

Supported by



饒宗頤文化館  
Jao Tsung-I Academy



衛奕信勳爵文物信託  
THE LORD WILSON  
HERITAGE TRUST



# Research Study and Heritage Interpretation of Historic Relics in Jao Tsung-I Academy

---

By:

**Professor Siu Kwok-kin**

**Professor, Department of Chinese Literature and  
Director, Centre for Hong Kong History and Culture Studies**

**Chu Hai College of Higher Education, Hong Kong**

**&**

**Hong Kong Cultural Imaging Workshop**

**(September 2017)**

### Table of Contents

<b>(1) Foreword</b>	<b>P.1</b>
<b>(2) Jao Tsung-I Academy</b>	<b>P.3</b>
<b>(3) Overall Structure and Architectural Characteristics</b>	<b>P.4</b>
<b>(4) Concepts: From Micro to Macro</b>	<b>P.6</b>
• <b>Fireplace</b>	<b>P.6</b>
• <b>Old Guard Room, Stone Boundary Wall, Crack Monitor</b>	<b>P.8</b>
• <b>Crack Monitors</b>	<b>P.10</b>
• <b>Red Brick Walls</b>	<b>P.11</b>
• <b>Kowloon Customs Boundary Stone</b>	<b>P.13</b>
• <b>Old Incinerator I</b>	<b>P.14</b>
• <b>Old Incinerator II</b>	<b>P.16</b>
• <b>Old Pier</b>	<b>P.16</b>
• <b>Kwun Yum and the Earth God</b>	<b>P.18</b>
<b>(5) Kowloon Customs Sham Shui Po Sub-customs ( 1895-1899 )</b>	<b>P.21</b>
<b>(6) From the Old Boundary Stone and its functions to the difference between Western and Chinese boundary stones</b>	<b>P.27</b>
<b>(7) Labourers' Quarters ( 1904-1906 )</b>	<b>P.30</b>
<b>(8) Lai Chi Kok Quarantine Station ( 1910-1912 )</b>	<b>P.35</b>
<b>Sham Shui Po Military Camp at Sham Shui Po Park in Cheung Sha Wan (1927–1977)</b>	<b>P.40</b>
<b>(9) Lai Chi Kok Prison ( 1921–1937 )</b>	<b>P.44</b>
<b>Prison Break and a Low-security Prison</b>	<b>P.46</b>
<b>(10) Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital ( 1938–1975 )</b>	<b>P.48</b>
<b>(11) Exemplary Architectural Elements for Healthcare Premises in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	<b>P.60</b>
<b>(12) Fireplace and Brick Bonding – Different Architectural Features for Different Zones</b>	<b>P.61</b>
<b>(13) From Crack Monitor Installation to Public Building Maintenance</b>	<b>P.62</b>
<b>(14) Incinerators and Old Building Plans Reveal Hospital Operations</b>	<b>P.63</b>
<b>(15) Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre (1975 – 2000)</b>	<b>P.64</b>
<b>(16) HACare Home (2000 – 2004)</b>	<b>P.69</b>
<b>(17) From Zoning, Red Brick Walls to Conservation Principles</b>	<b>P.73</b>
<b>(18) Conclusion</b>	<b>P.75</b>
<b>Notes and References</b>	<b>P.76–79</b>

## (1) Foreword

To the west of Cheung Sha Wan and Butterfly Valley, east of Kwai Chung and northwest of the Kowloon Peninsula, there sites Lai Chi Kok. ‘Lai Zai Kok’, vernacular name of Lai Chi Kok, carries the meaning of footprints left by young Hakka children on the beach. The lychee shape of the circular sea front point also gains Lai Chi Kok its name. Lai Chi Kok Hospital is close to highways like the Castle Peak Road and Ching Cheung Road and the hectic centre of Mei Fu.

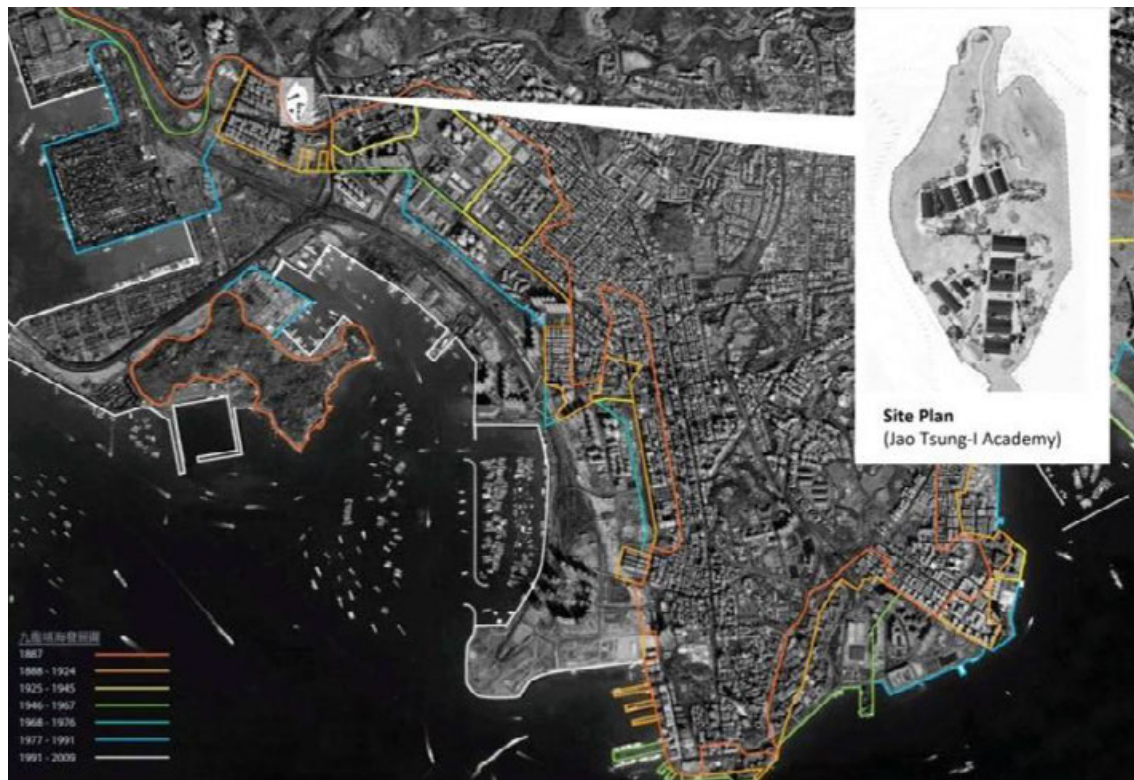
The building cluster of the hospital is built against the hillside where it can be divided into three zones: Low, Middle and High. The buildings are all composed of red bricks, pitched-roofs, single or double storey. The traditional method, English Bond with minimal decoration was applied to uphold a sturdy structure and high functionality. The hospital in a later stage provided shelters for long term psychiatric patients and patients recovering from leprosy. Among the five buildings in the High zone, one is for the latter group of patients and the remaining for the formers.

In the mid-19th century, the Imperial government set up Kap Shui Mun Customs and Lijing Tax station on Ma Wan Chau of the Kap Shui Mun waterway. It also established, under the Right Camp of the Da Pang Navy Battalion, Sham Shui Po Guard Station in Sham Shui Po with 35 soldiers on guard. The Customs was thought to be located at HACare Home in Lai Chi Kok.

Lai Chi Kok Hospital, enlisted as a Grade III historic building complex by the Antiquities Advisory Board, situates in 800 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon. It has become one of the first seven buildings included in the Development Bureau’s ‘Revitalising Historical Building Through Partnership Scheme’. The site has been revitalised as Jao Tsung-I Academy aiming at promoting Chinese culture.

The function of Lai Chi Kok Hospital’s original site has evolved many times to accommodate changing social needs in the past hundred years, ranging from customs station, Chinese labourers’ quarters, quarantine station, prison, hospital, psychiatric rehabilitation centre to Jao Tsung-I Academy. These functional changes, from segregation facilities to public landmark of culture, enable this Grade III historic building complex enjoying a unique architectural and historical value in Hong Kong.

## Reclamation of Kowloon (1888-2009)



### Legend

1887	-----
1888-1924	-----
1925-1945	-----
1946-1967	-----
1968-1976	-----
1977-1991	-----
1991-2009	-----

(Source: Hong Kong Cultural Imaging Workshop)

## **(2) Jao Tsung-I Academy**

Sprawling over 32,000 square meters on a hillside, Jao Tsung-I Academy, previous Lai Chi Kok Hospital, is divided into three zones: High, Middle and Low. In 2009, the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture obtained the operation right to run the revitalisation project of the Lai Chi Kok Hospital. It takes the responsibility to re-plan, conserve and revitalise Lai Chi Kok Hospital into Jao Tsung-I Academy. JTIA officially opened in June 2014.

Jao Tsung-I Academy retains the original 3-sections (High, Middle and Low) of the Lai Chi Kok Hospital. Connecting to the Castle Peak Road is the Low zone where one will first find when entering the Academy. The Gallery and the courtyard with 'Light and Shadow' pond situated in this zone. The Gallery holds art exhibition and events including the exhibition 'A Symphony of Academics and Arts', introducing Professor Jao Tsung-i and his work. The exhibition 'A Century of Contributions' recounts the history of the site before becoming the Jao Tsung-I Academy in the Heritage Hall. Based in the Middle zone are the exhibition halls, souvenir corner, resource centre, activity rooms, restaurant, café, tea house, theatre, lecture hall, art workshop, conference room etc. which can accommodate different cultural activities. A glass canopy has been set up in between the restaurant and theatre to provide an all-weather outdoor venue. The High zone houses the Heritage Lodge which is a cultural hotel. These zones are connected by steps and elevators.

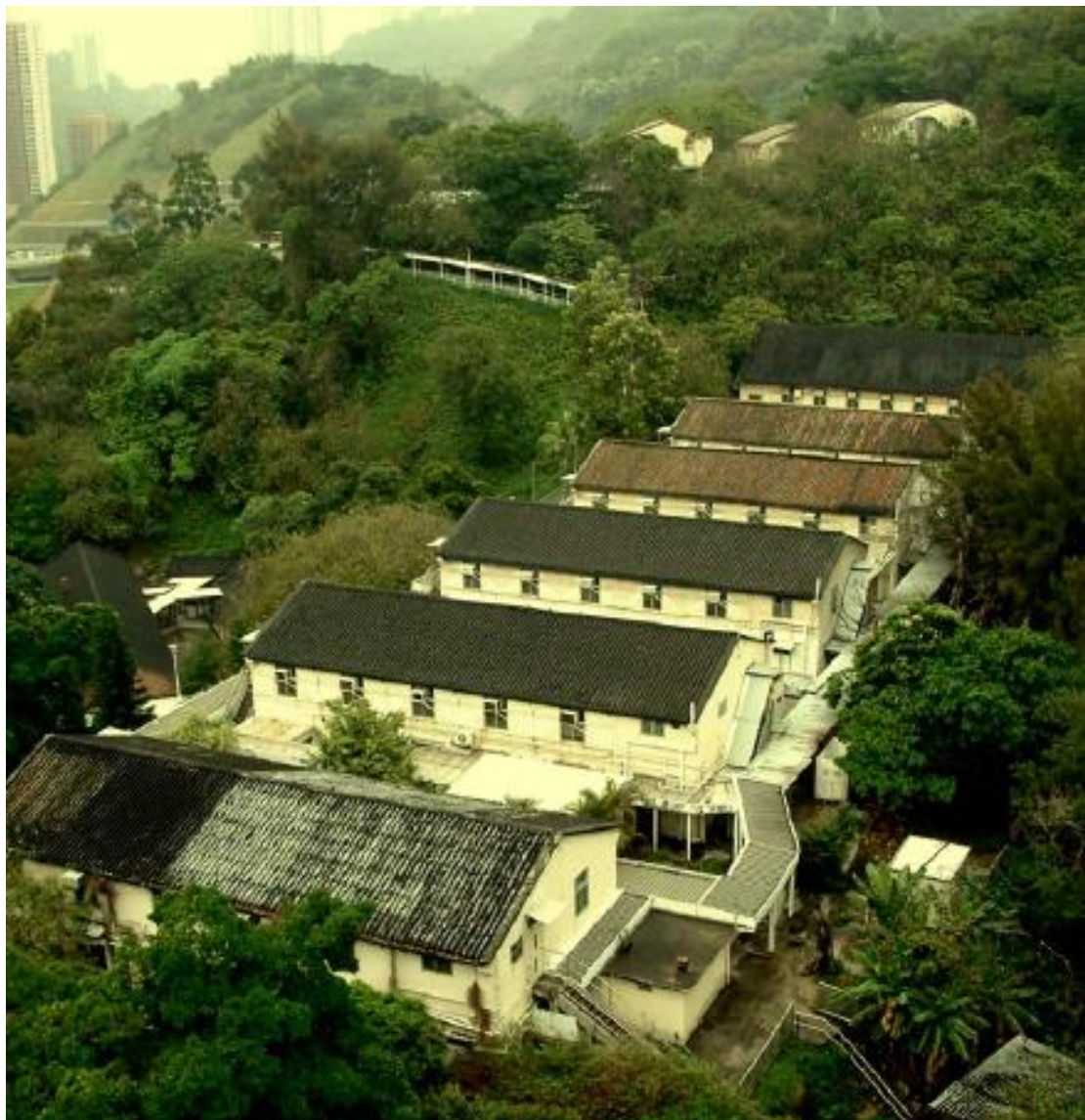
Simple décor for functionality centred the architectural design. Local construction techniques have also been infused with the combination of Chinese and Western architectural style. Built in circa 1910, the building cluster in the Low zone was the earliest batch of constructions. These rectangular and single-storey buildings have pitched-roofs. The two main buildings are arranged in line with each other. They were mainly built by red bricks and constructed in the English bonding way where long and short bricks are laid in alternate rows. Instead of decorations, there are only wooden doors, windows and arches on the walls. Windows and doors are in position to help ventilation. The gable used simple granite cornerstones while the western architectural pitch roofs are topped with Chinese double-layer tiles. Local construction techniques, cast iron pipes and rain gutters, are used in the buildings to cater to the humidity and rain in Hong Kong. Building clusters in the Middle and High zones were established in the 1930s. The architecture and structure of these buildings and the ones in the Low zone are identical, rectangular pitched-roofed, single or double-storey buildings. Covered in white paint now, the walls are originally red brick ones.



The entire building cluster of the Academy has been consolidated in the revitalization process. Except from those worn-out which are replaced by modern materials, original red bricks, tiles, wooden doors and windows are retained to inherit the genuineness of the actual architecture.

### **(3) Overall Structure and Architectural Characteristics**

The surrounding environment, building clusters and the layout of low-middle-high zones of the Lai Chi Kok Hospital have their own functions and characteristics.



The building cluster is divided into three zones: High, Middle and Low  
(Source: Chinapoint 2009)

### **Triple Layers Compound Space**

The original building cluster was built against the hill. It can be divided into triple layers - upper, middle and lower. They are here named as High, Middle and Low zones respectively. Blocks in the High and Middle zones line in order. High zone develops toward east and west and the Middle zone expands itself toward south and north. Joining the blocks in the Low zone, these three zones form a compound. Open spaces are left in between blocks in the High and Middle zones.

### **Simple décor for functionality**

The appearance of the Lai Chi Kok Hospital building complex can still give us a sense of the red brick architectural style of Britain. In fact, most of the decorations in the actual construction are omitted from the design. Instead, decorations have been replaced by simple granite gables, cornerstones, semicircular windows, cast iron pipes and rain gutters. This approach fully exhibits the flexibility in the design of colonial buildings to suit the local environment.

### **Structures of the Chinese double-layer tiled roofs and wooden trusses**

The pitched-roofs of Lai Chi Kok Hospital buildings are supported by a combination of wood and iron trusses. They are then structured with wooden rafters, and finally covered with a double layer of traditional Chinese pan-and-roll tiles. Actually, this structure has not been seen in Britain, but the architect at the time, studied local models, and then adapted the design to simplify the construction procedures and accommodate the climate and the technology available.

### **Red brick walls, support structure, and buttresses**

The red brick walls of the lower zone building cluster adopted the English and Flemish bonding methods. Brick walls constructed in this way are thicker and stronger than those built with running bonding, making the walls strong enough to be part of the support structure.

### **Gable design, Chinese pitched-roofs, and rafters**

While the construction of the pitched roof is common in Europe and Britain, the gable design of the former Lai Chi Kok Hospital buildings is notable for its rich Chinese style. Buildings in the middle zone, for instance, adopted Chinese pitched-roofs, rafters and stepped gable constructions. This exemplifies how architects at past embraced local construction techniques to prevent drainage issues caused by Hong Kong's rainy climate.

### **Architecture and environment**

Found against the hill, the building cluster of the Lai Chi Kok Hospital differs from individual architecture. By linking various groups of layers through natural elements like the hillsides,

sceneries and trees, its layout values open spaces between buildings and the gradual establishment from the lower to the upper zones.



British red brick architecture style, Chinese double-layered tiles rooftop and wooden rafters (Source: China Point 2009)

#### **(4) Concepts: From Micro to Macro**

Heritage filled with histories and stories are still being kept in the revitalized building cluster awaiting to be discovered by visitors. These sites include:

##### **Fireplace (Early 20th Century)**

**Location: Hall 1, The Gallery, Low Zone**

The fireplace is an architectural feature of the gallery. The gallery's fireplaces are of the Rumford type. Accounting from top to the bottom, the fireplace is mainly comprised of the chimney, the mantel and the firebox. The surface of the bricks on this chimney is



quite rough in texture, yet the brick surface of the mantel is comparatively much finer. The surface tiles of the fireplace racks are kept intact where there are even patterns arranged. It is believed that the metal component of the fireplace which has cross symbol was made in Britain. Despite the shallowness of the fireplace, the inclination was designed to allow heat reflect and radiate effectively which amplifies the effect of heat transmission and warmth retention. The sophistication of the architect is shown in the installation of the fireplace in the wall partition which enables it to serve two rooms and retain heat more effectively than installing in the exterior wall.





**Old Guard Room, Stone Boundary Wall, Crack Monitors (Early 20th Century)**  
**Location: Backdoor, Low zone**

According to the Report of the Director of Public Works in 1908, the government arranged to purchase the whole of the buildings from the lessees of the Transvaal Emigration Depot at Lai Chi Kok for a sum of \$3,000 with a view to utilizing them for a quarantine station. The buildings, which were originally built as temporary structure, required a considerable amount of repair and it was also decided to erect a masonry boundary wall to enclose them and to repair the old Customs Station for the use as a guard house.

The Academy, with High, Middle and Low zones, was once surrounded by a whole granite stone wall. The stone walls one can find in the main and back entrance are those remained. The early management and protection of the Old Guard Room helped conserving it in a good condition. As early as in 1934, engineers had already installed crack monitors on the wall to monitor building's structural change. The crack monitor with the date '24th November 1934' etched and some monitors with the year '1962' etched scatter on the top right and the bottom left of the exterior wall for scrutiny.

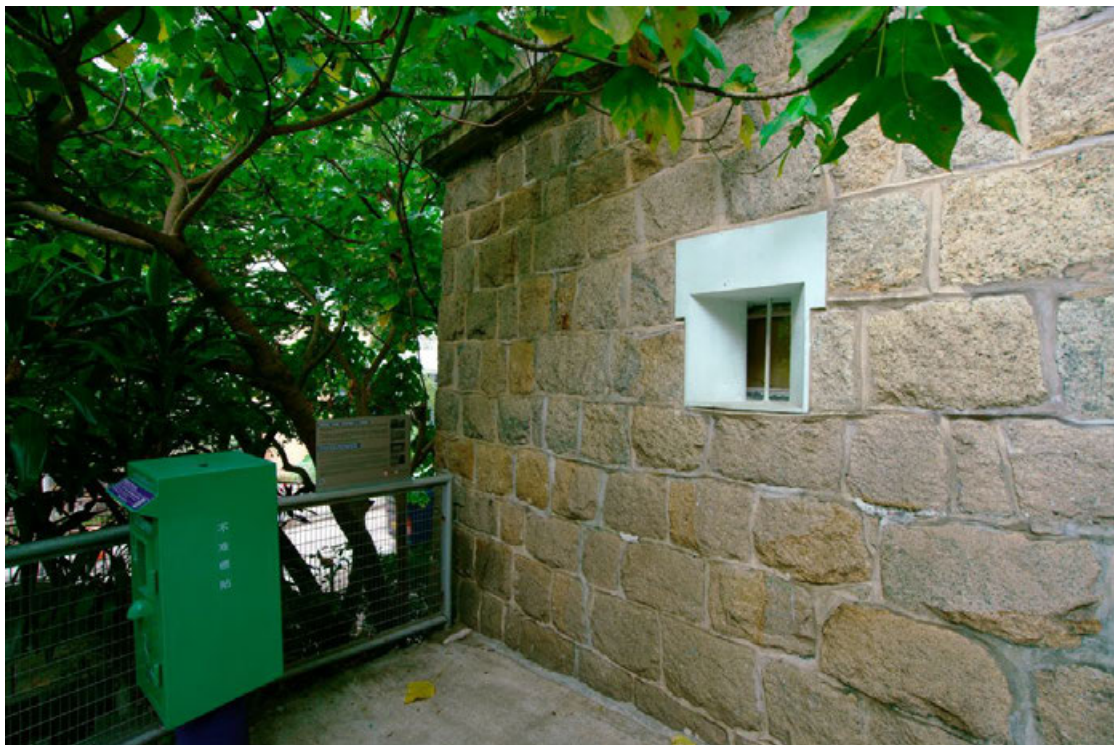
This site used to be the front gate with the sign 'HA Care Home' next to it. The sign



‘Lai Chi Kok Hospital’ has also been kept on the staircase across the road. To facilitate communication with the outside world, there had been a George V postbox set up in the hospital which was later replaced by a modern one.



Old guard room (view from car park)



Old guard room (view from back entrance)



### **Crack Monitors (1970)**

#### **Location: Low zone**

The red brick walls of the buildings in the Low zone are constructed according to the traditional English bonding techniques – alternate rows of headers and stretchers. These solid brick walls are part of the load bearing structure of those single-storey buildings. Brick walls constructed in this way thicker walls and solid supporting structures. This wall is still in good condition. Engineers installed crack monitors to detect structural changes in case of soil settlement on the building in 1970. Some crack monitors with “November 3th, 1970” etched on them still scatter on the exterior wall. The left of the wall also reveals former position of the window and door.







### **Red Brick Walls (1930)**

**Location: Skylight Atrium**

The single red brick structures of the buildings in the Middle zone are different from those in the Low zone. The inner walls of the buildings under the canopy had red-brick surfaces in the first place. They were then covered with concrete and painted in white when the site was serving as a hospital.

To restore the façade of the bricks, conservation consultants employed various ways to remove the concrete cover. These include removing it inch-by-inch manually by hand tools, cleaning remnants by machines and sand-blasting the bricks lightly. The consultants then desalinated the surface and painted the walls with a clear protective chemical to preserve the original fabric at their best effort. The consultants rebuilt the canopy to accommodate outdoor events and to prevent damaging the red brick walls by harsh weather conditions.



**Kowloon Customs Boundary Stone (1887)****Location: Eastern hillside, Middle zone**

Jointly studied and researched by local historian Professor Anthony Siu Kwok Kin and the Jao Tsung-I Academy, it is estimated the stone which has 'Kowloon Customs Boundary' inscribed on it was erected around 1887. It is also believed that it had at close relationship with the establishment of Sham Shui Po sub-customs of the Kowloon Customs in the Qing dynasty. Hong Kong used to have various sub-customs of the Kowloon Customs. However, only the sub-customs in Ma Wan, Tai Tsan Island, Inner Lingding Island and Shamshuipo (Lai Chi Kok site) exist in these days. The preserved boundary stone in this site is therefore of special significance in archaeology and heritage conservation.







### **Old Incinerator I (1930)**

**Location: Next to Block F, Middle zone**

From 1938 to 1975, this site was used as the Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital. The incinerator here is one of its heritages. We presumed this incinerator was a sanitary facility which was used for disposal of clinical waste. It is equipped with a water tank to extinguish fire and an oil tank to provide fuel for ignition.







### **Old Incinerator II (1930)**

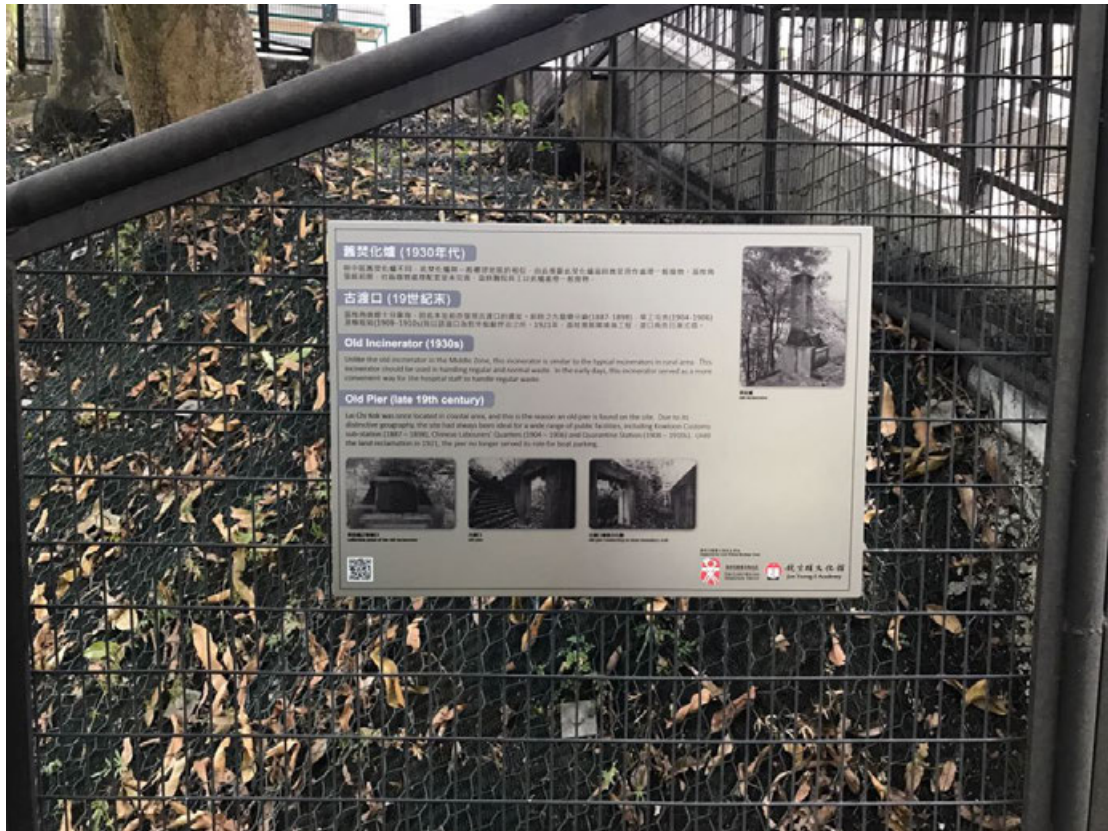
Unlike the old incinerator in the Middle zone, this incinerator is similar to the typical incinerators in rural area by which the function of it is believed to be for handling regular waste. When waste disposal system had yet completed in the early development period of Lai Chi Kok, hospital staff used this incinerator to process regular waste.

### **Old Pier (Late 19th Century)**

An old pier is discovered at the site as Lai Chi Kok was once near to the coast. The pier had been used by the Kowloon Customs sub-station (1887 – 1898), Chinese Labourers' Quarters (1904 – 1906) and Quarantine Station (1908 – 1910s) for boat parking. Its role gradually faded out when land reclamation began in 1921 in Lai Chi Bay.







**Kwun Yum and the Earth God**  
**Location: High zone**

Kwun Yum emanates from India and was a male divinity. Such representation turned into an elegant and kind female after entering China. She has been a deity of sympathy. Kwun yum has been portrayed in various ways: some as a goddess in white, holding a willow branch, purity vase or fish basket, some have thousand hands and eyes and some as ‘Da Shi Wang’. As a bodhisattva-mahāsattva, she dedicated to lead people out of misery by listening to people’s suffering and prayers via compassion. People will be salvaged if they pray to her when enduring misery.

‘西山玉竹千年，南海蓮花九品’ has been etched on the woods beside Kwun Yum. It is presumed that in the periods of Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital (1938 – 1975) and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre (1975 – 2004), believers living in the site visited this statue to worship Kwun Yum. The Earth God next to it is responsible for safeguarding peace in the area. This God has been categorized as local guardian in vernacular beliefs. In traditional Chinese culture, worshipping the Earth God is paying tribute to the earth. Nowadays it has become a praying for good fortune, wealth, peace and fruitful harvest in farming.





These heritages are entwined with stories in telling the history of the site, and even of Hong Kong and the region.

It is hoped to use different dimensions in the following chapters to illustrate the historical stories orchestrated by these seemingly independent heritages among the Lai Chi Kok Hospital building cluster.



JTIA volunteers led by Professor Siu Kwok Kin and researcher of Hong Kong Culture Imaging Workshop in a guided tour on 4th March 2017.

(Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)

### **(5) Kowloon Customs Sham Shui Po Sub-customs (1895 – 1899)**

The Qing government established four customs at *Jiang, Zhe, Min* and *Yue* in Kangxi 24th year (1685). It deployed army ships to patrol along the coastal border to prevent smuggling and impose tariff. After adopting the single port commerce policy by the Qing government, only Guangzhou was left as trading port.

The Qing government ceded Hong Kong Island to Britain in Daoguang 22nd year (1842) and opened five trading ports, including Guangzhou. To curb unscrupulous businessmen using Hong Kong as the base to smuggle opium, the Qing government established inspection and taxing custom houses outside the Hong Kong border. These custom houses are ruled by the Governor General of Liangguang, the Lijing Bureau and the Inspector-General of Yue Maritime Customs Service (as Inspector-General from here). The first Inspector-General was Robert Hart, a British. The continuous inspection of ships commuting in Hong Kong carried out by Qing government customs service faced opposition from the British merchants in Hong Kong as this had violated the principle of the place being a free port. (Note 1)\_

‘Treaty of Tianjing’ was signed in Xianfeng 8th year (1858). Opium was renamed as ‘western medicine’ and freed for trading in the sub-clauses of the Treaty. However, the controversies over opium trade in Hong Kong continued. In Guangxu 12th year (1886), the Qing government and Britain signed the ‘管理香港洋藥事宜章程’ (also known as the ‘Hong Kong Opium Agreement’) which permits importing opium to Hong Kong or exporting from Hong Kong to other areas with tariff in place. The Qing government would no longer inspect crafts sailing out of Hong Kong and vice-versa. (Note 2)

In April 1887, a branch of Yue maritime customs, namely ‘Kowloon Customs’ (commonly known as Yang Guan), had been set up in Hong Kong. It was responsible for imposing opium tariff and carrying out investigation into smuggling. The first Kowloon Commissioner of Customs was a British named T.A. Morgan. Morgan took over Yue Customs’ custom houses in Kap Shui Mun, Kowloon City, Fat Tau Chau and Cheung Chau. Tariff collection, including opium tax, and anti-smuggling operations within the Hong Kong border were all implemented by the Kowloon Customs. The customs’ headquarter located on the Second Floor of Bank Tower, 16-18 Queen’s Road Central, Victoria City on the Hong Kong Island. Among 328 staff, there were 13 westerners and 315 customs officers. (Note 3)

A re-organization of sub-customs under Kowloon Customs in Kap Shui Mun, Kowloon City, Fat Tau Chau and Cheung Chau and stations of Lijing Bureau took place in the end of 1887. These included the establishment of Kap Shui Mun sub-Customs in Tsuen Wan, Gok Wan and Sham Shui Po and Shatin sub’customs of the Kowloon City customs. Anti-



smuggling fleet and patrol squadron namely Kwuan Lui, Kwuan Fun, Guong Hong, Fei Hong, Lei Kum, Hoi Ban and Cheung Kin were formed and an ammunition ship and a platform ship were added. There were in total 474 people with 34 westerners. (Note 4) At the beginning of the establishment of the Sham Shui Po sub-customs, an opium platform ship was also in place. It was first put in the northern to the Stonecutters Island but then moved to Sham Shui Po waterfront.

J. Mcleavy Brown succeeded the role as the Inspector-General of the Kowloon Customs in April 1890. He was responsible for escorting the cheque of monthly tariff, Lijing and expenses to the hands of the Governor-General of Liangguang and Inspector of Yue Customs. For salient matters, he was required to discuss directly with government officials. In the same year, customs officers on the continent increased from 24 to 154 and another 6 western officers were added to cease smuggling activities in the offshore border. Kap Shui Men customs pier began in use.(Note 5)

In 1891, the sub-customs of Kap Shui Mun, Kowloon City and Fat Tau Chau were relocated. Barriers were built on the land border concurrently. These barriers were 8 feet high, 2.5 mile long and had 6 passages for travelling merchants to pass through. Customs sent officers patrol around day and night. Land in Sham Shui Po bo-rder had been b-ought to prepare for constructing the Sham Shui Po sub-customs office. (Note 6)

In July 1893, H. E. Hobson succeeded the position as Inspector-General and b-ought the land near Lai Chi Kok bo-rder to build Kowloon City offices and dormitory. (Note 7)

In June 1895, H. M. Hiller replaced Hobson whom had retired from the position as acting Kowloon Customs Inspector General. In September, the new Sham Shui Po sub-customs commence in use. Its duty was initially to monitor ship activities on the sea but was then shifted to opium verification and tariff endorsement for small amount of objects. The pier at the coast was docking area for customs' boat. (Note 8)

Hiller was promoted to be the Kowloon Customs Inspector-General in April 1896. A typhoon stroked Hong Kong in July and destroyed the barriers at the continent bo-rder. Parts of the straw shed roof of the patrol stations had also been blown over by the typhoon. (Note 9)

In Guangxu year 24th (1898), the Qing government and Britain signed 'The Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory' where areas north of Kowloon Boundary Street and south of the Shenzhen River and surrounding islands were least to Britain. Sham Shui Po Sub-customs closed in April 1899 but opium verification was kept in function. In October 1899,



the three customs in Tsuan Wan, Kuk Wan and Sham Shui Po retreated to Dai Shan Island and Ling Ding Island where Daishan Customs and Lingding Customs were founded respectively. Barracks of the Sham Shui Po Customs were gradually closed and demolished. The only pier along the coast for ship docking had remained. The platform ship for opium of the Sham Shui Po Customs remained in Hong Kong. (Note 10) Amalgamated with the Kowloon Station Sub-customs, it was discharged in April 1917. By that time, its main duty was to examine opium exported from Hong Kong to Mainland and to impose tariff. (Note 11)

JTIA locates at the hillside of Lai Chi Kok. A stone with 'Kowloon Customs Boundary' etched on it was found on the east side of the hill in the site. Research shows the Sham Shui Po sub-customs under the Kowloon Customs of the Qing dynasty's Yue Customs located at the site. The stone still stands at the original location for further scrutiny.



The border of Britain and China in the Kowloon Peninsula (Source: Government Records Service)



The guard post of Qing Dynasty at the Boundary Street  
( Source:Government Records Service )



Ma Wan Customs in 1898 (Source: Government Records Service)



Kowloon Customs Stations in 1887 (Source: The History of Kowloon Customs 1887 – 1990)



Kowloon Customs Boundary Stone in Qing Dynasty  
(Currently in the site of Jao Tsung-I Academy)



The Kowloon Customs Boundary Stone in Ling Ding Island later on  
(Source: Shenzhen Museum)





The stone-rubbing of Kowloon Customs Boundary Stone in Da Shan later on  
(Source: Shenzhen Museum)

#### **(6) From the Old Boundary Stone and its functions to the difference between Western and Chinese boundary stones**

The Boundary stone was a Qing government boundary stone. Its function can be compared with the colonial boundary stones found.

Chinese boundary stone and western boundary stone all bear the function of defining boundaries and demonstrating land ownership. During a field study, the Department of Real Estate and Construction of the Hong Kong University discovered a boundary stone 'B.O. No. 4' erected by the British Ministry of Defence in the early days of the British administration in Hong Kong. Research showed that it was the earliest Victorian boundary stone in Hong Kong. Erected by the royal engineer Lieutenant Collinson R.E. in late 1843 or early 1844, this stone has 170 years of history.

Western and Chinese boundary stones look differently. Apart from clarifying land boundary, western boundary stones carry a surveying purpose. The arrow on the western boundary stone shown on the image is for altitude allocation. The discovered boundary stone had been located at one of the key positions for military surveying. Not only does this 172 year-old boundary stone erected in Sai Wan Fort has an arrow, but also two English characters 'B. O.' on it which stands for 'Board of Ordinance'. It is believed that this was a vital spot of map surveying established by the British Army in the early times. Chinese boundary stones emphasized the expression of authority over the land and clear boundary division but not the purpose of surveying. Through such comparison, hence, we could notice the technological advancement of the West in surveying and map drawing. Detailed surveying allows accurate maps drawings

which provide clear advantages when they are utilized for military purpose. By studying the difference between Chinese and Western boundary stones, we could tell the importance of surveying science to military.



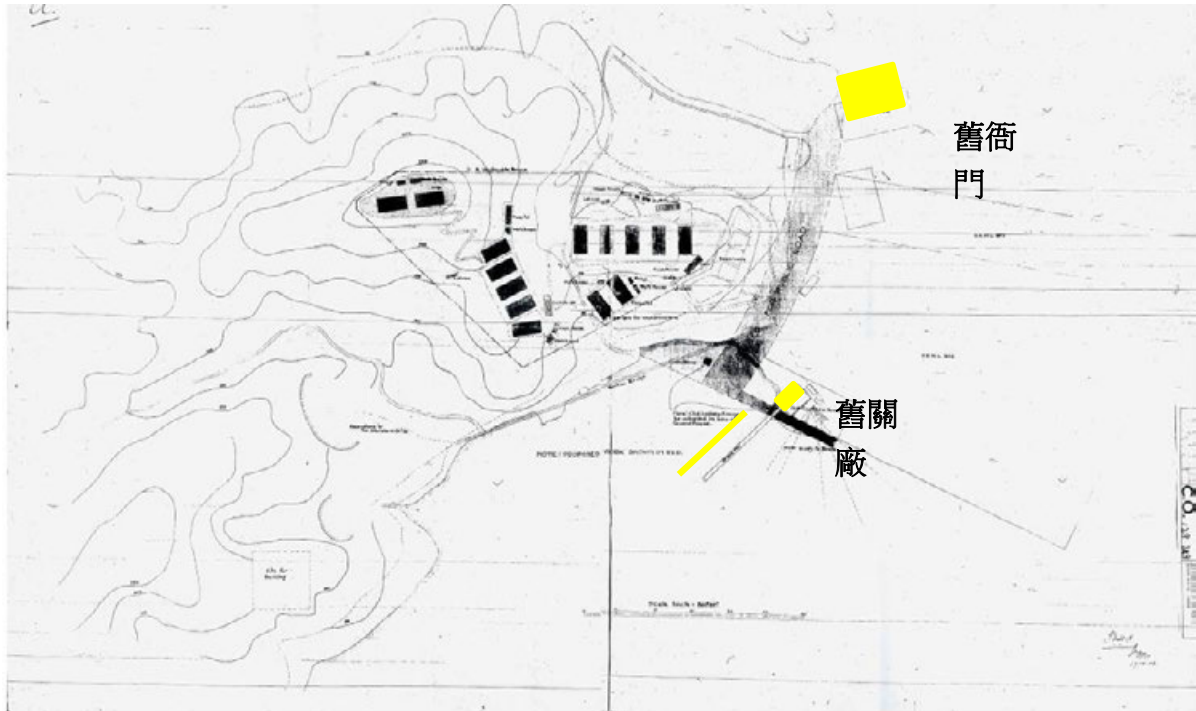


Marker Stone

(Source: Department of Real Estate and Construction, University of Hong Kong)

The diagram below of a segregation camp dated in 17th October 1905 marked the surrounding environment and buildings. These included former Yamen and former customs factory. It is believed to be an operational link between these two institutions in imposing tariff and combating against smuggling activities.





Segregation Camp in Lai Chi Kok on 17 October 1905  
(Source: Government Records Service)

Related existing heritage:

Kowloon Boundary Stone: revealed the close relationship between this site and the establishment of the Sham Shui Po Sub- customs station.

Old Pier: A docking pier and refurbishment site for ships which reflects the site was once near the coast and served for commuting.

### **(7) Labourers' Quarters (1904-1906)**

'Chinese workers' broadly refers to Chinese labourers (coolie) whom worked aboard during the late Qing period. They were mostly peasants or fishermen coming from deprived area in Guangzhou Wuyi and Pearl River Delta. They were either abducted, kidnapped, tricked, deceived or lured to work aboard. For those who work voluntarily might receive the first instalment of the salary prior to the laborious work in foreign land (Southeast Asia, America, Canada, Australia, South Africa etc.) but were charged with referral, transportation and agency fee (remuneration to the agent or agency). A lot of workers, also known as 'piggies', failed to acquire migration qualifications and civil rights from the countries they were working in. They eventually died in foreign land as they were unable to return to China.

These 'piggies' workers were categorised into:

1. Contracted Worker. Referring to those contracted for 3, 5 to 10 year laborious work in the abroad.
2. Workers in debit. Referring to those in debt to agents for boat fares where they would

be controlled by employers in foreign place until they have paid all debts and interests.

‘Piggies’ trafficking and transaction took place in ‘Zhao Gong Guan (Ju)’ or Chinese Workers’ Warehouse, commonly known as ‘Piggies Guan’ or ‘Balakang’ (Barracoon in Portuguese). These prison-like dormitories for coolie were mostly run by secret triad society members whom were powerful and well-informed. They worked closely with other ‘Piggies Guan’ and carefully arranged their frauds.

Those abducted piggies would first be sent to hostels in the mainland which had colluded with overseas ‘Piggies Guan’ and were then detained within the barracks used for slave detention. Not until a certain amount of piggies had been accumulated would they be sent aboard on large cargos. The journey would take several months. The living environment of the detainees was poor. After arriving at the destination, they would be assigned to manors or mines where fatality was high due to the arduous life.

The Britain won the Boer War in South Africa in 1899 and ceded the southern African area, Transvaal, as colony. Britain needed a large amount of miners to develop mining business in South Africa. Hardworking, submissive, healthy and used to work far from home, Chinese whom receive minimal wages from southern China were targeted by recruiting agency and British mining companies to be miners in South Africa.

Lai Chi Kok situated along the coast and enjoyed convenient water and land transportation at that time. In 1904, the British company The Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency borrowed 3 miles land from the British Hong Kong government to construct Chinese Working Houses, commonly known as ‘Piggies Guan’, as temporary settlement for Chinese workers before transferring to South Africa. The historical site of former Sham Shui Po Customs Factory (now the Low zone of JTIA) was once the site of Chinese Workers House. The pier for parking customs ships in the Qing period was used for transferring workers aboard. Working houses were formed by simple shabby huts.

Up until the early 20th century, there were conflicts between Chinese workers from the South whom had rooted themselves in foreign countries and local residents. It is therefore Chinese workers from the Central and Northern part of China were also being recruited. These workers came from Guangdong, Hebei, Shandong and Henan province.

Enduring maltreatment no more, Chinese workers in Transvaal revolted, fled and arranged strikes in 1905. Adding to that fact that these workers took on other jobs after work, the local government ceased recruiting Chinese labours to work there. Lai Chi Kok working house was

closed and abandoned as a result. Between 1906 and 1907, working house huts were left deserted.

Before the mid-19th century, the number of Chinese migrated to South Africa was limited. Not until the discovery of diamond and gold mines did a large amount of Chinese moved to there. The mine industry revolution of South Africa was in line with the large scale migration of Chinese took place in the mid-19th century and afterwards.

According to the South African law, Chinese migrants were forbidden to work in mines. They could only do business or provide services. Up until the late 19th century, it is estimated that Johannesburg has at least 3,000 Chinese running six large scale logistic companies and 250 grocery, laundry shops and farms.

Chinese workers left mining areas to quieter coastal cities such as Elisabeth port and East London after the outbreak of Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). After the end of war, some stayed but many returned to gold mines areas.

Mining stopped because of the warfare are workers fled. This ruined Transvaal's economy which depended heavily on gold mining business. Mine owners strived to convince the government to resume importing Chinese contracted workers to restore economy. Despite facing wide opposition in the country, the British conservative government which also controlled the Transvaal granted the permission to that. After discussing with the Chinese in 1904, the government passed the Worker Importation Bill. Carrying the first batch of contracted Chinese workers, the SS Tweeddale sailed off from Southern China to South Africa. During 1904 to 1910, there were in total 63,695 contracted Chinese workers being transported in 34 boat trips to work in gold mines. Owing to the conflict between the government officials from South Africa and Southern China provinces, there were only 3 trips from Southern China. 62,006 Chinese workers (97.4%) were from Northern Chinese provinces. According to the worker contract, the service would not exceed three year despite the employers had the right to prolong the contract for two more years. Chinese workers had to return to China once the contract has ended.

The Importation Bill of Chinese workers was described as 'the worst among all unpopular approaches'. Half of the clauses in the 35 chapters were wholly restrictive. Though various regulations had been written up, management department, white miners and Chinese attendants ill-treated Chinese workers. They tortured Chinese workers where secret sanctions happened very frequently at that time.



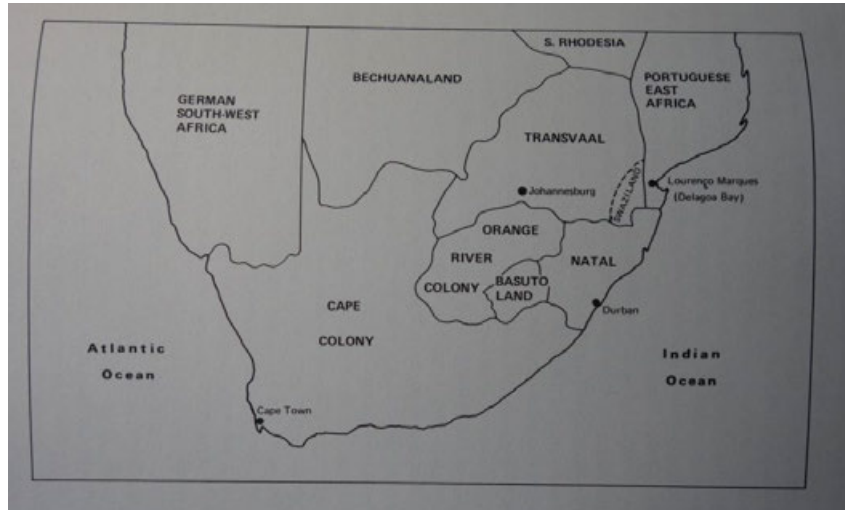
The development of the mining industry, however, best illustrated Chinese workers were 'the most efficient workers in mines'. But such benefits were realised ephemerally. The Chinese worker issue had been seized by the Het Volk Party, which was under the British Liberal Party and Transvaal, as part of its election propaganda where contract renewal was forbidden as a result. The last group of Chinese workers dispatched back to China in 1910.

The growing number of Chinese appeared in Transvaal since 1904 sparked off heated anti-Asian sentiments. This brought a long term adversity to the freedom of the four Chinese communities in South Africa.

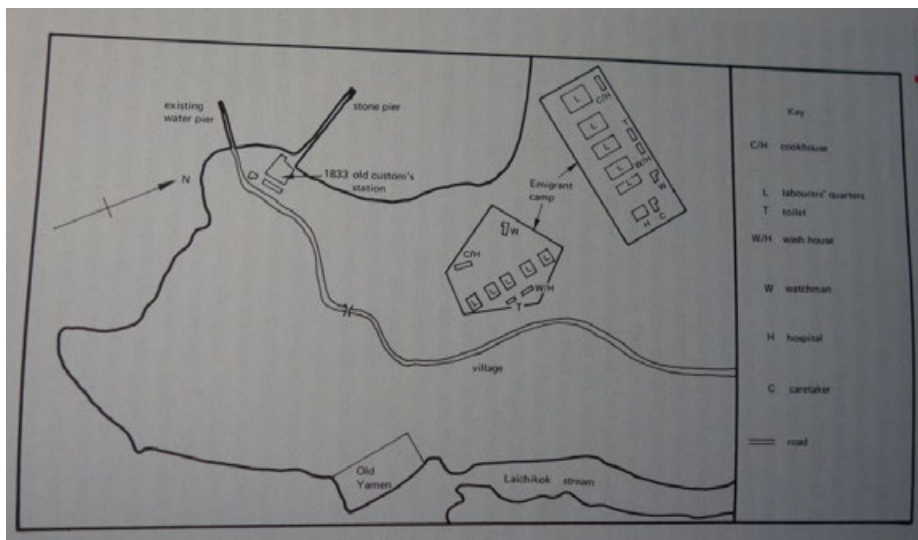
#### Number of Chinese labourers imported annually

	1904	1905	1906	1907
Yearly Number of Chinese imported	23,517	27,016	11,039	2,123
Gross Total Chinese imported by 31 December each year	23,517	50,533	61,572	63,695
Number employed at 31 December each year	20,918	47,217	52,889	53,828
Loss	2,599	3,316	8,683	9,867
Loss (%)	11.05%	6.56%	14.1%	15.49%
Yearly percentage of unskilled labour imported	15.49%	17.03%	7.38%	1.41%
Percentage of total unskilled labour	13.78%	32%	35.36%	35.86%

( Source : Annual Reports of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, 1904-07 )



Map of South Africa in 1904 shows the location of Transvaal  
Peter Richardson : 〈 Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal 〉 , p.19



Chinese Labourers' Quarters in Lai Chi Kok

Peter Richardson : Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal , p.84



Chinese Labourers in Transvaal, 1906

( Rachel K. Bright: Chinese Labour in South Africa, 1902-10. P.134 )

#### **(8) Lai Chi Kok Quarantine Station (1910-1912)**

In the beginning of the 20th century, there was already an outbreak of epidemic in the southern China. The first epidemic case in Hong Kong was reported on 3rd April 1910. The news report pointed out that there had already been a series of epidemic outbreak in southern China, including small pox, rabies and cattle plague. Badawei Bu even declared Hong Kong as an epidemic area on 11th May and cancelled on 14th. The following news reported disease spread in Foshan, Sihui, Guangzhou, Beihai, Dongguan, Shantou, Macau and places of close contact with Hong Kong such as the UK, Russia, Italy, Nanyang, Beijing, Shanghai, Zhenjiang, Suzhou, Nanjing etc. The Hong Kong government endeavoured to raise public awareness on hygiene like eliminating pockets of stagnant water, not spitting on street and not drinking tap water. The government also set up more hygiene facilities and facilitated reservoir cleaning and mosquitoes and mouse eradication etc.

In 1907, Cholera broke out on a cruise from Singapore. Among 1,236 Chinese on the cruise, 12 were dead in their journey and 7 were still infected upon arrival at Hong Kong. In the meanwhile, the infection segregation centre was closed in 1910 for constructing a military camp. The Governor of Hong Kong Sir Frederick Lugaud demanded the British government to buy the abandoned Lai Chi Kok labourers' quarter to be a quarantine station.



Using HKD \$3,000, the Hong Kong government brought the site which was the former Lai Chi Kok workers houses from The Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency in early 1908 and turned it into a quarantine station, named as Lai Chi Kok Quarantine Station. The former shabby huts for detaining Chinese workers were refurbished as red brick bungalows. Former custom station was turned into guard house. Walls built from big rocks were erected outside the entire centre. The station was in use for only two years before being abandoned.

According to the same segregation camp diagram of 17th October 1905, the building cluster did not differ much from now. The main differences are:

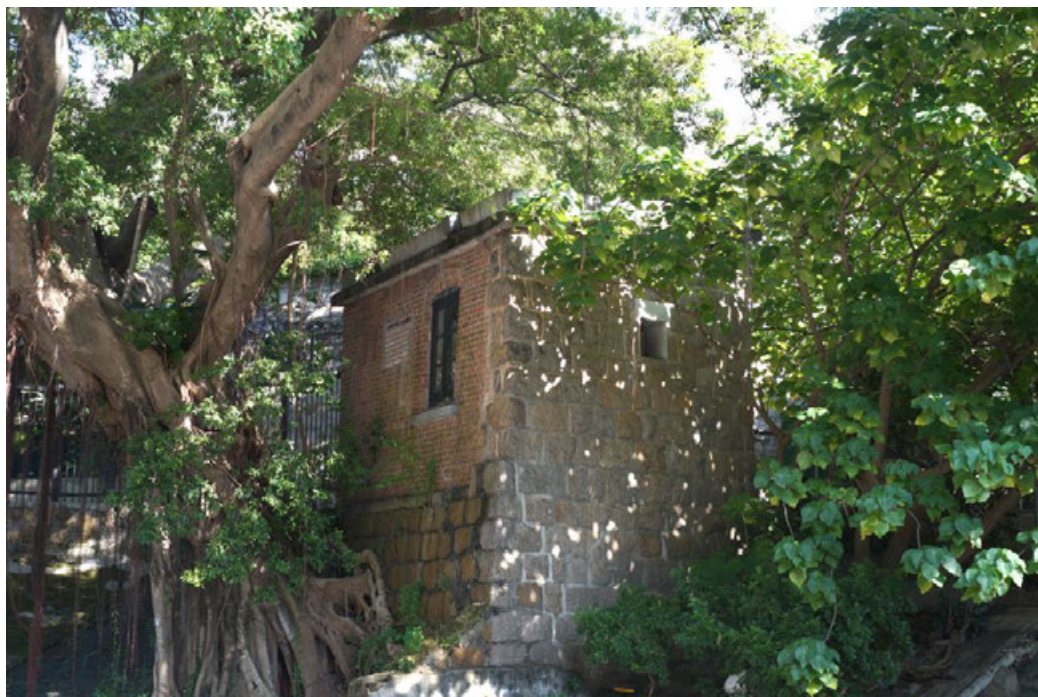
1. Red brick houses replaced thatched huts
2. New building cluster in the Low zone. From the 1910 construction plan, one can see the planned appearances of the dormitory, kitchen and hospital were in line with the ones in the present. Such design matched with the remained buildings in the present. This proved foundations of converting the site into a hospital had already been paved during the time when it served as a Quarantine Station.

Related present heritage:

Low zone building cluster – as the core building of the Quarantine Station, its use and value are relatively important and prominent

Stone Wall - A major renovation the government undertook while converting the site into the Quarantine Station highlighted the emphasis on the security of the station

Old Guard Room – A major renovation the government undertook to convert the site into the Quarantine Station highlighted the emphasis on the security of the station



The old guard room



The old entrance of Lai Chi Kok Quarantine Station

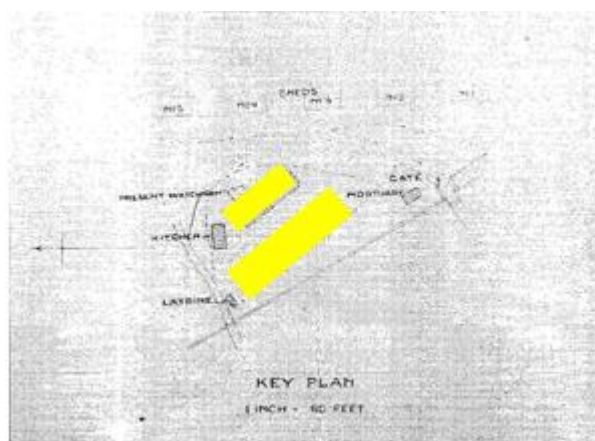
According to the same segregation camp diagram of 17th October 1905, the building cluster did not differ much from now. The main differences are:

2. Red brick houses replaced thatched huts

New building cluster in the Low zone. From the 1910 construction plan, one can see the planned appearances of the dormitory, kitchen and hospital were in line with the ones in the present. Such design matched with the remained buildings in the present. This proved foundations of converting the site into a hospital had already been paved during the time when it served as a Quarantine Station.

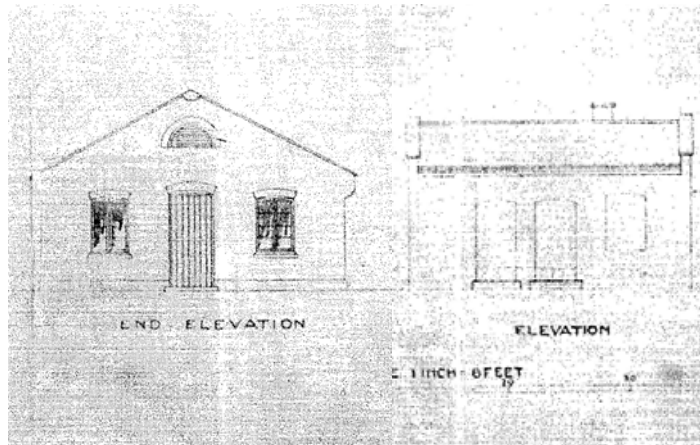


Segregation Camp Layout Plan in 1905 (Source: Government Records Service)



Layout Plan in 1910 (Source: Government Records Service)





Elevation Plan in 1910 (Source: Government Records Service)

Related present heritage:

Low zone building cluster – as the core building of the Quarantine Station, its use and value are relatively important and prominent

Stone Wall - A major renovation the government undertook while converting the site into the Quarantine Station highlighted the emphasis on the security of the station

Old Guard Room – A major renovation the government undertook to convert the site into the Quarantine Station highlighted the emphasis on the security of the station

## **Sham Shui Po Military Camp at Sham Shui Po Park in Cheung Sha Wan (1927 – 1977)**

In 1909, the Standard Oil Company constructed petroleum storage tank in Lai Chi Kok. The Hong Kong government gained land for development after the large scale of reclamation projects taken place in Sham Shui Po from 1910 to 1920. The Qing government was overthrown and the Republic was established after the 1911 Revolution. The Hong Kong Governor Lugard concerned about the possibility of riot outbreaks and the risk of social instability when refugees from the Mainland poured into Hong Kong. In 1912, he requested the British government to dispatch more British soldiers to Hong Kong to strengthen law and order. General Reginald Dyes led 850 soldiers to station in Hong Kong and set up Sham Shui Po Military Camp at the coast near the former Lai Chi Kok petroleum storage tank and Quarantine station. The construction finished in 1927.

The camp hosted two teams of infantry stationed in Hong Kong. It was formed by the Nanking Barracks (commonly known as Indian Barrack) accommodating Indian soldiers and the Jubilee Buildings accommodating British soldiers. It located at the convergence of Lai Chi Kok Road and Yen Chow Street in Sham Shui Po. To south the sea, north Cheung Sha Wan Road, east Yen Chow Street and west Tonkin Street, this camp had its entrance on Yen Chow Street. There was a wide road emerged from the door which also crossed the whole barrack. Along the two sides of the main road were those semi-circle corrugated iron sheds arrayed orderly. After the fall of Hong Kong on 25th December 1941, the camp was used as concentration camp for war criminals who were surrendered British soldiers and war criminals of the Allies. At that time, Hong Kong surrendered soldiers were detained in various sites. Seniors were kept in Argyle Street Barracks. Indians and Hong Kong Chinese and Singaporean Royal artilleries were jailed in Ma Tau Chung Barrack. Some soldiers were once jailed in North Point Concentration Camp and were all then moved to Sham Shui Po Military Camp. War criminals in these camps were tortured and resulted in deaths during the three years and eight months fall of Hong Kong.

The military camp was again used as formal barrack after the war. In the 1960s, the Jubilee Barrack was used as dormitory for married Indian soldiers. In 1977, the camp was closed and the land was returned to the Hong Kong government. Part of it was used for constructing Lai Kok and Lai An Estate. In the 1980s, land near the estates was used as segregation camp for Vietnam refugees. After the relocation of the refugee segregation camp to Tuan Men Pillar Point, the site was developed as a park, named as Sham Shui Po Park.

The military camp no longer exists in nowadays except from the three boundary stones of the camp at the entrance which have ‘M.O.D.B.S. Mo.10 Military Squad Boundary’ etched on them. The park has two maple trees and beside them is a commemoration plaque inscribed with ‘Not far from that are few trees planted by The Hong Kong Prisoner of War Association on August 1989 to commemorate those who had fought the war, suffered and sacrificed in concentration camps.’



British army in Sham Shui Po Military Camp in May 1928  
(Source: Government Records Service )



Aerial view of Sham Shui Poin 1927  
(Source: Government Records Service)





Boundary stone at the entrance of military camp  
(Source: Government Records Service)



The monumental plaque erected by The Hong Kong Prisoner of War Association in August 1989 (Source: Professor Siu Kwok-kin)



The monumental plaque erected by Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada  
(Source: Professor Siu Kwok-kin)

### **(9) Lai Chi Kok Prison (1921–1937)**

During the early 1940s when Hong Kong was opened for trade, the government built Victoria Prison on a patch on a slope in Central. With the number of inmates continuously rising, the prison, situated south of Chancery Lane and west (east) of Arbuthnot Road, was soon insufficient for use. Some inmates were transferred to a new prison on Stonecutters Island just off the coast of Sham Shui Po. Later in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, both prisons became overcrowded; minor renovations were carried out at the abandoned Quarantine Station in Lai Chi Kok to convert the site into a low-security male prison, namely Lai Chi Kok Prison. Female prisoners were separately housed in Victoria Prison in Central. In 1931, Lai Chi Kok Prison was expanded to include female prison blocks located in the present-day middle and upper zones.

Lai Chi Kok Prison for Women was put into use in April 1932 when female prisoners were admitted there. In 1934 and 1935, the female prison was running in full capacity; the prison authorities started to transfer male prisoners to Stanley. The male prison was officially closed on 28 November 1936, while the female prison was still in service.

According to 黃佩佳《香港新界風土名勝大觀》, ‘Lai Chi Kok Prison is an exemplary prison compound solidly built on a hillside. The prison is like a small walled city protected by a stone tower. Yeung Uk Village was once located at the lower area. Today, the compound also includes female prison blocks as well as vegetable beds tended by inmates....’

The low-security prison blocks were constructed of red brick, with granite cornerstones and arched-top windows and doors. The pitched-roofs were supported by wood and iron trusses and finally laid with two layers of Chinese pan-and-roll tiles in Chinese style.

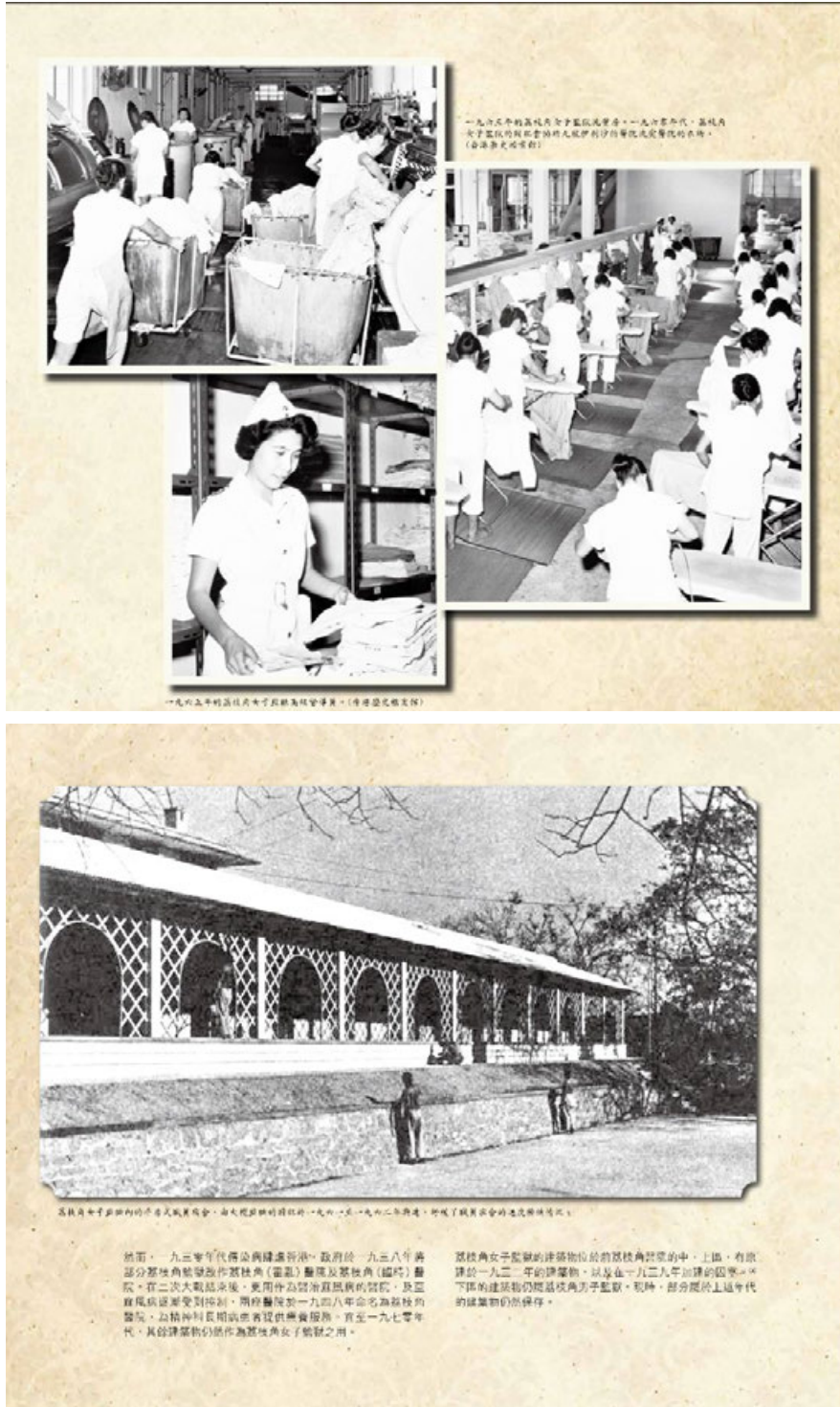
Lai Chi Kok Prison was considered a model prison; there were standard cells, individual cells, cells for remand prisoners, cells for pregnant prisoners, as well as a mini-hospital.

In 1937, Stanley Prison was opened to replace Lai Chi Kok Prison. After all prisoners were transferred to Stanley, Lai Chi Kok Prison was closed down.

The vacated prison was being used for military training between April and July, 1946. Owing to the overcrowding condition caused by increasing female prisoner population in Stanley Prison, Lai Chi Kok Prison was reopened in the following year (1947) to



meet the demand for female prison cells. Some of the female prisoners at Stanley Prison were then transferred back to Lai Chi Kok. There were official records dating back to 1965 showing visits conducted by Justices of the Peace at Lai Chi Kok Prison for Women.



(Source: Hong Kong Correctional Services Department)

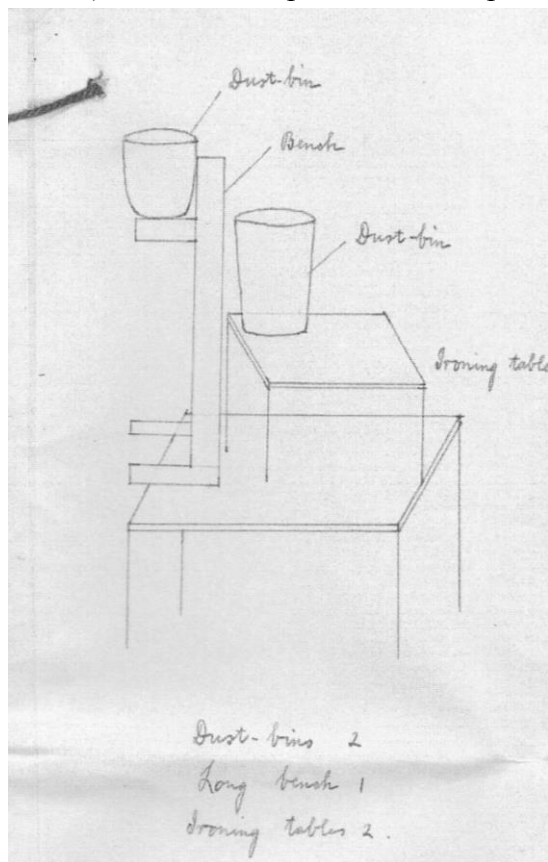
The building plan dated 1922 clearly shows there were building blocks and also a stone boundary wall surrounding the entire site. Managed by the prison authorities, the facilities were well maintained. The prison mainly accommodated young offenders and those who were given a short prison sentence. Reconstruction works for four of the prison blocks had been carried out between 1921 and 1924.

Related historical remains:

Crack monitors – They can be found at the exterior of the Old Guard Room and the rear wall of Heritage Hall facing the barrier-free toilet at Low Zone. The cracks indicate ground movements caused by changes of soil moisture condition during heavy rains. The structural stability of the buildings remains good, reflecting that regular maintenance and reinforcement works have been carried out by the government.

### **Prison Break and a Low-security Prison**

On 6 February 1951, a female prisoner successfully escaped from Lai Chi Kok Prison, using a few gadgets only (see below the sketch from the oral statement of the prison officer). The incident proved that the prison security was fairly low.



Escape from jail (Government Records Service)

A female prisoner named Leung Law (transliteration), whose prisoner number was F1685, was in Zone B of Lai Chi Kok Prison. On 6 February 1951, a female prison guard named Lee Lai Kuen (transliteration), whose staff number was 278, assigned 20 prisoners in Zone B to go to the canteen to get their breakfast foods at 6:30 am. After the prisoners collected their foods, the guard did a head count and confirmed everyone was there. The guard instructed the prisoners to take the morning meal in the workshop. She kept a close eye on the prisoners during the meal serving time. After the breakfast, she instructed the prisoners to return all utensils and trays to the canteen. During that period, she did not count the number of prisoners.

Ten minutes later, the guard asked prisoners who had to bathe their baby to go to the kitchen to get hot water. Five to six prisoners went to the kitchen. She did not make a count of the prisoners again.

At 7:35 am, the guard ordered the prisoners to return Zone B. Then she counted the prisoners one by one and there were 93 of them there. The headcount was not exhaustive, as some prisoners had gone to the kitchen. It was believed that Leung Law, the escaped female prisoner, hid herself in the water heater room inside the bathroom at that time.

The guard inspected the workshop including work benches in Zone B, then checked and locked the toilet and the store; finally she went to inspect the bathroom, yet she overlooked the water heater room.

She counted the prisoners again and marked down the number on the record sheet. Same as last time, there were 93 prisoners. After collecting the record sheets of other zones, she passed them to the prison officer on duty at the main gate.

The prison officer found that the number did not match the previous one recorded at 6:00 am; one prisoner was missing. He asked the female guard to count the prisoners again. She did the counting thrice, with the same result that there were only 93 prisoners. When the guard inspected the bathroom again, she found that somebody had pried the door open and there were work benches and rubbish bins stacking up against the boundary wall. She knew that someone had broken out of the prison, so she immediately pressed the alarm button. The Chief Nursing Officer called up every staff to search around, in addition to the extensive search conducted by the police. However, no one could spot the escaped prisoner Leung Law.



### **(10) Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital (1938–1975)**

In 1937, infectious diseases (smallpox, diphtheria and cholera) raged in Hong Kong and South China region. The outbreak of Sino-Japanese War prompted a huge influx of refugees from the mainland China. As of 1938, poor hygiene and sanitation had led to soaring numbers of patients suffering from infectious diseases. To meet the medical needs of the community, the government renovated the buildings of the vacated prison and converted them into a hospital complex of which the upper zone was served as an infectious disease hospital and the lower zone a sanatorium.

The widespread of infectious diseases still posed a serious challenge to Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation as well as during the early days when Britain regained control of Hong Kong. In 1947, the tuberculosis sanatorium at Mount Davis was closed; patients were transferred to Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital. According to a record on a visit to Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital by W.A. Stewart J.P., the hospital was a complex of old-style depot-like brick buildings done with plastered walls; most of the patients suffered from tuberculosis. Its Upper Hospital, with a capacity of 180 beds, treated patients with mild symptoms, whereas the capacity of the Lower Hospital was 300.

In the 1950s and the 1960s, Hong Kong entered the peak season of infectious diseases with the outbreaks of smallpox, diphtheria and cholera. Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital served as a quarantine hospital again. In 1961, the hospital set up a laboratory and a diagnostic centre to carry out specialized studies on the causes and treatment of cholera.

In 1975, Princess Margaret Hospital was opened. The new hospital took over patients from Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital, which was then converted to a sanatorium for leprosy patients and psychiatric patients. In 1981, Kwai Chung Hospital was opened, taking over Lai Chi Kok's psychiatric patients.



Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1950s (Source: Madam Lee Ho Chun)



The current location of Hall 2, the Gallery, Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1950s  
(Source: Madam Lee Ho Chun)





Lai Chi Kok Hospital was once near the sea in 1950s  
(Source: Madam Lee Ho Chun)



Daily scenes in Lai Chi Kok Hospital  
(Source: Government Records Service)



Daily scenes in Lai Chi Kok Hospital (Source: Government Records Services)





Mei Foo in 1968. The photo shows the original location of the current Lai Chi Kok detention centre (Source: Government Records Service)



The aerial shot of Mei Foo in 1975 (Source: Government Records Service)



The King George post box at the original main entrance of Lai Chi Kok Hospital  
(Source: Government Records Service)





Christmas event of Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1984 (courtyard between Block H and Block G, middle zone)

(Source: Nurse Amy Chan)



Industrial Therapy Unit of Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1987 (Block G of Middle Zone)

(Source: Nurse Amy Chan)





Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1987 (Block P of Low Zone)  
(Source: Nurse Amy Chan)



Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1986  
(Source: Government Records Service)



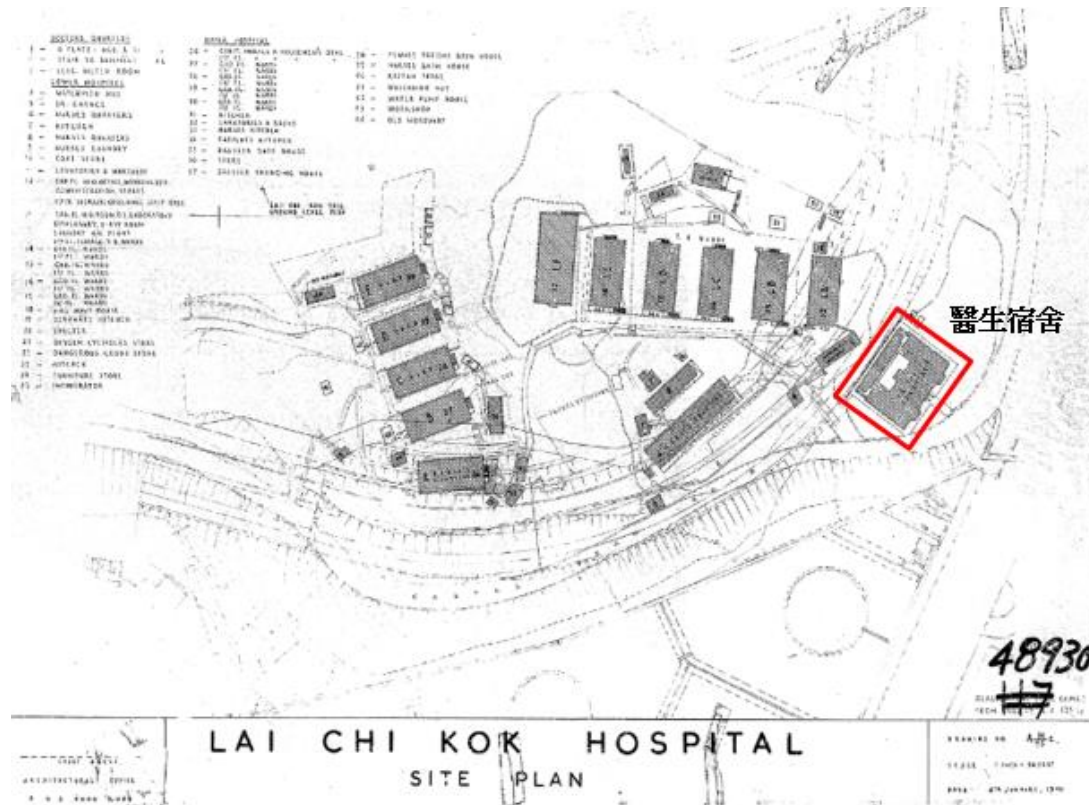
Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1986. There was a chimney at the rear of middle zone.  
(Source: Government Records Service)



Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1986 (upper floor of Block F)  
(Source: Government Records Service)



The design of the hospital complex was essentially functional. Its upper section and lower section were self-contained, each with its own kitchen, guard room, storage and incinerator. Such design could substantially minimize interdependence while improving the efficiency of the hospital operations.



Doctors' Quarters:

Doctors’ quarters, located at the lower area of the hospital, was part of the whole compound before. It was demolished in 1968 when Castle Peak Road underwent alterations.

Related historical remains:

Old incinerator in Middle Zone – it might be used for disposal of not only normal waste but also clinical waste, as it was situated near the dangerous goods store.

Old incinerator in High Zone – it should be used for handling regular waste, similar to typical incinerators in rural areas.

Round-edged red bricks at both sides of the doors – the design allowed hospital beds to be moved in and out easily.



## **(11) Exemplary Architectural Elements for Healthcare Premises in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Lai Chi Kok Hospital was by no means an ordinary cluster of red-brick buildings. Its distinctive architectural features, such as rounded wall corners, contributed to its uniqueness as a healthcare premises.

Lai Chi Kok Hospital was basically built with red bricks. Unlike other old red-brick structures, its design became a model for healthcare premises in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on a par with Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences.

Nestled in the trees on a small hill adjacent to major transport routes like Castle Park Road and Ching Cheung Road, the hospital compound was geographically kept apart from the surroundings. Its natural shade made it fit in with the uses of a quarantine station or a hospital.

The old hospital had a variety of architectural features that made it stand out from standard red-brick structures; in particular, one of its most distinctive features is the round-edged red bricks at the door entrance at each block. The square edge of red brick was polished and smoothed into round edge, so as to provide convenience for the mobilization of hospital beds in and out of the wards, improve safety and minimize potential hit against the door.



The edge of red brick outside the doors was polished and smoothed into round edge, so as to provide convenience for the mobilization of hospital beds in and out of the wards, (Source: Government Records Service)

### **( 12 ) Fireplace and Brick Bonding – Different Architectural Features for Different Zones**

Why did different zones have different architectural features? The low zone should be of greater importance, as observed from its fireplace and brickwork. As described in previous section, Lai Chi Kok Hospital was constructed of red brick; in fact, different brick bonding methods for different zones already reflect the construction period and relative significance of each zone.

The building cluster of the low zone was built in 1910. Its double-layer red brick walls were laid in English bond. There was a fireplace in the main building, which might be used by the hospital's administrative staff and medical staff. Rebuilt from a cluster of huts already there, the buildings have single-layer red brick walls only. Such simple arrangement of brickwork could help expedite construction. It also corresponded to the historical background that the buildings were transformed from huts.

Hence, we can see that the low zone, with its distinctive architectural design, had been the heart of the entire building complex; whereas, the middle zone's single-layer buildings revealed the architectural transition in the early days.

### (13) From Crack Monitor Installation to Public Building Maintenance

Crack monitoring has been part of public building maintenance. The historical building complex remains intact.

On the exterior of red brick walls of the buildings in the low zone, a number of rectangular concrete date plates are found. They are crack monitors used for detecting and recording movement of cracks in the brick structures. The date information on the devices tells us they were installed during both the prison period and the hospital period. The devices reflect the fact that the government had been carrying out regular maintenance and monitoring for public buildings, certainly including the Lai Chi Kok Hospital complex.

Obvious cracks on some crack monitors are evidence of structural movements in the brick structures. As the building cluster is close to the adjacent slope, it is believed that cracking is due to minor downward movements of soil caused by precipitation. Despite the structural movements, the buildings are still well preserved, reflecting that regular building maintenance and slope consolidation works have been carried out by the government.



Crack monitors can be found in low zone (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)

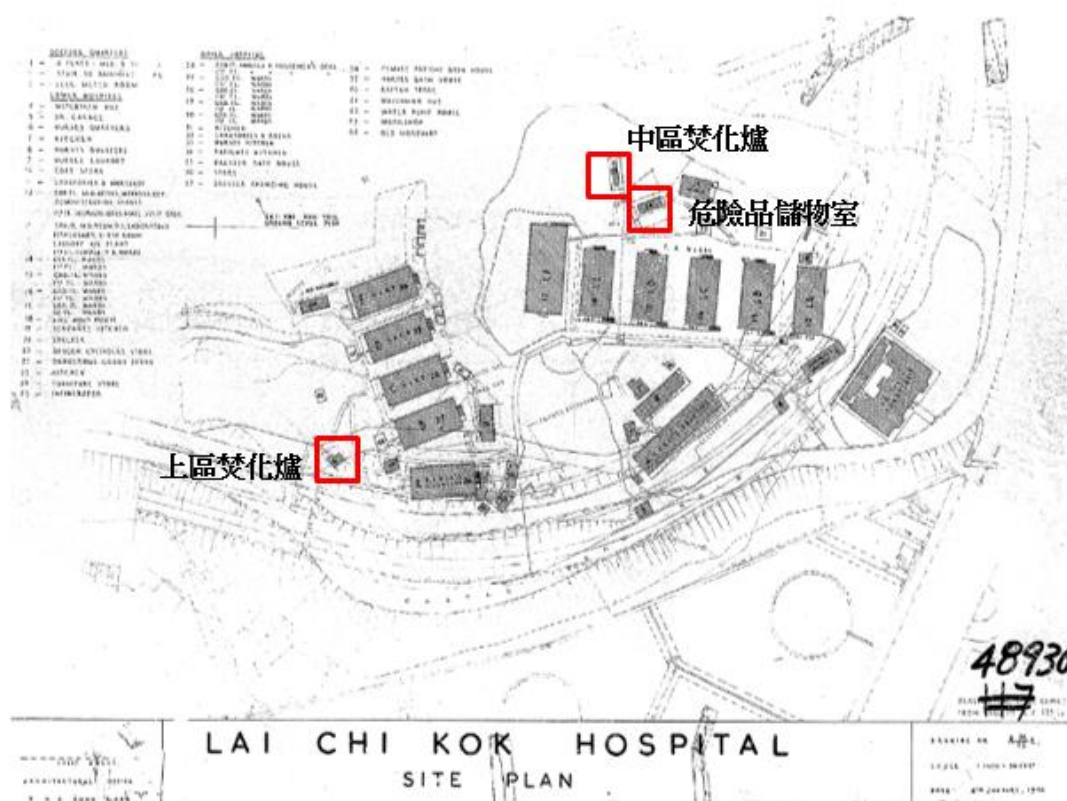


### (14) Incinerators and Old Building Plans Reveal Hospital Operations

The hospital period is the most well-known stage of the historical complex before its revitalization. The setup of health facilities, as seen on old building plans, discloses the old-day hospital operations.

Two incinerators had been built in the middle and high zones, one on each zone, with different layouts. The one in the middle zone looks complicated, as it has two tanks marked with ‘oil’ and ‘water’ in Chinese. It is out of the ordinary, unlike the one in the high zone which is commonly seen in rural areas in the New Territories.

According to the building plans of the hospital period, there was a storage for chemicals near the incinerator in the middle zone, which, therefore, could be used for thermal treatment of clinical waste, besides handling regular waste. Proper waste management had enhanced sanitation in the premises. It was an indication that the hospital had well-established practices and facilities to lower interdependence among different zones and improve efficiency in operations, so that it was able to cope with its busy work routine.



Floor Plan of Lai Chi Kok Hospital in 1960  
(Source: Architectural Services Department)

### **(15) Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre (1975 – 2000)**

As leprosy was raging in Hong Kong during the post-war period (1950s), in 1951, the government and the Leprosy Mission in London jointly set up a leprosarium on Niku Chau, a small island located east of Lantau Island. The island was renamed as Hei Ling Chau (deriving from the English word ‘healing’) when the leprosarium was open in 1954. Most of the leprosy patients at Lai Chi Kok Infectious Disease Hospital were transferred to the new leprosarium at Hei Ling Chau.

Leprosy reached its peak in the 1960s. At that time, all leprosy sufferers were sent to Hei Ling Chau for isolation and treatment. The leprosarium at one time had a maximum intake of 540 patients. Later, owing to advances in treatment of leprosy, the leprosy epidemic was under control, and the number of new patients gradually decreased. In 1974, Hei Ling Chau’s leprosarium was closed down. In 1975, there were only 78 leprosy cases; the patients were transferred to Lai Chi Kok Hospital for treatment.

The number of leprosy patients decreased substantially towards the end of the 20th century. Lai Chi Kok Hospital was therefore transformed into a sanatorium for psychiatric patients. When Kwai Chung Hospital was open in 1981, the psychiatric patients were relocated there.



Staircase built by patients of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1977  
(Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)





Medical staff in Christmas event of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1986 (Source: Dr Iu Pui Chuen)



Industrial Therapy Unit of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1987 (Block G of Middle Zone) (Source: Dr Iu Pui Chuen)





Festival game booth by Industrial Therapy Unit of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1992 (Source: Mr Lee Hung Ching)



Snapshot from Mei Foo Bus Terminal in 1996. Some blocks in middle zone and high zones are visible. (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)





Industrial Therapy Unit of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1996.  
(Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)



Medical staff gave training at OT-Deli shop of Lai Chi Kok Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre in 1996. (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)



### (16) HA Care Home (2000 – 2004)

Enlisted as a Grade III historic building complex by the Antiquities Advisory Board, H A Care Home was included in the first batch of buildings under the ‘Revitalising Historical Buildings through Partnership Scheme’ in 2008. The government named the site to ‘Jao Tsung-I Academy’ in 2009, in order to honour the achievements of the distinguished sinologist. With its proposal ‘Hong Kong Cultural Heritage,’ the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture was selected to revitalise and convert the historical complex into a platform for promoting Chinese culture.



Main entrance of HACare Home in 2004 (currently the back entrance of Jao Tsung-I Academy)

(Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)



Car park of HACare Home in 2004 (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)



Back entrance of HACare Home in 2004 (currently the main entrance of Jao Tsung-I Academy) (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)





Chinese New Year event of HACare Home at the atrium in 2002

(Source: Mr Lee Hung Ching)





Industrial Therapy Unit of HACare Home in 2002 (Source: Mr Lee Hung Ching)



The original atrium of HACare Home in 2004 (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)



Occupational Therapy Department of HACare Home in 2004 (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)

### **(17) From Zoning, Red Brick Walls to Conservation Principles**

In regard to retaining the historic significance of the building complex in terms of its authenticity and integrity, our conservation consultant adopted various approaches adhering to the principle of minimum intervention to preserve the buildings and to allow new elements to accommodate changing needs and standards. Given that the low zone was built as early as 1910, the conservation efforts made for the century-old building compound are notable.

Lai Chi Kok Hospital has retained its zoning scheme after revitalisation. The high zone is now used as a cultural hostel namely Heritage Lodge; the low and middle zones accommodate various facilities including the Heritage Hall, exhibition halls and a semi-open space for cultural activities. The historic buildings in the three zones naturally sit on the hillside, while different zones are connected by flights of stairs and newly-built lifts. During the revitalisation process, the project team followed recognized international charters for the conservation of built heritage, including the Venice Charter and the Burra Charter. On top of preserving the original character-defining elements of the heritage site, new elements have been added to rejuvenate the old buildings.

The Venice Charter remarks the importance of sustaining the integrity of an historic property. Historic integrity requires that the various features that made up the neighborhood need to be preserved – it sounds simple; as a matter of fact, it is difficult to achieve, especially in Hong Kong where space is scarce. That is why partial or disintegrated conservation approach is commonly adopted. The project team in charge of the revitalisation of Lai Chi Kok Hospital demonstrated their commitment to sustaining the integrity of the historic complex – by keeping the three zones while enhancing their connectivity as well as by restoring the red brick walls. Their efforts have re-established the guiding principles of built heritage revitalisation in Hong Kong.







The Skylight Atrium in middle zone provides an outdoor activity space. (Source: Jao Tsung-I Academy)

### **(18) Conclusion**

Over the past century, the site of Jao Tsung-I Academy has undergone many changes of usage – from a customs station, dwellings for Chinese labourers, a quarantine station, a prison, an infectious disease hospital and a psychiatric rehabilitation centre, to the present-day Jao Tsung-I Academy. Whatever role it takes on, be it an isolated facility or a cultural landmark for the public, the building compound is unique for its architectural and historical significance. Its close ties with the social changes experienced by previous generations have helped shape and contribute to its rich cultural heritage. Looking ahead, the Academy will continue to serve the community and enlighten future generations by sowing the seeds of culture.

## Notes

- Note 1：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關志 1887-1990〉，頁 15。
- Note 2：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關志 1887-1990〉，頁 15。
- Note 3：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，頁 5。
- Note 4：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 6。
- Note 5：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 7。
- Note 6：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 8。
- Note 7：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 9。
- Note 8：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 10-11。
- Note 9：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 11。
- Note 10：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關志 1887-1990〉，頁 24。  
九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 14-15。
- Note 11：九龍海關編志辦公室編：〈九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986（修改稿）〉，  
頁 29-30。
- Note 12：張國雄、劉興邦：〈五邑文化源流〉，頁 17。
- Note 13：李學華、黃民章：〈印尼華僑史〉，頁 1-20。  
陳維仁：〈苦力貿易〉頁 14-15。
- Note 14：Peter Richardson：〈Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal〉，pp. 3-4，  
13-14。
- Note 15：Peter Richardson：〈Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal〉，  
pp.47-51。

- Note 16 : Hong Kong Public Works Report 1908 , p.32 , 104 , Quarantine Station 。
- Note 17 : Peter Richardson : 〈 Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal 〉 , pp.78-103 。
- Note 18 : 中華書局編 : 〈 華工出國史料匯編 ( 第九輯 ) 〉 , 二. 南非華工受虐情況 , 頁 95 。
- Note 19 : Hong Kong Public Works Report 1908 , p.32 , 104 , Quarantine Station 。
- Note 20 : 張大慶 : 〈 中國近代疫病社會史 〉 , 第一章、第四節 , 頁 12-13 。
- Note 21 : Report of the Director of Public Works , 1908 , 72 : Quarantine Station at Lai Chi Kok 。
- Note 22 : 梁炳華 〈 深水埗風物志 〉 , 頁 53 。
- Note 23 : 梁炳華 〈 深水埗風物志 〉 , 頁 105 。 蕭國健 〈 香港之海防歷史與軍事遺蹟 〉 , 頁 129 。
- Note 24 : 梁炳華 〈 深水埗風物志 〉 , 頁 105 。
- Note 25 : 梁炳華 〈 深水埗風物志 〉 , 頁 105-106 。 蕭國健 〈 香港之海防歷史與軍事遺蹟 〉 , 頁 129 。
- Note 26 : 梁炳華 〈 深水埗風物志 〉 , 頁 108 。 蕭國健 〈 香港之海防歷史與軍事遺蹟 〉 , 頁 130 。
- Note 27 : Medical Report Hong Kong for the Year 1926 , p.19 。
- Note 28 : Report of the Superintendent of Prisons for the Year 1936-37 。
- Note 29 : Report of the Superintendent of Prisons for the Year 1932 , p.2 。
- 香港懲教署 〈 懲與教—香港獄政發展 1921-2011 〉 , 女子監獄 : 荔枝角女子監獄 , 頁 36 。
- Note 30 : 黃佩佳 〈 香港新界風土名勝大觀 〉 , 七. 荔枝角 , 頁 230-231 。
- Note 31 : 香港懲教署 〈 懲與教—香港獄政發展 1921-2011 〉 , 女子監獄 : 荔枝角女子監獄 , 頁 36 。
- Note 32 : 香港懲教署 〈 懲與教—香港獄政發展 1921-2011 〉 , 女子監獄 : 荔枝角女子監獄 , 頁 36 。
- Note 33 : Building and Lands Memo/dd 8/5/1945 。
- Note 34 : Building and Lands Memo/BL915/45 。
- Note 35 : Building and Lands Memo/dd 3/12/1947 。
- Note 36 : 香港懲教署 〈 懲與教—香港獄政發展 1921-2011 〉 , 女子監獄 : 荔枝角女子監獄 , 頁 38 。
- Note 37 : Building and Lands Memo/BL915/45 。 Accommodation Division AV 6/3881/47 。



Note 38 : Accommodation Division AV6/3881/47 。

Note 39 : Building and Lands Memo2/dd 8/2/1973 。

Note 40 : 吳昊 : 〈老香港歲月留情〉, 頁 11-12 。

Note 41 : 吳昊 : 〈老香港歲月留情〉, 頁 11-12 。

*(Remarks: some notes in Chinese only)*

## References

- 伯厚氏存 有所謂報 ; 光緒三十三年丙午歲 2/1906
- 陳翰笙主編 華工出國史料匯編 第八、九、十輯 中華書局出版  
1984
- 九龍海關編志辦公室編 九龍海關百年大事記 1887-1986 (修改稿)  
九龍海關編志辦公室編印 1987
- 九龍海關編志辦公室編 九龍海關志 1887-1990 廣東人民出版社 1993
- 潘翎主編 海外華人百科全書 三聯書店(香港)有限公司 1998
- 張國雄 劉興邦 〈五邑文化源流〉 廣東教育出版社 1998
- 李學華 黃民章 〈印尼華僑史〉 廣東教育出版社
- 陳維仁 〈苦力貿易〉 北京華僑出版社
- 張大慶 〈中國近代疫病社會史〉 臺北秀成資訊出版社
- 姚穎嘉 〈群力勝天: 戰前香港碼頭苦力與華人社區的管治〉 三聯書店(香港)有限公司
- 吳昊 〈老香港歲月留情〉 香港次文化堂 2001
- 蕭國健 香港之海防歷史與軍事遺蹟 中華文教交流服務中心出版 2006
- 蕭國健 災患與香港史 顯朝書室 2009
- 香港懲教署 懲與教—香港獄政發展 1921-2011 香港懲教署出版 2011

梁炳華 深水埗風物志 深水埗區區議會版社 2011

黃佩佳香港新界風土名勝大觀商務印書館 2016

鄭敏華 變翻深水埗：市區更新及歷史建築保育小冊子，深水埗區議會編

古物古蹟辦事處 活化歷史建築夥伴計劃 - 改建荔枝角醫院為香港文化傳承：文物影響評估報告 - 文物保育計劃書

Simon E. Katzenellenbogen South Africa and Southern Mozambique: Labour, Railways and Trade in the Making of a Relationship Manchester University Press 1982

Peter Richardson Chinese Mine Labour in the Transvaal The Macmillan Press Ltd 1982

Jerome J. Platt, Maurice E. Jones and Arleen Kay Platt The Whitewash Brigade; The Hong Kong Plague of 1894 Dix Noonan Webb Ltd, London 1998

Rachel K. Bright Chinese Labour in South Africa, 1902-1910: Race, Violence, and Global Spectacle Palgrave Macmillan 2013

ICOMOS (1964). The Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites. Retrieved from: [http://www.icomos.org/charters/venice\\_e.pdf](http://www.icomos.org/charters/venice_e.pdf)

ICOMOS Australia (2000). The Burra Charter. Retrieved from: [http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/BURRA\\_CHARTER.pdf](http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/BURRA_CHARTER.pdf)

UNESCO (1994). The Nara Document on Authenticity. Retrieved from: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/nara94.htm>

*(Remarks: some references in Chinese only)*