

## Reclamation History

During the early years of the Colonization of Hong Kong Island, the north shore was very narrow. The north coast included today's Queen's Road Central, which ran along the coast with piers and single-storey godowns lined along the waterfront. Since there were insufficient lands along the coast for further development to meet the increasing population on Hong Kong Island, reclamation was carried out from the west of Kennedy Town to the east of Wanchai. .

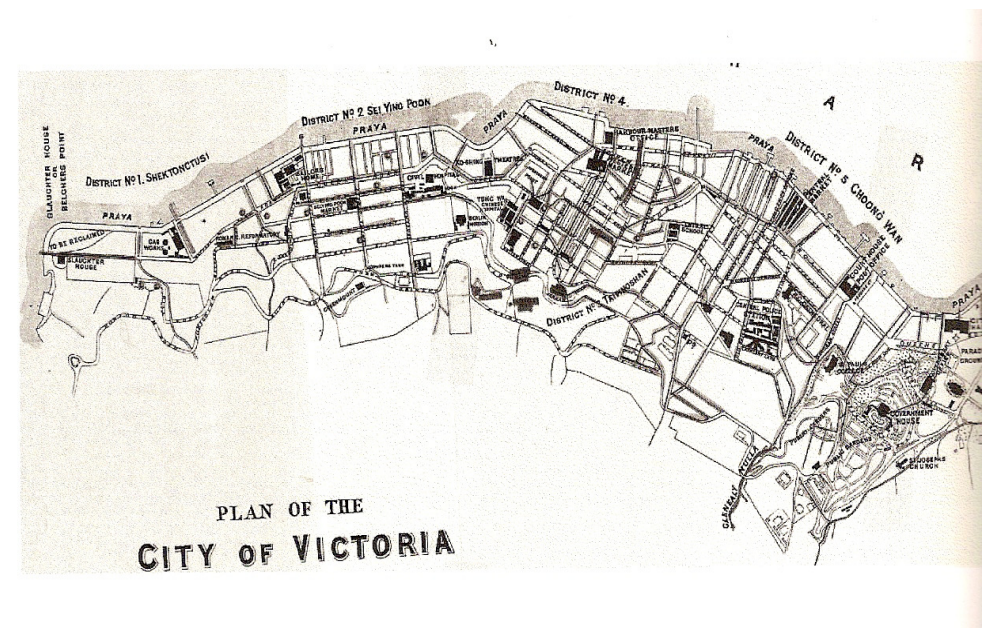
The planning for reclamation along the north coast by Governor George Bonham started in the early 1850s. In 1859, reclamation along the coast of Sheung Wan was completed and Queen's Road (Queen's Road Central today) and Bonham Strand were formed.

From 1864 to 1866, reclamation was carried out along Causeway Bay waterfront and Bowrington District of Wanchai as indicated in **Map 1**.

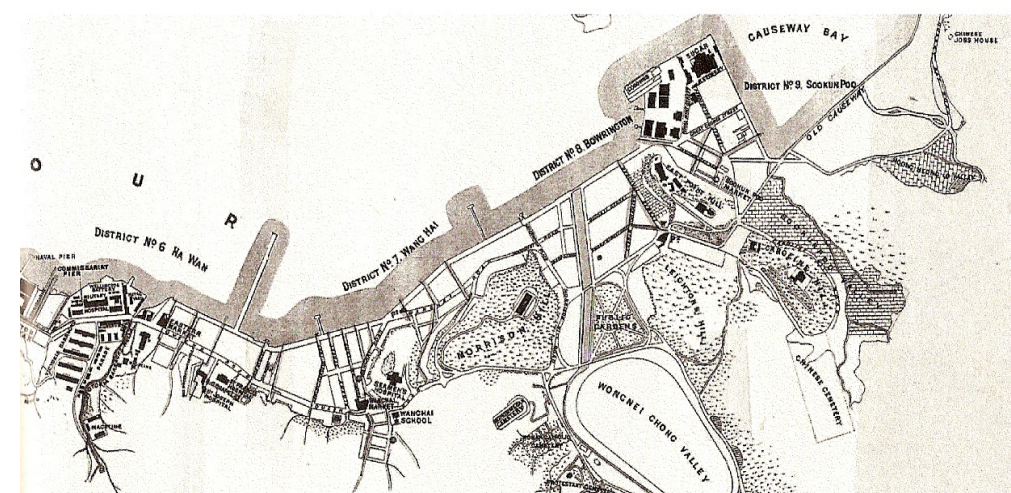
In 1868, Governor John Bowring planned to reclaim today's land between the north of Queen's Road Central and east of Des Voeux Road. The reclaimed land was known as Bowring Praya, which stretched from Wilmer Street to Bonham Strand. At the same time, the Bonham Strand West was formed where the street is also known as Nam Pak Hong Street today. The trams ran along the praya helped us to mark the coast at that time.

In 1875, more land was being reclaimed along Wanchai waterfront. The coast of Kennedy, which was called Lap Sap Wan, was reclaimed in 1878.

In 1874, the Government planned to build a grand praya and carried out a large-scale reclamation along the coast from Hill Road in West Point to Soo Koon Po in the east of Wanchai as indicated in **Plan 1 and 2**. Due to funding shortages and disputes with the existing Marine lot holders and the military over land rights along Praya in Centra, the plan was not carried out until 1887. By that time, the government planned to reclaim the land along the coast from Hill Road to Murray Pier (Murray Road today) in Central. However, there were arguments in the following year, and the work did not put into action until 1889. Reclamation was carried out in stages from 1889 and was completed in 1903.



Plan 1 (何佩然之「地換山移」, 頁 58, 商務印書, 2004 年)



1.41 1880 年代初的維多利亞城。自西至東為石塘咀、西營盤、太平山、上環、中環和中環北、下環、灣仔、寶靈頓及掃桿埔九個區域。沿岸陰影部份為1874年颱風後擬填海地區。

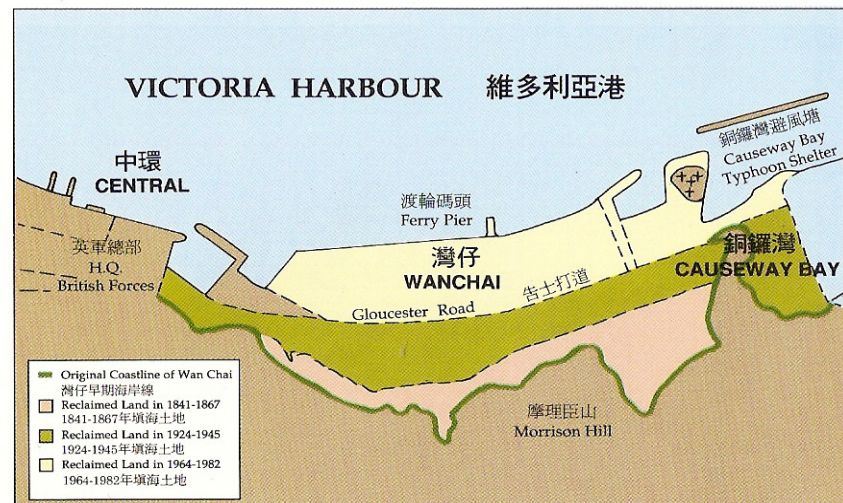
Plan 2 (何佩然之「地換山移」, 頁 59, 商務印書, 2004 年)

Plan 1 and Plan 2 showed the City of Victoria which was divided into 9 districts, Shek Tong Tusi, Sei Ying Poon, Tai Ping Shan, Sheung Wan, Choono Wan, Ha Wan, Wang Hai, Bowrington and Soo Kun Poo during the 1880s. The shaded areas along the coast were planned for reclamation after the typhoon in 1874.

By that time, private companies also helped in carrying out reclaiming land. In 1886, Arthur Edward Kennedy reclaimed the land along the coast of Kennedy Town. The reclaimed narrow coastal strip of land included the Kennedy Praya, and the coastal area from Beach Street via Collinson Street to Shek Tong Tsui. Between 1889-1903, the land stretched from the Naval Dockyard to Sai Ying Poon in north of Bowring Praya was reclaimed. The Praya was then renamed as Des Voeux Road, after the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Des Voeux, at that time. The new road, Connaught Road, was named in favour of the Duke of Connaught who visited Hong Kong in 1890. In between, Chater Road was named in memory of Paul Chater of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company. Between 1933-1939, more lands were being reclaimed along the coastal front of Kennedy Town. Reclamation works was suspended before the Japanese Invasion in 1941.

After the Second World War, more lands were being reclaimed to allow further development along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island. From 1951, a praya was formed from Admiralty to Jubilee Street. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, additional lands were being reclaimed in Central (as indicated in Map 2), the West and Kennedy Town Districts. The original coastline was the marked by the Queen's Road East and West in the Central, West Point, Sai Ying Poon and Kennedy Town Districts.

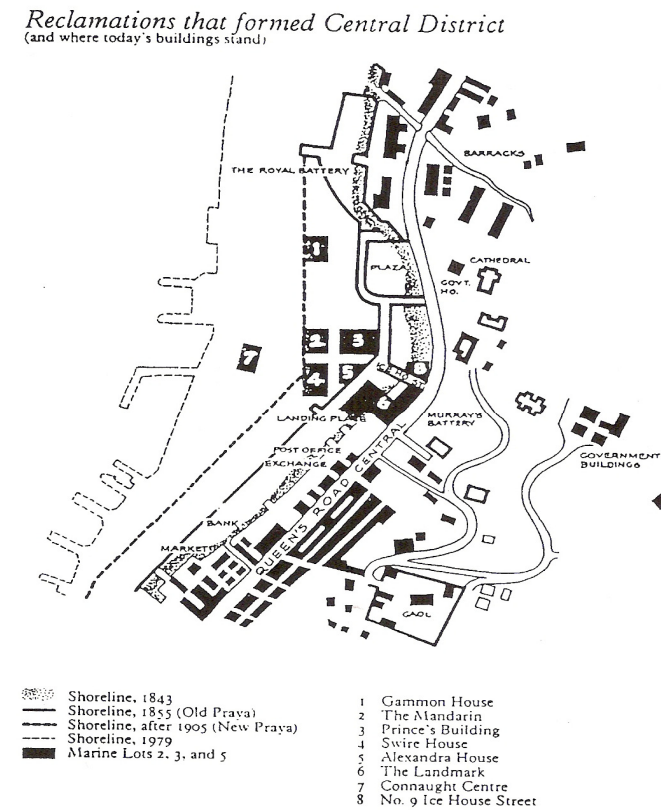
Map 1 showing Reclamation in Wanchai District



6. Map of Wan Chai  
 灣仔地圖

Wanchai District: Its Relics and Legends, Wanchai District Board, March 1992

Map 2 showing Reclamation in Central District



Zhang Zaiyuan and Liiu Shaoyu's, A City Image of Central Hong Kong, 中國計劃出版社, 1997