

**For discussion
on 15 June 2011**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/14/2011-12**

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

**DECLARATION OF
THE SCHOOL HOUSE OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE
AS A MONUMENT**

PURPOSE

To seek Members' advice on the proposal to declare the School House of St. Stephen's College at 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley as a monument under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 53).

HERITAGE VALUE

2. Prior to the cession of Hong Kong in 1841, school education had long catered to locals in villages and taught in accordance with Confucian classics. The development of Western style education in Hong Kong started in the late 19th century when the religious missions started playing an active role in the development of local education and the relatively well-off Chinese started to yearn for the establishment of schools providing English education.

3. St. Stephen's College was established by Rev. Bishop Banister of the Anglican Church and a number of prominent Chinese such as Sir Ho Kai (何啟) (1859–1914) and Dr Tso Seen-wan (曹善允) (1865–1953), who wished to save China by means of education. It was first opened on Western Street in 1903 as a Christian boys' school modelled on English public schools. Expansion of the school led to its re-location to Bonham Road in 1923 and to the present Stanley campus in 1930.

4. Construction of the existing school premises of St. Stephen's College started in 1928. The foundation stone was laid by the then Governor Sir Cecil

Clementi (金文泰) on 27 April 1928. The School House was the first building completed under the project and was opened by Acting Governor Mr. W.T. Southorn on 25 March 1930.

5. Around 15 December 1941, shortly before the Japanese attack on Hong Kong on 18 December 1941, the British Military took over the School House of St. Stephen's College and converted the school building into an emergency military hospital. Early on Christmas Day, the Japanese captured St. Stephen's College, broke into the school building and initiated the "St. Stephen's College Massacre". During the Japanese Occupation (1941–1945), St. Stephen's College, together with the nearby Stanley Prison Warders' Quarters, were later used as the Stanley Internment Camp, which is the only remaining internment camp in Hong Kong.

6. At present, there are 8 pre-war buildings in the secondary section of St. Stephen's College, including the School House as the oldest one, Martin Hostel, the Old Laboratory and five bungalows (staff quarters). The H-shaped School House comprises an East Wing and a West Wing connected by a central block. It is in late transitional Arts and Crafts style bearing Modernist influence, with external walls of granite on the ground floor and plain rendered and painted finish on the upper storey. Rough-cast rendering, wide overhanging eaves, arched windows and doorways and arcaded verandahs are typical features of the Arts and Crafts style.

7. St. Stephen's College is a prestigious school in Hong Kong. Prominent public figures, including the late Sir Chau Tsun-nin (周焯年) (1893-1971), Mr. Ip Man (葉問) (1893-1972), Sir Tang Shiu-kin (鄧肇堅) (1901-1986), and Sir Chau Sik-nin (周錫年) (1903-1985), and contemporarily The Honourable Timothy Fok Tsun-ting (霍震霆) and Mr. Raymond Chien Kuo-fung (錢果豐), are alumni of the College.

8. The School House of Stephen's College is not only the oldest surviving school building which still provides boarding service in Hong Kong, but is also one of the very few remaining sites of the Stanley Internment Camp. Thus, it is an important reminder of the history of development of local education and bears testimony to the sufferings endured by the internees in the wartime period.

9. A heritage appraisal, a location plan and photographs of the School House are at Annex A, Annex B and Annex C respectively. A list of internment camps in Hong Kong during the Japanese Occupation is at Annex D.

GRADING AND MONUMENT DECLARATION

10. In recognition of the historical and architectural value of the School House of St. Stephen's College, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) accorded a Grade 2 status to the school building in 1992. The grading was reviewed by AAB as part of the recent assessment exercise of the 1 444 historic buildings. After review by the Expert Panel, the School House of St. Stephen's College was proposed to be given a Grade 1 status, which was subsequently endorsed by AAB at its meeting of 18 December 2009.

11. At its meeting of 26 November 2008, AAB endorsed 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 statutory protection under the Ordinance.

12. The Antiquities and Monuments Office considered that with its significant heritage value as explained in paragraphs 2 to 9 above, the School House of St. Stephen's College has reached the "high threshold" to be declared as a monument and protected permanently under the Ordinance.

ADVICE SOUGHT

13. Members are requested to advise whether the School House of St. Stephen's College should be declared as a monument under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. The proposed boundary of the declaration is shown in Annex E.

NEXT STEP

14. If Members support the proposal to declare the School House of St. Stephen's College as a monument, we shall take this forward in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2011

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 22-3
LCSD/CS/AMO 21-3/1