

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

DECLARATION OF THREE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AS MONUMENTS

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' advice on the proposal to declare the exteriors of three Grade 1 historic buildings, namely Fung Ping Shan Building (馮平山樓), Eliot Hall (儀禮堂) and May Hall (梅堂) of The University of Hong Kong (the "University"), as monuments under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (the "Ordinance").

HERITAGE VALUE

Fung Ping Shan Building

2. Fung Ping Shan Building, originally named Fung Ping Shan Library (馮平山圖書館), was opened on 14 December 1932 as a library for Chinese books of the University vide the generous donation by the late Mr. Fung Ping Shan (馮平山). During the Second World War, the building was also used as the central repository of books of private individuals, schools and government organisations. In 1953, the Museum of Chinese Art and Archaeology (中國藝術及考古陳列所) was established with exhibitions held in a room of the Fung Ping Shan Library. In 1962, the collection of Fung Ping Shan Library was transferred to the newly constructed Main Library of the University and the original library building was then converted into the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was renamed the University Museum of Art Gallery in 1994, before its new wing T.T. Tsui Building was opened to the public in 1996. The museum is the oldest one of the kind in continuous operation in Hong Kong.

3. Fung Ping Shan Building was designed by Leigh and Orange. It is a three-storey building with red-brick façade, carved granite ornaments and a

prominent glass dome on the roof. The design of the elevation is based on the principles of symmetry. The overall design also reflects distinctive architectural features, including the fan-shaped floor plan and the rounded central section of the front. The façade is elegantly decorated with giant pilasters, windows architraves, pediments and moulded cornice and parapet. Most of the old finely carved hardwood doors and windows with original brass fittings are still in place.

Eliot Hall

4. Eliot Hall was opened in 1914 as the second student residential hall under the direct management of the University. It was named after the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Charles Eliot (儀禮). Its design was modelled from the Lugard Hall with students' rooms located on the first and second floors. Refectory, common rooms, servants' quarters and bathrooms were on the ground floor. During the Second World War, Eliot Hall became the relief hospital to provide additional support to Queen Mary Hospital. Eliot Hall soon reopened in 1946 after the war. In 1956, it was turned into a gymnasium, and subsequently renovated as a student residential hall in 1963.

5. In June 1966, a large-scale landslide at the slope adjacent to the Eliot Hall and May Hall caused by inexhaustible torrential rain led to an immediate evacuation of these two halls for extensive repairs. Two wardens' quarters at the east end of Eliot Hall and May Hall had to be demolished. The University took this opportunity to combine Lugard Hall, Eliot Hall and May Hall into one large residential unit and renamed them as Old Halls. The Old Halls was opened in 1969 and consisted of three wings, namely Lugard Wing, Eliot Wing and May Wing. Eliot Wing was reverted to its old name, i.e. Eliot Hall, in 1992 and has subsequently been converted into administrative offices of the University.

6. Eliot Hall was designed by Denison, Ram and Gibbs. This red-brick building has elegant façades featuring a rich variety of architectural elements, including curved pediments over the entrance doorways, rusticated columns, Doric capitals, window cills, cornices and balustrades. Chinese-style ceramic grilles are found on the façade to contrast with the red brick wall. The pitched and double-tiled Chinese roofs are a local adaption.

May Hall

7. May Hall was opened in 1915 and is the third student residential hall under the direct management of the University. It was named after the second Chancellor of the University and the 15th Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Francis Henry May (梅含理). Similar to Eliot Hall, the design of May Hall was modelled from Lugard Hall in almost identical style. During the Second World War, May Hall served as the main residence for staff and students. On the New Year's Day of 1942, a congregation was held in May Hall and war-time degrees were granted to fourteen medical students who took their final examinations at the time of the Japanese attack.

8. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, the landslide at the slope adjacent to the Eliot Hall and May Hall in June 1966 caused by inexhaustible torrential rain led to an immediate evacuation of these two halls for extensive repairs and the demolition of the two wardens' quarters at the east end of Eliot Hall and May Hall. The University thus took the opportunity to combine Lugard Hall, Eliot Hall and May Hall into one large residential unit and renamed them as Old Halls. The Old Halls, which consisted of three wings, namely Lugard Wing, Eliot Wing and May Wing, was opened in 1969. Since then, female students were accepted in Old Halls and some of them were accommodated at the east wing on the first and second floors of May Wing. May Wing was reverted to its old name, i.e. May Hall, when Lugard Wing was demolished in 1992 and has subsequently been converted into administrative offices of the University.

9. Same as Eliot Hall and Lugard Hall, May Hall was also designed by Denison, Ram and Gibbs. This three-storey red-brick building has elegant façades featuring a rich variety of architectural elements, including curved pediments over the entrance doorways, rusticated columns, Doric capitals, window cills, cornices and balustrades. Chinese-style ceramic grilles are found on the façade to contrast with the red brick wall. The pitched and double-tiled Chinese roofs are a local adaption.

10. Fung Ping Shan Building, Eliot Hall and May Hall are under the management of the University. The appraisals and photographs of the three historic buildings are at **Annexes A to F**.

GRADING AND DECLARATION

11. In recognition of the heritage value of these three historic buildings, the Board accorded Grade 1 status to Fung Ping Shan Building, Eliot Hall and May Hall on 18 December 2009.

12. At the meeting on 26 November 2008, the Board endorsed the establishment of formal relationship between the statutory monument declaration system and the administrative grading system for historic buildings. Under the endorsed arrangement, Grade 1 buildings, defined as “buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible”, will be included in a pool of highly valuable heritage buildings for consideration by the Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Development) as to whether some of these may have reached the “high threshold” of monuments for statutory protection under the Ordinance.

13. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) considers that with the significant heritage value as set out in paragraphs 2 to 9 above, the exteriors of the three historic buildings have reached the “high threshold” to be declared as monuments for permanent protection under the Ordinance. Consent for the proposed declaration has been obtained from the University. The declaration of the exteriors of the three historic buildings as monuments follows the arrangement for the four buildings in the University, i.e. the Main Building, University Hall, Hung Hing Ying Building and Tang Chi Ngong Building, the exteriors of which have been declared as monuments earlier.

ADVICE SOUGHT

14. In accordance with section 3(1) of the Ordinance, the Antiquities Authority may, after consultation with the Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive, by notice in the Gazette, declare any historic building to be a monument. Members’ advice on whether the exteriors of the three Grade 1 historic buildings in the University should be declared as monuments is, therefore, sought. The intended monument boundaries of the declaration are shown in **Annex G**.

NEXT STEP

15. Should Members support the proposal to declare the exteriors of the subject three Grade 1 historic buildings as monuments, AMO will take the matter forward in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2018

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 22-3/0