

# Investigations on the Formation of Settlement Parks during the Settlement Era(1845~1943) in Shanghai

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## ABSTRACT

The settlement era(1845~1943) in Shanghai was divided as periods parting point by the establishment of habitats, the establishment of the International Settlement and its two times expansions, the establishment of the French Settlement and its three times expansions. Investigations on the formation process and its characteristics of two settlement parks during each period were carried out. The formation process of Shanghai settlement park was divided simply into the settlement park foundation time correspond to the settlement expansion time(the International Settlement was from 1845 to 1898, the French Settlement was from 1849 to 1913) and the settlement park development time after the settlement expansion(the International Settlement is from 1899 to 1943, the French Settlement is from 1914 to 1943) by the characteristics such as its forming time, quantity and distribution.

*Key Words: Settlement Parks, Investigation, Formation, Settlement Era, Shanghai*

## I. Introduction

Settlement in Shanghai is the one which was founded the earliest among all the settlements in modern China. With its longest existing period, largest area and most sufficient development of management institutions, it is the most typical one. In order to enhance the city scenery and meet the demands of foreign emigrants, up to 1943, the settlement authorities had built 22 parks. As the investigation object of this paper, the formation of these 22 settlement parks in Shanghai parallel the period when the society of modern China was experiencing intensive changes. Thus, this investigation has great significance in understanding city park development history of modern China profoundly and further analyzing the changes in space form of modern Landscape Architecture resulted from the changes of social institution.

In the previous studies on settlement parks in Shanghai, the main studies which were Goro Yanagi<sup>1)</sup>(1985) made analysis research in relevant literature information of the effect of International Settlement's autonomy administration

on the park configuration: Shaozeng Wang<sup>2)</sup>(1982) summarized the general situation, management and functions of major parks and open spaces, the design modes of some parks during the settlement era in Shanghai, Which are the basic information for understanding the settlement parks in Shanghai. The above mentioned reports haven't made a systematic study of the formation of Shanghai settlement parks. This investigation set the formation and numbers of regional expansions of International Settlement and French Settlement during the settlement era in Shanghai as the dividing points of the era, made research in the formation of the settlement parks in different period of the settlement era, the aim of which was to provide required basic research information for clarifying the changes of the settlement parks during the settlement era in Shanghai.

## II. Investigation and Research Methods

### 1. Investigation Methods and Contents

In a total of 32 days, from 15th to 30th August in 2006 and from 10th to 25th February in 2007, we visited Shanghai Landscaping Administration Bureau, Shanghai Library, Shanghai Municipal Archive and major existing settlement parks in Shanghai. In the investigation of literature information of the settlement parks in Shanghai, *Shanghai Settlement Annals*<sup>3)</sup> and *Shanghai Landscape Architecture Annals*<sup>4)</sup> are our basic materials with references including *Annual Report of the Municipal Council of International Settlement*<sup>5)</sup> and *French Settlement*<sup>6)</sup> in Shanghai. The formation and regional expansion of the settlement in Shanghai the formation process of the settlement parks in Shanghai were identified as the investigation contents.

## 2. Research Methods and Contents

On the basis of perinvestigation results, the settlement era was divided as periods parting point by the establishment of habitats, the establishment of the International Settlement and it's two times of expansions, the establishment of the French Settlement and it's three times of expansions. A summary has been made for the formation process of the settlement parks in different periods(Figure 1, 2<sup>7)</sup>). And then make analysis of its characteristics.

## III. Settlements in Shanghai<sup>8)</sup>

After Britain established the first block of settlement of modern China in Shanghai in 1845, the US and France also established their settlements. In 1863, the UK-US Settlement was united formally which called the Foreign Settlement (renamed as the International Settlement in 1870). The French Settlement became independent in 1869. After numbers of expansions and Outside Roads, the International Settlement and the French Settlement had controlled most areas except the areas within the Chinese City of Shanghai. In 1943, the government of China signed treaties with Britain and America respectively, canceling the exterritoriality of foreign countries in China. Thus, the settlement era in Shanghai ended.

## IV. Formation of the Settlement Parks in Shanghai

### 1. Formation of the Settlement Parks in the International Settlement Area

1) From the establishment of habitats to the establishment of International Settlement(1845~1869)

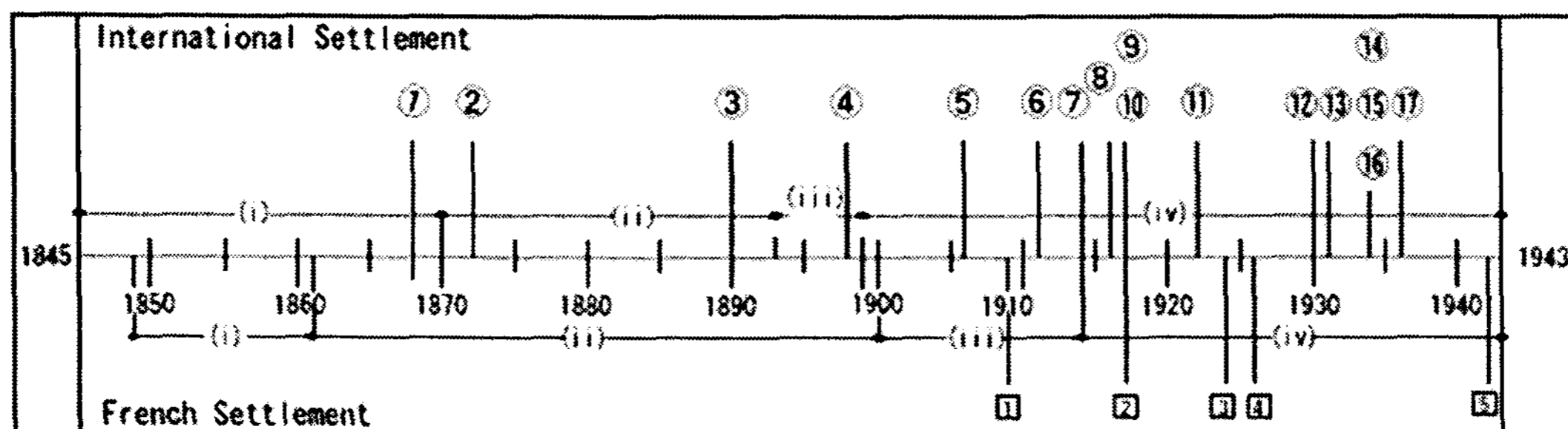


Figure 1. Map of Shanghai Settlement Parks Formation

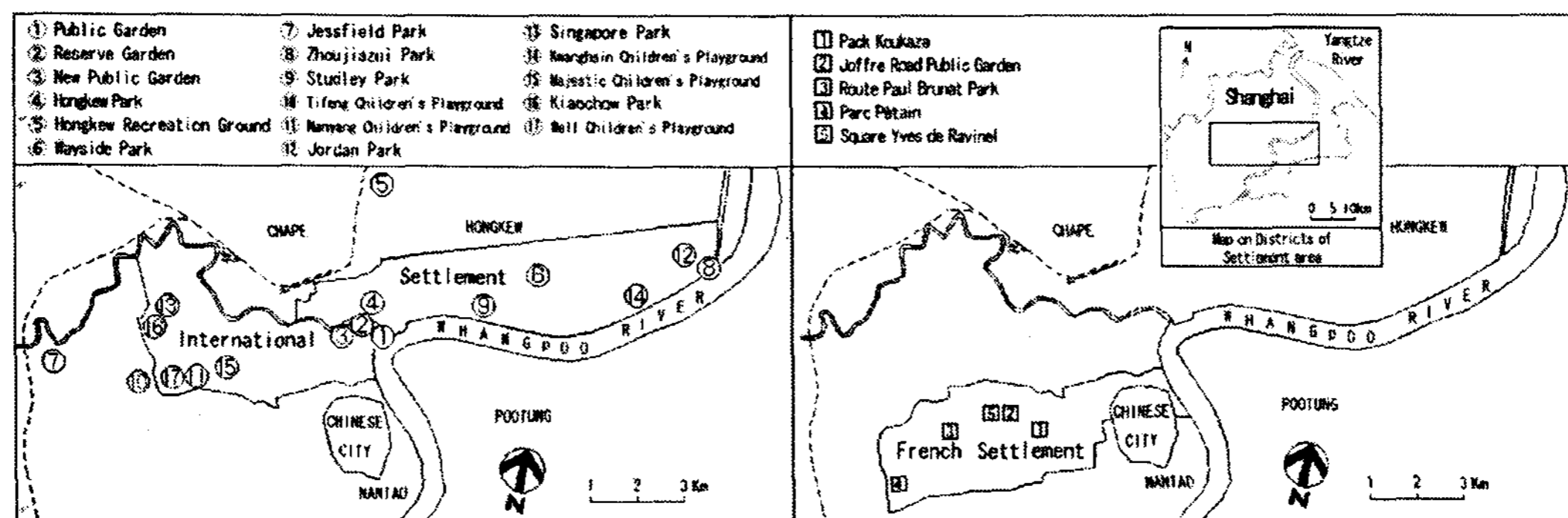


Figure 2. Map of Shanghai Settlement Parks Distribution

After China and UK signed the Treaty of Nanjing and the Treaty of the Bogue, the first British consul in Shanghai signed the Shanghai Land Regulation with Shanghai Taotai, which divided the habitats of British businessmen and established the first block of settlement in modern China. In 1848, Shanghai Taotai agreed with the establishing the US Settlement in Hongkew raised by the American missionary. In 1854, the management institution - Shanghai Municipal Council(SMC) was established to manage the UK, US and French Settlement. In 1863, the US Settlement was formally established and the UK-US Settlement was united in the same year which called the Foreign Settlement<sup>9)</sup>.

In 1864, SMC planned to reconstruct The Bund and the bund-line of the Soochow Creek, and to establish a Public Garden ① on the bottomland at the south of the estuary. The project was approved at the Rate Payers' Meeting held in 1865, and the construction funds came from Trustee of the Recreation Fund. On 8<sup>th</sup> August in 1868, the park was open to the foreigner formally. The Chinese are used to call it as Foreign Garden or Bund Park<sup>10)</sup>.

## 2) From the Establishment of the International Settlement to the first expansion(1870~1892)

In 1870, the Foreign Settlement was renamed as the International Settlement formally<sup>11)</sup>. In 1872, SMC built a flowerbed at the west side of the south end of Garden Bridge, in order to provide the Public Garden with plants and open to the public, so its name is Reserve Garden ②<sup>12)</sup>. After the establishment of the Public Garden, the Chinese were not allowed to enter into the park, fearing for increasing fighting emotion from the public, the special Rate Payers' Meeting held in 1889 decided to establish a park which would allow the Chinese to enter on Ince's Foreshore along the Soochow Creek. In the same year, the British businessmen who had the property right of this land agreed to offer this piece of land for free. The park was established in the same year and was open to the public in 1890. Because it has a pattern as Public Garden, it was named as New Public Garden ③. However, people inside the settlement authorities called this park Chinese Park<sup>13)</sup>.

## 3) From the first expansion to the second expansion(1893~1898)

The settlement boundary was not set when the US Settlement was established in 1863. The US consul G.F.SEAVARD

advocated the north boundary in Hongkew Settlement in 1873, which was known as SEAVARD Line later. In 1893, the county magistrate of Shanghai and deputy consul general of the US made a field survey in Hongkew boundary and set the boundary of Hongkew US Settlement according to SEAVARD Line approximately. Therefrom, the International Settlement made its first expansion<sup>14)</sup>. In 1895, the SMC obtained a block of badlands on Quinsan Road from the Chinese local authority and purchased a block of neighbouring land from Foreign-invested Shanghai Land Investment Ltd., preparing to build a park and the construction began in the same year. In 1898, the park was named as Hongkew Park ④ when it was open to the public. In 1906, part of Hongkew Recreation Ground was open to the public and it was re-named as Quinsan Square or Quinsan Children's Playground<sup>15)</sup>.

## 4) From the second expansion to the end of settlement era(1899~1943)

In 1899, acting consul general of UK submitted an expansion agreement of the International Settlement to the British minister. Hereafter, the Rate Payers' held a temporary meeting to pass the proposal of adopting new boundary presumptuously and submitted it to the chief consul. The chief consul would notify the SMC that the settlement expansion agreement and the amended Shanghai Land Regulation had been approved by the Ministry and Chinese Government. Therefrom, the International Settlement completed its second expansion. In 1943, the Chinese government signed agreements with UK and US respectively, which cancelled the extraterritoriality of foreign countries in China and handed back the administration management power of the International Settlement to China. In the same year, Wang Jingwei Government took over the French Settlement and the International Settlement. Thus, the settlement era ended<sup>16)</sup>. During this period, the SMC totally established 13 parks.

In 1896, SMC crossed the boundary and enclosed a piece of land for built a shooting range. In 1901, SMC agreed to establish a park near the shooting range with some funds provided by Trustee of the Recreation Fund. The SMC started the construction in 1902. The park was called Hongkew Recreation Ground ⑤, when some part of it was open to the public in 1906, and it was completely open in 1909<sup>17)</sup>.

In 1908, SMC decided to establish a park on Wayside Road.

In 1911, the park was open to the public and called Wayside Park ⑥<sup>18)</sup>.

During 1860~1862, the UK Settlement crossed the boundary and built Jessfield Road by force. The British land agent J. Hogg brother bought a large piece of land beside Jessfield Road at a low price. Shortly they built a country villa at the south side of the road. Hogg sold this property to the other in 1879. In 1914, Trustee of the Recreation Fund suggested to SMC that it could be used as a park open to the emigrants if buying this property with some rearrangements. In the same year, the Rate Payers' Meeting approved to buy this property as the core part of the newly-constructed landscape park and botanical garden. The park was open to the public that year and it was named as Jessfield Park ⑦<sup>19)</sup>.

In 1912, the tap water company of the British businessmen near Zhoujiazui region suggested the SMC hire the company land to establish a park in order to meet the demand of the foreigners living nearby. In 1915, the SMC hired this piece of land and began to construct the park. The park was constructed and open to the public in 1916, called Zhoujiazui Park ⑧<sup>20)</sup>.

In 1911, some western emigrants collected some money and hired a block of area on Wayside Road to establish a children playground for the emigrants. In 1917, the SMC bought this block of land and reconstructed it as a park open to foreign children, called Studley Park ⑨<sup>21)</sup>. In the same year, the SMC purchased a piece of land at the northwest corner of the intersection of Yuyuan Road and Tifeng Road in order to build a female school. Because the construction project might not be started in a short term, it was decided to divide a piece of land to establish a children's park. The construction was completed in 1917 and the park was open to foreigners. It was named as Tifeng Children's Playground ⑩<sup>22)</sup>.

In 1921, the SMC purchased a piece of area on Nanyang Road to establish a park. The park was open to the public formally in 1922 and was called Nanyang Children's Playground ⑪<sup>23)</sup>.

Approximately in 1930, the SMC purchased several blocks of land on Boyang Road and planned to establish Jordan Park ⑫. During 1933~1934, it again successively purchased neighboring two blocks of land, which was connected with the existing land. However, the park was not constructed finally<sup>24)</sup>.

In 1930, the SMC purchased land along Singapore Road and planned to establish a sports park here. Approximately at

the end of the year, some part of the land was divided to establish a children's park. The park was open to the public in 1931 and was called Singapore Park ⑬<sup>25)</sup>.

In 1934, a sisterhood negotiated with an owner to lease a piece of area eastward along Kwanghsin Road to the SMC for free, in order to establish a children's playground. The SMC accepted the proposal and the construction started that year. It was called Kwanghsin Children's Playground ⑭<sup>26)</sup>. In the same year under the request of a sisterhood, the SMC negotiated with Sassoon Company to agree for lending a subsidiary court of Majestic Restaurant on Majestic Road for free, in order to reconstruct it as a children's playground. In 1934, the construction started and it was open to the public. It was called Majestic Children's Playground ⑮<sup>27)</sup>. During 1931~1932, the SMC purchased a piece of land on the west side of Kiaochow Road. Some parts of the land were used for extending and widening the road, and others were used for establish a park. The children's park was first open in 1934. Next year the whole park was open to the public after completion and was called Kiaochow Park ⑯<sup>28)</sup>.

In 1936, the Municipal Council divided west part of a land located on Bubbling Well Road to establish Bubbling Well Children's Playground ⑰. The east part of the land was used as a stadium for the adult<sup>29)</sup>.

## 2. Formation of the Settlement Parks in the French Settlement Area

1) From the establishment of the French Settlement to the first expansion(1849~1860)

2) From the first expansion to the second expansion(1861~1899)

In 1849, the first French consul in Shanghai negotiated with Shanghai Taotai to establish the French Settlement. After then, the French insisted on independent administration of the French Settlement in order to maintain its own interests. After the first expansion in 1861, the French Settlement established Municipality France(MF) which was an independent municipal institution, and the French Settlement became a settlement specifically managed by France in 1869<sup>30)</sup>. During the period from 1) to 2), there was not park established within the French Settlement area.

3) From the second expansion to the third expansion(1900~1913)



In 1899, the French consul general agreed with the commissioners dispatched by Liangjiang Governor-general on the new boundary of the settlement. In 1900, Shanghai Taotai issued an announcement to acknowledge the above boundary of the French Settlement, through which the French Settlement made its second expansion<sup>31)</sup>. In 1900, the MF purchased a piece of farmland in Koukaza Village and leased some parts of the land to the French Army to build barracks, so it was called Koukaza Barracks. After 1904, the French Army became fewer and fewer, so some parts of the land were leased to the French club and others for building tennis court, parking space and so on. In 1908, the plenary session of the MF decided to reconstruct Koukaza Barracks into a park. The construction project started in the same year and the park was open to the public in 1909. It was named as Parc Koukaza [1] and was commonly known as France Park<sup>32)</sup>.

#### 4) From the third expansion to the end of settlement era(1914~1943)

In 1912, directorate of the MF made a resolution, asking the French consul to request the Chinese government for expanding the settlement. In 1913, the French minister formally raised the issue on the police authority of outer roads in French Settlement to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Beiyang Government. After that, the boundary dividing procedure was implemented, which completed the third expansion of the French Settlement<sup>33)</sup>. To the end of the settlement era, the French Settlement totally established 4 parks.

After the World War I broke out, France was in state of war with Germany at that time, so the MF took over the Germany Garden Club located on Joffre Road as enemy property. In the same year, the garden was open to the public under the name of Joffre Road Public Garden [2]. In order to commemorate The Battle of Verdun, the garden was re-named as Square Verdun in the same year<sup>34)</sup>.

In 1924, the MF set about to establish Jordan Road. A piece of triangle area was formed among this road and the two formerly built roads, so the MF decided to establish a park here. The parks were constructed and open to the public in the same year, which was called Route Paul Brunat Park [3]<sup>35)</sup>.

In 1925, the MF established a park on Route Picard Destelan. The project was basically completed in 1926 and open to the public, which was called Parc Pétain [4]<sup>36)</sup>.

Approximately in 1938, the MF purchased six blocks of land on today's Huaihai Road as groundwork to construct the new office building of the bureau. In 1939, the MF decided to establish a park on this piece of land which was open to the public in 1942. In order to commemorate former French consul general in Shanghai Ravinel who died in the French-German War, the park was named as Square Yves de Ravinel [5]<sup>37)</sup>.

## V. Analysis and Discussion

The earliest city park and Public Garden was established in 1868 by the Foreign Settlement. Up to the end of the settlement era, the settlement authorities had built 22 parks, among which 17 were in the International Settlement area and 5 in the French Settlement area. The total number of parks established in settlement were 19, and 3 parks were built outside. Until the second expansion of the International Settlement, only 4 parks were set up. Until the third expansion of the French Settlement, only 1 parks were set up in the French Settlement. After the expansion of the Settlement until the end of the settlement era, 17 parks were established in the settlement area, accounting for 77.3% of the total number of parks established during the settlement era in Shanghai.

Here, the formation process of Shanghai settlement parks was divided simply into the settlement park foundation time correspond to the settlement expansion time(the International Settlement was from 1845 to 1898, the French Settlement was from 1849 to 1913) and the settlement park development time after the settlement expansion(the International Settlement was from 1899 to 1943, the French Settlement was from 1914 to 1943) by the characteristics such as its forming time, quantity and distribution.

## VI. Conclusion

In nearly 100 years history of Shanghai settlement era, the settlement parks which were an unprecedented landscape Architecture space form to modern China. We hope that future subjects would further explain on the using conditions, social significance, administrative situation, operation management, space form and other changing processes of the settlement parks changed with the development of Shanghai settlement on the basis of this investigation.

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