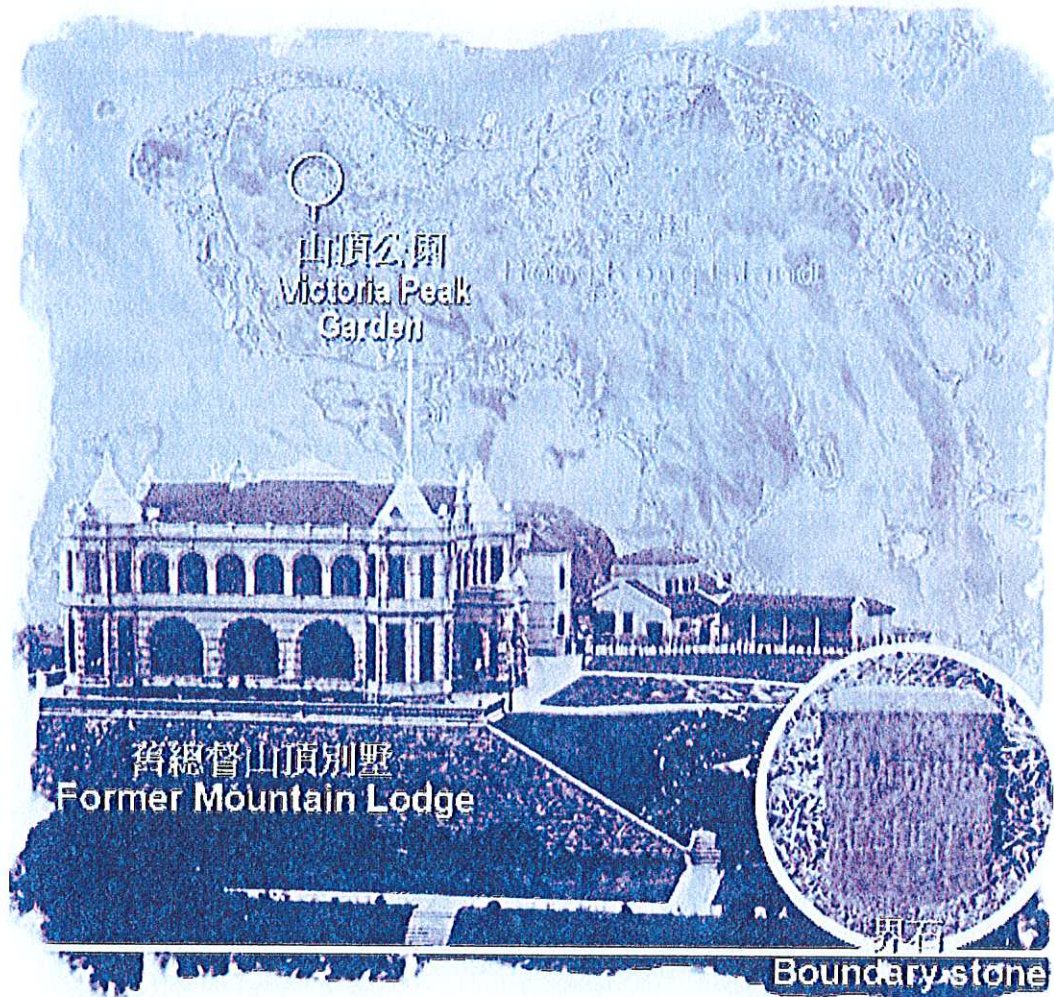


舊總督山頂別墅 2007 年考古調查簡報

Former Mountain Lodge 2007 Archaeological Survey Interim Report



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摘要

2007年1月10日，政府公布在山頂公園內發現舊總督山頂別墅的基址。古物古蹟辦事處於1月30日展開考古調查，至3月16日完成，合共29個工作天。

是次調查依據田野考古的方法，進行文獻研究、發掘及地面勘查。發掘紀錄包括文字、繪圖及照相等資料。發掘面積合共約140平方米，包括在別墅的基址上發掘了9條探溝，並在其旁的工人宿舍區發掘了3條探溝。

調查結果顯示山頂別墅的基址，部份在1968-70年興建涼亭時受到破壞，但保存情況基本良好。最重要的發現是門廊上一幅約1米乘3.5米的圖案地磚以及大量由Minton, Hollins公司生產的地磚。考古發掘亦揭露了工人宿舍的部份房基。

地面勘查的發現包括8塊於1910時豎立的界石(其中一塊倒塌了的界石已被收集)、2塊軍部的界石、1處曾用作水務工程平房的頽垣以及4處建築構件的棄置點，其中一處棄置了山頂別墅的建築構件，其餘三處均與山頂另一間大宅“Eyre”有關。

發掘後的器物整理工作仍在進行中。

Abstract

On 10th January 2007, the HKSAR Government announced the discovery of the Former Mountain Lodge in Victoria Peak Garden. The Antiquities and Monuments Offices conducted an archaeological survey from 30th January to 16th March 2007 with a total of 29 working days.

The review on historical records, subsurface investigation and field reconnaissance were arranged following the practice of field archaeology. Field archives contain written, cartographic and visual records. The excavation covered an area about 140m², including nine test trenches at the site of Former Mountain Lodge and three test trenches at the previous servant's quarters.

Results of this Survey indicate that the foundations of Former Mountain Lodge are in good condition, except some areas being disturbed by the construction of the pavilion from 1968 to 1970. The most important discovery is the splendid mosaic at the porch (about 1m by 3.5m) as well as a considerable

amount of floor tiles manufactured by '*Minton Hollin, & Co.*'. Building foundations of the servant's quarters were also identified during the subsurface investigation.

Findings of field reconnaissance include:- 8 boundary stones erected in 1910 (one boundary stone being collected by this Survey), 2 boundary stones of the War Department, a derelict Water Works bungalow, as well as 4 dumping areas for building materials. Among the 4 dumping areas, one of them contained building debris from the Mountain Lodge and the rest were related to the private mansion '*Eyrie*' nearby.

The post-excavation find-processing is still underway.

1. Introduction

Remnants of the Former Mountain Lodge (FML) were identified in the course of ground investigation by Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) in December 2006. The aforesaid ground investigation was part of the Peak Tourism District Enhancement Programme (Peak Project) at the Victoria Peak Garden (VPG) initiated by the Tourism Commission. The discovery of the FML was publicised on 10 January 2007. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department conducted an archaeological survey (AS) to ascertain the discoveries reported by the ground investigation and assess the preservation conditions of the FML. The fieldwork of AS was conducted between 30 January and 16 March 2007 with a total of 29 working days.

2. History of the FML and its Present Condition

Historical archives suggested that three structures were purposely built at the Victoria Peak as the Governor's summer residence. Designed by Palmer & Turner, the FML was constructed between 1900 and 1902 by Sang Lee Construction at a cost of \$97,000. It was once known as the most magnificent building at the Peak of its time. After 1920, the extent to which the FML was used depended on individual governors. Owing to the high maintenance cost, the FML was demolished in 1946.

In 1970s, the former Urban Council (UC) redeveloped the FML site as the VPG with public facilities, including a newly built pavilion as well as its lighting and drainage system, a car parking lot in front of the pavilion, a kiosk and a public toilet at the west of the pavilion. In 1979, a pair of stone lions donated by a businessman, CHAU Yau (周有), was located at the northern entrance of the pavilion. Another pair of stone lions bequeathed by the Lion Club was placed at the southern entrance of the pavilion in 1990s.

The materials and construction methods of the pavilion's stone railing were different from its foundation, indicating that they were constructed in different periods. Besides the huge stone retaining wall next to the pavilion, there were 8 flights of old granite steps and a trail (now known as Governor's Walk) in the VPG.

Arch SD carried out the ground investigation of the Peak Project in December 2006. Four trial pits were excavated within the area of pavilion. For the sake of public safety, all the trial pits were backfilled before the commencement of the AS. Four stair steps and fragments of brick walls were found in one of the trial pits. Comparing the layout plans of the FML in 1903 with the latest 1:1,000 survey plan and the Arch SD's building plans for the pavilion in 1968, it is believed that the foundation of the building is still kept intact.

In 1977, a boundary stone with the inscription of "GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE" was discovered at Mount Austin Road by the AMO. The former UC decided to site the stone at the east-northern corner of the pavilion in 1978. Another boundary stone was discovered by the public at Harlech Road, which was then relocated next to the entrance of the Government House. The existing Gate Lodge of the FML was declared as a monument in 1995 under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.

3. Objectives and Methodology

Judging from the photographs of Arch SD's ground investigation in December 2006, the stone structures found in the trial pits could be the FML building foundation. The granite blocks and bricks collected from the trial pits might be the collapse deposits of the FML beneath the existing pavilion. The objectives of this survey were as follows:-

- A) To reopen the trial pits excavated by the Arch SD's ground investigation and review their findings and remains collected;
- B) To conduct subsurface investigation at the FML site based on the layout plans of the Governor's residence in 1903, and to examine the preservation condition of the FML foundation and related building facilities (e.g. water supplies, drainage, gas, lighting, and electric bell as recorded in the historical archives).
- C) To conduct field reconnaissance in the vicinity of the FML site in accordance with the historical photographs and archives.

4. Result of Archaeological Survey

The areas where the FML's main structure and its servant quarters were about 970m² and 400m² respectively while the excavated areas for

these two regions were about 120 m² and 21 m² correspondingly (Annex A1). Major findings of excavation work, field reconnaissance in the vicinity of the FML site, and selected special finds were reported briefly as below:-

4.1 Exterior of Building Foundation (Plate 3~5, Fig. 3~6)

According to the 1903 FML's building plans, the south and north elevations of the main structure were laid on the stone foundations. The main entrance and its associated stairway were located in the northern side of the FML. Another entrance at the southern side was placed in the location corresponding to the main entrance. A covered walkway leading to the servant quarters was built at the FML's western side.

Despite the fact that FML was demolished in 1946, the overall exterior foundation was in general well preserved, and the shape of the four corner towers remained intact. The associated stairway no longer existed at the northern side of the FML and both the northern and southern entrances were sealed and equipped with pavilion's new stairways. No alteration at the eastern exterior stone foundation could be noticeably observed. The south-western part of the stone foundation was completely covered with cement, forming part of the present platform.

Measured drawings for the exterior stone foundation were arranged during the survey. 16 vents sealed by bricks were identified along the exterior stone foundation (6, 5, 5 vents were located at the northern, eastern and southern stone foundations respectively). The size of the vent was 32cm (H), 58cm (W) and 40cm (D) in general. More than 20 features of fixing pipeline were identified at the surface of the exterior stone foundation. Most of these features were rusty iron nails along with the previous pipelines and some of them were only holes covered by cement.

4.2 Interior of Building Foundation (Fig. 1~2)

The excavation within the platform of the pavilion was about 120m², including 4 trial pits of the ground investigation (T1 ~ T4) undertaken by Arch SD and 6 test trenches (T1 ext and T5~T9). Trial pit T1 was cleared again by Arch SD before the commencement of the AS and trial pits T2-T4 were reopened by this survey. T1 was extended (numbered as T1ext) to decipher the main entrance, and then further linked with T2 and the

column bases of the entrance (T5~T8). Lastly, a test trench (T9) was laid to ascertain the south-western part of the FML.

4.2.1 Trial Pits T2, T3, T4 (Plate 7~9, Fig. 10~12)

Trial pits T2~T4 were originally excavated by Arch SD's ground investigation, situated at the boudoir, secretary office and staircase of the FML main entrance. Some building debris were collected from these trial pits by contractor of ground investigation and then stored at the Peak Project site office.

For trial pit T2, the stone structures were disturbed probably due to ground investigation. The stone foundation of the partition walls between the verandah and the hall were also partially damaged in T2. The structural base of the fireplace and partition wall was well preserved in T3. Part of the partition wall in T4 was damaged by the concrete footings of the existing pavilion.

4.2.2 Test Trenches T1 ext, T5, T6, T7 and T8 (Plate 10~16, Fig. 7~10)

The excavation of test trenches T1ext and T5~T8 was to decipher the conditions of entrance, staircase and verandah of the FML. The remnants of the original entrance was fully exposed by this survey. A pair of "cross" stone pillars was joined by granite blocks and an iron plate in the centre of northern part of the entrance.

The stone foundation formed by three layers of granite blocks (about 80cm high) were in good condition except the two stone blocks missing at the upper portion of the east pillar. Brick and plaster remains on both sides of the main entrance were partially recovered. Traces of door frame and iron nails were found on internal surfaces of stone pillars. Iron pieces of door slots, rainwater drains, joints on the original floor were identified at the main entrance, illustrating some alteration of the FML entrance after 1902. Two iron pipes were preserved at the west of the entrance. There were six well dressed granite steps leading to the porch. The topmost stone step formed one side of the rectangular stone border. The mosaic floor of the porch (about 3.5m long and 1m wide) were laid with geometric and encaustic tiles (the border and field designs of porch floor were illustrated in Annex A2). However, the level of porch surface was uneven and the

floor tiles at southwest corner were damaged.

4.2.3 Test Trench T9 (Plate 17, Fig. 13)

The south-western and western parts of FML stone foundation were completely covered, forming part of the existing platform. 6 stone column bases and 3 groups of two-step old stairs were identified. After removing the present cement surface, the rainwater drain built in 1968 was identified in T9. The western end of the rainwater drain linking with a glazed ceramic pipe and three old iron pipes were overlaid by the southern part of rainwater drain. Judging from the stone walls identified in T9, the south-western side of FML foundation was believed to be relatively complete.

4.3 Subsurface Investigation at the Area of Servant Quarters (Plate 19~20, Fig. 14)

According to historical pictures and plans, three servant quarters were still recorded after 1946 and were once reused as the staff quarters for the Wireless Station. In the 1960s, these quarters were rebuilt and now deployed as the present Peak Project site office. Three test trenches were excavated in the open area of the site office, covering 21m². Brick wall foundations of 2 structures were identified, apart from 3 old iron balustrades at the edge of site office reported by the Arch SD in January 2007.

4.4 Field reconnaissance in vicinity of the Victoria Peak Garden (Fig. 15, Annex A3 and A4)

In addition to the subsurface investigation at the FML's main structure and servant quarters, field reconnaissance was arranged to search for relevant remains in and around the VPG. The findings of field reconnaissance included: - 8 "GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE" boundary stones erected in 1910, 2 boundary stones of the War Department, a derelict Water Works bungalow, as well as 4 dumping areas for building materials. One of the dumping areas contained building debris from the FML and the rest was probably related to the private mansion 'Eyrie' nearby.

4.5 Selected Special Finds (Annex A5)

Owing to another site investigation at Hollywood Road, the finds studies were not fully completed. During the survey, building debris such as bricks or plaster fragments was collected together with a few wood and iron objects. All the floor tiles collected were washed and sorted. 20 types of monochrome tiles were of different colours and shapes (square, strip, rectangle, triangle and trapezium) and 4 types of encaustic tiles were either in square or strip shapes. Impressions on the back of the floor tiles gave the name of manufacturer, 'Minton Hollins & Co', situated at the Stroke on Trent in England.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The findings of this AS indicate that the FML foundation are basically in good condition except some areas were disturbed by the footings of pavilion, public utilities and ground investigation conducted in 2006. Owing to site constraints, the southern entrance and western part of the FML foundation as well as other building facilities are subject to further investigation.

5.2 Brick foundations identified at servant quarters demonstrate that further excavation is required in order to give full details about the servant quarters.

5.3 Features of door frame and joints on the entrance floor illustrate modification after 1902, matching with the different details of the main entrance shown in two historic pictures (Annex D:3 and 5).

5.4 The FML was a typical Victorian country house with clear functional space arrangement. The splendid mosaic in the porch was made of 15 types of floor tiles from the famous Minton Hollins & Co, vividly illustrating the building style and its colonial background.

5.5 Apart from the declared Gate Lodge, remains or features relating to the FML such as the "GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE" boundary stones, dumping areas, huge retaining wall, old stone steps and drainage system were identified in and around the VPG. Conservation strategy or further investigation should be based on the concept of integrity, i.e. the

“Governor’s Residence” in the Peak as a whole.

5.6 Besides the remains of FML, the dumping areas of private Mansion ‘Eyris’, boundary stones of War Department and the derelict bungalow could give evidence to illustrate the unique characters of Peak District. Hence, future interpretation strategy for the FML should be formulated in a broader context to illuminate the colonial background of the Victoria Peak.

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