

大溪老街的歷史發展

The History of Development of Dasi Old Streets

大溪地區自清代乾隆後期，便有漢人向凱達格蘭族耆裡社人租地開墾，而大溪老街位於入壠地區的門戶，地勢險要，有河港條件，因而發展成為大漢溪上游最重要的市街。

大溪老街發展始於下街（今和平路）及上街（今中央路）的幾間店屋，1813（嘉慶18）年大廟福仁宮興建，又因板橋林家奠基者林平侯為躲避漳泉械鬥，遷居至大溪並興建石城大宅「通讓第」，大溪市街才沿著城牆逐漸成形。

1862（同治1）年，淡水成為通商口岸，大溪附近山區快速墾拓，以茶及樟腦為輸出大宗，新街、草店尾及後尾等市街在此時形成。1886（光緒12）年劉銘傳於此設撫墾總局，使得大溪街區繁榮蓬勃，再形成新南街（今中山路）。

4 日本治台初期正值大溪的黃金時期，近山產業持續開發，大溪街上行店酒樓人聲鼎沸。1912（大正1）年公告市區改正計畫，拓寬道路、增設亭仔腳，華麗精美的牌樓立面因而紛紛出現。

1928（昭和3）年桃園大圳開鑿後影響大漢溪河運，大溪逐漸失去產業集散中心的地位而停滯發展，致使大溪老街保留下昔日的樣貌迄今。



大溪的下街（今和平路）街景。
Lower Street (now Heping Road) in Dasi



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林本源家族的石城大宅「通讓第」城門舊貌。
Lin Ben-yuan's grand stone house "Tong-yi-di" in the old days

Since the later Cianlong Period, the Han People had leased land from the Kaidagelan tribes to farm for a living in Dasi Area. Situated in the midst of the farming area, difficult to access, and suitable for building a port, Dasi old streets gradually developed into the most important city streets in the upper reaches of Dahan Stream.

A number of store-houses on both Lower Street (now Heping Road) and Upper Street (now Zhongyang Road) lifted the curtain on the development of Dasi Old Streets. In 1813, a large temple Furen Temple was built and furthermore the family of Ping-hou Lin, the founder of the Lin Family in Banciao was relocated to Dasi to stay away from the fighting between the Jhang people and the Cyuan people and built a grand stone architecture named "Ton-gyi-di". It was along the wall of the said architecture that Dasi city streets were gradually developed.

5 In 1862, a trading port was opened in Danshuei. In the meantime, the resources in the mountain area near Dasi were rapidly exploited and tea and camphor became the main exporting products. Furthermore, city streets including Sin Street, Caodianwei Street and Houwei Street were developed at the same time. In 1886, Ming-chuan Liu established an administration office to undertake full responsibility for development which boosted the prosperity of Dasi street region and gave birth to Sinnan Street (now Jhongshan Road).

The early years of the colonial rule of Taiwan were the prime time of Dasi. In those years, the resources near the mountain region continued to be exploited and the life in the stores and wine houses on the streets of Dasi was hurly-burly. A city restructuring plan to expand roads and add arcades was announced in 1912 and therefore splendidly decorated façades of arcades mushroomed one by one.

As the excavation of Taoyuan Ditch in 1928 had quite an impact on the river transport of Dahan River, Dasi lost its position as an industry center and ceased to develop. Accordingly, to date Dasi old streets have been able to remain as they were in the old days.