

A Study on the Usage Change of National Land in Keijo(京城) Focus on Surrounding Area Near #193, 2nd-Hwanggeum- Jeong(黄金町)

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Abstract This study investigates the course of transformation of the capital city of the Korean Empire into a colonial city during the Japanese rule by focusing on state-owned lands at and near #193, 2nd jeongmok(丁目), Hwanggeum-jeong(黄金町) in Keijo(京城). The study reveals that although the colonial rulers had made it apparent that they acted in the benefit of the Korean Empire, in reality, they had taken dexterous and gradual steps to change the purpose of the lands in order to utilize them as desired. Briefly, the usage of the lands was changed several times from Daedong-gurakbu(大同俱樂部) to Gyeongseong Exposition(京城博覽會) and to Nongsanggongbu Office(農商工部) up until the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty. Following this, the lands were bestowed upon the pro-Japanese, including Guijok-hoigwan(貴族會館), as a means of Japan's assimilation policy. The changes in the usage of the buildings on the lands and the land use show how the rulers' intentions were reflected in the space of the ruled.

Keywords: Keijo(京城), Hwanggeum-Jeong(黄金町), National Land(國有地), Land Use, Seoul, Street

1. INTRODUCTION

The land at #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong, Keijo (currently at #181, Euljiro(乙支路) 2-ga, Seoul) and the neighboring lands were originally owned by the government, and the frequent changes of their usage may be a symptom of rapidly changing phases of the times since the late Joseon Dynasty. Since the establishment of the Universal Helpfulness House (UHH, 濟衆院) in 1887, this area was used as a site for hospitals while #195 was used to build Jangakwon(掌樂院) in the Joseon Dynasty (refer to Fig.2). The UHH was then utilized to entertain members of Daedong-gurakbu, a social club comprising Japanese officers and pro-Japan Koreans. In addition, it temporarily provided space for an exposition that was first held in Keijo. For the following two years, the lands became a site of Nongsanggongbu Office, Guijok-hoigwan (a place for Joseon aristocrats to socialize), hospitals and kindergarten. The Japanese adroitly changed the purpose of the

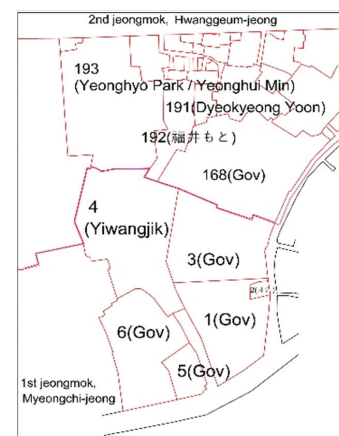


Figure 1. 1912 Cadastral Map

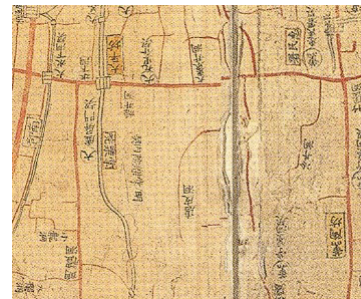


Figure 2. <Dosung Daejido(都城大地圖)>
(presumptively in the late 18th century)

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land use without duly paying the cost, and soon gave the lands to Japan-friendly Koreans. This study aims to investigate the changes

of the land usage at #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong and the reasons for these changes to observe the reshaping process of the city of Keijo under the Japanese rule.

2. CHANGES IN THE USAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS AT AND NEAR #193, 2ND JEONGMOK, HWANGGEUM-JEONG

2.1. Universal Helpfulness House(濟衆院)

Korea's first western medical center, the UHH, opened under the name of Widespread Relief House(廣惠院) northwest of the Constitutional Court of Korea based in Jae-dong. Within a year, however, the hospital was overcrowded with a growing number of patients. H.G. Allen submitted a proposal to the Joseon government to move the public hospital to a larger space in August 1886. In approximately December 1886 to early 1887, it was moved to Gurigae(仇里介). In 1902, the UHH fell into the hands of the Northern Presbyterian Church of the U.S. The UHH then bought a new land at Peach Valley outside Namdaemun(南大門) with financial support from Severance, broke ground on November 27, and moved to the new location on November 16, 1904 with a celebration event on completion.

Table 1. Owners of the Lands at and near #193, Hwanggeum-jeong

District	Beongji (#)	Owner		
		Prior to 1913 (presumptive)	1913 land register	1917 Jijeok (cadastral) list
2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong	168	Gov	Gov	Gov
	191	Gov	Dyeokyeong Yoon	Dyeokyeong Yoon
	192	Gov	福井もと	福井もと
	193	Gov	Yeonghyo Park Yeonghui Min	Yeonghyo Park Yeonghui Min
1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong	1	Gov	Gov	Gov
	2	Seonjung An	Seonjung An	Seonjung An
	3	Gov	Gov	Gov
	4	Gov	Yiwangjik	Changdeok-gung
	5	Gov	Gov	Gov
	6	Gov	Gov	Gov

In 1902 when the moving of the UHH was confirmed, there were discussions regarding the future usage of the land and houses located nearby. One of the options was a regiment station as two additional battalions were planned; however, this did not materialize. On March 4, the land and the buildings indefinitely would oppose their interests. Hayashi(林權助; 1860-1939) was proactive in persuading the government to buy back the land so that Japan could use the UHH and its annexes. In the proposal, he wrote, "It would be good if the tile-roofed house on the higher grounds were used for the councilor's residence, the other house and the open field were used by Daedong-gurakbu(大同俱樂部) and the entire houses on the lower grounds were used by the Joseon government." The councilor referred to D. W. Stevens from the U.S. who then advised the royal family of Joseon. He was an employee

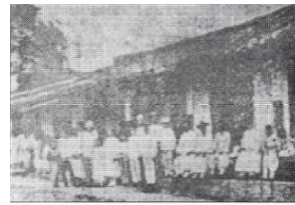


Figure 3. Universal Helpfulness House and its employees



Figure 4. Universal Helpfulness House

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan before becoming the foreign councilor for Joseon in 1904 to represent the interests of Japan. Daedong-gurakbu refers to a social club of Japanese officers and pro-Japan Koreans. Prior to making the proposal to Joseon, the usage of the buildings had already been determined and the price negotiated with an American legation and missionaries. The Joseon government reluctantly accepted Hayashi's proposal, and on April 10, 1905, the chief diplomat Hayoung Lee (李夏榮; 1858-1929) and C. C. Vinton, overseas missionary of the American Presbyterian church, signed an agreement to return the UHH. The agreement stipulated that in return for leaving the UHH, the Joseon government would pay 30,289.90 won, as well as cover a one-year residential cost for the foreign missionaries and a moving cost of 1,700 won. The government was asked to pay for taking back what it had lent because the existing buildings had been renovated or expanded and new buildings had been built to accommodate doctors and employees at a total cost of 11,269.90 won and the remaining 19,020 won was a compensation for an annex in Jeodong[苧洞; 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong(明治町)].

The arrangement and size of the buildings that existed from 1887 to 1904 is not clearly known today. However, one can make an assumption on the basis of an article authored by Hyeonjong Wang et al. that includes photos and documents concerning the moving of the UHH. Based on this data, the UHH is presumed to have used not only the land at 193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong, but also the neighboring state-owned lands and those owned by Yiwangjik(李王職). The 1913 land register shows the land at 191 Hwanggeum-jeong to be under the ownership of Deokyoung Yoon(尹德榮), while the same land was indicated as "dispensary for military police" in <Choesin Gyengseong jeondo(最新京城全圖)> published in 1907. Given these references, the lands that used to belong to the UHH were granted to Japanese-friendly people with #193 bestowed to Younghyo Park(朴泳孝) and Yeonghui Min(閔泳徽) and #191 to Deokyeong Yoon(尹德榮) after the year 1912 when Guijok-hoigwan(貴族會館) was built. #192 was apparently sold to a Japanese person during the same period and is presumed to have been owned by the government prior to this.

A news article regarding renovating the UHH, published after the transfer agreement, reports "The two-storied western house will be used as a residence of Foreign Councilor Stevens and the rest will belong to Daedong-gurakbu, with a repair cost of 3,000 won to be paid by Takjibu(度支部)." The two-story western-style house was at #3, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong, and was occupied by O. R. Avison from 1894. Eva Field Pieters (1868-1932), a leader of the foreign missionaries from the American Northern Presbyterian Church, bought lands and houses in this area from 1899 and built a new western-style house at #1, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong, which faced the Myeongdong Cathedral(明洞聖堂) and was

adjacent to an avenue. In the letter Hayashi wrote proposing future usage of the buildings, “the other house and the open field” presumably referred to Eva’ house and the lands at #4, 5 and #6, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong, which were owned by the government.

The main hospital building and the annexes were hanoks(韓屋). The hanoks were located at #193, Hwanggeum-jeong, and they were located together on grounds of different height as the lay of the land sloped down towards an avenue. It is difficult to determine from the photos whether they were main buildings; however, the gathering is quite sizeable.

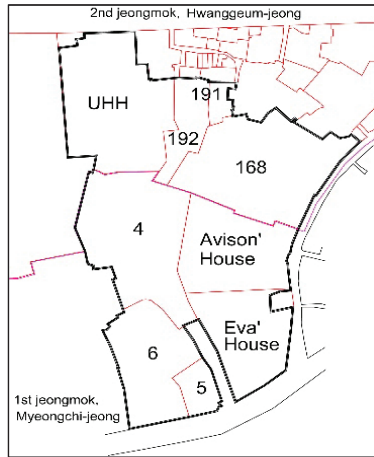


Figure 5. Arrangement of the UHH (presumptive)

2.2. Daedong-gurakbu(大同俱樂部)

Daedong-gurakbu is a social club of pro-Japan Koreans and Japanese government officials. The origin of the group is unknown. According to a news article in 『the Korea Daily News(大韓每日申報)』 published on September 22, 1904, Jaewan Yi was appointed as president of the group. The club moved its location to Daegwanjeong(大觀亭) in Sogong-dong(小公洞) on September 25 of the same year, and moved again to the UHH in 1905, as suggested by Hayashi. It soon started constructing a new building. A news article in 『Mansebo News(萬歲報)』 published on October 31, 1906, reports, “Daedong-gurakbu spent an expense of 28,000 won to build a new home spending 10,000 won for equipment and decorations. The budget falls short by 5,000 won and a new proposal asks the members to donate 10 won or more (...). It is said the signboards of Daedong-gurakbu and Eoyongjeo(御用邸) of Gungnaebu(宮内府; Ministry of Royal Affairs) will be hanging together.”

The façade of the new building can be seen from the photograph published by 『Maeil Shinbo(毎日申報)』 on May 4, 1912, when the building had already been transformed to Guijok-hoigwan. It is commonly known that the building in the photo was located at #193, Hwanggeum-jeong. Another photo that shows the Daedong-gurakbu building is a postcard published in commemoration of the Gyeongseong Exposition in 1907. When compared with the first photo, the building in this photo is seen to be located on

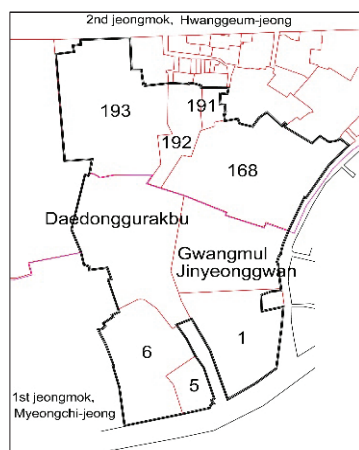


Figure 6. Location of a new Daedong-gurakbu building

higher ground with the façade looking down on the lower grounds.

The location of the photographer should have been higher than the building. Therefore, it makes greater sense to believe that the building was located higher than the land at #193, Hwanggeum-jeong and it should be the open field at #4, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong, rather than Hwanggeum-jeong where there were buildings belonging to the UHH. The newly-built building was a dome-roofed, western-style house with a size of 203 pyeong(平), and an entrance leading from a road between #1 and #5, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong. Later, Daedong-gurakbu was integrated into Namsan-gurakbu(南山俱樂部), as of January 27, 1912, for financial reasons.

2.3. Gyeongseong Exposition(京城博覽會)

As Japan’s efforts to set the directions for and improve the administration of Korea were gaining traction, public opinion was mounting that an exposition must be held by a coalition of Japan and Korea to encourage the develop of a new settlement, and furthermore for the progress of public knowledge and blending of the two peoples. Such opinion prompted Tonggambu(統監府) to step up and negotiate with the Korean government. For Korea, Byeongjun Song(宋秉峻), representing Nongsanggongbu, led the efforts and Takjibu also approved of the plan. As a result, Koreans and Japanese officials started the work in May 1907 and agreed to hold an exposition for two months, from September 15 to November 15, and this was called the ‘Gyeongseong Exposition.’ However, there were ostensible reasons quoted by the Japanese rulers that Japan’s de facto intention to hold the event was to show off the superiority of Japan’s industrial progress to the Koreans, as part of Japan’s economic and cultural invasion policy. Japan utilized the expositions as a means of modernizing the nation and opened 235 expositions, both small and large, in Japan over 15 years after 1903. After Japan deprived the Korean Empire of its sovereignty in 1905, it opened the Hanil Sangpum Exposition(韓日商品博覽會) in Busan(釜山) in May 1906. It entrusted “the work related to exposition company and local or overseas products for display” to Nongsanggongbu in August 1906 when reforming the organizational structure of the government, with the expectation that further expositions would be held.

For the venue, Daedong-gurakbu served as the main office and Gwangmul-Jinyeonggwahn(鑛物陳列館) and the adjacent lands



Figure 7. Daedong-gurakbu-turned Joseon Guijok-hoigwan

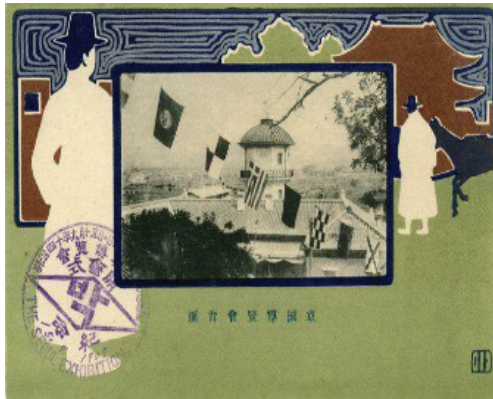


Figure 8. Daedonggurakbu in a Gyeongseong Exposition postcard

were borrowed to provide for the exposition halls with a size of 3,000 pyeong(平). Four halls for display and one hall for shows were built at a cost of 17,600 won. Display Hall A was rectangular and 45 pyeong(平), Display Hall B and C were square-shaped and 120 pyeong each, and Display Hall D was rectangular and 84 pyeong. The show room's shape and size are unknown. Presumably, Daedong-gurakbu was the head office, Gwangmul-Jinyeongwan was at #3, and the halls were at #1, 5, and #6 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong as well as #168, 191 and #192, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong.

2.4. Nongsanggongbu Government Office(農商工部 官廳)

Nongsanggongbu used to be based in a rented building in Hojo(舊戶曹), the southernmost, east of Yookjo Street(六曹大路), in the early stages of the Korean Empire. With the hosting of Gyeongseong Exposition (1907), Nongsanggongbu started to use the exposition building in Hwanggeum-jeong for their office in December 1907. However, prior to this, it had used the building since May 1906. The residence of Foreign Councilor Stevens was converted to Gwangmul-Jinyeongwan after Kochibe Tadauke(巨智部忠承), a mineralogist, requested an official of Nongsanggongbu to build Gwangmul-Jinyeongwan, and the residence was moved to another location. In other words, on the ex-UHH lands lay both Daedong-gurakbu and the mining office of Nongsanggongbu. The letters 'Gwangmu-gigwan(鑛務技官) Gwanbang(官房; official residence)' shown on the location at #6 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong on the map of <Choesin Gyeongseong jeondo(最新京城全圖)> in 1907 indicate that it was a government office. The display hall was supposed to be replaced by a museum; however, it appears that this did not materialize. Combined with these research results, <Gyeongseong siga jeondo(京城市街全圖)>, published in 1910, and <Yongsan habbyeong Gyeongseong sigajeondo(龍山合併京城市街全圖)>, published in 1914, indicate that the Fishery Office and Mining Office of Nongsanggongbu utilized the main building of Daedong-gurakbu, ex-Evison's house, and the ex-UHH hanok(韓屋) building and its neighboring lands. The use was temporary as they planned to move to new buildings that were under construction on the land of Garvison Hospital(衛戍病院) in 1908. The construction was complete in August 1910, however it is unknown if Nongsanggongbu actually moved to the building, as the ministry existed until the end of 1910 as a result of the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty.

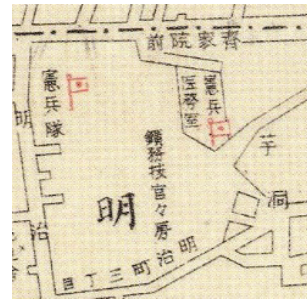


Figure 9. <Choesin Gyeongseong jeondo(最新京城全圖)> (1907)

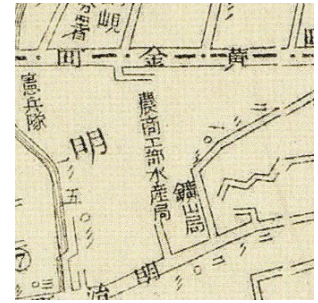


Figure 10. <Gyeongseong siga jeondo(京城市街全圖)> (1910)

One cannot help but believe that Japan had an agenda of its own, given that a Japanese legation went so far as to recommend a site for Daedong-gurakbu, which did not require such a large space as a private club, and that Japan constructed new buildings on lands that they did not own. Part of the buildings were used by Nongsanggongbu, however the Korean official Byeongjun Song was pro-Japan and strongly supported Japan's intentions, including the holding of the expositions. In addition, Gwangmul-jinyeongwan was a place for Japanese officials. In other words, Japan let Nongsanggongbu use the buildings to maintain a close relationship with pro-Japan Koreans. The expositions were also Japan's way of showing its superiority, and one can assume that Hayashi already had the idea in mind when proposing the usage of the UHH lands to the Korean government in 1905. The changes of the usage from Daedong-gurakbu to Gyeongseong Exposition and to Nongsanggongbu seem to be Japan's intention to use the state-owned lands at their discretion during the period of the Korean Empire and before the annexation and confiscation of the lands.

2.5. Guijok-hoigwan(貴族會館)

On August 29, 1910, Japan announced the Royal Decree 14 'Joseon Guijok-ryeong(朝鮮貴族令)' and bestowed the titles of Marquess, Count, Viscount, and Baron to high-ranking officials of the Korean Empire as selected from a pool of officials who were the relatives of the royal family (not the royal family itself), were of good lineage, or had accumulated distinguished service. In October of the same year, Japan established Joseon Guijok-hoigwan, a copy of Japan Kajoku-hoigwan(華族會館), and discussed the appointment of Wanyong Yi(李完用) and Joongeung Cho(趙重應) to the leadership. The Japanese Government General of Korea approved it sometime between late July 1911 and early August 1911, and Joseon Guijok-hoigwan held an inaugural general meeting at Daedong-gurakbu on September 9 and appointed Yeonghyo Park as chairman, Yeonghui Min as vice chairman, and Wanyong Yi, Joongeung Cho, Jonghan Kim, and Seokju Jang as directors. The Guijok-hoi took an endowment of 20,000 won from each member to finance the purchase and repair costs of the ex-Nongsanggongbu building and entrusted Seokju Jang with the repair work. On January 22 1912, Joseon Guijok-hoi threw an official inauguration ceremony. In the 1913 land register, #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong was registered under the names Yeonghyo Park and Yeonghui Min. However, it does not seem that they actually paid for it, but rather exploited it in a form

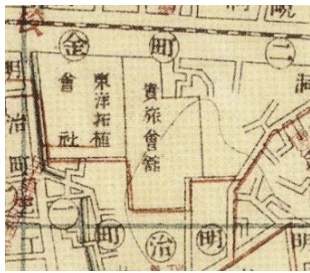


Figure 11. <Gyeongseongbu sigaganggyedo(京城府市街疆界圖)> (1914)

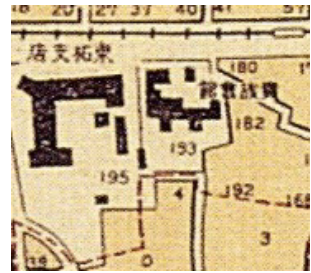


Figure 12. <Gyeongseong sigado (京城市街圖)> (1933)



Figure 13. <Gyeongseong Jeongmil Jido (京城精密地圖)> (1933)



Figure 14. <Daegyeongseongbu daegwan(大京城府大觀)> (1936)

of bestowment that had been owned by the Korean government. During these times, Japan enforced an assimilation policy for the Joseon people and used Joseon Guijokhoi as a means to reach to the people. The land at #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong seems to have been given to Guijok-hoigwan, and #168 and #191 to Deokyeong Yoon in return.

<Gyeongseongbu sigaganggyedo (京城府市街疆界圖)>, Street Map of the Frontier of Seoul (1914), indicates that # 193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong and the nearby #191 (owned by Deokyeong Yoon) and #192 (owned by 福井もと), part of #168 and #3 and #4 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong were the territory of Guijok-hoigwan. Since maps created during the Japanese rule do

not show the existence of large buildings at #1, 5 and #6, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong, it seems that the lands and the buildings belonged to the government and were used by Guijok-hoigwan. The 1933 <Gyeongseong sigado (京城市街圖)> made #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong a Guijok-hoigwan.

Years later, however, <Daegyeongseongbu daegwan (大京城府大觀)>, a map of Keijo published in 1936, was

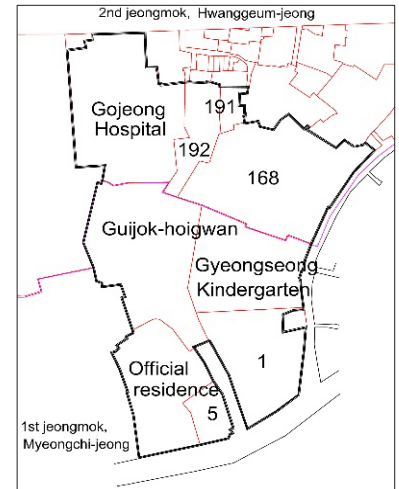


Figure 15. Location of the building in the 1930s

marked with 'Gojeong Hospital(高井病院)' at #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong, and in the 『Daegyeongseong Photobook (大京城寫真帖)』, published in 1937, a Japanese-style building with a signboard that clearly reads 'Gojeong Doctor's office(高井醫院)' is identifiable at the same address. It can be assumed that Guijok-hoi, now engaged in fewer activities, only used the main building at #4, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong and rented out the remaining buildings. A further example is the 1933 <Gyeongseong Jeongmil Jido (京城精密地圖)> that marked 'Gyeongseong Kindergarten(京城幼稚園)' at #168, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong, and at #3, 1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong. The kindergarten was established as part of the assimilation policy that was discussed in the New Year's ceremony meeting held in Guijok-hoigwan on January 19 1913. The kindergarten was inaugurated on April 7 1913 at a place rented from Gyeongseong Girls' High School before moving to a newly built building in Insa-dong(仁寺洞) on May 11 1914. A news article published by the 『Dong-A Ilbo(東亞日報)』 on July 17 1932 reports, "Gyeongseong Kindergarten, located in Insa-dong, Keijo, was founded for the sake of Joseon children (...)." This article

Table 2. Changes in the usage of state-owned lands at and near #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong by period

District	Period	1887~1905	1906~1911	1907.9.1.~1907.11.15	1906~1910	1912~?	1930~?	1933~?
	Usage Beonji(#)	UHH	Daedong-gurakbu and Nongsangongbu			Guijok-hoigwan		
			Daedong-gurakbu	Gyeongseong Exposition	Nongsangongbu	Guijok-hoigwan	Gojeong Hospital	Gyeongseong Kindergarten
2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong	168	UHH	-	Display Hall	Nongsangongbu	Guijok-hoigwan	-	Gyeongseong Kindergarten
	191	UHH	Dispensary room for military police	Display Hall	Nongsangongbu	Guijok-hoigwan	-	-
	192	UHH	-	Display Hall	Nongsangongbu	Guijok-hoigwan	-	-
	193	Main building	-	-	Nongsangongbu	Guijok-hoigwan	Gojeong Hospital	-
1st jeongmok, Myeongchi-jeong	1	Eva' House	Daedong-gurakbu	-	Nongsangongbu	?	-	-
	3	Avison' House	Steven	Display Hall	Gwangmul Jinyeongwan	?	-	Gyeongseong Kindergarten
	4	UHH	Main building	Display Hall Main building	Main building	Guijokhoigwan Main building	-	-
	5	UHH	-	Display Hall	Gov' office	?	-	-
	6	UHH	-	Display Hall	Gov' office	official redence	-	-

indicates that the kindergarten was based in Insa-dong until then and was moved to a new location, wherein the building was not newly built, but existed before then.

From the 1920s, Joseon Guijok rapidly collapsed to a point where the Japanese Government General of Korea started to provide financial support. Joongeung Cho (unknown-1919), Wanyong Yi (1858-1926), and Yeonghui Min (1852-1932) died and there was no one left to lead Guijokhoi. For financial reasons, the lands and buildings that belonged to Guijok-hoigwan were rented out, and Gyeongseong Kindergarten sold the land and the building and moved to an annex of Guijok-hoigwan.

Following liberation, the land at #193 Hwanggeum-jeong, previously owned by Yeonghyo Park and Yeonghui Min, was given back to the government.

3. CONCLUSIONS

This study investigates how the capital of the Korean Empire fell to become a colonial city using an example of the lands at and in the vicinity of #193, 2nd jeongmok, Hwanggeum-jeong, Keijo. This study reveals that although the colonial rulers had made it apparent that they acted for the benefit of the Korean Empire, in reality, they had taken dexterous and gradual steps to change the purpose of the lands so that they could utilize them as desired (refer to Table 2). The usage of the lands changed several times, from Daedong-gurakbu to the Gyeongseong Exposition and the Nongsanggongbu Office, up until the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty. After this, the lands were bestowed upon the pro-Japanese, including Guijok-hoigwan, as a means of Japan's assimilation policy. This study has significance in that the changes in the usage of the buildings on the lands at and in the vicinity of #193 Hwanggeum-jeong show how the rulers' intentions were reflected in the space of the ruled.

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