



# CONSERVATION OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN DUTCH COLONILA "CASE STUDY OF THE BUNG KARNO'S EXILE HOUSE BERASTAGI"

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## ABSTRACT

*Historic buildings are icons that reflect the nation's history. Bung Karno's Guesthouse is one of the Dutch colonial heritage buildings which became Bung Karno's hiding place during the Dutch colonial period. The building, which is located in Laugumba village, Berastagi city, Tanah Karo district, has become one of the icons of colonial history in North Sumatra province. The layout of the location of the building in the tourist area makes the hidden building one of the historical tourism icons. The basic problem that occurs in the building and raised in this study is the age of the building which is very old and not maintained has the potential for damage to the building. The condition of the building was not maintained and left alone so that many of the building ornaments were damaged. The pattern of conservation of historic buildings that are less effective has an impact on the destruction of the nation's historical values, this also has an impact on decreasing the number of tourists visiting these places. Another problem that occurred in the Bung Karno Guesthouse building was that the application of the electrical installation system under review did not meet the standardization of the General Electrical Installation Regulations, which should be an important part of the safety and conservation of buildings, especially historic buildings. This rationale is supported by the condition of the building that was damaged, and the existing condition of the electrical installation system which still uses the Dutch colonial era installation system that is more than 80 years old which is one of the indicators so that this research is very important to carry out.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Historic buildings and cultural heritage with colonial architectural styles are buildings that have been known since the 17th century when the Indonesian nation was still controlled by the VOC (Vereegde Oost Indische Compagne). The government stipulates the protection of historical heritage and cultural heritage in law no. 11 of 2010. (2010 Law). To maintain architectural and building values, it is necessary to carry out conservation (Rubiantoro, 2018).

Bung Karno's Pesngrahan building was one of Bung Karno's hiding places in the Dutch colonial era. The building is one of the unique historical buildings with a Dutch colonial architectural design which has become a historical icon in Tanah Karo, North Sumatra which needs to be preserved. The age of the building which is more than a century old and has never been conserved has an impact on the physical condition of the building, especially the damage to the colonial architectural ornaments and styles that characterize the uniqueness of the building, the damage to the building ornaments has an impact on the preservation and continuity of Indonesian history (Irwansyah, 2017).

The Bung Karno Graduation Building is one of the historical tourist attractions in the village of Laugumba Berastagi, Kabutaen, Tanah Karo, North Sumatra. The damage to the building also has an



impact on decreasing the number of tourists visiting the location of the building, this condition also has an impact on decreasing the income generating of the people who live around the building.(Kurniawan & Arthana, 2018).

Efforts to preserve historical buildings are not only carried out on construction and buildings but also on the security system of the electrical installation system in the building, where until now the installation system used still uses the installation system of the colonial era. Referring to the standardization of the Electrical Installation General Regulations (PUIL) that once every 5 years the electrical installation system must be maintained, however the conditions that occur in the Bung Karno Guesthouse building have never been maintained so that it will create the potential for installation failure which has an impact on the sustainability of the building(Veronika, Yenny Gunawan, 2017).



Figure 1. Historical Buildings of Bung Karno's Guesthouse in Tanah Karo, North Sumatra (Personal Documentation)

## LITERATURE REVIEWS

### Colonial Era Historical Building Protection



The protection of historic buildings has been regulated by the government in Law No. 11 of 2010. According to previous research, historical values make objects important to one another, and historical values are one of the reasons why a building must be maintained. (Tamimi, Fatimah, & Hadi, 2020).

Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010 Chapter III the criteria for historic buildings in article 5 states that: "Objects, buildings or structures that can be proposed as Historical Buildings, Historical Buildings, or Historical Building structures if they meet the criteria:

- 1) 50 years of age or older.
- 2) Represents the shortest style life of 50 years
- 3) Has a special meaning for history, science, education, religion and/or culture.
- 4) Having cultural values as a strengthening of the nation's personality

Social processes from around 1900-1950 also colored the development of building architecture which basically had existed in Berastagi Tanah Karo since 1571 and was developing continuously. The historical development of Tanah Karo tends to develop without following the master plan that was made in 1974. Many ancient buildings (colonial heritage) were destroyed/torn down (Estin, Antariksa, & Suryasari, 2017). The old architectural buildings, which have inherited the life of the past, have almost disappeared and are barely visible anymore. (Pawitro, 2015) For this reason, it is necessary to have efforts to protect the existence of historic buildings in each region, these efforts can be carried out in the following way:

a. Rescue

According to the 2010 Cultural Conservation Law, rescue is an effort to prevent or/overcome the Cultural Conservation from damage, destruction or destruction. The rescue is carried out to prevent vandalism or destruction of historical buildings, this can prevent the Medan City area from losing its historical heritage, whose materials are now being eroded by the flow of development globalization.

b. Development

Development according to the 2010 Cultural Heritage Law is an increase in the potential value, information and promotion of Cultural Heritage and its utilization through research, revitalization and adaptation in a sustainable manner and does not conflict with the purpose of preservation. be used as income for local governments as an increase in the potential value of tourist destinations.

c. Counseling

In this case, counseling is carried out to provide guidance and explanation to all elements of society about the importance of the heritage of this historic building which is related as a source of knowledge and education for all elements of society. This effort can be done by conducting socialization with the community.

### Overview of Colonial Era Historical Buildings

Colonial-era historical buildings in the city of Medan are land marks that reflect historical values. One of the historical buildings from the colonial era which is currently the icon of the city of Medan is the Bung Karno Guesthouse, which has become a historical foundation and a tourist attraction. The existence of a building with an age of more than 50 years is a benchmark as a building that must be protected. The position and layout of the building in the city center surrounded by new buildings with a modern concept is a threat to historic continuity. Conservation is one of the initial concepts for preserving historical buildings as an effort to maintain historic buildings, so it is necessary to conduct a study as a basis for reference to follow-up conservation. (Kurniawan, Salain, & Trimarianto, 2015). According to Arahman, a building or environment that deserves to be conserved has benchmarks including:

- 1) Rarity (Rare works that are not owned by other regions)
- 2) Historical (Relates to historical events)
- 3) Aesthetics (aspects of the beauty of form, structure, and ornament)
- 4) Superlativity (Oldest, largest, highest, longest)
- 5) Pluralism (Representing a variety of building types)
- 6) Presence (Improve the image of the surrounding environment)

### METHODS

The study uses basic research methods through field surveys, measurements and analysis approaches to determine the concept of conservation in historical buildings using an analytical model approach and a design modeling approach. Model analysis through interviews, direct observation of



spaciousness to obtain data about the slenderness of the building's architectural design construction from the physical aspect of the building with visual characteristic indicators is carried out to determine the condition of the building with parameters consisting of facades, roofs, plans, walls, doors, windows, underbelly, floors, ceiling and spatial characteristics to determine the usefulness of the function of space, space organization, and building orientation.



Figure 2. Concept of Preservation and Conservation of Historical Buildings

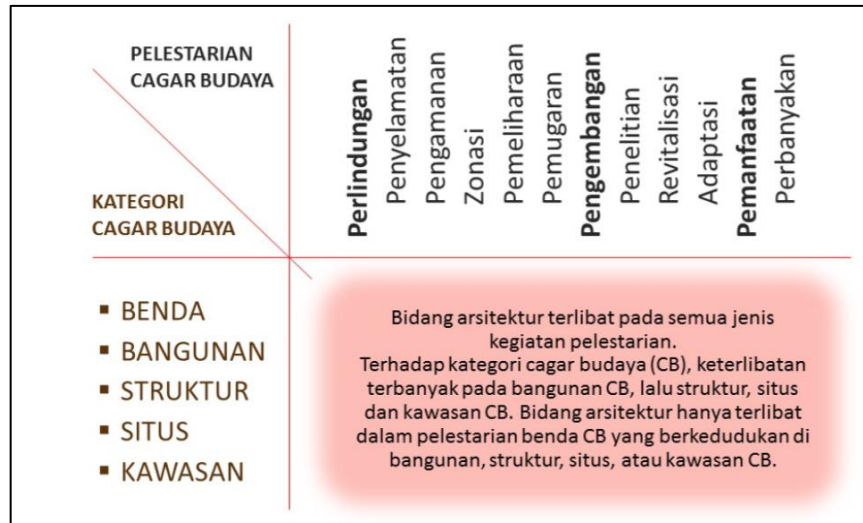
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In conservation work, of course, there will be several decisions that must be made so that the process can take place. Therefore there are basic principles of conservation that have been divided into 3 parts, namely understanding, implementation, and evaluation.

Table 1. Basic Conservation Principles

Understanding	Pay attention to the physical condition of the building
	Understand the history of the building
	Understand the environmental conditions and around historic buildings
Implementation	Understand the use of building functions
	Materials that need repair
	Technology and tradition
	Historical history of the building
Evaluation	Continuity
	Interpretation
	Approaching new problems
	Sustainability

Based on the results of observations and interviews with related parties, the building protection carried out through several stages resulted in:



**Figure 3.** Schematic of Preservation of Historic Buildings

- 1) Preservation  
Is a way to maintain (preserve) buildings that have been built in their original state without any changes. So far, there has been no preservation action taken by the local government in an effort to preserve buildings through conservation.
- 2) Restoration  
Is a way to restore existing buildings without any additions so that the results will be as before.
- 3) Reconstruction  
Is rebuilding with a different material but not losing its original shape or condition.
- 4) Adaptation  
Is to change the place according to its use that can be combined.
- 5) Revitalization  
Is a development to regenerate important values in cultural heritage that are in accordance with their functions and do not conflict with the principles of preservation and community cultural values.
- 6) Planning and implementation of historic building conservation

To carry out conservation, planning is needed by identifying aspects of the building. Where these aspects will be described in accordance with the components that have been regulated in conservation. Components that have been regulated will be formulated and determined in accordance with the goals achieved in conservation. Component settings are carried out in accordance with the conditions of the building to be conserved. And the implementation of conservation is divided into several levels according to the conditions of each building, namely:

- 1) Maintain and maintain, namely maintaining and maintaining the components that are regulated in old buildings which greatly affect the character of the building and its condition is still good.
- 2) Repair, namely repairing components in old buildings whose conditions have been damaged according to their original form.
- 3) Replacing, namely replacing the variable that is set in an old building that is damaged and can no longer be repaired with a form according to the original condition. If the original form is not identified, adjustments can be made to other forms found in other buildings of the same type.
- 4) Adding with adjustments to the original shape, namely adding components that may be carried out if development is carried out, especially those that are adjustments to functions, with the limitation that the new shape does not damage the original character of the building and is made in accordance with the existing form.

From some of the above results it can be seen that the results obtained are as follows:

- 1) Conservation must have a basic understanding of the history of the initial state to the present, because it is a value for culture.
- 2) Materials that need to be repaired must go through instructions or consult experts who understand the quality and age of the historic building.



- 3) An honesty and authenticity must be present when making an approach.
- 4) Must be able to follow the guidelines for implementing conservation and consult experts in carrying out conservation must look at the past, present and future of these historic buildings.

Changes in the function of the building over time, and followed by changes in spatial layout and changes in the facade/building surface. changes made to the building will create a new function or revive the historical building. All new functions used in historical buildings are appropriate, if the level of intervention required to include new functions in the building causes damage to its historical value, then the function is said to be ineffective. according to the building.

## CONCLUSION

The new function in the building must consider whether the function to be included is compatible with the building (whether it has sufficient windows, whether the new function can protect and elevate cultural evidence in the building). In addition to function, location is one of the considerations in entering a new function in a building. because each location has different needs. Based on this, it is clear that the suitable conservation activity for Bung Karno's transit building is adaptive reuse in accordance with the type of restoration activity.

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