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Written Submission 222

TO:

The Chairman & Members  
Antiquities Advisory Board  
C/- AAB Secretariat  
136 Nathan Road  
Tsim Sha Tsui  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong

I/We SUPPORT the Antiquities Advisory Board confirming Heritage Grade 1 on the Central Government Offices site and all its buildings and that the Board recommends Monument Status to the Antiquities Authority.

BECAUSE, amongst many reasons:

1. This heritage site has been Hong Kong's seat of governance since the 1840s and deserves the highest respect and grading from our heritage protection legislation and administrative criteria.
2. The present Main, East and West Wings of the Central Government Offices were designed and built as a "harmonious, integral cluster" and all three wings must be preserved intact and thus treated as of equal architectural importance.
3. The three wings of the Central Government Offices are unique and a significant example of modernist, functional architectural design that is the precursor of many similar buildings built in the 1950s and 1960s.
4. As a place of governance and public administration this site and these buildings witnessed an unprecedented range of historic legislative, administrative and public decision-making and interaction with the public.

Other comments:

The Preservation of Government Hill as it stands is valid in two ways:

- 1) As a reflection of Hong Kong's history.
- 2) It is also an example of planning that really worked. A group of buildings forming a coherent space that allowed the natural interaction between the Government and the public.

De Brackinghe, Norman William

Signature :



Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

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