (right), Christ Church & Clock Tower**

The imposing salmon-pink coloured Stadthuys situated in the red-painted Malacca Dutch Square, with thick masonry walls, heavy hardwood doors and windows, with their wrought iron hinges, are eloquent testimony to the solidity of the Hollander's masonry and woodwork. The Stadthuys, believed to have been completed around 1650's, was used to house the past Dutch Governors and their retinue of officers. Only one room is left with the original wooden-floral ceiling of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Century Dutch woodwork.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>. December 1982, the Stadthuys was converted into the Malacca Historical Museum where exhibits of the past glory can be seen. Items include, a Dutch cupboard made of blackwood with the monogram of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), a Portuguese set of drawers, a Malay beautifully carved bedstead, Chinese rosewood inlaid with mother-of-pearls furniture, Chinese carved bridal chests and many others.

Centrally located in the heart of historic City of Malacca, visitors must visit this unique site before going to other historically sites which are located within walking distance from this Square.