

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**DECLARATION OF
TWO HISTORIC BUILDINGS AS MONUMENTS**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' advice on the proposal to declare:

- (a) Hung Shing Temple (洪聖古廟), Nos. 129 & 131 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong; and
- (b) Stanley Mosque (赤柱清真寺), No. 53 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong;

as monuments under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (the "Ordinance").

JUSTIFICATIONS

Hung Shing Temple

2. Hung Shing Temple (the "Temple"), believed to be constructed between 1847 and 1852, is among the oldest surviving temples in Wan Chai. Originally situated along the shoreline, the Temple was established to serve fishermen and merchant seamen who were devoted to Hung Shing, the "God of the South Sea". The collective contributions from local trades, including stone quarry workers, together with support from the wider Chinese community, during the Temple's major renovations in 1860 and 1867, reflect strong social cohesion and illustrate the expansion of Hung Shing worship in 19th-century Hong Kong.

3. The Temple is socially and culturally important as a long-standing centre of worship and community activity. For generations, it has served as a venue for religious ceremonies and ritual practices, including the

accommodation of soul tablets, thereby sustaining strong ties with the local community. Its significance is further reflected in the naming of Tai Wong Street East and West, which embeds the Temple's presence into the streetscape, and in the continued patronage and donations from worshippers. As a historic landmark amid a modern urban environment, the Temple reflects Wan Chai's historical evolution and stands as a rare, tangible reminder of the district's early religious landscape and lasting communal traditions.

4. Architecturally, the Temple exemplifies traditional Lingnan vernacular architecture through its single-hall-three-bay layout and raised entrance porch, connecting historic design values with site-specific features. The Temple's integration with the natural rocky terrain enhances its architectural significance. The current form, established during the 1860 renovation, incorporates granite columns, "prawn beams" (prawn-shaped tie beams), and finely crafted architectural elements. The Temple retains a high degree of authenticity, demonstrated by its well-preserved historic fabric and decorative features, such as stone carvings, plaster mouldings, granite figures, and Shiwan ceramic ridge decorations that were constructed in 1909, reflecting both refined craftsmanship and the continuity of traditional building practices.

Stanley Mosque

5. Constructed between 1936 and 1937, Stanley Mosque (the "Mosque") is the second oldest mosque in Hong Kong and uniquely located within a prison compound, i.e. Stanley Prison. The Mosque was established through the initiative, labour, and donations of Indian and Pakistani Muslim staff of the Prisons Department (renamed as the Correctional Services Department in 1982), as well as the local Indian community. It stands as a testament to the growth of the Muslim community in Hong Kong and demonstrates the Government's respect for religious practices and its commitment to inclusivity among its staff.

6. Architecturally, Stanley Mosque constitutes a rare building typology in Hong Kong, modelled on the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan. Built on a symmetrical plan on an east-west axis oriented toward the Holy Kaaba in Makkah, the concrete flat roof is edged with a crenellated parapet, while the arcaded façade features horseshoe and ogee ornamental arches. The Mosque does not have the typical minaret found in most mosques, but instead features a simplified design with minaret-like columns that convey Islamic architectural identity. The Mosque retains much of its original form since it was built with minimal alterations to meet operational needs. These include upgrading the

electrical systems, the installation of air conditioning units, and the replacement of timber windows and doors with metal ones. All of these are considered reversible without compromising the Mosque's integrity.

7. The appraisals and photographs of the two historic buildings are at Annexes A to D.

GRADING AND DECLARATION

8. In recognition of their heritage values, the Antiquities Advisory Board (the "Board") accorded Grade 1 status to Hung Shing Temple on 17 May 2010 and to Stanley Mosque on 18 December 2009.

9. 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", are 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.

10. The two historic buildings, i.e. Hung Shing Temple and Stanley Mosque as set out in paragraphs 2 to 6 above, have significant heritage value. They have reached the "high threshold" to be declared as monuments for permanent protection under the Ordinance. Consent for the intended declaration has been obtained from the respective owners and management bodies.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. In accordance with section 3(1) of the Ordinance, "the Authority may, after consultation with the Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive, by notice in the Gazette, declare any place, building, site or structure, which the Authority considers to be of public interest by reason of its historical, archaeological or palaeontological significance, to be a monument, historical building or archaeological or palaeontological site or structure". Members' advice is therefore sought on whether Hung Shing Temple and Stanley Mosque

_____ should be declared as monuments. The intended monument boundaries of the declaration are shown in **Annexes E and F**.

NEXT STEP

12. Subject to the Board's advice, the Antiquities and Monuments Office will take the matter forward in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
June 2026

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