

**For information
on 16 April 2008**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/53/2007-08**

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT THE SITE OF
THE FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE**

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the findings of the archaeological survey at the site of the former Mountain Lodge (FML) conducted from January to March 2007 and the plan of conducting a further excavation.

BACKGROUND

2. Members were informed of the preliminary findings of the archaeological survey at the site of the FML on 6 March 2007 vide Board Paper AAB/9/2007-08 (**Annex A**).

3. Prior to commencement of the survey, documentary research had been carried out to gather archival materials such as historical drawings, photographs and records in respect of the FML built in 1902. The survey, conducted between 30 January and 16 March 2007, included a subsurface investigation and a field reconnaissance.

4. The subsurface investigation was carried out at the area where the FML's main building and servant quarters once stood. The total area of excavation was approximately 140m². A field reconnaissance was then conducted to search relics relevant to the FML. Upon completion of the survey, all the features identified were recorded and preserved in-situ in accordance with the standard practice of field archaeology.

FINDINGS

5. A report on the archaeological survey at the FML site is attached at **Annex B**. Major findings are summarized as follows:-

- (a) The exterior stone foundation of the FML basically remains intact. There are 16 vents identified at the northern, eastern and southern sides of the FML site. The southwestern part of the exterior foundation is completely covered with modern cement, forming part of the platform

of the existing pavilion.

- (b) The interior foundation of FML was deciphered through trial pits and additional test trenches. It is found that the interior foundation was partially damaged by the concrete footings and associated utilities of the existing pavilion.
- (c) Apart from the original floor and a pair of “cross” stone pillars, 6 granite steps ascending to the porch, the mosaic of the porch (formed by ceramic floor tiles), rainwater drains and traces of door frame were discovered.
- (d) 6 column bases and 3 groups of two-step stairways were found on the western edge of FML main building.
- (e) Apart from 3 old iron balustrades reported by the Arch SD in mid January 2007, the brick wall foundation of 2 structures at the servant quarters area were recovered.
- (f) The huge retaining wall adjacent to the main building, retaining walls next to the previous tennis court, 8 flights of old stone steps, the stone drainage system and a dumping site for FML building materials were identified.
- (g) 8 boundary stones with the inscription of “GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE”, 2 boundary stones with inscription of “WD No. 4” and “WD No. 6”, a derelict Water Works bungalow and another 3 dumping areas of building debris probably for a private mansion “Eyrie” in close vicinity of the site were identified.

AMO’S ASSESSMENT

6. The FML at the Victoria Peak was a typical Victorian country house with clear segmentation of functional space. Findings of the survey have indicated that the FML’s foundations are basically preserved in good condition. The mosaic laid at the porch was formed by 15 types of floor tiles from the famous Minton Hollins & Co in England.

7. The 8 boundary stones of “GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE”, the foundation of FML main building, the remains of the servant quarters, together with the relics found in the vicinity as well as the declared monument, Gate Lodge form significant features that help trace the building style and the colonial past of Hong Kong during the Victorian era.

WAY FORWARD

8. As there were very few above-ground structures built on the site after demolition of the FML, it is believed that most of the underground features and many other relics could have been preserved. Further investigation will therefore be conducted to ascertain all underground features of the FML in particular the foundation on the western side, the associated facilities of the FML as well as the third structures of the servant quarters. Based on the findings of the investigation, conservation and interpretation strategies would be considered for the whole FML site.

9. The project will comprise two parts: an archaeological excavation to ascertain all underground features of the FML site and an interpretation study to consider options for future display of the features found. It is planned that the excavation would commence in late 2008 and the interpretation study would start in early 2009.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

April 2008

Ref: LCS AM 22/3
LCS AM 53/6/7