

Brief Description of the History of St. Andrew's Church Compound

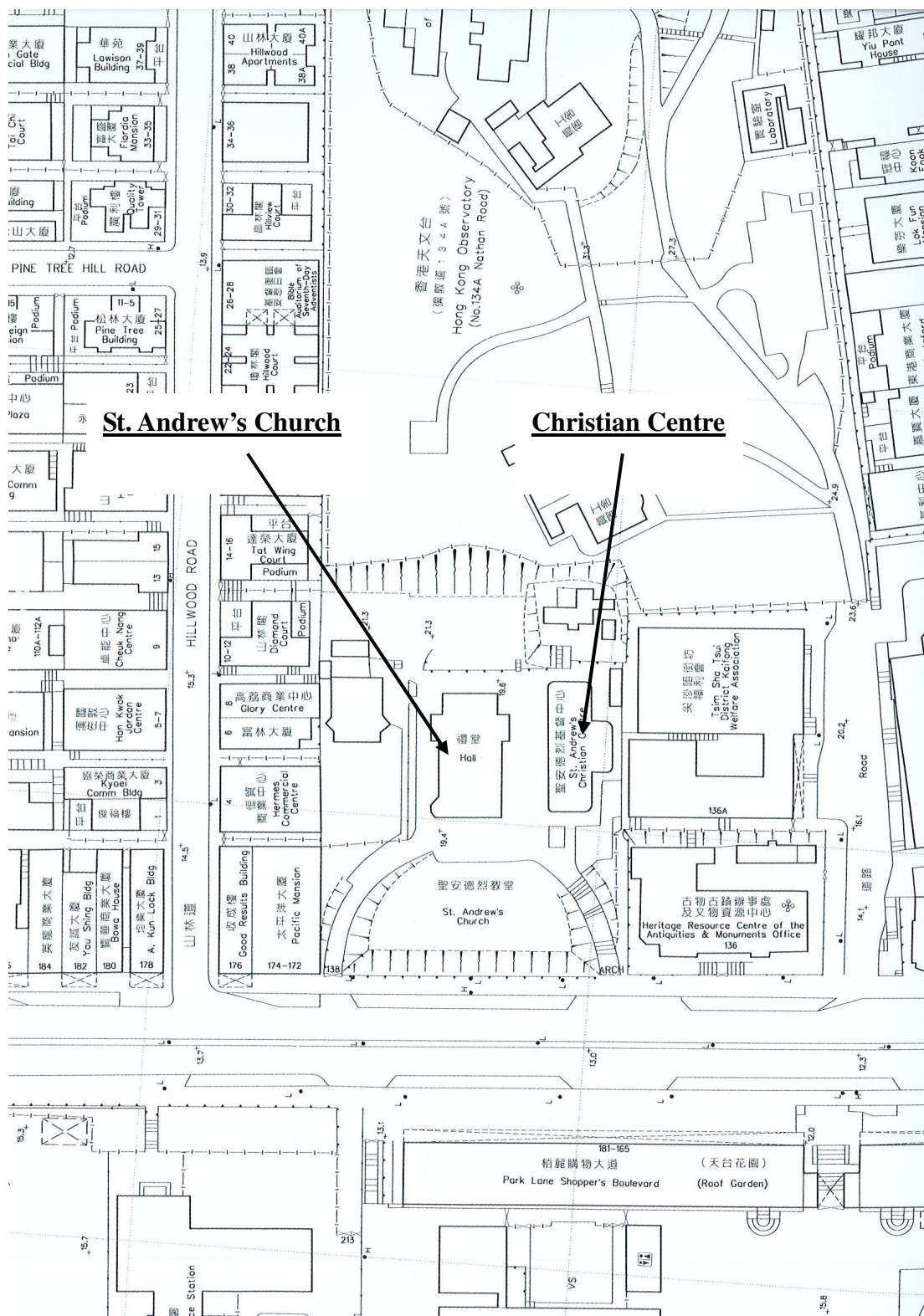
St. Andrew's Church was built in 1906 with its foundation laid on 15 December 1904 by Bishop Hoare, the Anglican Bishop of Victoria. Sir Paul Charter donated 35,000 dollars for the construction cost of the Church on the 67,500 sq. ft of land granted by the Government. It is the oldest Protestant church in Kowloon and with the exception of the period of the Japanese occupation during World War II, the church has been in continuous use for Christian worship. It is one of the Anglican churches in Hong Kong designated to serve the non-Chinese speaking community and it uses English during the service.

During the Japanese Occupation Period (1941-1945), the Vicar of the Church, the Rev. H. N. Wittenbach was interned. The Church was converted into a Shinto Shrine. The old Vicarage was used as the residence of the Shinto priest, the Rev. Ishii Utsuki and the local chief of Kempeitai. Church services resumed after the War and in 1978 the new St. Andrew's Christian Centre was built.

The Church was designed by Mr. Alfred Bryer of Messrs. Leigh & Orange. The three oldest buildings are built in the Gothic Revival style. The composition is red brick façades with white painted surrounds to doors and windows, complimented by painted plinths, string courses, castellated copings and other ornamental features. The main Gothic motifs are the pointed arched windows, trefoils, curvilinear tracery and colourful stained glass windows. Architecturally the church probably has the greatest merit, especially the interior which has a warm and homely feeling. The use of red bricks makes the church quite rare and a valuable piece of built heritage.

When the Church was built in 1906, there was no vicarage in the original plan. The need to build this soon emerged. Again with the donation of 15,000 dollars from Sir Paul Chater, the old Vicarage was built in 1909. Later, the Amahs' Quarters and the Caretaker's Quarters were also built around 1910.

A recent restoration project of St. Andrew's Church has won a UNESCO Award of Merit in 2006. The project involved refurbishment of the exterior, repairs to damaged panels of stained glass, structural repairs to the bell tower and restoration of the bell-ringing mechanism which had been in a state of disrepair since 1980.





General View of the Church Compound from Nathan Road



Stone Gateway



Rubble Wall, Decorative Parapet and Stone Gateway



St. Andrew's Church



Landscaped Courtyard in front of the Church



Christian Centre