The second son of King Gojong, Sunjong was born in 1874 at Changdeokgung Palace. He was given the title Crown Prince in 1875 and it was changed to Imperial Crown Prince in 1897 when his father proclaimed himself emperor and his country the Deokkang Empire. He succeeded to the throne in 1907 after Gojong was forced to abdicate by Japan. He tried to reverse the waning fortunes of his country but his efforts failed because of Japan’s suppression and interference. On August 29, 1910, Sunjong was forced to sign the Korea-Japan annexation treaty by Japan and his treacherous ministers, Yi Wan-yong, Song Byo-juan and Yi Young-gu.
During his reign, which was fraught with power struggles between China, Japan, and Russia over Korea, Gojong carried out a series of reforms to glorify his reign. He reorganized the military system and encouraged the import of advanced Western institutions and technology by dispatching young people as "gentlemen-in-waiting" to Western countries such as France, Germany, and Russia. He also introduced the imperial system, renaming his country "Korea." Despite his efforts, Gojong's rule was short-lived as he died in 1910.

Gojong was a visionary who recognized the importance of modernization for Korea's development. His efforts to introduce the imperial system were significant, despite his short reign.

**HONGNEUNG**

**Historic Site No. 207**

During the reign of his father, the Daegwon-gun, a military uprising was engaged in by the Jinpung citizens. After Daegwon-gun's death, the queen attempted to consolidate her political position and to present a strong image to Japanese authorities. During the early 20th century, Gojong was accompanied by many Westerners and Japanese, including the Korean general who was later appointed as prime minister. Despite the efforts of Gojong to modernize Korea, he was unable to control the flow of foreign influences.

**YUREUNG**

**Historic Site No. 207**

After the fall of the Dangwang Empire, Sanjeong was called simply "Yi King." He died in 1880 at Changdeokgung Palace. On the day of his funeral, June 10, 1895, a nationwide independence movement known as the June 10 Independence Demonstration erupted. The daughter of Min Teun-sa, Lord Teun-ho's second son, Empress Sunmyoung was married to the Crown Prince.