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## LEANING TOWER OF TELUK INTAN



**J**ust like Italy has the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Malaysia also has a leaning tower. Located in the old town of Teluk Intan (formerly Teluk Anson), the Leaning Tower of Teluk Intan in Jalan Ah Cheong was built in 1885 by Mr. Leong Choon Cheong and Ceylonese contractors. It was built to store water for use during a drought or in case of fire. The clock at the top was designed by James W. Benson and was purchased with donations from the local community.

Today, the water tank is empty but the clock still functions and chimes every 15 minutes. Because of the soft ground foundation and the weight of the water in the tank, the tower leaned towards the south-west. Built in the shape of a Chinese pagoda, the tower is only 3 stories and 25m high but looks like an 8-storey building from the outside. There are 110 steps from the ground to the top. It is made of wood and bricks.

The steel water tank is 5m high with a capacity of 18.36 cubic metres. Its foundation is 13m in diameter and gradually tapers to 8.2m at the top. During the Japanese Occupation, it was used as a watch tower. After Independence in 1957, the Leaning Tower of Teluk Intan was declared a national monument. The tower has been used for various purposes – water tank, clock tower, watch tower and beacon to guide ships approaching Teluk Anson. ■