

Conservation and Management for Cultural Landscape of Royal Tombs Area in the Joseon Dynasty

Lee, Chang-Hwan

Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Sangjiyoungseo College

ABSTRACT

Seoul has been the former capital from Joseon founded in 1392 by this time for 600 years. Seoul populated by some 10,290,000 people is the largest city in Korea. There are lots of cultural inheritance such as the castle town and 5 palaces including Gyeongbokgung in Seoul. Especially *neungs*(royal tombs) from 27 generations of king and queen in the Joseon dynasty during 518 years are very important cultural inheritance. The royal tombs were built from the castle town to the radius outside 4km within 40km pivoting on Seoul. Joseon royal tombs might have significant cultural value, which are representative Korean people's spirits for ancestor worship.

After the 1945 Liberation of Korea those are having been managed by Office of Cultural Properties after Ministry of Education. This paper tried to find the changing process of the conservation and maintenance, the location of royal tomb area, the changing process of royal tomb, the area changing clue of modernization process, and in the historical city, Seoul.

The royal tombs in the Joseon dynasty of the radius outside 4km within 40km pivoting on Seoul have been contributed to providing the metropolitan, Seoul population with the cultural and green spaces for 600 years. In the Joseon dynasty the royal tombs had been taken charge of thoroughly by the Royal Household with Neungchamboing system from Confucian background for ancestor worship. There after they had been damaged somewhat by the Japanese Imperialism period, the Korean War, and the pressure of urbanization. But the original state has been preserved well by state management. The royal tombs in the Joseon dynasty has been kept the culture of royal tomb's and memorial services with stone sculptures for 518 years. Also there are lots of documentary records of royal tombs. The memorial services of the tombs are held by Jongyakwon of Jeonju Lee family every year.

The royal tombs somewhat damaged are needed to the original state of the transferred right of managing agency by the related national bodies.

Key Words: Seoul, The Joseon Dynasty, Royal Tombs, Cultural Landscape, Preservation and Maintenance

1. Introduction

Seoul has been the former capital from Joseon founded in 1392 by this time for 600 years. Seoul populated by some 10,290,000 people is the largest city in Korea. There are lots of cultural inheritance such as the castle town and 5 palaces including Gyeongbokgung in Seoul. Especially *neungs*(royal tombs) from 27 generations of king and queen in the Joseon dynasty during 518 years are very important cultural inheritance. The royal tombs were built from the castle town to the

radius outside 4km within 40km pivoting on Seoul. Joseon royal tombs might have significant cultural value, which are representative Korean people's spirits for ancestor worship.

The royal tombs' landscapes had been managed by the administrative system named Neungchamboing based on *feng-shui* theory, which could be squared lots of sacred area controlled especially by the Royal Family. Just only parts of the Neungwons were nationalized and managed by the Financial Management Administration in the Japanese imperialism period. After the 1945 Liberation of Korea those are

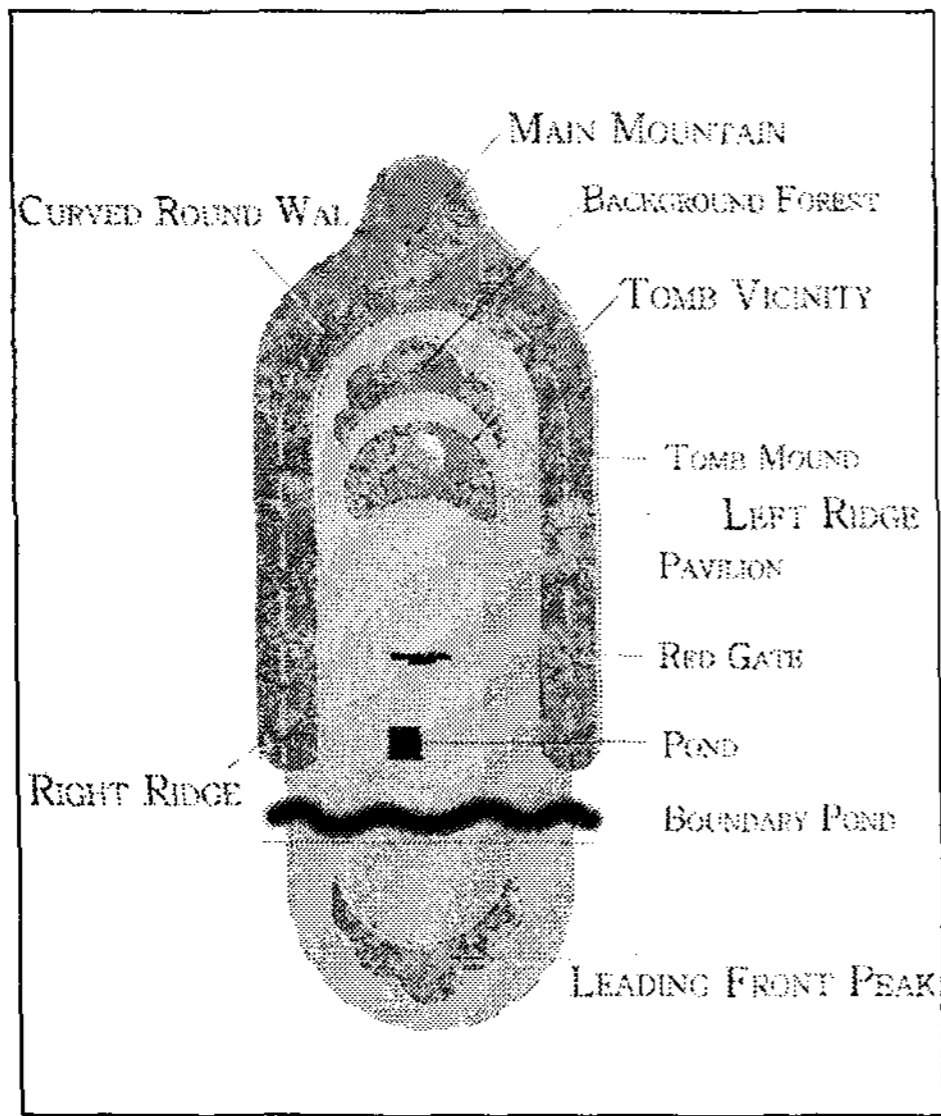


Figure 1. General Plan of Royal Tomb Site in the Joseon Dynasty

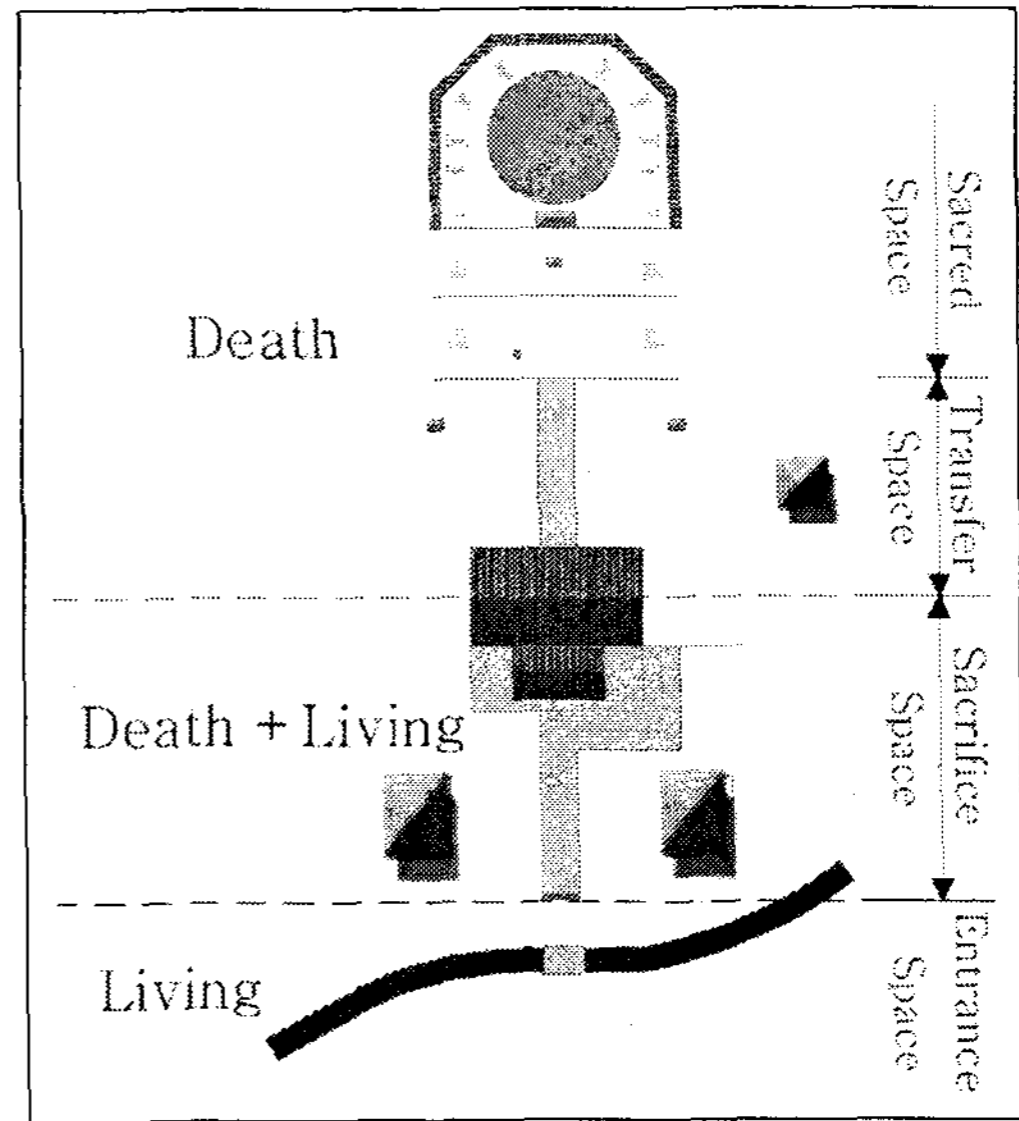


Figure 2. Spatial Division of Royal Tomb Area in the Joseon Dynasty

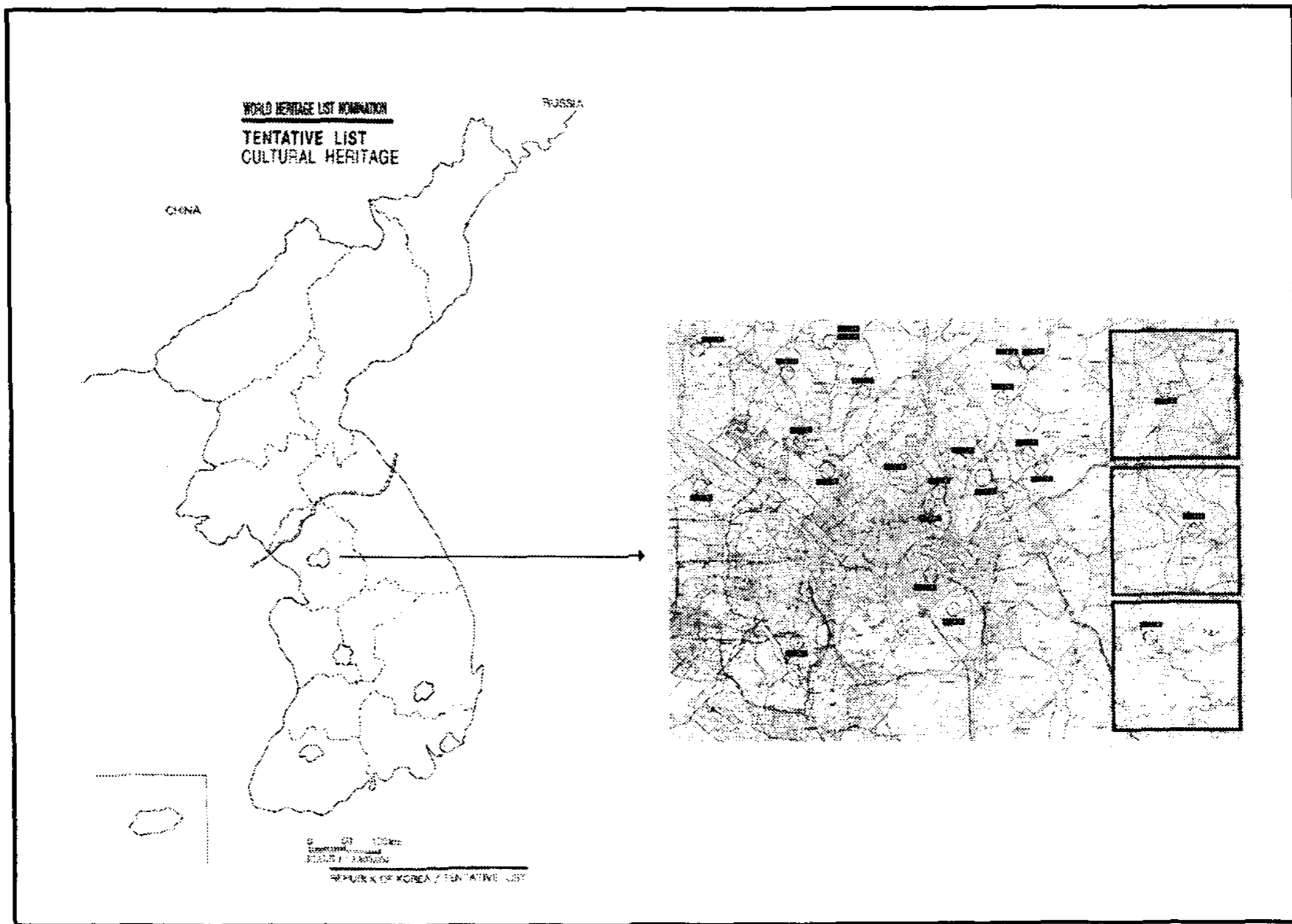


Figure 3. The Distribution Map of Royal Tomb Area in the Joseon Dynasty

having been managed by Office of Cultural Properties after Ministry of Education.

This paper tried to find the changing process of the preservation and maintenance, the location of royal tomb area, the changing process of royal tomb, the area changing clue of modernization process, and in the historical city, Seoul in

the Joseon dynasty.

II. Location of the Royal Tomb in the Joseon Dynasty

The total 42 royal tomb areas were built from Taejo's

Geonwonneung to Sunjong's Yureung pivoting on the castle town, Seoul in the Joseon dynasty. 40 royal tombs except Jereung and Hureung in Gaeseung(NK) in the early period of founding country are located in south Korea .

The location of tomb area in the Joseon dynasty above were considered as follows: the distance from Seoul and neighborhood tomb area, the direction from the castle town, the relation with roads, boundary, the appearance of neighboring mountain, and the landscape of *feng-shui*.

The first tomb area in the Joseon dynasty was Queen Sindok's, Jeongneung constructed in 1397. The queen is Taejo Lee Seonggye's harem. Jeongneung in Seoul was built around Deoksugung(site of the present British Embassy) from the south-west direction of Gyeonbokgung. The Jeongneung con-

structed inside the castle town was moved to the present Jeongneung at the site of Saeulhanrok in Yangju, in 1409(the ninth year of Taejong) because of the directive instructions by Gyeonggukdaejeon - Joseon's royal term area must not be built inside the castle town and must be from the castle town outside West Gate 4km within 40km and the other political consequences.

Therefore the distribution of royal tomb area in the capital city is that 42% of royal tombs are existed from the castle town to the radius outside 10km within 15km and 97.5% within 40km pivoting on Seoul and according to the natural topography with propitious site based on *feng-shui* theory. As the result of the principles, the areas of royal tombs built to the radius from the castle town play an important role of

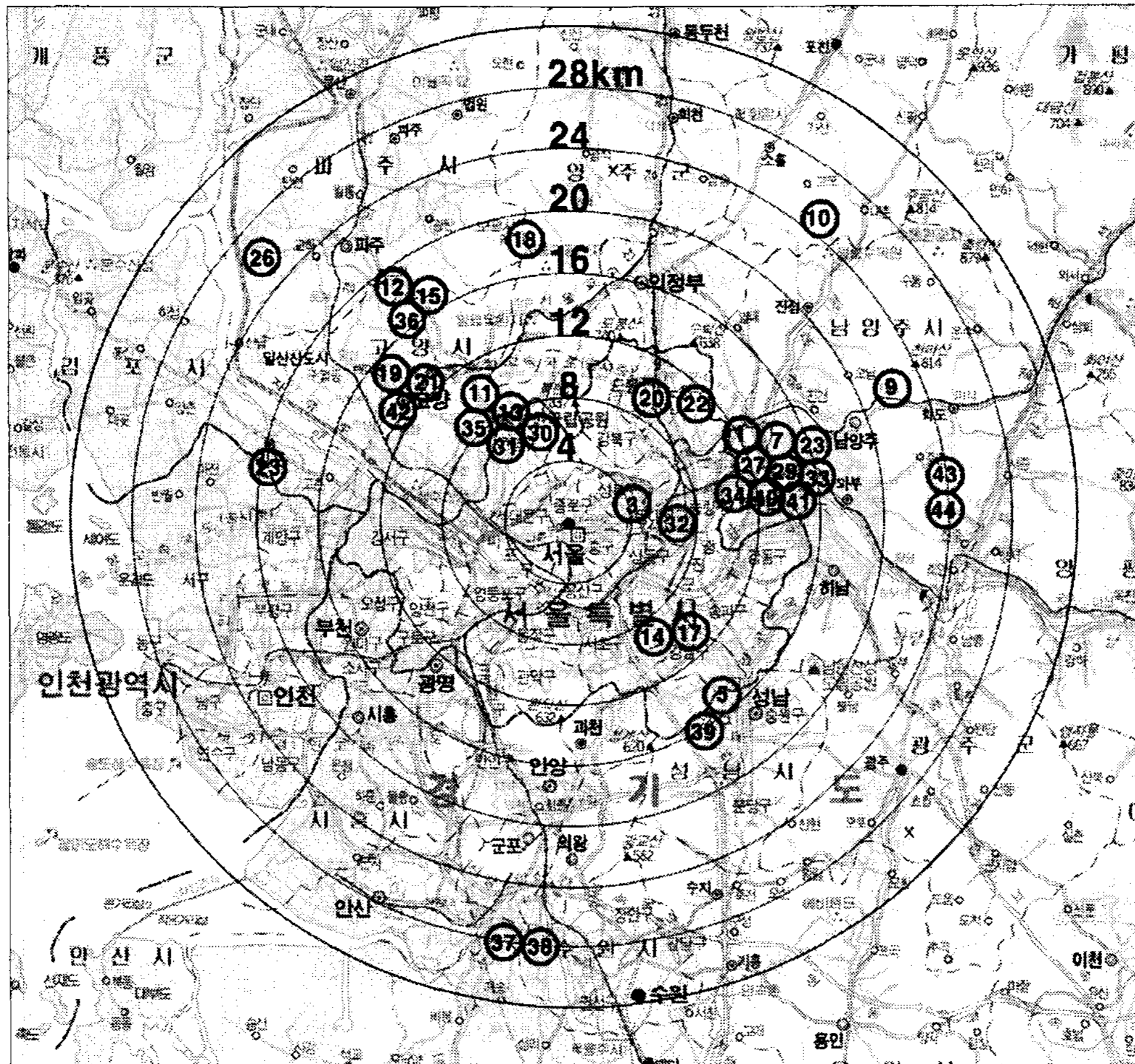


Figure 4. The Map of Locations of Royal Tomb Area by Throne Order and by Distance in the Joseon Dynasty
1) Geonwonneung, 2) Jeneung(*), 3) Jeongneung, 4) Huneung(*), 5) Heonneung, 6) Yeongneung, 7) Hyeonneung, 8) Jangneung, 9) Sareung, 10) Gwangneung, 11) Changneung, 12) Gongneung, 13) Gyeoneung, 14) Seolleung, 15) Sulleung, 17)J eongneung, 18) Onneung, 19) Huireung, 20) Taereung, 21) Hyoreung, 22) Gangneung, 23) Mokneung, 25) Jangneung, 28)J angneung, 27) Hwireung, 28) Yeongneung, 29) Sungneung, 30) Myeongneung, 31) Ikneung, 30) uireung, 31) Hongneung, 32) Eyneung, 33) Heoneung, 34) Wonneung, 35) Hoangneung, 36) youngneung, 37) Youngneung, 38) Geonneung, 39) Inneung, 40) Sureung, 41) Gyeongneung, 42) Yereung, 43) Hongneung, 44) Yureung (40 neungs including *2 North Korea).

green belt in Seoul.

III. Changes and Preservation & Maintenance of Royal Tombs Area

1. Preservation & Maintenance of Royal Tomb Area in the Joseon Dynasty

Royal tomb area in the Joseon dynasty was located at the place streamed in high spirits mountain vitality, which is the space of just only one man's space to rest like a mound. It is natural for a mountain to meet winds to scatter like water to stop. Therefore the mountain like a surrounded folding screen is protecting wind. Also if there are some springs, which mean remained mountain spirits. This is the very propitious site for grave that is a lucky place for tomb area. In the Joseon dynasty they managed the tomb area at the boundary of four sides: two mountains of Josan located back and front, Cheongryong left, Baekho right(Figure 5, 6).

The scale of royal tomb area called Neungwon (royal family tombs) was restricted from the four sides 119m(about 55,507m²) early in the Joseon dynasty, enlarged into 191m (about 143,882m²) in the times of Taejong regime, subdivided as 237m, 178m, and 119m by Hyeonjong in the mid time of Joseon, and the case of Jangneung 1,878,900m² in the early 17 century. After Sukjong the scale of tomb area enlarged into the four sides 800m(about 2,016,000m²) from the visual range of area and Haeja(fire defence area) due to the theory of *feng-shui* theory. Geolleung had been the largest area of royal tombs with 9,265,200m² including Geolleung by Jeongjo. That

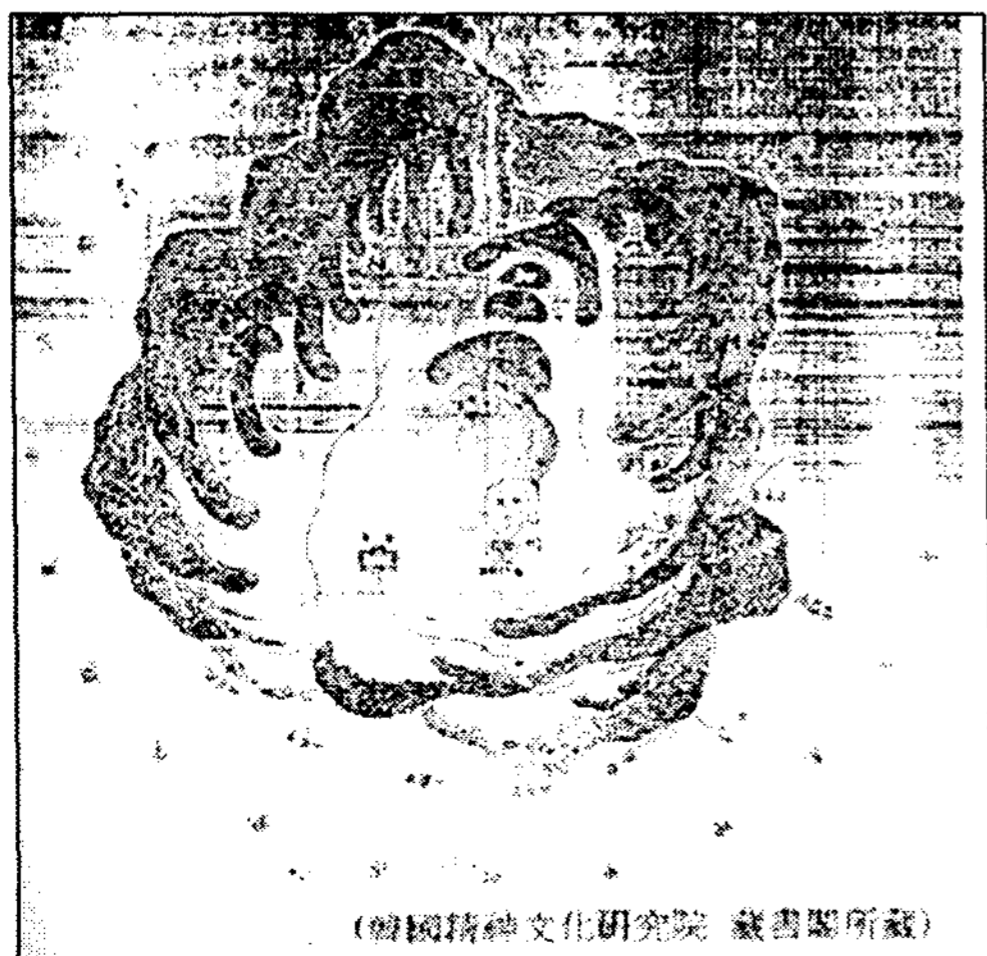


Figure 5. Sanneungdo of Myeongneung Area

means Jeongjo's filial piety for his father, the princely heir Sado and the reinforcement of royal authority. Like these above the scale of royal tomb area in the Joseon dynasty is the boundary of major mountain ridge and line and Haeja with natural surroundings.

In Japanesm imperialism period the Japanese nationalized and reduced to the minimum of tomb areas by Iwangjkgwa of Joseon government general under the pretense of protecting the Royal Household estate for the purpose of national

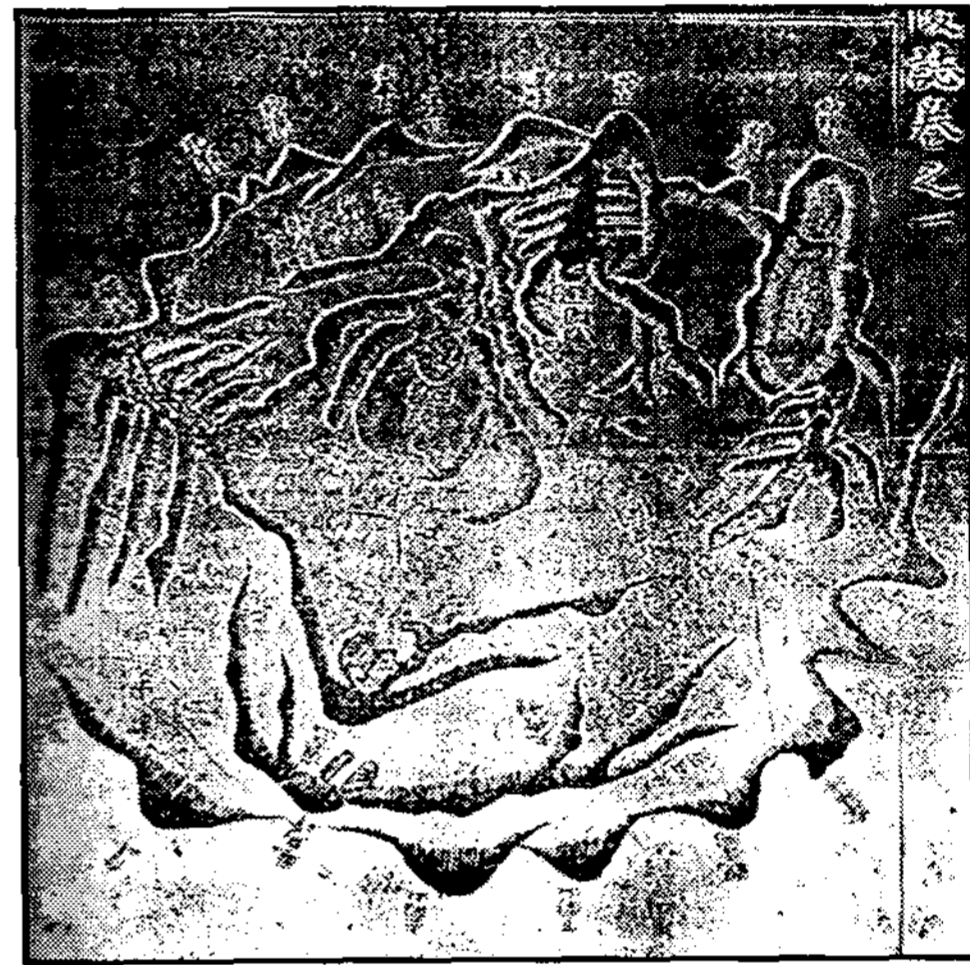


Figure 6. Sanneungdo of YoungGeonneung Area

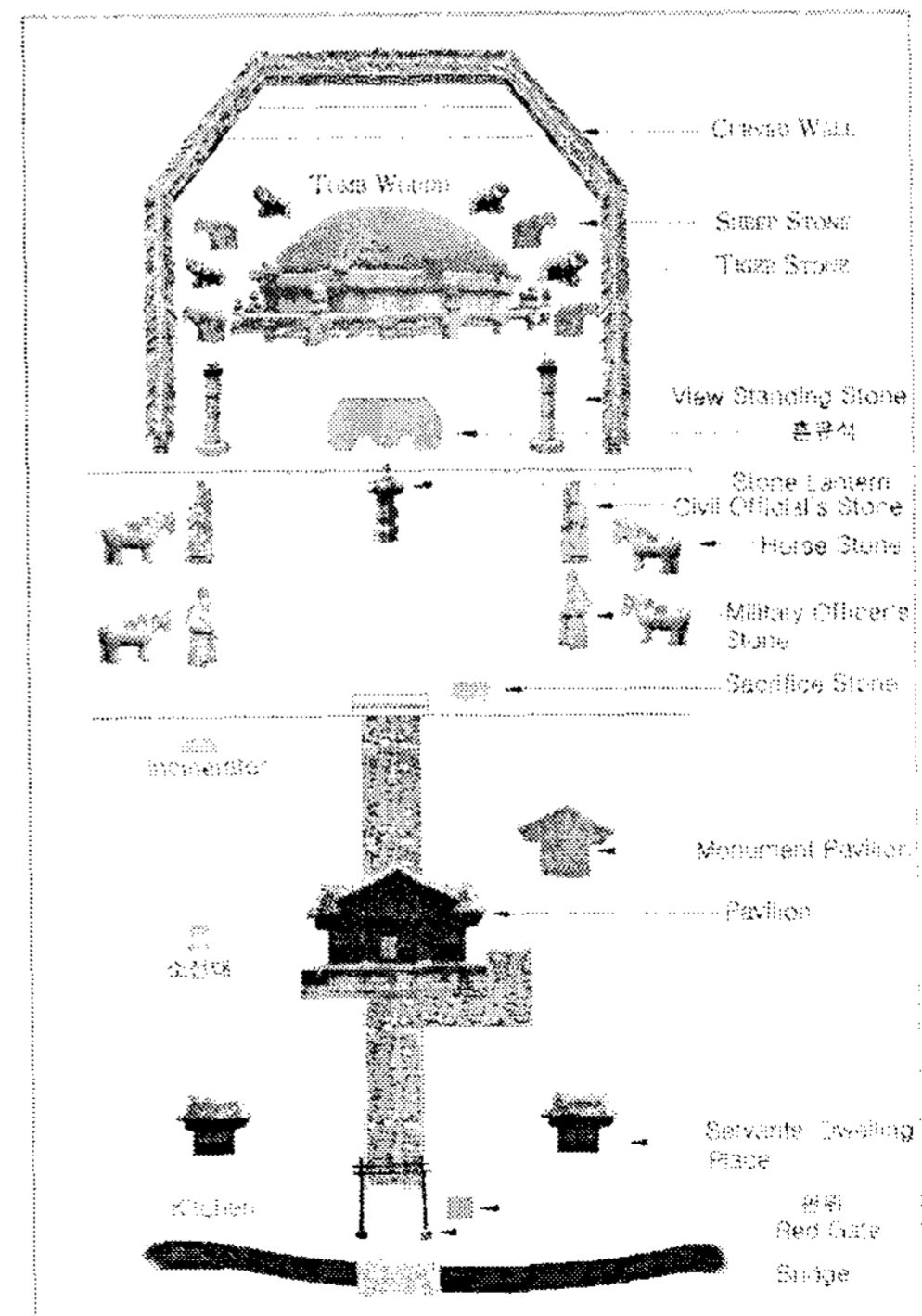


Figure 7. The Arrangement Map of Facilities of Royal Tomb Area in the Joseon Dynasty

Table 1. The Chronological Changes of Royal Tombs Area Scale

Ancestor (Period)	Tomb area(the visual range of area)	Neungwon size	Sources	Remarks
The 6th year of Taejong (1406)	E 142m Mokneung W boundary 273m Hwireung S boundary 273m Hyeolleung N 712m Surroundings: 403,122㎡	the four sides 119m (about 55,507㎡)	Gyeonggukdaejeon Yejeonsangwon	
The 18th year of Taejong (1418)	Haeja & Hwaso (the fire defence system)	the four sides 191m (about 143,882㎡)	Taejongsillok Yejo	By Wolleung Gwangmuje Late Han Dynasty in China (Sejongsillok)
The 1st year of Seongjong (1470)	Haeja, Hwaso, Ansan etc visibility range		Seongjongsillok	Myeong the four sides 119m (Jwa Deungchang, 1978:187)
Injo (1595-1649)	S · N 1607m E · W 83m 1107m Total: 5,057m		Jangneungji (Injo)	Hereafter prohibit tomb constructing to the radius within 800m from a tomb
The 1st year of Hyeonjong (1669)	6km round (Gangneung periodical)	the four sides 237m Taejo's neung (about 222,029㎡)	Hyeonjongsillok	
Sukjong (1656-1720)	Inside Haeja, Outside Haeja Outside Cheongryong, Inside Cheongryong	the four sides 594m (about 1,387,684㎡)	Yeongjongsillok	the visual range of area from tomb area ridge
Jeongjong (1776-1779)	Right E 2315m, N 890m, W 1009m, S 1009m, Total: 17,850m (about 9,265,200㎡)		Geolleungji	
Gojong (1863-1919)	Hwaso, Inside Haeja	Jusan, Ansan, Cheongryong left, Baekho right, Visual range of area	Daejeonhoetong Hyeobeodaeyeon	
Japanese imperialism period (toward 1910)	Royal tomb area: 112,404㎡ Jesil: 3491㎡	9,919㎡ 9ban 52tombs 14m (Gongneung)	Jangneung drawing (1910)	Jangneung Gongneung Sulleung

erasure(Figure 8), separated the tomb area, Jesil, and Jidang, and deforested beautiful tomb areas. In confusion of the Korean War, urbanization, the pressure of national finance etc. the present tomb areas have remained by this time. But the large scale of tomb areas in the Joseon dynasty by the thorough management of the Royal House and systematical management of the government after the 1945 Liberation has been preserved well until now to play as a good green belt and cultural landscape of land total 16km² outside 4km within 40km pivoting on pivoting on metropolitan.

2. Management Realities of Royal Tomb Area after Joseon Dynasty

- 1) Gabogyeongjang in 1884, Clearance of the Royal Household estate in 1907(the 1st year of Sunjong), nationalizing and reducing the Royal Household estate by a Royal edict in 1908.
- 2) The Royal Household estate was managed by Iwangjik

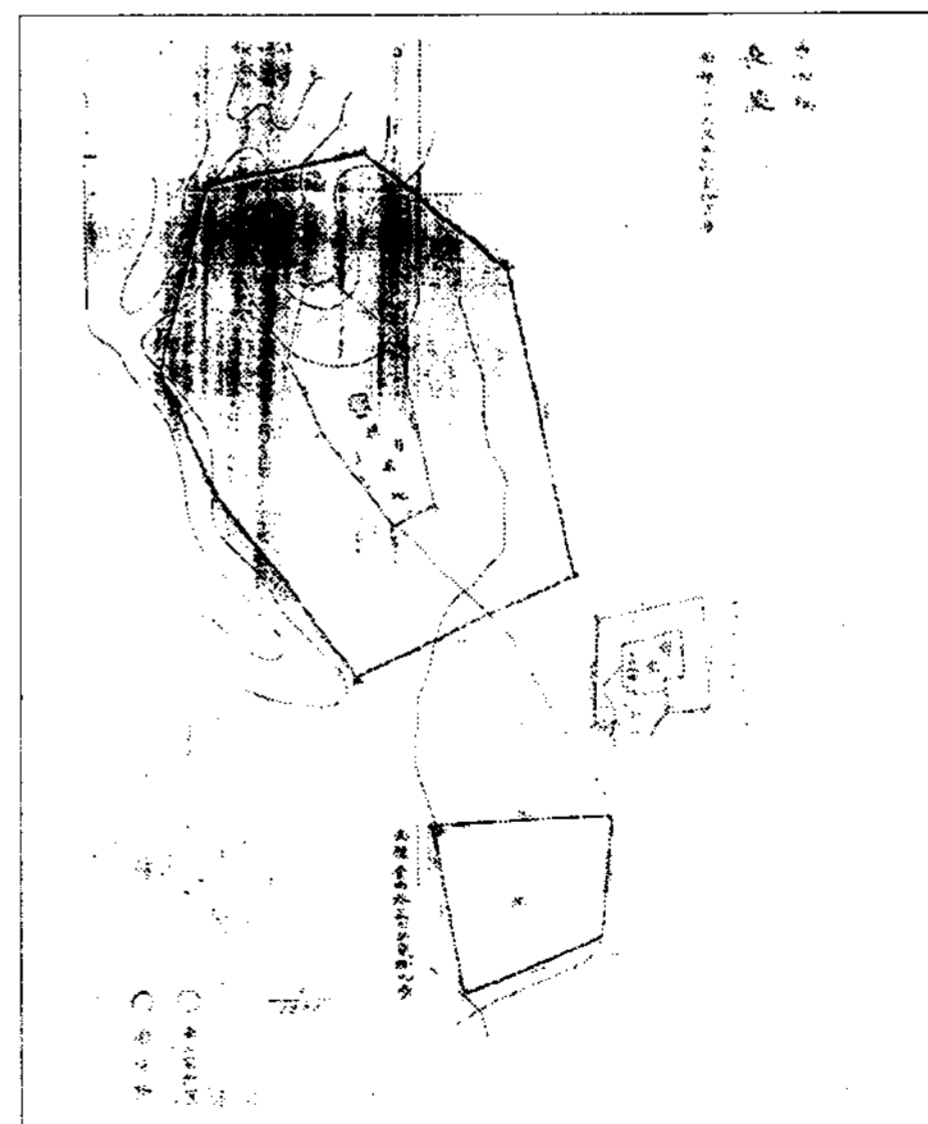


Figure 8. Japanese Imperialism Period(Jangneung)

belong to Japanese government, in Sep. 1910 during Japanism imperialism era.

- 3) The estate of Joseon Royal Household was to be registered by the law of Joseon real estate registering with the promulgation of land reallocation for the purpose of Japanese plundering land. A lot of land was reduced in the process of registering the Royal household estate in Aug. 1912.
- 4) On some pretext of intensive management for wons and myos throughout Gyeonggi province and taesils scattered from all over the country, they berried assembly and damaged tomb areas excessively by the great unit at Seosamneung and disposed of the those land.

(1) After Independence(Aug. 15)

The retitled name of Iwangjik was Guwanggung after Independence, which took over the management estate (Aug. 15).

The old Imperial law of estate was established the IWang-jik 's estate, which will the nationalized asserts of Lee Wang-jin asserts in Sep. In 1954(Old im. The old Imperials period a of old imperial special accounts of Imperial asserts. Account of special managements: under President direct control)

(2) Cultural Assets and Maintenance Bureau

- ① As an amendment of the protective cultural asserts (Rules: the 1265 the of laws in 1963.
- ② Historical sites(Gyeongbokgung, Donggureung, etc 5 great palaces with regional *neung* · *won* · *myo* etc. 5 palaces and regional traditional sites) by cultural asserts and protectiveto br dominated.
- ③ Cultural asserts at *gung* · *neung* · *won* · *myo* managed by general accounts. On the other hand the special accounts to be the abolished generalization in 1989(total management estate: about 34,721,200m²)
- ④ Management transferred by Forestry Administration etc. by the administrative machinery of a state: about 122,322,000m²
- ⑤ Adminstrative preservation estate: about 26,448,000m² (5 palaces, *neung*(royal tomb areas) · *won*(royal family tombs' areas) · *myo*(tombs excluding *neung* · *won*)
- ⑥ Conducting disposal: about 18,844,200m²(financial supporting for cultural asserts preservation business)

IV. Forfeit and Conservation of Royal Tomb Areas by Modernizing Process

The disposed or transferred tomb area due to the pressure

of urbanization from 1963 by this time in Seoul is 1800ha and 1700ha of tomb area is controled by Culture Administration at present.

The reduced causes of tomb areas are locations of the national defence facilities, the administration of machinery of a state, the national athlete facilities, the of promotion policies of livestock farming, expansion of forest conservancy facility. Much of land under the state control was transferred for the reasons above. Disposals by sale for preservation and management of cultural assets with financial guarantee had been committed because of national finance difficulties in the 1960s and 1970s, and some tomb areas at the heart of the Metropolis by the pressure of developing urbanization(special accounts law of the land possessed over 20 years for civilian: land readjustment business in Gangnamyeodong district).

The largest disposal tomb area by sale in Seoul is Seon-jeongneung which was disposed of the land readjustment business in Gangnamyeodong district.

V. Preservation and Management of Seon-jeongneung Area(240,604m²)

Seolleung is the area of King Seongjong & Queen Jeonghyeon's royal tombs(1530), which is the cultural symbol of the early Joseon dynasty. Seolleung was destroyed by Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592. The tomb of King Seongjong remains just only stone folding screen and balustrade

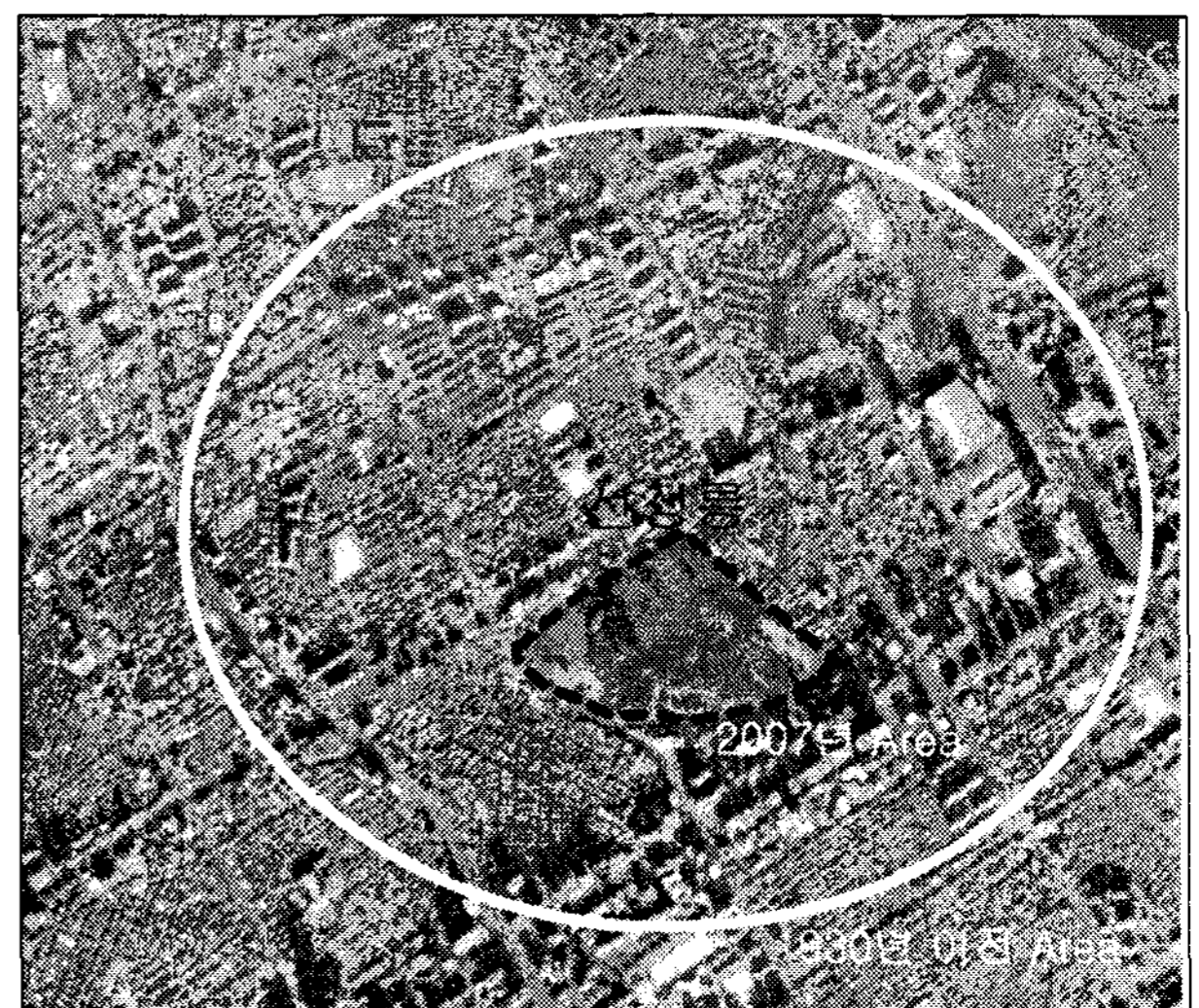


Figure 9. Bird's-eye View of Seonjeongneung and its Surrounding Urbanization by Artificial Photo in 2007(The dotted line is supposed to be Seonjeongneung Royal Tomb Area).

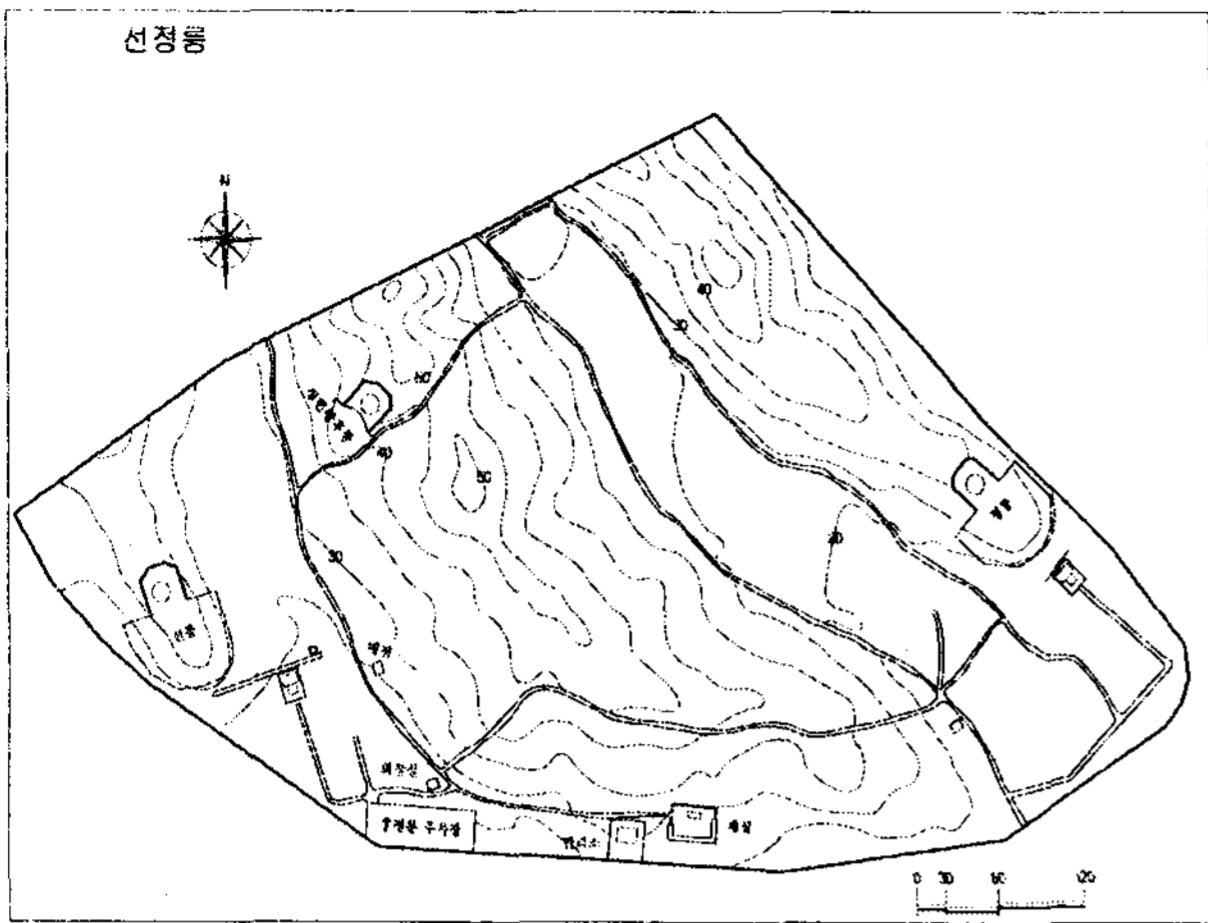


Figure 10. The Arrangement Map of Seonjeongneung Area

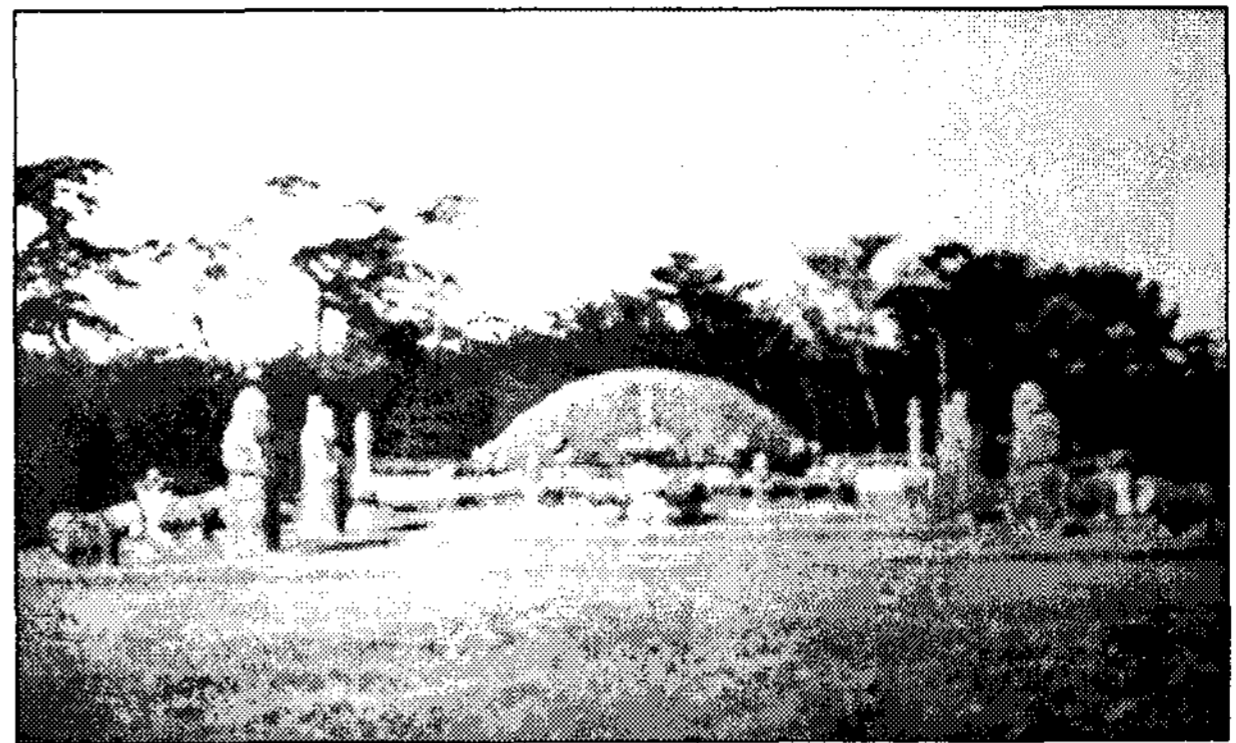


Figure13. Seolleung in 1930



Figure 11. Bird's-eye View of Seonjeongneung by Air Photo in 1970

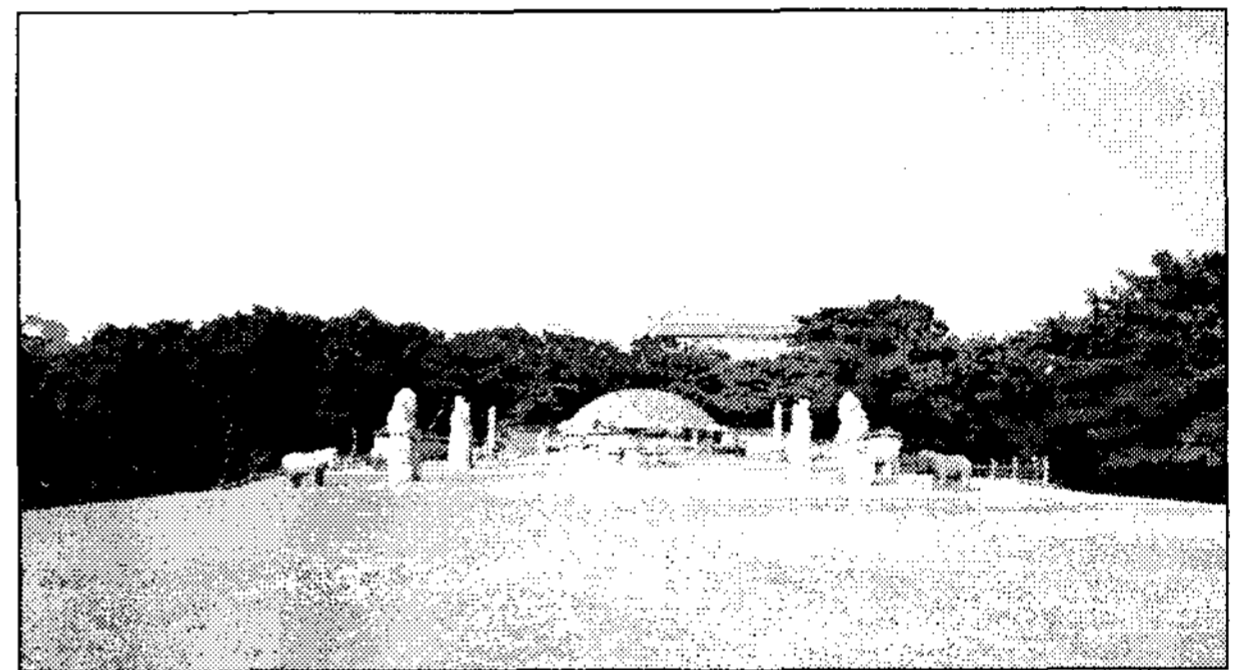


Figure 14. Seolleung in 2006



Figure 12. Bird's-eye View of Seonjeongneung by Artificial Photo in 2007

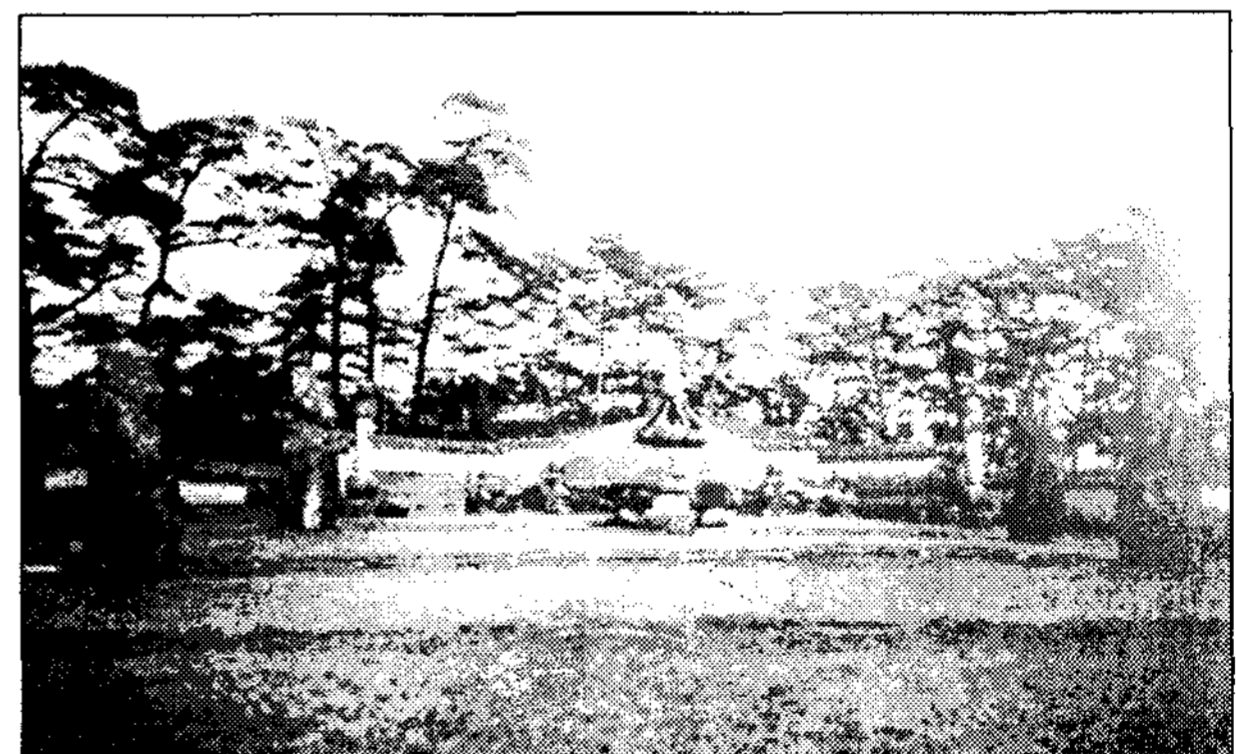


Figure 15. Seolleung of Jeonghyeon Queen's Tomb around 1930

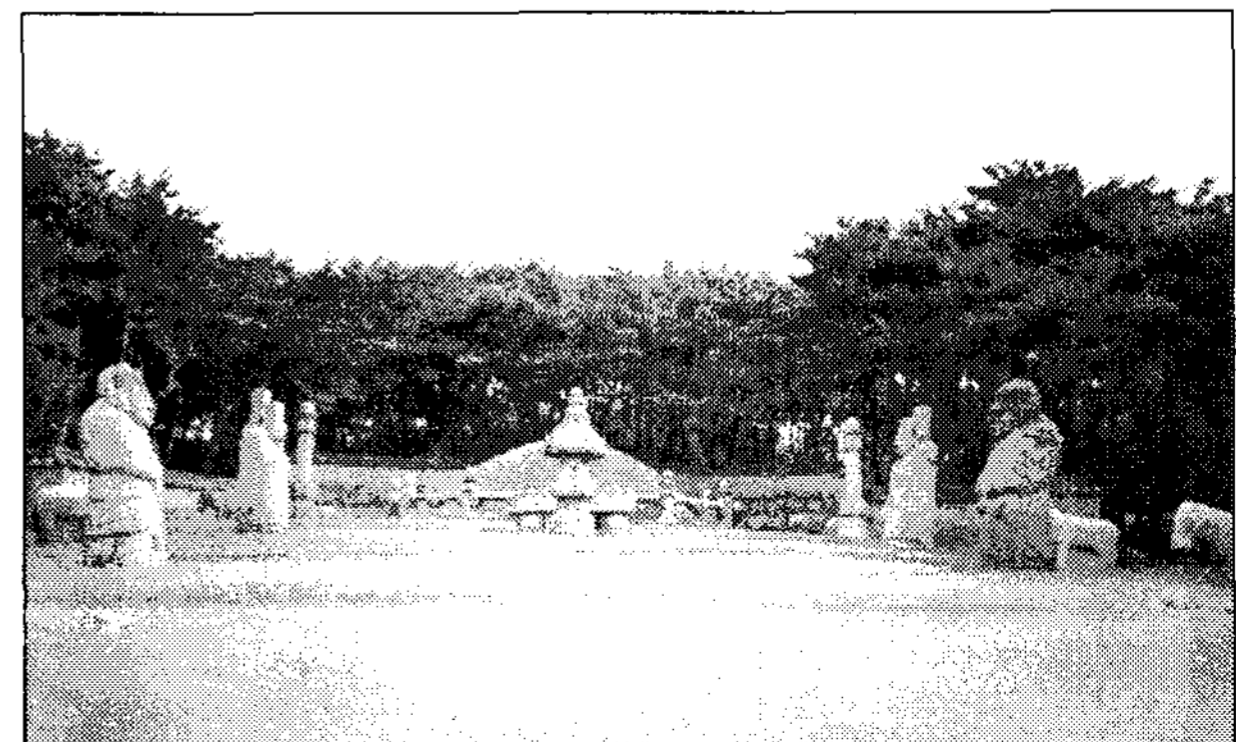


Figure 16. Seolleung of Jeonghyeon Queen's Tomb around 2006

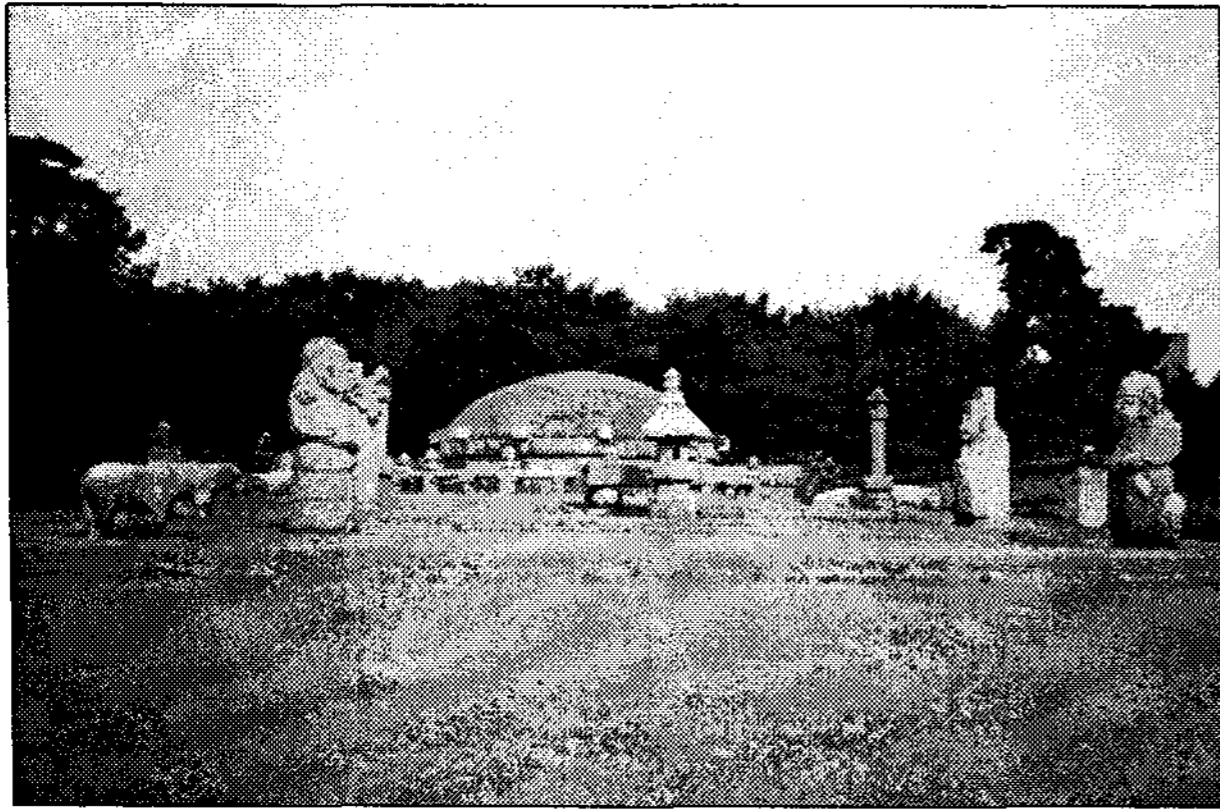


Figure 17. Jeongneung in 2007

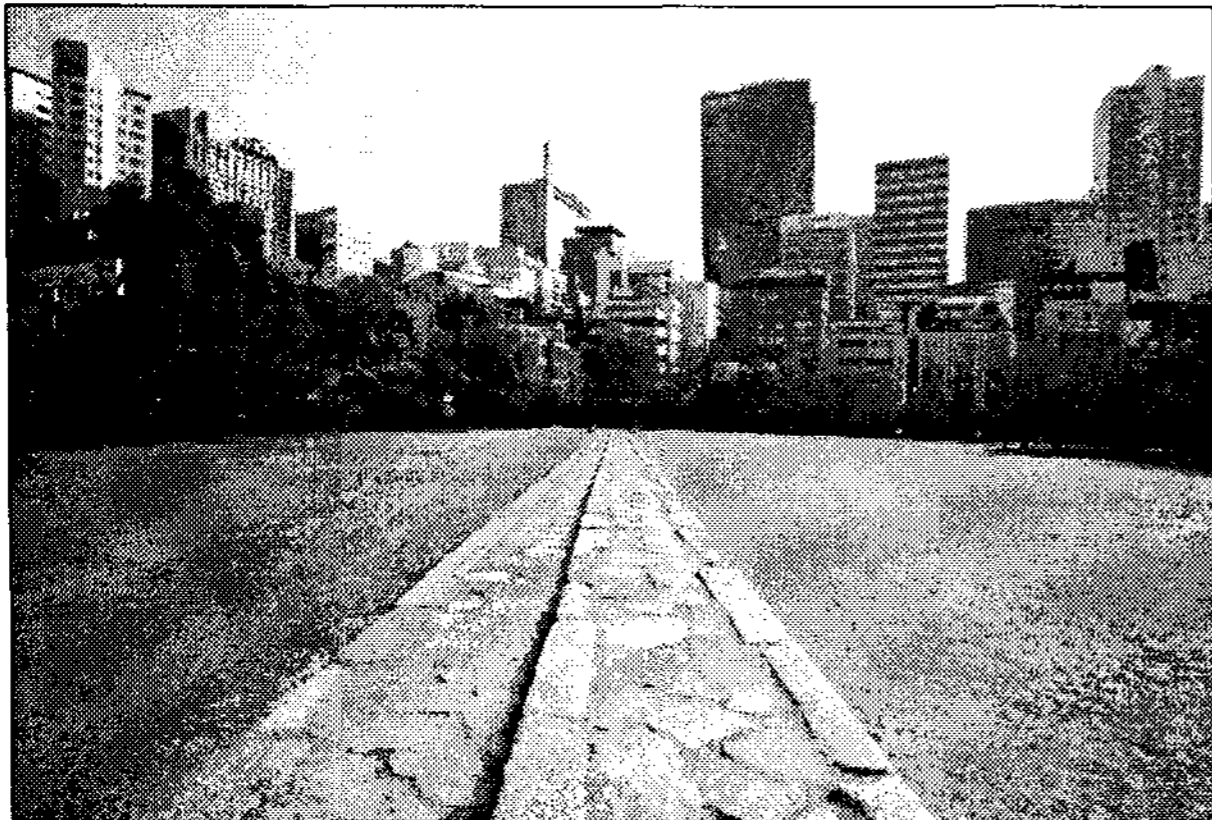


Figure 18. Jeongjagak in 2007(Too much urbanization)

stones for Queen's. Jeongneung is Jungjong's tomb(1544). At first the tomb was built at Huireung of Seosamneung and moved to present Jeongneung by Munjeong Queen in 1562. The largest damaged area of Seonjeongneung by urbanization among the royal tombs in the Joseon dynasty reduced about 184ha~724ha in 1963. But the basic framework of a royal tomb has been preserved well to play a good green belt and cultural landscape in the city.

VI. The Preservative Policy of Korean Royal Tomb Landscape

The royal tombs in Korea are designated as national cultural asserts and placed under government control by the protective law of cultural asserts. The surroundings of them are to be consideration for protecting cultural asserts. The buffer zone was designated within 500m from the boundary of cultural asserts. And the obstacles for historically cultural surroundings and landscape preservation are to be discussed

the following things: shapes, qualities, state, height of construction, changes of appearance. Also the building law had been applied building within 300m until 1978, they had been discussing a building within 100m from the boundary of protective area to limit the height of a building with an angle of elevation in 1980 in Seoul.

The stone articles, structures, and painting works existing at the 40 tombs of 18 districts have been restoring and maintaining based on the tombs' recording literature, various kinds of books about royal tomb areas. The original forest landscape has been maintaining after breeding and producing seeds to the applied regional seedbed at sand and hill area with out seed variety for the ecological landscape based on the historical investigation and literature materials.

VII. Suggestions

The royal tombs in the Joseon dynasty of the radius outside 4km within 40km pivoting on Seoul have been contributed to providing the metropolitan, Seoul population with the cultural and green spaces for 600 years. In the Joseon dynasty the royal tombs had been taken charge of thoroughly by the Royal Household with Neungchamboing system from Confucian background for ancestor worship. There after they had been damaged somewhat by the Japanese Imperialism period, the Korean War and the pressure of urbanization. But the original state has been preserved well by state management. The royal tombs in the Joseon dynasty has been kept the culture of royal tomb's and memorial services with stone sculptures for 518 years. Also there are lots of documentary records of royal tombs. The memorial services of the tombs are held by Jongyakwon of Jeonju Lee family every year.

The royal tombs somewhat damaged are needed to the original state of the transferred right of managing agency by the related national bodies.

References

1. ChangHwan Lee(1998) A Study on Location and Spatial Organization of the Royal Tomb Sites in Joseon Dynasty, Ph.D. Dissertation, Graduate School of SungKyunKwan University.
2. ChangHwan Lee(2000) The Characteristics of Location and Spatial Organization on Jesil(Shrine) of the Royal Tomb Sites of the Joseon Dynasty,Journal of Korean Institute of Traditional Landscape Architecture, 34(4), pp. 18-29.
3. ChangHwan Lee, YongGI Kim(2000) The Characteristics of Spatial Organization of the Royal Tomb Area in Joseon Dynasty, Journal of

- the Korean Institute of Landscape Architecture, 27(5), pp. 48-56.
4. Daejunhoewtong(大典會通), The national Library of Korea.
 5. Gangkiin(1997) Korea architecture dictionary, Bosung Culture publication.
 6. Gukjoreayi(1982) published by Ministry of Government Legislation.
 7. Gunreungji(健陵誌), the library of Koreanology Graduate.
 8. GyounggukdaeJun(經國大典(禮典3券)), Korean Sprit Council, translated by Korean Sprit Council.
 9. Hyeunreungji: 顯陵誌(Jangseayue: 政書類), the collected book.
 10. Jangreungdomyeun(長陵圖面), around 1910, Leewangjicje(李王職製), colored map, scale 1:1,200.
 11. Janreungji, Injo(章陵誌仁祖: 1959~1649) Myeongpuen(命編), copyed at 1913.
 12. Josun Dynasty Sillrok(實錄)(1997) An enlarged edition CD, the 3rd Edition, Seoul System, Korea Data Base Institute, Inc.
 13. Law of Construction(2007) the Republic of Korea.
 14. Myeongreungji(明陵誌) The library of Koreanology Graduate.
 15. Sunjungreunji National cultural properties institutes.
 16. Taejongsilrok(太宗實錄) Unidentified year, Josun dynasty silrok
 17. The protection law for Cultural properties(2007) The Republic of Korea.
 18. www.google.com/earth