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MEMORY OF SHANGHAI



上海交通大学出版社
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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The origin of Shanghai

Shanghai in ancient times/ 002

Prosperity due to the port opening/ 004

A traditional town in the south of China/ 006



The origin of Shanghai

Shanghai in ancient times

The history of Shanghai can be traced back to six or seven thousand years ago. At that time, most of today's Shanghai was part of the ocean. As time went on, with the continuous erosion of the sea, the eastern part of the Shanghai region continued to be silted into new lands, and the activities of our ancestors also moved gradually eastward. By the end of the Shang dynasty (1600-1046 BC) and the beginning of the Zhou dynasty (770-256 BC), inhabited villages emerged in today's Maqiao area, Shanghai.

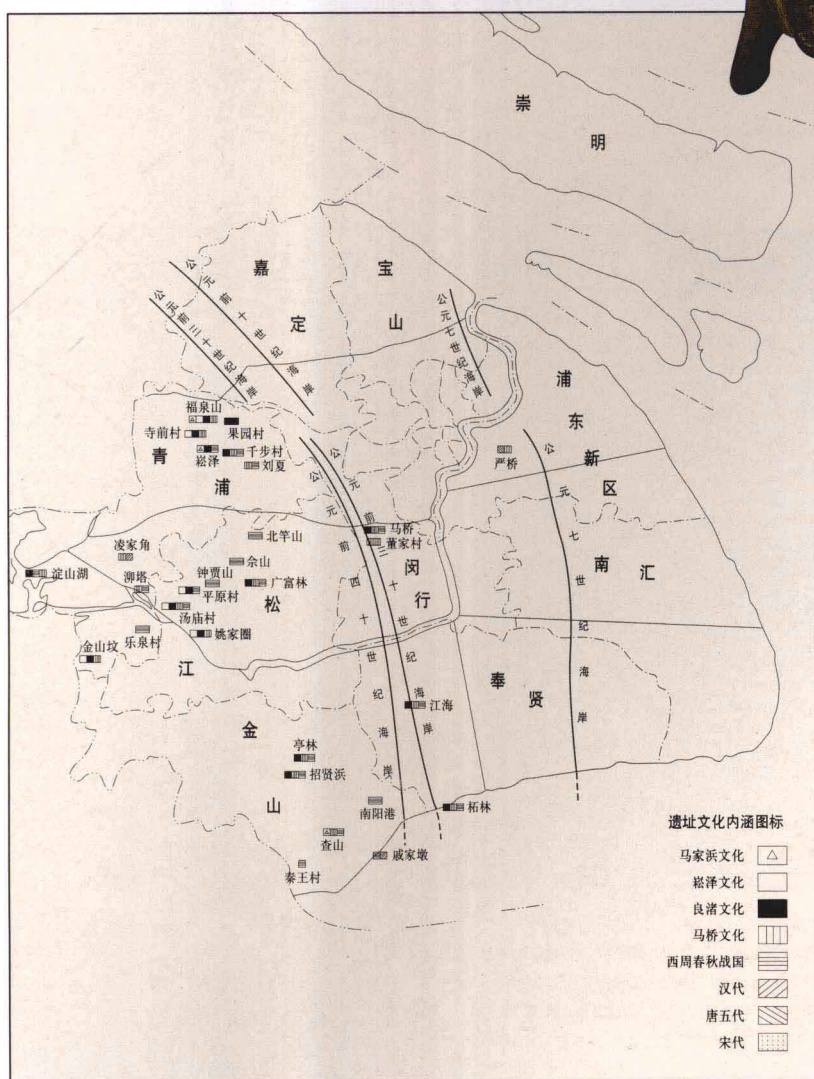


The Songze site located in the Songze village of the Qingpu District was discovered in 1957. After five archaeological excavations, it has been found that the underlying Majiabang culture is the oldest cultural relics in Shanghai. Here people have not only found the sacrificial sites, wells and rice grains of the Shanghai ancestors, but also unearthed in the spring of 2004 a skull dated back to six thousand years ago. This photo was taken in the 60s of the 20th century, showing a panoramic view of the Songze site.



In the Guangfulin site excavated since 1999, people have discovered remains of non-local cultural traditions from the Neolithic Age. The pottery excavated from the site has distinctive characteristics, very similar to that of the "Wang Youfang type" of the Henan, Shandong and Anhui regions between the Yellow River and Huaihe River. The differences and linkages may be resulted from the interaction between the early immigrants and the aboriginals in Shanghai. The photo shows the Guangfulin archaeological excavation site in 2004.

The Fuquanshan archaeological site found in the Qingpu district, Shanghai is a major breakthrough in the Liangzhu culture studies, which caused a sensation in the Chinese archaeological fields. During this period the differentiation of all walks of life in Shanghai was very obvious, and the prevailing level of technology reached a fairly high standard. This photo shows a He, a bird-shaped ceramic ritual container unearthed in the Fuquanshan archaeological site.



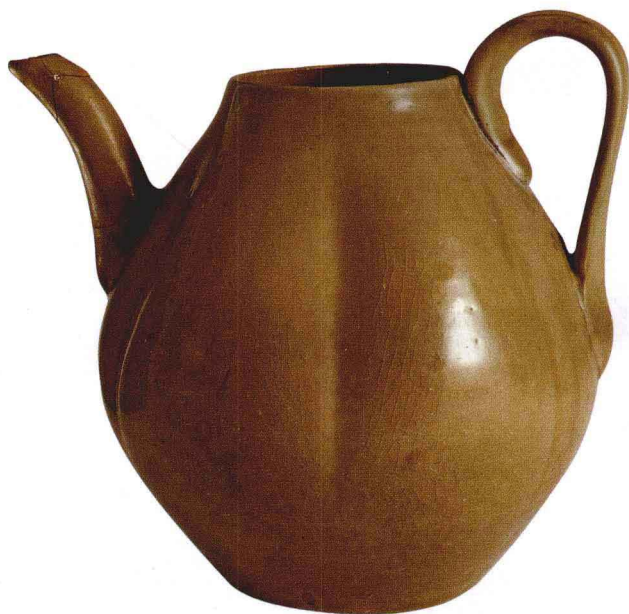
The photo shows a map of the ancient cultural sites and coastal heritage sites in Shanghai.



The origin of Shanghai

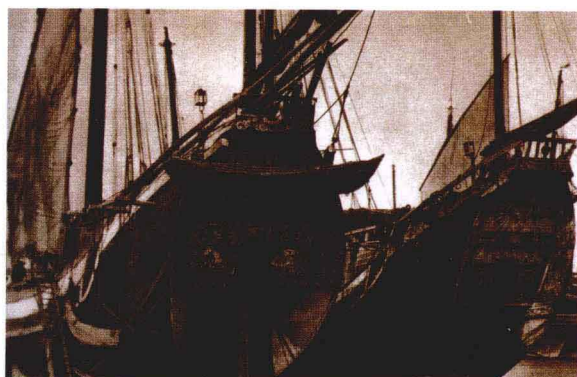
Prosperity due to the port opening

Shanghai has always been an open coastal gateway. The Suzhou Creek is the main waterway connecting the Taihu Lake to the west and the ocean to the east. The Suzhou Creek twists and turns, and is known to have "42 bends". The highly developed water system in Shanghai not only provided the agricultural production in the region with convenient irrigation conditions and rich aquatic resources, but also facilitated marine transportation, thus forming multi-level commercial outlets consisting of irregular markets, street markets, commercial ports and the city itself. By the Song dynasty (960-1279), the region had developed into a city comparable to Hangzhou, with a number of pavilions, towers, temples, bridges and workshops. In 991, the Qinglong town was formally established, which was replaced later by Shanghai Pu in today's Shiliu Pu area. In 1267, a town was established here, and since it was located in the west of Shanghai Pu, a tributary of the Suzhou Creek, it gained its present name, Shanghai.



With the continuous development of maritime technology, the geographical advantage of Shanghai "traversed by the Yangtze River and the sea" became increasingly apparent. After the Song dynasty, boats and ships from the surrounding areas and the distant regions sailed to Shanghai frequently, and ships even came from as far as Japan and Siam every year. Tea, porcelain, silk and other Chinese specialties were shipped from here to other places. The photo shows a handled pot produced in the Yue Kiln of the Song dynasty and unearthed in the Songjiang district of Shanghai.

The Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) established a Maritime Trade Superintendency in Shanghai. In 1292, the Shanghai County was formally set up, giving a strong impetus to the development of foreign trade and the economic prosperity in the Shanghai area. The photo shows a Shachuan boat, an important shipping tool that came into use as early as the Yuan dynast.





Shanghai has a warm and humid climate and is rich in water resources. However, the difficulty of constructing seawall is higher than river bank, and once the typhoon hits, enclosed tidelands could be swallowed by the ocean again. By the Song dynasty, people in Shanghai began to rely on boiled salt and cotton production and shipping as the basic industries for the regional economic development. The photo shows the Huangpu River before the opening of the Shanghai port.



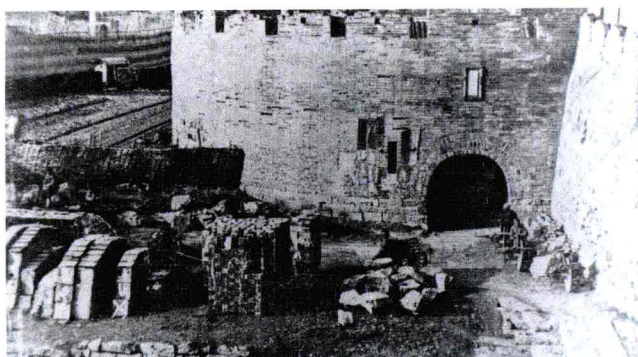
In the Song and Yuan dynasties, the cotton production in the Shanghai area was already quite prosperous. The Wunijing quilt was even better known. In the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1616-1912) dynasties, the textile technology was greatly developed in Shanghai. In the late Ming dynasty, the plantation pattern of 70% cotton and 30% rice was formed, and a large variety of cotton cloths were sold all over the country. The photo shows the Ming dynasty blue-cloth quilt covers unearthed in the Minhang district, Shanghai.



The origin of Shanghai

A traditional town in the south of China

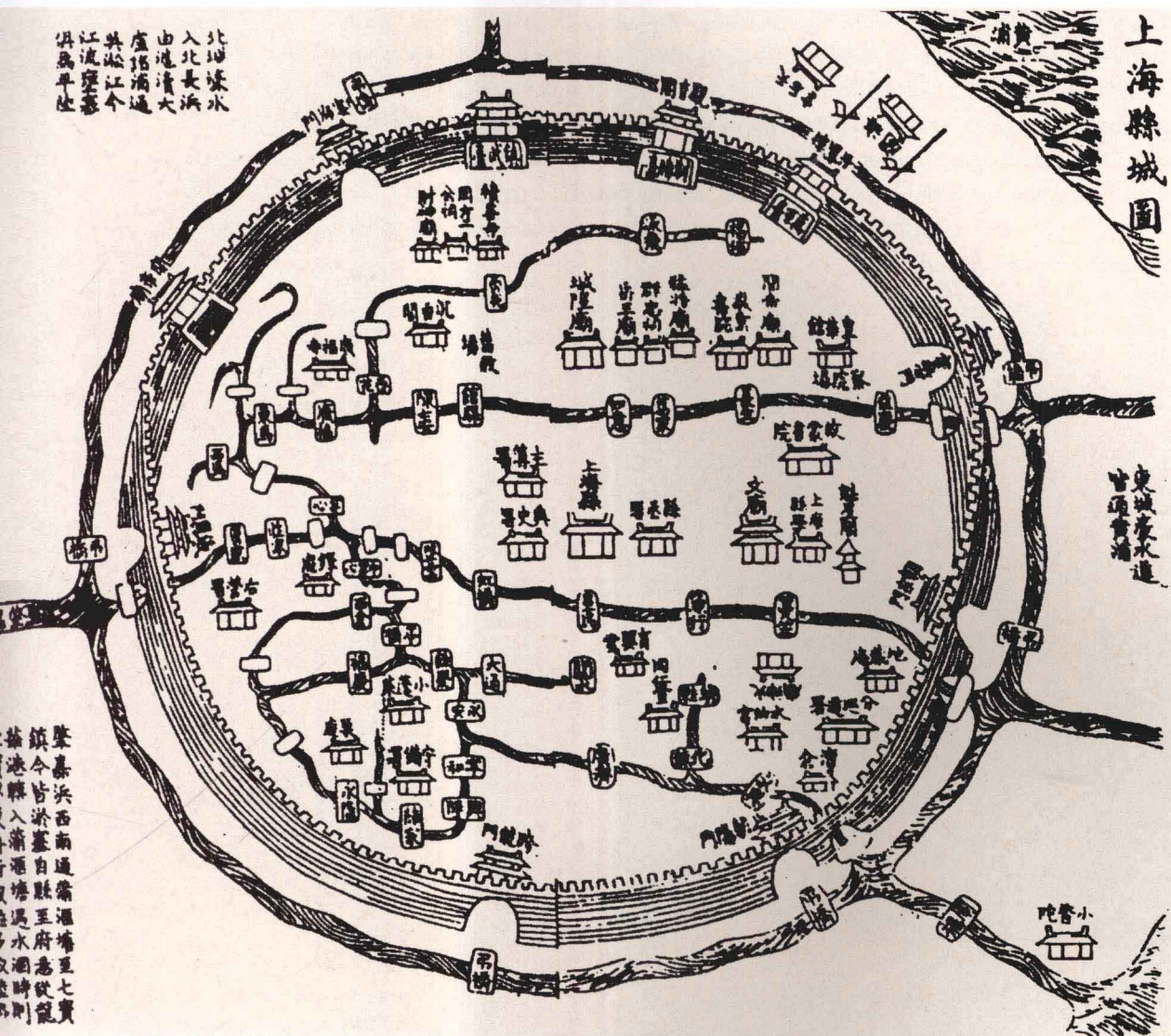
Shanghai is a typical city becoming prosperous as a result of trade and commerce. Particularly in the Qianlong and Jiaqing periods of the Qing dynasty, due to the Liuhe River blockage, river transport changed to maritime transport, and Shanghai became the coastal transportation hub between the north and the south of China. According to the Shanghai County Records of the Jiaqing period, by the 13th century, while there were only a little more than 72,000 households in the Shanghai County, more than 5,600 people were engaged in the sea shipping business.



An external view of the Shanghai city wall in the early 20th century, which was demolished for the construction of roads in 1911.



Bustling crowds at the Old North Gate. The right of the picture shows a lottery business firm, and the city wall seems incomplete and worn.



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The origin of Shanghai

Economic development brought along the development of nearby counties and towns with Shanghai as the center, and also had a profound impact on the composition of local residents, cultural landscape, customs and habits, and changes in other aspects. Beginning with the Ming dynasty, many merchants along the coast moved to Shanghai for the convenience of trade. Initially, merchants were mostly from Huizhou, Shanxi and Shaanxi, and by the Qing dynasty, more and more businessmen came from the coastal provinces of Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Shandong and other regions.



The stage inside the Shanghai Commercial Shipping Association located outside the South Gate of the old city.



The water port jointly built by the Siming Merchants Club and Huining Merchants Club.

Before the opening of the port, Shanghai was a typical traditional town becoming prosperous in the south of China due to trade and commerce. Here the people conducted business in the way they were use to for thousands of years. In the old city known as "Lao Chengxiang", the narrow streets, bridges and small creeks crisscrossed. Even in the years from opening the port to the 30s of the last century, the overall development of the old city seemed to have been out of touch with the evolution of the modern Shanghai city. From the many photos showing the old city, we can perceive the traditional way of life of the people in Shanghai.



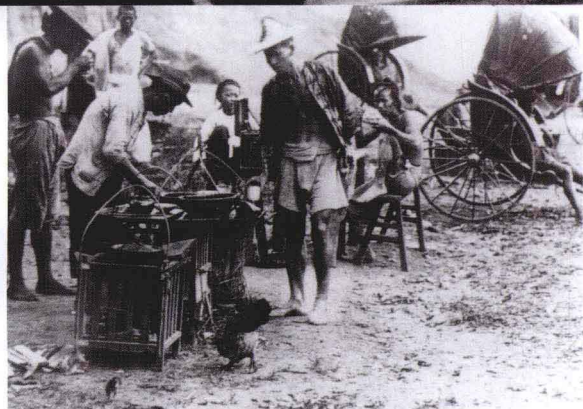
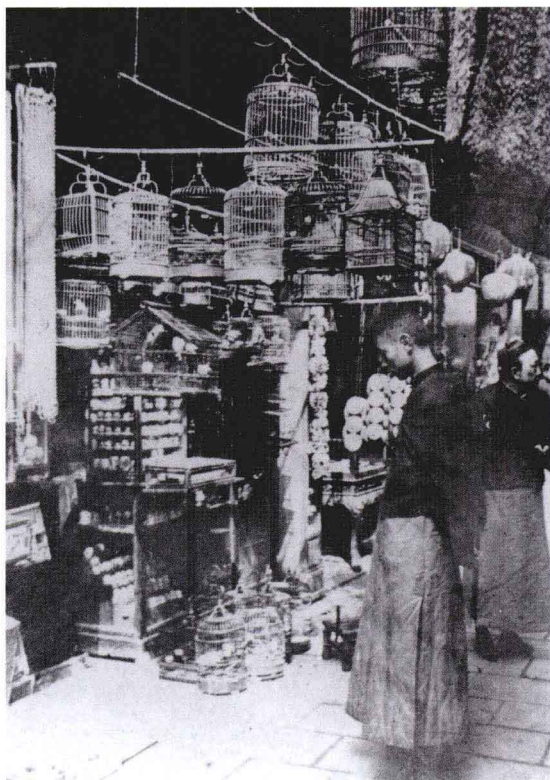
A grocery store in the old city with salted chicken and sausage hanging over the counter.



People queuing outside of an oil and soy sauce store in the old city of Shanghai.



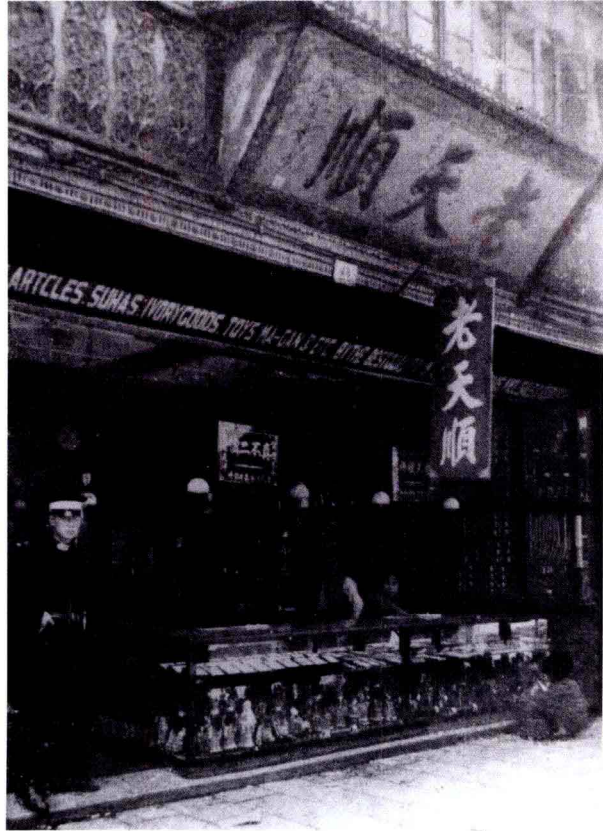
The origin of Shanghai



These two photos show mobile dessert stands and soy bean product stands at the market.

Customers making their selections in a flower and bird shop.

Grocery stores were an important component of urban consumption, which provided the general public with food, clothes and things for daily use. In the narrow streets of the old city, some shops even placed their goods in the middle of the street, and with coolies lugging packages and people coming and going, it's a really busy and crowded scene.



A jade shop guarded by the police in the old city.



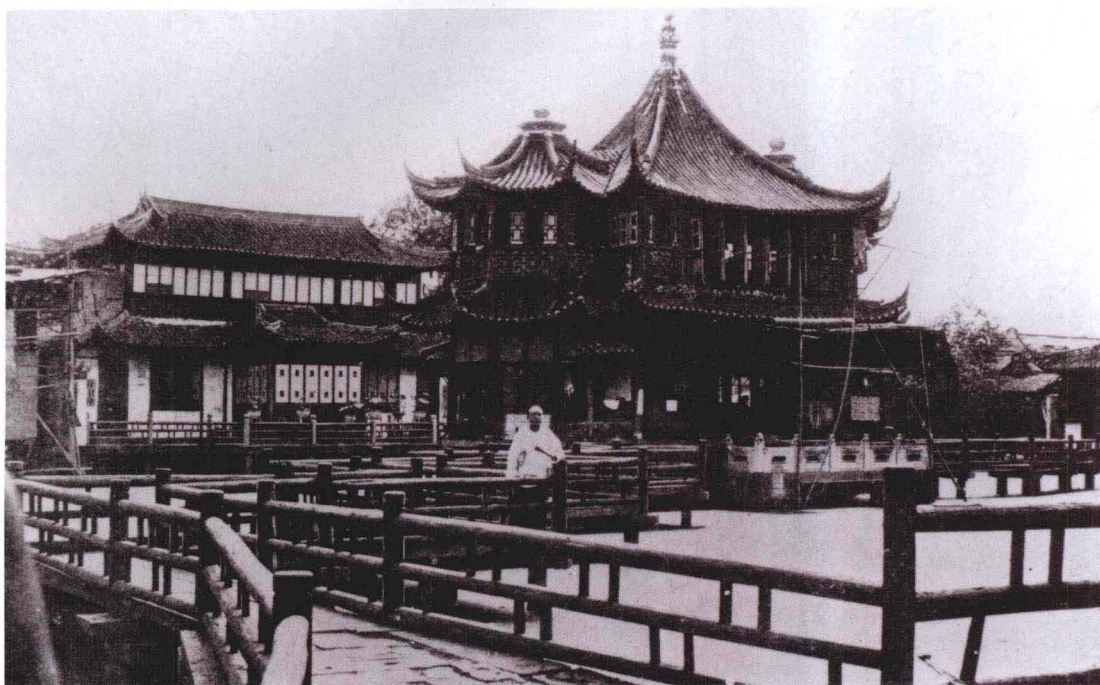
A pawnshop in the old city.



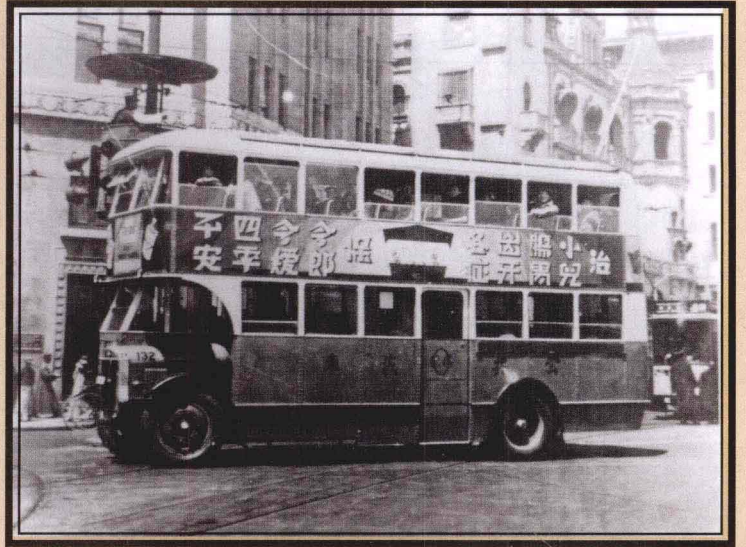
The origin of Shanghai



A street side stall selling handmade shoes.



The Zigzag Bridge and tea house in the old city of Shanghai in 1890s.



The opening of the Shanghai port

The port opening in Shanghai/ 014

The life of foreign residents/ 016

Modern municipal government/ 021

City residential houses/ 040