

**For discussion  
on 24 June 2010**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/47/2009-10**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**PROPOSED DECLARATION OF  
TUNG WAH MUSEUM AND MAN MO TEMPLE COMPOUND  
AS MONUMENTS**

**PURPOSE**

To seek Members' advice on the proposal of declaring the Tung Wah Museum at Kwong Wah Hospital, Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon and the Man Mo Temple Compound at Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan as monuments under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (the Ordinance).

**GRADING**

2. In recognition of the heritage value of the Tung Wah Museum and Man Mo Temple, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) accorded the Grade 1 status to the two historic buildings in 1992 and 1994 respectively.
3. On the current assessment exercise of 1,444 historic buildings, the Grade 1 status of the Tung Wah Museum and Man Mo Temple was proposed by the Expert Panel to be retained and has been endorsed by AAB at its meeting on 18 December 2009.

**HERITAGE VALUE**

**Tung Wah Museum**

4. The Tung Wah Museum was originally the Main Hall of Kwong Wah Hospital, the first hospital founded in Kowloon and the New Territories to provide medical services to the public.
5. The Kwong Wah Hospital was established in 1911 by a group of Chinese community leaders led by Dr. Ho Kai (何啟), as a Kowloon Branch of Tung Wah Hospital. It has been providing both Western and Chinese medical treatment to the community since then. In 1931, the Tung Wah Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital and Tung Wah Eastern Hospital were amalgamated into a single entity, and the name "Tung Wah Group of Hospitals" (TWGHs) was adopted. In 1958, the Kwong Wah Hospital underwent complete reconstruction, leaving only the Main Building being preserved. In 1970, the centenary year of TWGHs, the Main Building was converted into the Tung Wah Museum for displaying historic relics and housing the invaluable archives of the

TWGHs. The opening ceremony of the Museum was performed by Sir Kwan Cho-yiu (關祖堯) on 15 January 1971 and was subsequently opened to the public in 1993.

6. The museum building is of Chinese Renaissance style characterized by a composition of Chinese and Western architectural features. Its Chinese style is clearly demonstrated by the setting of a Chinese ancestral hall and the Chinese decorations at the front elevation, whereas Western architectural elements are mainly found on the sides and at the rear elevation of the buildings. It has witnessed the development of medical services in Hong Kong over the past century, representing the efforts made by the Chinese community in improving welfare services. A brief historical and architectural account and photographs of Tung Wah Museum is at **Annex A**.

### **Man Mo Temple Compound**

7. The Man Mo Temple Compound on Hollywood Road in Sheung Wan now comprises three blocks, namely Man Mo Temple, Lit Shing Kung (列聖宮) and Kung Sor (公所), which were built between 1847 and 1862 by two wealthy Chinese merchants, Lo Ah-guo (盧亞貴) and Tam Ah-choy (譚亞財).

8. The Man Mo Temple is believed to be built in 1847 mainly for the worship of Man Cheong (文昌) [God of Literature] and Mo Ti (武帝) [God of Marital Arts]. The Lit Shing Kung was probably built at the same time with Man Mo Temple for the worship of all heavenly gods. The Kung Sor was constructed in 1862 for resolving matters related to the Chinese community in the area. Two alleys, namely Po Yuet (步月) and Lei Chong (履中) as inscribed on the entrance gateway, are separating the three blocks.

9. The Temple was officially entrusted to the Tung Wah Hospital with the enactment of the Man Mo Temple Ordinance in 1908. The Temple has imperative historical and cultural values to the territory, representing the traditional social and religious practices of the Chinese community in old Hong Kong. Even today, Directors of TWGHs and community representatives still congregate in the Temple every year for the Autumn Sacrificial Rites to pay homage to the Man Cheong and Mo Ti as well as to pray for the prosperity of Hong Kong.

10. The magnificent Man Mo Temple Compound is a piece of traditional Chinese vernacular architecture. It is exquisitely decorated with *Shiwan* ceramic figurines, granite and wood carvings, plastered mouldings and murals, reflecting the superb traditional craftsmanship. A brief historical and architectural account and photographs of Man Mo Temple are at **Annex B**.

## **PROPOSED DECLARATION**

11. AAB endorsed at its meeting on 26 November 2008 the establishment of a formal relationship between the statutory monument declaration system and the administrative grading system for historic buildings. Under the endorsed arrangements, Grade 1 buildings defined as “buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible” will serve as a pool of highly valuable heritage buildings for consideration by the Antiquities Authority as to whether some of these may have reached the “high threshold” of monuments for the statutory protection under the Ordinance.

12. The significant heritage value (notably its historical and architectural merits) of the Tung Wah Museum and Man Mo Temple Compound as explained in paragraphs 4-10, both being Grade 1 buildings, have certainly reached the “high threshold” to be declared as monuments and protected under the Ordinance.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

13. Members are requested to advise on whether the Tung Wah Museum and Man Mo Temple Compound should be declared as monuments under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. The boundaries of the buildings intended for declaration, which are subject to final confirmation by the TWGHs, are shown at **Annex C**.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
June 2010

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Ref: LCS AM 22/3  
LCS AM 52/2/26  
LCS AM 51/7/3