A detailed historical map of Hong Kong Harbour, showing the coastline, water depths, and surrounding land areas. The map is oriented with North at the top. In the upper left corner, there is a circular emblem with a crown and the text 'HONGKONG HARBOUR' below it. The map includes various navigational aids, such as compass roses and depth soundings. The title 'HONGKONG HARBOUR' is prominently displayed in the upper left corner.

HONGKONG HARBOUR

# WATERFRONTS AS HISTORY





Hidden in this...



...is the palimpsest of this







Lieutenants H.E. Parry Capt. C.H. Simpson J.F. Parry & C.H.A. Oving  
under the direction of  
COMMANDER W.C. NOBLE & E.D. SAMUEL  
December 1886 to March 1887

Palau Pier 7, Lat. 2° 10' 22" N, Long. 134° 5' 43" E.  
 Transit Instruments, Observatory, Lat. 2° 10' 22" N, Long. 134° 5' 25" E.

HWT &amp; C.I.R.® Support your business. The way it should.

Lights: F Flare, Fl. Flaring, Rd. Roundness, Rev. Revolving,  
 i. inner, f. fine, g. ground, m. much, s. such, a. sand, sh. shaft, st. stone, wd. wood  
 All numbers are numbered in first column. With Name. (German)

**All Services are Free:**

## SOUNDING IN FEET

The soundings are indicated in the State of an exceptionally low Spring Tide according to a Bar 4 in on the Royal Naval Chart, High Tide.

[illegible]

**...a starting point still clearly readable in the roads on this chart of 1880...**

Scale of Latitude and Distance

Scale of Longitude

**The process of a more wholesale erasure  
began ten years later with the great Praya  
reclamation of 1887-1893...**





A historical black and white photograph showing a busy waterfront construction site. In the background, a row of large, multi-story buildings with classical architectural features like arches and columns stands along the shore. A prominent church with a tall, ornate steeple is visible among these buildings. The middle ground is dominated by a large, open area where construction is taking place. There are several large, dark, rectangular structures, possibly foundations or early building frames, and a network of wooden scaffolding and beams. Numerous workers in period clothing are scattered throughout the site, some standing in groups, others moving materials. In the foreground, there are large piles of lumber, stone, and other construction materials. To the right, the water is filled with many sailing ships of various sizes, their masts and rigging creating a dense forest of vertical lines. The overall scene depicts a major urban expansion project, likely the construction of the Sydney Opera House waterfront in the mid-20th century.

...when the waterfront began  
marching seawards...

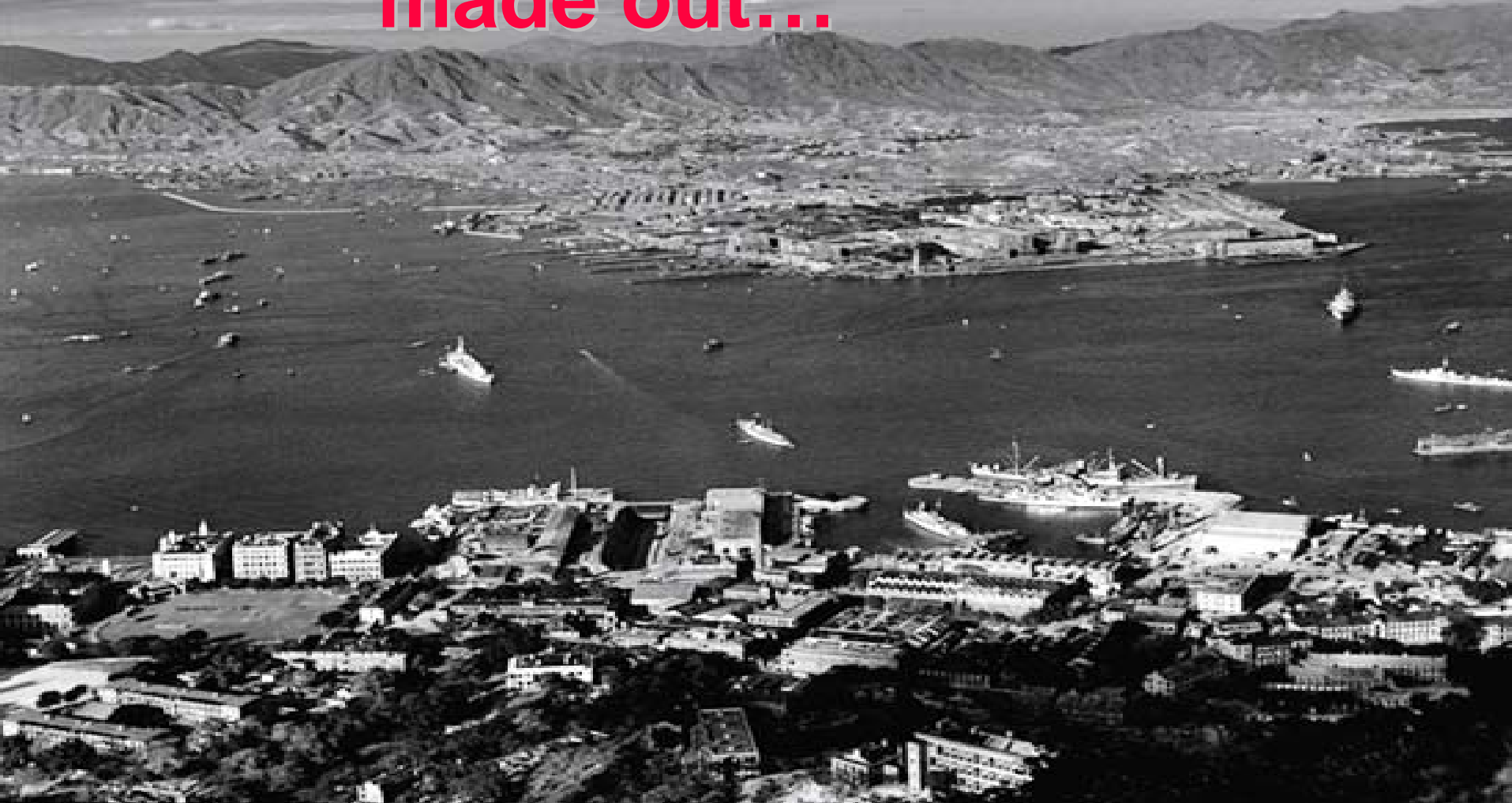
... slowly...





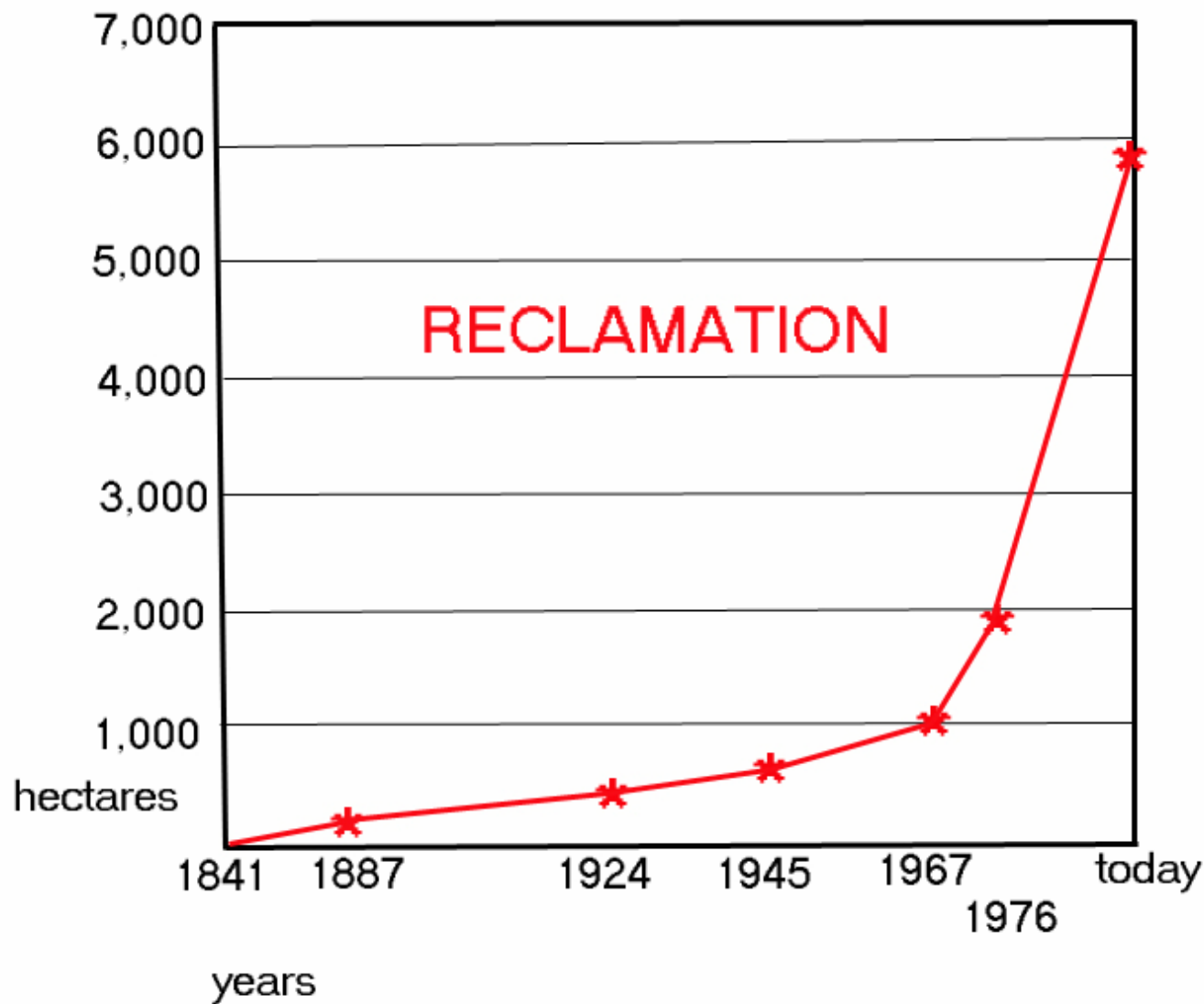
...but so slowly  
that nearly 50  
years later Pedder  
Street still came  
down to the sea....

**...and Hong Kong's earliest  
shorelines could still be  
made out...**



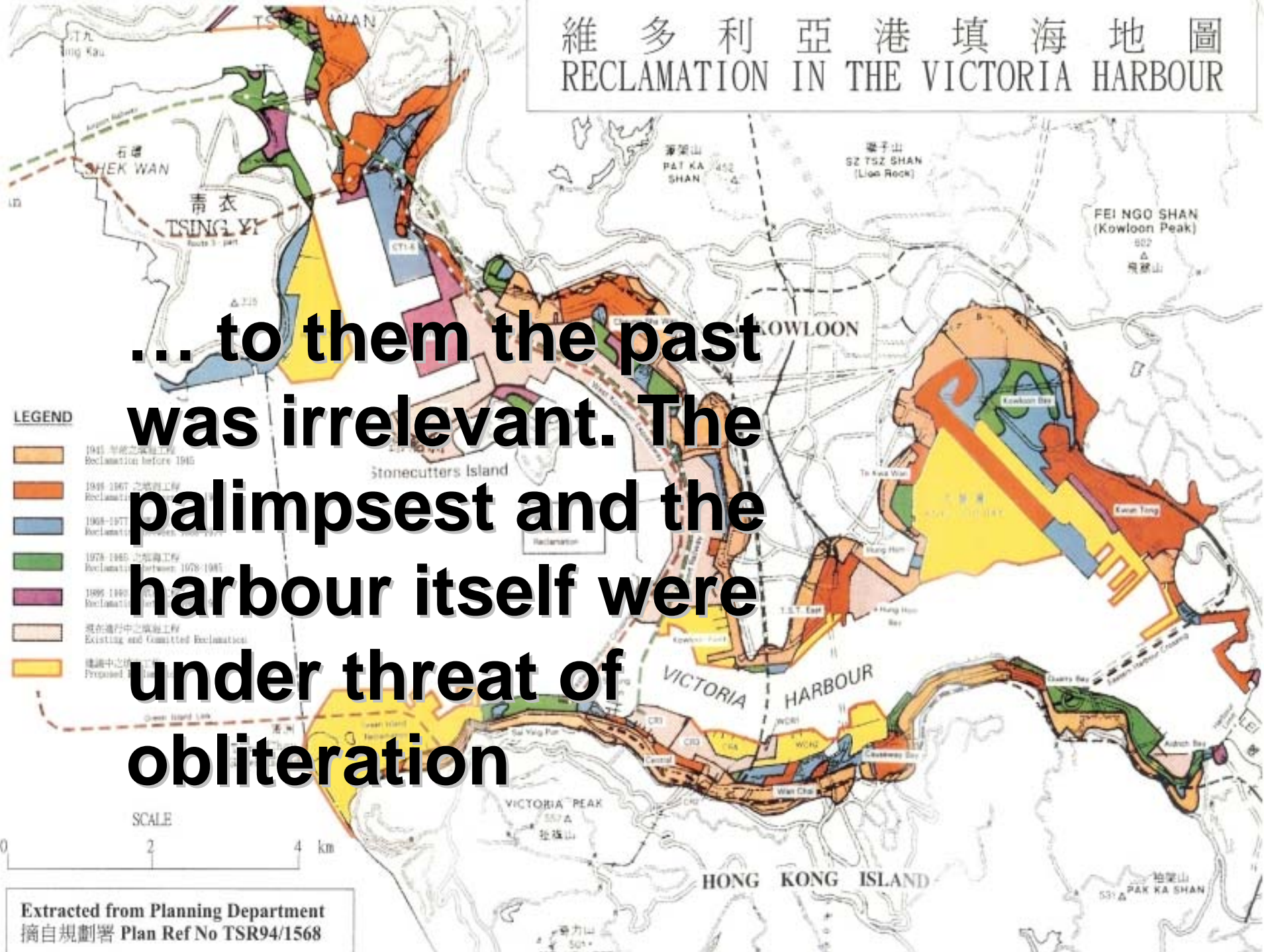


**...that was until, in 1967, Hong Kong's road transport lobby, property developers and government planners really got down to work...**




# 維多利亞港填海地圖 RECLAMATION IN THE VICTORIA HARBOUR

... to them the past  
was irrelevant. The  
palimpsest and the  
harbour itself were  
under threat of  
obliteration







The image is an aerial photograph of Hong Kong Harbour. A red line traces the coastline, showing the extent of land reclamation. In the top left corner, there is a historical map inset titled 'HONGKONG HARBOUR' with a compass rose and various navigational details. The main map shows the dense urban landscape of Hong Kong Island and the surrounding waters. Two text boxes with arrows pointing to the coastline provide context about the harbour's history and future plans.

# HONGKONG HARBOUR

That's why, instead  
of 2.2km, as in  
1880...

...in 2007 the Star Ferry will go  
0.8km, some of the earliest  
shoreline is barely discernible, lost  
up to 1km from the sea and most of  
today's waterfront is inaccessible





# RESCUE THE PRESENT WITH THE PAST

- Use the older waterfronts and the stories they can tell to assert the value of today's harbour

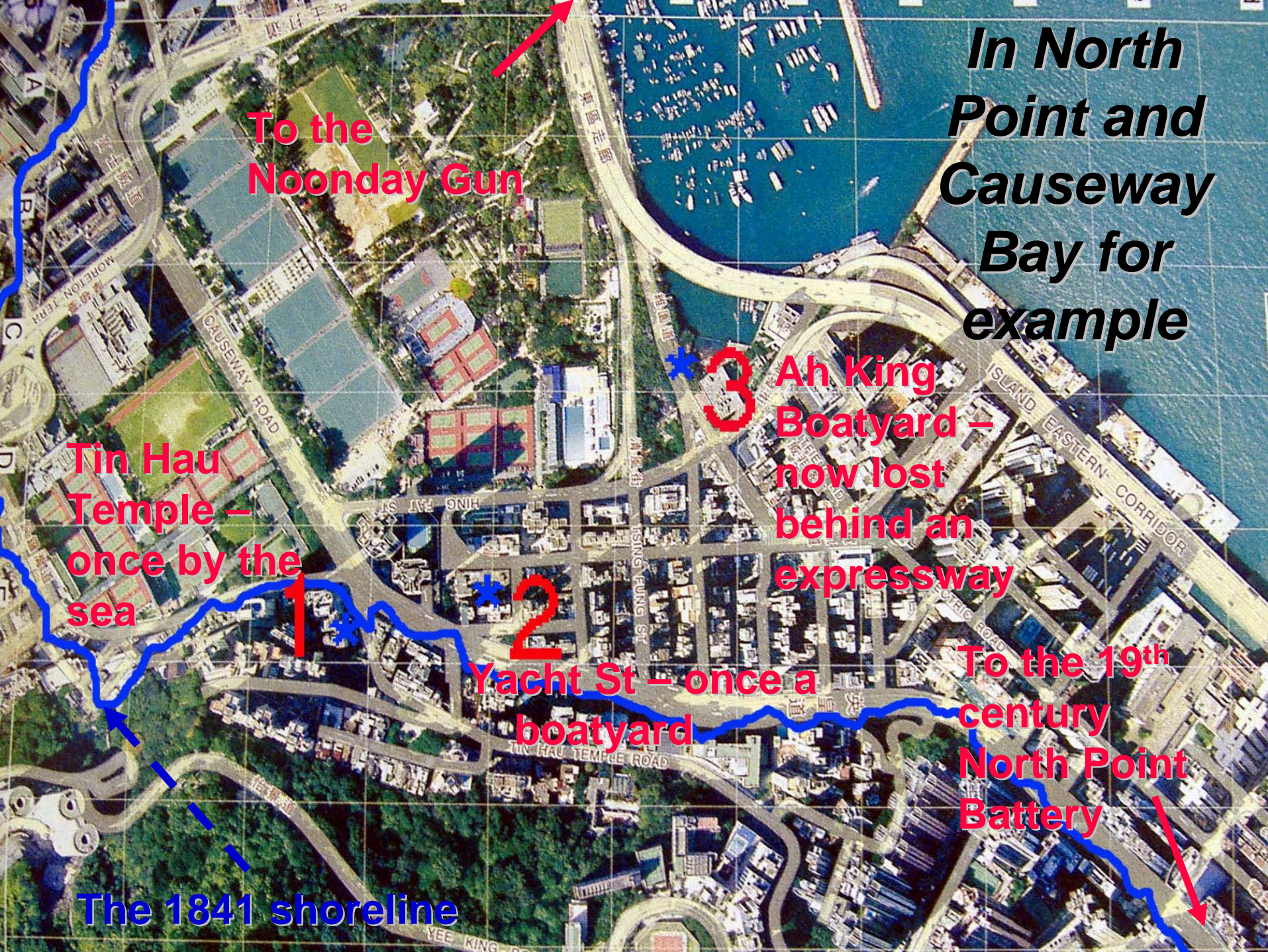


# Create Heritage Shorelines

- Identify significant early shorelines with plaques every 200m







To the Noonday Gun

*In North Point and Causeway Bay for example*

Tin Hau Temple – once by the sea

3 Ah King Boatyard – now lost behind an expressway

2 Yacht St – once a boatyard

To the 19th century North Point Battery

The 1841 shoreline



# Create Heritage Shoreline Trails

- Mark narrative points for audio- or print guides.
- Use well designed panels with brief, informative text.

## No. 1 TIN HAU TEMPLE

This is one of the oldest temples in Hong Kong, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

It was built here, close to the sea, by the Hakka Tai family, members of which had found a statue of Tin Hau in the rocks on the shore nearby and who still manage the temple.

Tin Hau, the Empress of Heaven, is the patron deity of Hong Kong's boat people whose money paid for the temple to be built



- Link old shoreline through newer to today's

Use Hong Kong's historic  
waterfronts to connect past to  
present.

Let one of the most beautiful  
harbours in the world tell its  
story.