

51056951: MAJOR: ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM

KEYWORD: CONSERVATION, WANG NA, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE,

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

M.L.BUSSAYAMAS NANDAWAN: REDEFINING WANG NA

RATTANAKOSIN :THE HISTORY, CONSERVATION AND

INTERPRETATION OF A ROYAL THAI PALACE. THESIS ADVISOR:

PROF. WILLIAM CHAPMAN, D.Phil., 190 pp.

This dissertation researches ways to determine the proper physical characteristics of the area formerly referred to as Bhawornsathanmongkon or Wang Na. Located in Rattanakosin Island, Wang Na is occupied by historical buildings containing artistic and architectural material dating back to the beginning of the Rattanakosin era. Many of these ancient buildings were built more than 200 years ago. In 1926, King Rama VI gave all of the buildings in Wang Na to the authorities for the purpose of creating a museum for Bangkok area, the recognized capital and to manage the housing and preservation of antiques from all over the country. The use of the original area of Wang Na has undergone many changes. Today the area of Wang Na houses academic and government offices, which are the National Museum, the National Theatre, Bhanditpattanasin Institute, Thammasat University and northern Phramen ground.

The change of the Wang Na area from the former palace to be part of the academic section of Thammasat University has been carried out without any meaningful conservation plan or proper way to conserve the history of the area and as a result has been the cause of many problems. These problems have caused disadvantages to the buildings in the area of Rattanakosin in both direct and indirect ways. The government established the Rattanakosin Council to draw up and implement policies to conserve and develop the area. Unfortunately, these policies did not include any effort to conserve Wang Na's historical value.

Architectural Heritage Management and Tourism, Graduate School, Silpakorn University, Academic Year 2008

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