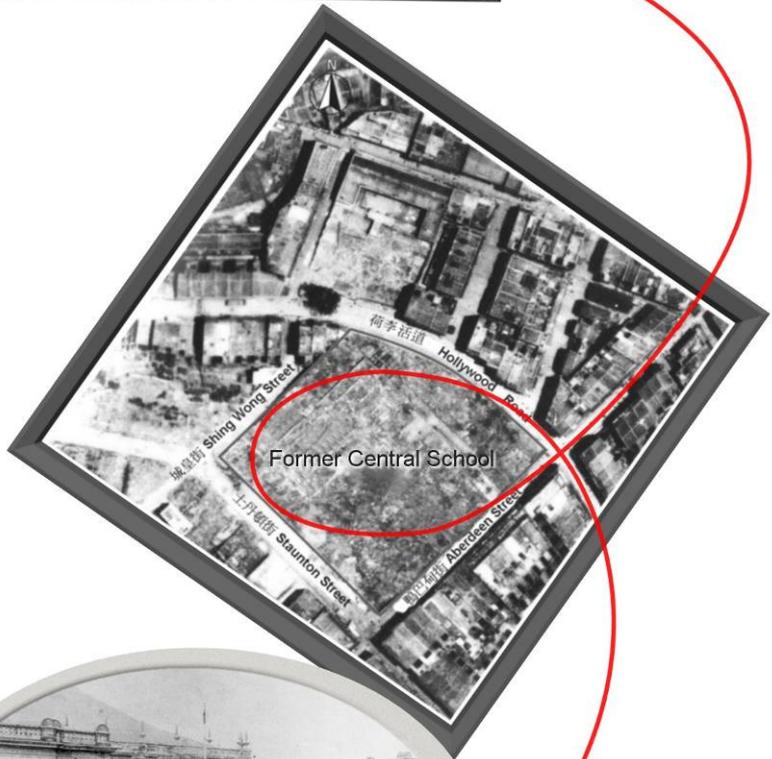
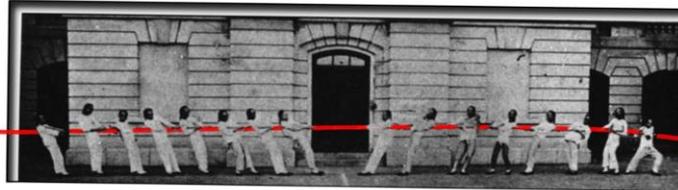


# Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters

## 2007 Site Investigation Report



## List of Contents

Abstract

1. Introduction
2. History of Central School and its present condition
3. Objectives and methodology
4. Documentary research
  - 4.1 Shing Wong Temple
  - 4.2 The Central School
  - 4.3 Married Police Quarters
5. Results of site investigation
  - 5.1 Findings of on-site inspection
  - 5.2 Subsurface investigation at the playground platform
  - 5.3 Subsurface investigation at the platform near Staunton Street
  - 5.4 Subsurface investigation at the Main platform
    - 5.4.1 Stratigraphy at Main platform
    - 5.4.2 Feature of cement floor
    - 5.4.3 Layer of hard-core
    - 5.4.4 Features of underground drainage
    - 5.4.5 Features of foundation walls
    - 5.4.6 Mortar Wall and White mortar floor
    - 5.4.7 Inked marks on granite blocks
    - 5.4.8 Remains of mud walls
6. Finds collected
7. Observation and Interpretation
8. Conclusion
9. References

Annex A Figures

Annex B Plates

Annex C Tables

Annex D Historical pictures and plans

Annex E Copies of Gazette and Public Works Reports

## Abstract

The site of the Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters (*the Site*) was formerly the school premises of the Central School. At the meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) on 6 March 2007, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department undertook to conduct an archaeological investigation to review its heritage value.

Fieldwork of site investigation was conducted between 19 March and 25 July 2007 in two phases. On the basis of documentary research, site investigation comprised on-site inspection and subsurface investigation covering about 600 m<sup>2</sup>. The post excavation analysis and research took place afterwards.

Investigation focused on the car park between quarters at the upper platform and the playground at the lower platform. During the site inspection, the above-ground remnants of the Central School were identified along the boundary and the retaining walls surrounding *the Site*. Excavation at the playground platform revealed the previous playground surface believably of the Central School. Old stone steps near the existing staircase leading to the playground were recovered. Features identified at the upper platform included fragments of cement flooring, layer of hard-core, underground drainages, foundation walls, mortar wall and white mortar floor, inked marks on granite blocks and remains of mud walls. Finds collected from the subsurface investigation included ceramic sherds, bronze coins and ceramic floor tiles. Manufacturer marks impressed on the tiles found at *the Site* were the same as those on the tiles unearthed from the Former Mountain Lodge at the Peak.

The site investigation reconfirms that the foundations and other features of Central School have been significantly disturbed by works in the past. It is not possible to locate the foundation of Shing Wong Temple from the findings of documentary research and field investigation. The Chief Executive announced in his 2007-08 Policy Address that *the Site* will be removed from the List of Sites for Sale by Application for a year and proposals will be invited on its revitalization. Any revitalization proposals should be based on the premise that the remaining features of Central School mentioned in Para. 8.1 of this report and have full regard to the historical significance of Central School to the development of Hong Kong.

## 摘要

中環舊荷李活道已婚警察宿舍（下稱該址），前身爲中央書院校址。康樂及文化事務署轄下古物古蹟辦事處於古物諮詢委員會 2007 年 3 月 6 日的會議上承諾進行實地考古勘察以再次檢視該址的文物價值。

是次勘察的田野工作由 2007 年 3 月 19 日至 7 月 25 日，分兩階段進行。勘察工作以文獻資料爲基礎，進行實地視察及發掘工作，發掘面積合共約 600 平方米。隨即展開發掘後的資料整理及分析研究工作。

實地視察工作沿着該址周邊的圍牆進行，確認一些中央書院於地面的建築構件。操場平台的發掘工作揭示操場原有的地面，並在現有梯階附近發現一些舊石級；上平台發現的建築遺跡包括破碎的原混凝土地面、一層由紅泥和碎石混成的墊層、地下渠道、牆基、在部份石條上發現的墨跡、板灰牆和白灰地面，以及一些土牆的殘餘部份。遺物方面包括瓷器碎片、銅錢和鋪地瓷磚等。鋪地瓷磚背後印有與舊總督山頂別墅同一瓷磚製造商的名稱。

是次勘察証實中央書院的房基和地下遺跡遭受過往工程的嚴重破壞。就現有的文獻及田野資料來看，城隍廟地基在該址內的具體位置難以確定。行政長官的《2007-08 年施政報告》已宣布會將該址從政府勾地表中剔出，爲期一年，並邀請各界提出活化方案。活化方案的建議須基於本報告第 8.1 段提及該址的現存構築物等，以及充份考慮中央書院對香港發展的歷史意義。

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The site of the Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters (*the Site*) was the address of the former Central School(中央書院) - the first government school originally established in 1862 at Gough Street. In 1889, the Central School moved from Gough Street to the site at Hollywood Road. The school buildings were destroyed during the Japanese Invasion in 1941, and were later demolished in 1948 to give way for the development of the Police Married Quarters now occupying *the Site*. The Quarters were opened in 1951 and completely vacated in 2000.

1.2 *The Site* was rezoned from "Government, Institution and Community" ("G/IC") to "Residential (Group A)" on the Sai Ying Pun and Sheung Wan Outline Plan (OZP, No. S/H3/11) in 1998. It was included in the List of Sites for Sale by Application in March 2005 (The Chief Executive announced in his 2007-08 Policy Address that *the Site* will be removed from the List of Sites for Sale by Application for a year and proposals will be invited on its revitalization.). Further to the rezoning application in late 2005, another application to rezone *the Site* from "R(A)" to "Open Space" and "G/IC" was submitted to the Town Planning Board in January 2007. A supplementary submission was made in March 2007. There were claims that the foundations of Shing Wong Temple(城隍廟) and Central School might have been preserved in-situ at *the Site*, probably prompted by the recent discovery of the Former Mountain Lodge at the Peak.

1.3 The historical importance of *the Site* was discussed at the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) meeting on 5 July 2005, 29 November 2005, 24 January 2006 and 27 March 2006. After the deliberations, the AAB considered that heritage preservation requirements should be imposed on the redevelopment of *the Site*. The AAB recommended that the existing retaining walls together with the trees along Shing Wong Street and Hollywood Road and at the lower platform within *the Site*; the granite steps leading to the lower platform together with the remaining rubble wall; and the original granite plinths and pillars of the fenced walls of Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street should be preserved, while some alterations should be allowed to strike a balance between heritage preservation and the future development of *the Site*. The prospective developer would be requested to submit a conservation plan for the preservation and maintenance of the historic features at *the Site* to the

satisfaction of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). The requirements have been incorporated by Planning Department into the draft Planning Brief. At the AAB meeting on 6 March 2007, the AMO undertook to conduct a site investigation to ascertain the archaeological potential of *the Site*.

1.4 Fieldwork of subsurface investigation was conducted between 19 March and 25 July 2007, totaling 80 working days in two phases. The total excavated area was approximately 600m<sup>2</sup>. This investigation report serves to report on the key findings of the fieldwork.

## **2. History and Present Condition**

2.1 The Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters is located in Central District, bounded by Hollywood Road to the north, Staunton Street to the south, Aberdeen Street to the east and Shing Wong Street to the west.

2.2 The Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟) and a Chinese settlement once occupied the site before the construction of the Central School. Carl T. Smith concluded that the Shing Wong Temple was built in 1843 and could be regarded as a Chinese "Town Hall", the first community project of the Chinese population in Hong Kong. In 1852, Floriano Antonio Rangel, a Portugese bookkeeper, bought Lot 91 at a public land auction, and that land lot's boundary coincided with that of the Former Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters. Rangel built some 50 Chinese houses around the Shing Wong Temple, which was called Rangel's Row, Rangel's Alley or Kow Kong Lane. Rangel passed away in 1873 and the Government bought his property three years later for building the premises of the Central School (Smith 1973). In 1877, the Government gazetted to sell the "materials, bricks, stones, tiles, doors, windows, joists, floors, etc. of the buildings on Inland Lots 55, 93, 91 and 91A. - known as Rangel's Estate", including " Joss House, No. 10 Shing Wong Street" at a public auction (Hong Kong Government Gazette 1877). However, no plan was attached to the Gazette to show the exact location of Joss House.

2.3 The Central School was the first government school providing upper primary and secondary education to the public. The original school campus was established at Gough Street in 1862. It was later relocated to the site at the juncture of Aberdeen Street and Hollywood Road and was renamed as Victoria College in 1889 (Hong Kong Government Gazette 1890). In 1894, the school was renamed as Queen's College (皇仁書院). The school buildings of the site were severely damaged during the Second World War and completely demolished in 1948 to make way for the development of the Police Married Quarters. The Queen's College was reopened at a temporary site on Kennedy Road in 1947 and moved to its present site on Causeway Road, opposite to the Victoria Park in 1950. (Stokes 1987)

2.4 In the early days, the Hong Kong Police Force provided quarters or housing allowances for high-ranking officers only. When Duncan William MacIntosh was Commissioner of Police, the Police Force started providing married rank and file officers with quarters. The first of these police quarters were the Hollywood Road Married Quarters (HKPF 2004). The *Site* was partially vacant in September 1999 (LegCo Record 1999) and has been wholly vacant since February 2000 (LegCo Record 2000).

2.5 The AMO conducted an initial appraisal of the existing structures of the site on 14 December 2005. The site was found bounded by different types of retaining walls and boundary walls constructed in different periods. A preliminary investigation was also conducted at various positions of the existing walls along Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street to determine their construction materials and methods. A small portion of the cement rendering was chipped off from the existing walls with hand tools. Only brickworks were revealed under the 10-15mm thick cement rendering, but not balustrades or pierced panels.

2.6 Further investigation was undertaken on 5 January 2006 in the attempt to obtain more complete samples by a concrete coring machine. Core hole positions were strategically set out on sections of walls that could be identified in the historical photographs dated 1897 and 1903 respectively. A core size of less than 50mm was chosen to provide a significant sample while at the same time reducing any non-reversible damage to the walls. According to the historical photographs dated 1897 and 1903, there were pierced panels/balustrades on the upper portions of the boundary walls

fronting Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street. However, it was revealed from the cored materials that only brickworks were in existence. Among the coring samples the materials of the small panel walls at the Staunton Street Entrance were grey bricks and contemporary ceramic tiles, indicating the different construction periods as compared with the other sections of walls composed of red bricks.

2.7 Prior to this site investigation, remnants of Central School could be identified around and within the site such as granite shafts and plinths of the boundary walls, the retaining walls as well as the quoin stones at the corners of these retaining walls, flights of steps linking different platforms, etc.

2.8 The existing public utilities for the Police Married Quarters such as drainage, water mains, electricity sub-station and pumping station could be identified at the car park area and open area of the four platforms.

2.9 There was an underground Public Latrine situated at the juncture of Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street. A detailed description of the construction of the latrine was given in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Works for the year of 1918. However, the latrine was not the scope of this site investigation.

### **3. Objectives and Methodology**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

3.1.1 To conduct on-site inspection and subsurface investigation based on the building plans of Central School in 1883 (*Report of proposed new Central School*, CO129-210: 14974) as well as other archival materials;

3.1.2 To examine the possibility of any foundation of Shing Wong Temple buried under the Police Married Quarters and Central School; and

3.1.3 To record and assess the preservation conditions of building foundation if any at the site.

#### **3.2 Methodology (Plate 1-2)**

3.2.1 Following the general practice of field archaeology, the course of excavation, stratigraphic deposits and sequence, artefacts collected and archaeological features were recorded systematically during the course of the site investigation. The field archives included all the standard registers for photographs, drawings, video recording, finds and special finds, etc.

3.2.2 As *the Site* was completely covered by concrete, diggers were engaged to break the concrete and to clear fill materials. The exposed surface was then excavated through manual labouring and machineries under the direct supervision of field officers.

3.3 The investigation was divided into two phases. In the first phase, test grids/trenches were excavated on the second platform (car park area) and the lowest platform of the *Site*. In order to obtain further information about the features identified, subsurface investigation was mainly extended at the second platform in the second phase. Based on the stratigraphy obtained, machineries were fully utilized in the course of the second phase to clear the concrete surface and fill materials. All the features were totally cleared by hand excavation so as to avoid any damage caused by the machineries.

3.4 Works of this investigation included on-site inspection of the remnants of the Central School above ground and the excavation covered about 600 m<sup>2</sup> at three plateaus of *the Site*. Test grid/trench No. 1-8 and No. 9-15 were excavated in the first and second phases, covering 188m<sup>2</sup> and 412 m<sup>2</sup> respectively.

3.5 Details of the subsurface investigation areas (Fig. 1) were set out below:

	<b>Location mentioned in 1883 report</b>	<b>Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b><i>Excavated area (m<sup>2</sup>) of 2007 investigation</i></b>
1.	First plateau	710	2
2.	Second plateau (main platform)	3340	577 (i.e. existing car park area)
3.	Third plateau (latrine platform)	650	(no excavation due to the electricity sub-station)

4.	Fourth plateau (playground platform)	1250	20.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>599.5</b>

3.6 Site constraints encountered in the course of this investigation were as below:-

- a. Owing to the limited areas available for storing excavated soil, several planned test grids/trenches could not be fully excavated for the sake of site safety.
- b. As a result of the sequence of features identified at the car park, a larger area close to Shing Wong Street was blocked by excavated soil .
- c. Considering the typhoon season and site safety, the excavated areas were backfilled by the end of July 2007.

3.7 Upon the completion of the investigation, all the features identified were recorded and preserved *in-situ* following the general practice of field archaeology. The excavated areas were backfilled with a layer of sand and filling materials in accordance with the requirements of the General Specification for Building (2003 edition) and monitored by a registered structural engineer.

#### **4. Documentary Research (Annex D and E)**

Archival materials about the Shing Wong Temple, Central School and Police Married Quarters such as the historic maps and aerial photographs of the Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department, historical photographs from Hong Kong Museum of History, building plans of Architectural Services Department, archives of the Public Records Office and the Library of the University of Hong Kong, etc, were gathered to form the frame of reference for this site investigation.

##### **4.1 Shing Wong Temple**

According to the Hong Kong Government Gazette issued on 6 January 1877, Lot No. 4 was Joss House, No. 10, Shing Wong Street, which might be Shing Wong Temple. However, the archivist of the Public Record Office confirmed there was no plan attached to the Gazette preserved. Moreover,

the locations of Inland Lots 55, 93, 91 and 91A (i.e. *the Site*) were clearly marked on the Plan of Victoria in 1856 but the street number of Shing Wong Street could not be identified on any maps before 1877 that could be obtained from the Mapping Office. Hence, there is no concrete evidence to conclude the exact location of Shing Wong Temple in *the Site*.

#### ***4.2 The Central School at Hollywood Road (built in 1889)***

##### **4.2.1 Site Condition before the proposed new Central School**

The 1883 Report of the then proposed new Central School (CO129-210: 14974) clearly described the site as “*somewhat unfavourable and discouraging in respect of shape and configuration, for it not only slope [?] steeply from south to North but also East to west*” and “*These actual levels with considerable modifications in respect of this dimensions will be retained in the manner shown in Drawing No. 1 .....*” . Probably, substantive site formation works were arranged before construction works of the new school building began. Retaining walls of the Hollywood Street, Shing Wong Street and the first to the third plateaus were very likely the products of site formation works.

##### **4.2.2 Layout of the Central School**

The report and Drawing No. 1 also indicated clearly that *the Site* were divided into four plateaus with different functions and levels, i.e. the first plateau near the Staunton Street entrance at 161.5 feet above the sea, the second plateau for the main building at 153 feet, the third plateau for lavatory and coolie house at 147 feet near Shing Wong Street; and the fourth plateau for the playground at 140 feet near Hollywood Road.

##### **4.2.3 Design of the new school building**

The main school building at the second plateau was an E-shaped three-storied structure, i.e. the basement floor, ground floor and first floor. The basement floor was designed to provide adequate light and ventilation due to the level difference between the first and second plateaus.

(a) Basement Floor: The West Wing of the basement was a covered-playground while the East Wing included a laboratory for

experimental chemistry, a cloak room, a lunch room and two store rooms. The square space under the large Lecture Hall was a cellar, which was consistent with the general design for raising the ground floor of the building above the level of the compound. It was not designated for any specific function. Ample stairs led up from both West Wing and East Wing to the Lecture Hall and to the classrooms on the ground floor.

(b) Ground Floor: The Ground Floor included a large Lecture Hall, four large classrooms and eight small classrooms. The Lecture Hall, flanked on each side by lobbies with staircases, was 75 feet by 66 feet and 39 feet in height. Apart from being used for lectures, it would also be used for roll-call every morning and for public gatherings or Prize Day. Leading off from the lobbies on each side of the Lecture Hall were the eight large classrooms. Four of the classrooms were opened into two small classrooms with glass doors to enable one European teacher to supervise two Chinese assistant teachers.

(c) First Floor: The general arrangement of the Upper Floor was the same as the Ground Floor. The only difference was that part of the classrooms of East Wing was used for teachers' offices, school library and stationery room.

#### 4.2.4 Drainage and other facilities

The lavatories, urinals and closets were situated on the third plateau accessible from the covered playground. The closets and urinals were portable without connection with any drain or sewer. All floors and walls of the urinals and closets were made impervious by being rendered with Portland cement rubbed to a smooth and polished surface. Soap-suds and waste waters from the lavatories would be discharged into a proposed new public sewer in Shing Wong Street. There were no sewers in the main school building. Rain drainage was carried off from every portion of the ground in glazed stoneware 10 inch pipes set in cement leading to outlets on the western boundary of the site and finally discharged into the Shing Wong Street sewer. In order to prevent the subsoil water from the Southern compound and from Aberdeen Street soaking towards the basement floor of the building, deep subsoil drains were run along the toe or foot of all the

retaining walls. To secure dryness, the basement floor was paved with a layer of Portland cement concrete.

- 4.2.5 Tender was called for the new Central School by the Acting Colonial Secretary Frederick Stewart in the Gazette dated 26 September 1885.
- 4.2.6 The new Central School (renamed as the Victoria College in 1890 and later as Queen's College in 1894) were completed and occupied in August 1889. However, the public works report pointed out the roof leakage of the new building due to flat portions not properly covered by sheet lead. (Papers Laid Before the Legislative Council of Hong Kong 1889)
- 4.2.7 Judging from the map in 1889, the general layout of the four plateaus was slightly different from the proposed layout plan in the 1883 report. The location of the southern entrance at Aberdeen Street was changed to the present location of the main entrance. A turf slope linking the second plateau with the third plateau was absent but a flight of steps was built next to the lavatory (the third plateau), linking with third plateaus. At the fourth plateau, a small structure was erected close to a small entrance at Aberdeen Street.
- 4.2.8 According to the old maps in 1901, 1910 and 1936, the overall layout of the school premises was probably unchanged before Japanese Occupation period. Historical photographs and maps also indicated that the approximate locations of four entrances at Shing Wong Street (1), Staunton Street (1) and Aberdeen Street (2) remained intact.
- 4.2.9 The Director of Public Works reported that extensive damage was done by the storm in April 1926 on the east side of the retaining wall encircling the site. Further damage also occurred during July 1926. By the end of 1926, the damaged portion of the wall was taken down for rebuilding.
- 4.2.10 Two historical photographs taken in 1897 and 1903 respectively show that the boundary wall along Staunton Street originally had pierced panels between the granite shafts, but not solid panels as it is now. Moreover, the stepped walls along Aberdeen Street and Shing Wong Street originally had panels of exposed brickwork.

4.2.11 Plan of *the Site* (c. 1949?) from Architectural Services Department indicated there was no flight of steps linking Staunton Street with the first plateau. An aerial photograph in 1949 also shows the same condition. Conceivably, the flight of steps could be covered by the debris at that moment.

### 4.3 Married Police Quarters

A series of the Asiatic Police Quarters (Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters) plans in 1950s obtained from Architectural Services Department indicates that -

4.3.1 The overall settings of four plateaus in *the Site* were unchanged. The quarters comprised two buildings (Block A & B) at the second plateau and a recreation centre at the fourth plateau.

4.3.2 The left side of a matching flight of stairs from Staunton Street leading to the first plateau was not indicated in those plans. The western staircase of the first plateau was overlaid by Block A. Both western ends of Block A and B were situated on the third plateau. The main entrance at Aberdeen Street was kept and the open space between two blocks would be car park area. The staircase linking the western part of the second plateau with the third plateau and the entrance at Shing Wong Street could not be located in those plans. The small entrance at Aberdeen Street might be blocked since 1950s.

4.3.3 Extensive drainage works were marked at the open area between two blocks on the layout plan, signifying extensive disturbance to the original floor and foundation of Central School in 1950s.

4.3.4 Retaining Wall: A plan was prepared for the rebuilding method of the demolished portion of retaining wall but the exact location of the retaining wall was not specified clearly.

4.3.5 Foundation of Block A and B: The foundation plan of Block A indicated that most of the concrete footings were about 5 feet underground, except its eastern and western ends. The foundation plan of Block B specified the footings to be “determined on site”.

4.3.6 The recreation centre was changed to the Junior Police Call House in 1981.

## 5. Results of site investigation

### 5.1 Findings of On-site inspection (Fig. 2-3, Plate 3-10)

Based on the historical photographs and plans, the site inspection identified the remnants (above ground) of the original Central School (*probably* built in 1889 or before 1941) as below:-

- a) granite steps of Shing Wong Street entrance,
- b) granite step of Aberdeen Street small entrance (near Hollywood Road),
- c) granite gate posts of Aberdeen Street entrance,
- d) granite gate posts of Staunton Street entrance,
- e) rubble retaining wall along Shing Wong Street,
- f) rubble retaining wall of Hollywood Street with dressed quoin stones at east and west corners,
- g) rubble retaining wall (partially disturbed) of first plateau with dressed quoin stones at west corner,
- h) rubble retaining wall of second plateau (partially disturbed) with granite plinths and slabs , ceramic pipes and dressed quoin stones at east and west corners,
- i) rubble retaining wall of third plateau with dressed quoin stones at west corner,
- j) flight of granite steps at Staunton Street entrance,
- k) flight of granite steps linking the second and fourth plateaus,
- l) granite shafts and plinths of Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street boundary walls.

### 5.2 Subsurface investigation at the playground platform (Fig. 4-7, Plate 11-14)

5.2.1 Four test grids (T1, T2, T5 and T15 from east to west) were laid on this platform, totaling 20.5m<sup>2</sup> excavated (lowest or fourth plateau). All test grids were 2 x 2m, and T5 was extended twice in the first phase.

5.2.2 Stratigraphy of all the test grids at this platform was consistent except T5 which was lacking in Stratum 3. Stratum 1 was a modern cement surface (0.08-0.16m thick), Stratum 2 was a modern fill (approx. 0.08-0.16m thick), Stratum 3 was a yellowish brown layer of fill (approx. 0.1-0.5m thick), Stratum 4 was a dark brownish layer of fill (approx. 0.05-0.5m thick), and Stratum 5 was a blackish asphalt layer, probably the surface of the previous playground. Excavation works at this platform ceased at about 1-1.1m below the existing playground in order to preserve the previous playground surface. However, Stratum 5 in T15 was not well preserved and compact fills of yellowish soil, mixed with brick and mortar fragments was identified below Stratum 5 (i.e. Stratum 6).

### 5.2.3 Features in test grids T1, T2, T5 and T15

**T1:** Features denoted as "A to D" are made of cement, which were identified below Stratum 4 and on the surface of Stratum 5. "A", located in the northern part of test grid, was in square shape (0.27x0.27m) with an iron ring. "B" is 0.5m long and 0.24m wide. "C" was 0.59m long and 0.35m wide. Both "B" and "C" were partially exposed and extended underneath the west profile. "D" was located in the southern part of test grid, L-shape, 1.8m long and 0.3m wide.

**T2:** A rectangular granite block was found below Stratum 4 and its base cut into stratum 5. It was 0.5m wide, 0.25m thick and 0.55m long (not fully exposed as extended into east profile)

**T5:** Stone objects, denoted as "A", "B" and "C", were found in stratum 4. "A" was a well-dressed granite base, 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.4m high, same as the existing square base of staircase (D1). "B" was a well-dressed granite block, 2m long, 0.4m wide, 0.3m thick, one side with cut marks for fixing steps. "C" was a broken granite step, 0.95m long, 0.35m wide and 0.15m thick, dressed except the backside. "A", "B" and "C" were structural parts of the staircase linking the second and fourth plateaus. Features associated with Stratum 5 were D2 (step covered by concrete, 3m long, 0.35m wide, 0.15m thick), D3 (traces of stone steps, hard reddish areas for laying steps), E

(rubble retaining wall under the existing playground surface, about 1.2m high in T5) and another granite slab probably relating to retaining wall in eastern part of test grid (outside the extent of test grid).

**T15:** Stratum 5 was seriously disturbed except a small intact area near the west profile (c 0.03m thick only). 0.3m of stratum 6 was excavated but not yet fully exposed due to site safety. An iron pipe was found cut through the eastern part of test grid but its stratigraphical relationship with Stratum 6 was not clear.

5.2.4 Judging from the features identified in the T1, T2 & T15 as well as the objects and traces of steps in T5, the previous surface was about 1.1-1.2m below the existing playground matching with the remaining stone bases along the Hollywood Road retaining wall.

### **5.3 *Subsurface investigation at the platform near Staunton Street* (Fig. 8, Plate 15)**

5.3.1 Test trench T13 (1 x 2m, 2m from east to west) was laid at this platform, covering 2m<sup>2</sup> at the bottom of the staircase of Staunton Street. Stratigraphy of T13 as follows:-

*Stratum 1:* modern cement surface, 0.05-0.07m thick,;

*Stratum 2:* reddish layer of hard-core, seriously disturbed, 0.05-0.1m thick, no artifact found;

*Stratum 3:* hard yellowish brown decomposed granite (D.G.) with occasional red spots, only 0.15m of this layer excavated, no artifact found.

5.3.2 Excavation of T13 confirmed no further stone step of this staircase under the existing surface. Stratum 2 was similar to those layers found at the car park area but relatively reddish in colour. Stratum 3 demonstrated the level of the D. G, giving clues for understanding the original landform.

### **5.4 *Subsurface investigation at the Main platform* (Fig. 9, Plate 47)**

#### 5.4.1 Stratigraphy at main platform (Fig. 10-12, Plate 16-17)

Main areas of this investigation were laid at the car park area between Block A & B, totaling 577m<sup>2</sup>. Five test trenches were excavated in first phase and extension of investigation area was subject to the sequence of features identified in second phase. Test trenches at the car park area in second phase were marked indicatively for collecting finds and recording features. No baulks between each test trench were intentionally kept during the course of second phase at the car park area. The stratigraphy of test trenches at this area was not completely identical and decomposed granite (D.G.) could only be identified in T8 and a small area close to stone foundation No. 3, No. 9 and No. 10. All archaeological features relating to Central School were identified below the modern fill, disturbed deposits caused by public utilities, or fills for the Central School. Excavation works for the area close to Shing Wong Street and the area south of stone foundation No. 9 ceased at about 3.8m and 4.2m below the existing surface respectively. Considering the stability of building foundation and site safety, all the archaeological features were exposed by hand excavation for recording purpose as far as practical.

a) Test trench T8 (2x3m) was laid within the parking area of Block A. Stratigraphy of T8 was as follows:-

*Stratum 1:* modern concrete floor, 0.18-0.5m thick, a concrete beam crossing the northern part of trench;

*Stratum 2:* modern fill mixed with cobbles, 0.14-0.24m thick;

*Stratum 3:* yellowish brown soil mixed with crushed bricks and tiles, 0.1-0.64m in thick, uneven distribution and especially thick in southern portion;

*Stratum 4:* reddish brown coarse decomposed granite and stones, excavation ceased at about 1.1m below the surface.

b) Test trench T14 (2x1m) was laid at the north edge of this platform, about 4m north of the exterior wall of Block B. Stratigraphy of T14 was as follows:-

*Stratum 1:* modern concrete surface, 0.03-0.1m thick, a sewer

manhole (沙井) found at the southwest corner;

*Stratum 2*: disturbed layer mixed with cement and cobbles, 0.4m thick, not fully excavated due to its compactness; (matching with the notes on foundation plan for Block B: *ground to be thoroughly consolidated before ground floor beams and slabs are cast as they are not self supporting*)

*Stratum 3*: light red hard-core layer, 0.3m thick, similar to those found at T4, T6, T7 and T9 but in different soil colour. A brick structure was found below this layer, sloping from north to south and similar to the drain No. D1 in T4. Considering the stability of retaining wall, excavation works were not further extended and ceased at 0.7m below the surface.

c) Test trench T4, originally laid as 10x5m in first phase, was located close to the west edge of this platform. Stratigraphy of T4 was as follows:-

*Stratum 1*: modern concrete surface, 0.1-0.15m thick;

*Stratum 2*: yellowish coarse sand with frequent pebbles, 0.1-0.15m thick;

*Stratum 3*: collapse deposit, 0.6m thick, full of stones, bricks and tiles debris, underground facilities such as water mains, electricity cables and gas pipelines found in this layer; features such as hard core layer, drains and stone foundations found below this layer. Excavation ceased at 2.2m below the surface in the first phase.

*Stratum 4*: below the reddish layer of hard core in T4 is also fill materials, full of stones, bricks and tiles debris. Cut ditch for drain No. D1 could be discerned. Further excavation in second phase demonstrates that the fill (*Stratum 4*) is more than 3m thick at the western part of this platform. However, no colour or composition change of filling materials in all test trenches could be confidently detected in course of this investigation.

d) Archaeological features relating to the main building of Central School (Fig. 13) were identified below *Stratum 3* and *4* as well as

below or on the layer of hard-core. They were recorded as cement floor, layer of hard-core, underground drainage, foundations, inked marks & etc. in sections below.

#### 5.4.2 Feature of cement floor (Fig. 14, Plate 18)

After clearing the modern fills, a small area of cement floor was identified only in northwest part of T9 (near Block B), where was seriously disturbed by public utilities such as electricity cable and pipes. The smooth greyish cement floor was about 6.7m wide, 0.7-1m long and 0.02-0.07m thick, superimposed on the layer of hard-core. There were two parallel pieces of rectangular stones with a distance of 1.8m at north edge of this feature. Both stones were 0.5m long and 0.25m wide with symmetrical “q-shape” hollows and wooden fragments inside. This feature was considered to be possibly the floor of covered playground referring to the west wing of basement floor marked on 1883 plan. However, the functions of two stones and wooden fragments were not certain.

#### 5.4.3 Layer of hard-core

Below the modern fill (Stratum 3) and collapse deposit, a layer of hard-core was identified in T3, T4, T6, T7, T9 and T10, covering 89m<sup>2</sup> in area and ranging from +43.7 to +44.03m. It was a mixture of reddish soil and gravels with a smooth surface (trowel finish), similar to those found in T13 and T14. Among the four areas of hard-core in the existing car park, the area in T9 was overlaid by the cement floor.

##### a) Layer of hard-core at T4

It was about 12.5m long, 2m wide and 0.08 to 0.1m thick. The underground drainage No. D1 was discovered at its east edge. With reference to the basement floor plan, this area would be outside the west exterior wall of school building.

##### b) Layer of hard-core at T6

Two small areas of hard-core were located next to Foundation No. 2. They were in rectangular shape, separated by yellowish brown fill. The northern one is 1.65m long, 1m wide and 0.5m thick, its elevation same to the mortar floor close to Foundation No.2. Seriously

disturbed by a man-hole, the southern one was about 1.4m long, 1.6m wide and 0.3m thick.

c) Layer of hard-core at T9, T7 and T10

The area of hard-core in these test trenches was about 9.9m long, 1.8m wide and 0.03 to 0.1m thick. The underground drainage No. D2 and No. D3 were discovered on its eastern surface and feature of cement floor was identified at its western portion. This area would be the west veranda of the basement floor.

d) Layer of hard-core at T3

The area of hard-core was about 12m long, 1.4m wide and 0.04 to 0.06m thick, disturbed by the pipes and cables. The underground drainage No. D4 and No. D5 were discovered on its eastern surface. This area would be the east veranda of the basement floor.

#### 5.4.4 Features of underground drainage (Fig. 15, Plate 19-21)

Two types of underground drainage, denoted as No. D1-D5, were discovered in this platform. D1 was a brick drain close to the west retaining wall. D2-5 were gullies found on the surface of hard-core in different conditions, relating to the ceramic traps (marked as U- shape return bend ceramic pipe on figures) placed along the northern wall of foundation No. 8.

#### **D1**

Covered by the layer of hard-core, D1 was located in the middle of T4 about 0.5m below the existing surface. Both ends of D1 extended into Block A & B, and about 12m long of D1 was identified along the edge of hard-core. It was made of 8 brick courses with round interior cemented bottom. Two boxes in D1 were placed with stones and ceramic traps (u-shape pipe work) at its top edge. A small area of hard-core in T4 was excavated, demonstrating that a ditch (approx. 0.75m deep) cut into the fill materials before placing the bricks of D1.

#### **D2**

D2 was found on the surface of hard-core at the northeast corner of T9, below Stratum 3 at elevation of +43.70m. It was running from southwest to northeast, about 1.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. Fragments of ceramic trap were collected around this gully.

### **D3**

Seriously disturbed by modern drainage, D3 was found on the surface of hard-core in T10 below Stratum 3 at elevation of +43.74m. It was formed by three gullies with some bricks: left was running from southwest to northeast (2m long and 0.4m wide in average), right was running from southeast to northwest (1.9m long and 0.4m wide in average) and top was running from east to west (1m long and 0.2m wide). The left and right gullies were connected with the top one at their northern ends.

### **D4**

Seriously disturbed by modern drainage, D4 was found on the surface of hard-core in T3 below Stratum 3 at elevation of +43.72m. Similar to D3, it was formed by three gullies with some bricks: left was running from southwest to northeast (0.5m long and 0.27m wide), right was running from southeast to northwest (2.4m long and 0.4m wide in average) and top was running from east to west (remaining 0.65m long). The left and right gullies were connected with the top one at their northern ends. Fragments of iron pipe were collected from the second gully.

### **D5**

D5 was found on the surface of hard-core at the northeast corner of T3, below Stratum 3 at elevation of +43.72m. It was formed by two gullies with some bricks: the right was running from northwest to southeast with an iron pipe (2m long and 0.2m wide), and the second was running from northeast to southwest (0.3m long and 0.25m wide). Several fragments of red square tiles were collected during the course of excavation.

#### 5.4.5 Features of foundation walls

Fourteen groups of foundation walls denoted as Foundation No.1-14 were identified in the excavation area at the existing car park. All these foundations essentially formed by granite blocks were discovered at different elevations in varying conditions. Sizes of granite blocks were generally 1.2-1.9m long, 0.25- 0.35m wide, 0.25- 0.35m thick. All

the granite blocks were jointed by reddish soil and alternatively arranged in horizontal or vertical lines. Under Stratum 2 or 3, the Foundation No. 6, 7 & 8 were well preserved with red bricks and cement finish on the top of stone foundation wall. Breakage of granite blocks, broken bricks attached on the foundation wall or traces of stone blocks on reddish soil could be found at Foundation No. 3, 6, 7 & 9. Locations of foundations identified by this investigation could match with the Proposed Basement Floor Plan in 1883 except the Foundation No. 9, 12, 13 & 14. Considering the site safety and stability of archaeological features, excavation works to decipher the bottom of each foundation were not totally conducted except the small area between Foundation No. 3 and No. 9 and the southwest corner of No. 8.

***Foundation No. 1*** (Fig. 16, Plate 22)

Located in T4, Foundation No.1 was in three parts that were found at 2.1-2.4m below the existing surface. Excavation of the first phase ceased at 2m below surface at the southern part of T4 and resumed after discovering Foundation No. 3 and 6. Part (a) formed by 6 horizontal granite blocks was located in the northern part of T4, 2.2m long and 2m wide. Part (b) also formed by 6 horizontal granite blocks was located in the middle of T4, 1.1m long and 2m wide. Part (c) formed by 12 granite blocks in six vertical lines was located in the southern part of T4. Excavation works ceased due to site safety but sides of Part (a), (b) and (c) could demonstrate at least 2, 3 and 4 layers of granite blocks respectively.

***Foundation No. 2*** (Fig. 17, Plate 23)

Located in T6 and T11, three vertical lines of granite blocks were found at its top layer in 1m wide. In order to preserve the mortar floor and Foundation No.3 adjacent to this feature, only the east side was excavated with a length of 8m showing at least six layers of granite blocks alternatively placed on this location.

***Foundation No. 3*** (Fig. 18, Plate 24-26)

Located in T12 and T10, this foundation had twelve layers of granite block in 'cross' shape. The overall height of twelve layers was 3.94m with a length of 11m. It could be divided into two parts: -

- (a) the southern part (4.35m wide) in cross shape alternatively placed with eight layers (1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> layers), its western sub-area only with four layers(4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> layers), its eastern sub-area in trapezium shape laid on a layer of hard-core (i.e. three horizontal lines at 1<sup>st</sup> layer and at least 6 vertical lines at 8<sup>th</sup> layers showing from its north side), its northern sub-area in irregular shape similar to staircase, its southern sub-area starting at 4<sup>th</sup> layer extending under the Block A ;
- (b) the northern part alternatively laid with 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> layers, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> layer laid on the decomposed granite (number of granite blocks lesser than the above layers), the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> layers extending to joint the Foundation No. 8 but uncertain about the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> layers.

***Foundation No. 4*** (Fig. 19, Plate 27)

Located in T3, it was about 1.9m long, 1m wide, and 0.8m high after clearing the disturbance caused by modern drainage and kerbs. Four layers of granite blocks could be identified at its east side. Red bricks and cement were laid on the top of 1<sup>st</sup> layer and northern side of 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of granite blocks.

***Foundation No. 5*** (Fig. 20, Plate 28)

Same to disturbance of Foundation No. 4, it was alternatively placed with three layers of granite blocks, approx 1.6m long, 1.4m wide and 1.4 high. Red bricks were placed on the first and second layers of granite blocks.

***Foundation No. 6*** (Fig. 21, Plate 29)

It was about 10.8m long and 1.6m wide, uncovered in the eastern part of T12. Its northern end was linking with Foundation No. 8 while its western side was jointing with Foundation No. 9. The west profile of this foundation showed at least four layers of granite block and its southern portion was starting with its third layer in 4 vertical lines. A course of red bricks was laid on the first layer of granite block.

***Foundation No. 7*** (Fig. 22, Plate 30)

It was about 8.4m long and 1.5m wide, uncovered in the eastern part of T12. Its northern portion was disturbed by modern drainage, linking with Foundation No. 8. The west profile of this foundation showed at least four layers of granite block and its southern portion was starting with its third layer in 4 vertical lines. A course of red bricks and a thin layer of cement were laid on the first layer of granite block.

***Foundation No. 8*** (Fig. 23, Plate 31)

After clearing the disturbance caused by modern drainage, its north profile showed at least 4 layers of granite blocks. Inked marks and 4 ceramic traps were found along its 30.3m north profile. Buttress formed by 9 granite slabs in different colour were located at its southern side. Chinese character inked mark were found at the surface of east buttress. Red bricks with a width of 0.7m were laid on the first layer of granite block. A thin layer of cement was found along the edge of bricks and the first layer of granite block. Excavation at its southwest corner demonstrated this foundation wall had at least 8 layers of granite blocks. According to the results of test auger holes, Foundation No. 8 might extend to T9 at its 8<sup>th</sup> layer. Regrettably, its relationship with the mortar wall and white mortar floor in T7 and T10 had not been determined due to site constraints and sequence of features identified as mentioned in Section 3.6 of this report.

***Foundation No. 9*** (Fig. 24, Plate 32)

Located in the middle of T12, it was found at the elevation of +42.94 and below the surface about 1.53m. Mainly composed of four horizontal lines of granite blocks and a layer of hard-core, two layers of granite blocks were found at its eastern ends on top of the main layer linking with Foundation No. 6. Four horizontal lines were 1.5m wide and 19m long. A layer of hard-core was laid under the main horizontal lines and above the decomposed granite as shown at its southwest corner (about 2.4m thick and 4.2m below the surface). The two additional layers at its eastern end were placed with four lines of granite blocks horizontally at top and vertically at the bottom but some were incomplete granite blocks, its surface at +43.69m. The western ends of this foundation were about 0.9m higher than the 8<sup>th</sup> layer of Foundation No. 3. The layer of hard-core was laid over the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

layers of Foundation No. 3, demonstrating that Foundation No. 3 was built earlier than this foundation.

***Foundation No. 10***(Fig. 25, Plate 33)

South of Foundation No. 9, 5 lines of granite blocks about 1.7-1.8m long or wide in square shape were found at approx. 0.5-0.6m below the surface. Excavation at its west and north profile showed six layers of granite blocks, vertical at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> layers and horizontal at the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> layers with a height of 2.3m. Below the modern iron pipe, traces of a course of red bricks measuring about 0.8x0.8m was laid with cement on the top of it's the 1<sup>st</sup> layer. The 6<sup>th</sup> layer was laying on several large boulders.

***Foundation No. 11*** (Fig. 26, Plate 34)

Parallel to Foundation No. 10, another square-shape foundation in similar size was found at the same level. Line orientation of each layer was also same as Foundation No. 10 but excavation ceased at the 5<sup>th</sup> layer in order to provide safe access for the digger. Trace of brickwork on the cement could be discerned at its top layer, similar to the size of red bricks on Foundation No. 10.

***Foundation No. 12*** (Fig. 27, Plate 35)

South of Foundation No. 10 about 2m, another square-shape foundation was found at similar level measuring 1.2m long and 1.8m wide, about 1.32m high. Below the modern iron pipe, its eastern part was covered by cement. Line orientation of each layer was different from Foundation No. 10. Excavation ceased at 5<sup>th</sup> layer due to the issue of site safety.

***Foundation No. 13*** (Fig. 28, Plate 36)

Located in the northern edge of T3 and about 0.5m below the surface, two groups of granite blocks denoted as No. 13 and No. 14 were found between Foundation No. 4 and 5. The exposed portion of No. 13 was 1.15m wide and 0.3m long, and the rest was covered under the existing pavement. Its south profile showed 4 vertical lines of granite blocks at the 1<sup>st</sup> layer and excavation ceased at the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer due to limited excavation area.

**Foundation No. 14**(Fig. 29, Plate 37)

Same to the line orientation of Foundation No. 13, the exposed portion of this group was 1.3m wide and 0.36 long. Its south and west sides were covered by red bricks with cement. Mud Wall No.3 was found close to its west side and excavation was ceased at the level same to Foundation No. 13.

5.4.5 Mortar Wall and White mortar floor (Plate 38)

During the first phase of this investigation, a mud wall with mortar and traces of wooden board on its interior surface was found at 1.5m below existing surface. Due to the limited area in T7, excavation ceased at 2m below the surface and the bottom of this "L-shape" wall has not yet been confirmed at that moment.

In course of clearing Foundation No. 3, a similar wall was found at the 1m below the surface in T11. At the bottom of wall in T11, a white hard mortar floor of 5cm thick was surrounded by wooden poles (0.1m in diameter) probably as a frame to build the wall. Further excavation at T7 revealed two walls likely belonging to a same structure in rectangular shape, 6.9m long, 4m wide, 0.5m - 1.2m high and 0.45m - 0.7m thick. Besides, a granite block was placed underneath its south wall and above the Foundation No. 3. However, the mortar walls and white hard mortar floor were not fully exposed due to site constraints. Their functions and relationships with Foundation No. 2, 3 & 8 were not clear.

5.4.7 Inked marks on granite blocks

A number of inked marks were discovered on the topside and sides of granite blocks. Beside some irregular or straight lines, there were 13 numbers, 3 Chinese characters and some alphabetic letters. Numerical marks on the southern portion of Foundation No. 3 seemed to be in sequential order such as "1", "AS", "8" on the topside of granite blocks and "5", "9", "4", "3", "2" on the north side of foundation wall. (Plate 39-40) Another group of numerical marks was found at the north side of foundation wall where was the third layer of the granite blocks of Foundation No. 8. They were "3", "4", "3", "4", "6", "6", "11" from east to west. Three Chinese characters " 又占至頂 " (stick up to the top) were marked on the topside of granite slabs

located at the east buttress of Foundation No. 8. (Plate 41-43) All these marks would be instructions to workers or markers for identification during the course of construction.

#### 5.4.8 Remains of mud walls

During the course of removing fill materials, three mud walls, made of yellowish soil and gravels, were found at T12 and T3. A small portion of mud wall was noticed in the trail pit south of the Foundation No. 11. Owing to the access problem for digger, the trial pit was backfilled without formal recording.

a) Mud Wall No.1 was located horizontally between Foundation No. 3 and 10, approx. 1.75m long, and approx. 0.4m wide. While clearing the area close to Foundation No.3, plaster finish on both surfaces and its stone base laying on the D. G. could be noticed. No elevation drawing could be arranged as it collapsed immediately after taking photographs. It was estimated the height of this wall could be about 2.4m and cut by Foundation No. 3 and 10. (Plate 44)

b) Mud Wall No.2, vertically next to Foundation No. 6, was about 4.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.8m high within the excavated area of T12. Due to site constraints, this wall was not fully exposed. (Plate 45)

c) Mud Wall No.3 was found at the area next to Foundation No. 14, seriously disturbed by modern drainage. The exposed portion of this wall measured as 1.77m long, 0.43m wide and 0.2m high. (Plate 46)

Considering the stone base of Mud Wall No. 1 on the decomposed granite, these walls might be built before the school and turned to fill materials during constructing the school.

## 6. Finds collected

Apart from the features unearthed at the first, second and fourth plateaus of the Former Central School (i.e. platform near Staunton Street, existing car park area and playground platform), a considerable amount of objects were also recovered from the existing car park area and playground platform including ceramic tiles, blue-and-white porcelain wares, glazed

pottery wares, building materials, glasses, bronze coins and iron chips. For the existing car park area, objects were collected from the third (collapse deposits of the Central School) and the fourth strata (fill materials for constructing the Former Central School). For the playground platform, objects were collected from the third and fourth strata (collapse deposits of the Central School). Preliminary assessments on the finds collected by this investigation reveal that no finds could be attributed to early Qing or late Ming, and most of ceramic sample in table 1 were not typical products from Wun Yiu.

### **6.1**      *Special finds of below sections are detailed in the Table 1.*

### **6.2**      *Ceramic Floor Tile from T3 (Table 2)*

The great majority of ceramic tiles were unearthed from the third strata (collapsed deposits of the Central School) of T3 and two pieces of ceramic tiles were found in the third stratum of T6, totaling 1,929 pieces. They were complete, broken or cement floor fragments with floor tiles. Most were monochrome tiles in green, blue, yellowish, brown, white, dark brown colors. Tile sizes in square, rectangle, triangle, strip, hexagon, trapezium or pentagon shape varied. Only four types of encaustic tiles were collected (SF 1, 2, 18 & 19 in Table 1). Several types of tiles were impressed with the same manufacturer name or abbreviation on their backs (rubblings in Table 1) as the floor tiles unearthed from the Former Mountain Lodge in January 2007.

### **6.3**      *Building materials (Table 3)*

They were flat tile, semi-cylindrical tile, fragments of baluster, fragments of ceramic traps & etc. 14 of fragments of pottery baluster were collected from T5. Fragments of ceramic traps were the same as the traps discovered at the underground drainage.

### **6.4**      *Porcelains (Table 4)*

661 pieces, including 409 pieces of blue and white sherds (fragments of bowl, basin, teacup and spoon, etc), 23 western style sherds in underglazed purple or dark blue and others.

### **6.5**      *Pottery (Table 5)*

#### **6.5.1**      399 glazed items were:

- (a) 260 black glazed sherds of pots or jars,
  - (b) 56 green glazed sherds, probably decorative parts,
  - (c) 76 brown and brownish yellow sherds of pot or jar,
  - (d) 2 complete brownish yellow jars (SF57 and SF69 in table 1),
  - (e) 2 blue glazed, 1 red glazed and 2 white glazed pottery sherds.
- 6.5.2 119 unglazed pottery sherds could be attributed to pot, teapot, smoking pipe and lamp etc.
- 6.5.3 Fragments of brown glazed pot were impressed with “ (?)YNAND FO(?) AMSTER(?)” on exterior surface that might be Amsterdam. (SF31 in table 1)

## 6.6 *Other Finds* (Table 6)

53 objects are eight bronze coins, one stone object, one jade object, seven iron chips, one bone object, glasses, and shells. The small size of bronze coin was similar to those “HONG KONG ONE MIL” coins recovered by the archaeological investigation at Fat Tau Chau in 2004 (to be confirmed after conservation treatment).

## 7. Observation and Interpretation

7.1 Excavation at the playground platform confirms that the previous playground surface and some structural parts of granite staircase are still preserved *in-situ*. It is believed that the surface had once been used as the playground of Queen’s College after a series of alterations since 1889. The level difference between the previous playground and the existing pavement of Hollywood Road was the result of extensive site formation works of the Former Central School. Consistent stratigraphic deposits in test grids and the height of retaining walls also demonstrate that the playground platform was built on the backfill materials.

7.2 Since no plan was attached to the 1877 Gazette to show the location of Joss House in Lot 91, it is difficult to determine the exact location of Shing Wong Temple in question. In fact, all the tiles, bricks and stones of the Shing Wong Temple were believed to be removed after a public land auction in 1877. The possibility of discovering the presumed Temple foundation under the fill materials of some 3 to 7m thick at the northwest portion of *the Site* is extremely low.

7.3 With reference to the basement floor plan of the Central School in 1883 (Fig. 30-32), it is noted that the major features identified at the main platform (Fig. 13 & Plate 47) basically match the layout of the Central School. Details of the findings are set out below: -

<i>Features identified at car park area</i>	<i>Location on 1883 Plans</i>
Foundation 1	West exterior wall
Foundation 2 & 3	West staircase
Foundation 6 & 7	East staircase & a small portion of east wing exterior wall
Foundation 4 & 5	Walls of the Porch
Foundation 8	Wall of Cellar
Foundation 10 & 11	Column bases for Cellar
Underground drainage D1-5	Drainage system in Layout Plan
Fragment of cement floor	Floor of covered playground

Foundation No. 9, which was not shown on the basement plan of 1883 report, might be the structural part of the Central School foundation. Simultaneously, the excavation reveals that the foundations of the school building are preserved in different conditions due to the damages, demolition and construction works in 1940s as well as the different extent of continual disturbances caused by works for the public utilities. For instance, Foundation No. 8 is preserved with some structural details such as red bricks and cements on the top of stone foundation wall at the middle and eastern parts of main platform. The conditions of Foundations No. 6 & 7 (east staircase) are relatively better than No. 2 & 3 (west staircase).

7.4 Evidences of decomposed granite identified at the first and main platforms clearly illustrate extensive modifications of the original landform (Fig. 33). The bottoms of Foundations No. 3 and 9 were laid on the decomposed granite at the elevation different from Test Trench 8. It is evident that all the bottoms of stone blocks were laid on decomposed granite (e.g. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> layers of Foundation No.3). The depth of southern building foundation was different from the ones at Foundations No. 8 and No. 6 & 7. Since most footings of Block A were only about 5-7 ft deep, the conditions of the building foundations under Block A would not be identical to the features of foundations identified at the car park area. The building foundation

under Block B and the nearby pavement had been seriously damaged by concrete footings and repeatedly disturbed by various construction works around Block B over the past years.

7.5 Apart from the remnants on the boundary and retaining walls surrounding the *Site*, findings of subsurface investigation indicated that approximately 40% of the building foundations were partially preserved in different conditions at the area between Block A & B. It is also found that the building materials and method of construction of the Central School were not completely identical to Mountain Lodge, mainly due to their different size and site conditions. But, something similar between the former Central School and Mountain Lodge is that both buildings were demolished in late 1940s and were changed to other uses, signifying the revitalization after the Japanese Occupation. Both sites have experienced different degrees of damages and frequency of disturbances.

7.6 If further excavation works are arranged at the existing playground or platform next to Shing Wong Street, the stability of retaining walls would be inevitably affected and the tree roots at Hollywood Road would be irreparably damaged. Given the complexity and stability of underground features identified by this investigation, all the underground features have been properly covered to avoid landslide and deterioration of features before any concrete plan is drawn up for the *Site*.

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1 The site investigation reconfirms that, other than the existing retaining walls together with the unique trees along Shing Wong Street and Hollywood Road, and at the lower platform of *the Site*; the granite steps leading to the lower platform together with the remaining rubble wall; and the original granite plinths and pillars of the fenced walls along Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street that have been reasonably preserved, the foundations and other features of Central School have been significantly disturbed by works in the past. There is also no trace of the location of Shing Wong Temple. Based on the findings of the site investigation, the chance of finding better preserved parts within *the Site* through a further site investigation is slim. Taking into account the risk to the tree walls and the stability of underground features, further site excavation work cannot be

justified.

8.2 The heritage value of these remains of the school foundation uncovered can be assessed in terms of their authenticity and integrity. The alignment of the granite blocks of the foundation walls were basically in line with the layout plan of 1883, and generally reveals the configuration of the school foundation. These structures now below ground, together with other above-ground historic structures, constitute an integral historical setting of the site, which could help illustrate the history of the former Central School. However, as the foundations have been considerably disturbed and, as a result, their value for aesthetic appreciation and academic research has been reduced, their overall heritage value has also been diminished to such a degree that the total *in-situ* preservation cannot be justified. A small portion of the foundations should be preserved intact for integrating into the future re-development of the site subject to technical feasibility and the interface with the redevelopment project.

8.3 The heritage value of the remaining structures within the *Site* mainly lies in their association with the former Central School. The Central School was the first government school giving upper primary and secondary education to the public. Its opening in 1862 marked a new phase in the development of public education in Hong Kong. In the early years, education on Hong Kong Island was afforded in a few small vernacular schools run by the local Chinese with Government's subsidy. Public education was provided by the missionary schools which received practically no financial support from the Government. The establishment of the Central School heralded the Government intention to reform education on a secular basis and to establish her own school under her sole control. Since then, the Government's educational policy was to confine itself to secular instruction and such a policy has been upheld till nowadays. The Central School is noteworthy for the training of brilliant figures who served Hong Kong and China with their bilingual abilities and cross-cultural experiences. Among the graduates, many emerged as Hong Kong community leaders, and many others held high posts in commercial firms and China's administration. Exemplary old boys of the Central School who became important figures in the history of China and Hong Kong included, but were not limited to the Hon Mr Ho Fook (何福, 1863-1926), Sir Ho Kai (何啓, 1859-1914), Mr Ho Kom Tong (何甘棠, 1866-1950), Sir Robert Ho Tung (何東, 1862-1956), the Hon Mr

Lau Chu-pak (劉鑄伯, 1867-1922) and, last but not the least, Dr Sun Yat-sen (孫逸仙, 1866-1925) who, after having received an earlier education in Hawaii, gained admission to the Central School in 1884 at the age of eighteen and left in 1886. Although the Central School was moved from Gough Street to Hollywood Road after Dr Sun had left the School, their association with the School would be a valuable memory for Hong Kong.

8.4 In his 2007-08 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced the removal of *the Site* from the List of Site for Sale by Application for a year and that proposals will be invited on its revitalization. Any revitalization proposals should be based on the premise that the remaining features of Central School mentioned in Para. 8.1 above will be preserved and have full regard to the historical significance of Central School to the development of Hong Kong.

## 9. References

*The Report of proposed new Central School*. 1883 (CO129-210: 14974)

*Administrative Reports*. 1926. Appendix Q: Report of the Director of Public Works for the year of 1926. Paragraph 62.

*The Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 6 January 1877. Government Notification – No. 6.

*The Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 22 February 1890. Government Notification – No. 70.

*The Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 26 September 1885. Government Notification – No. 373.

Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) 2004. *Police Then & Now: History of Quarters*. *Off Beat*. Issue 775. Retrieved on 3 August 2007 from <http://www.police.gov.hk/offbeat/775/eng/f03.htm>

*Legislative Council – 12 May 1999 Official Record of Proceedings* (LegCo Record 1999) Retrieved on 9 August 2007 from <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/counmtg/hansard/990512fe.htm>

*Legislative Council – 16 Feb 2000 Official Record of Proceedings* (LegCo Record 2000). Retrieved on 9 August 2007 from <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/chinese/counmtg/hansard/000216fc.pdf>

*Papers Laid Before the Legislative Council of Hong Kong* 1889. Chapter 19: Public Works – Reports on Works Completed. Page 317-318.

Smith, Carl T. 1973. Notes on Chinese Temples in Hong Kong. *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. 13: Page 133-139.

Stokes, G and Stokes, J. 1987. *Queen's College Its History 1862-1987*. Hong Kong: The Standard Press Ltd.