

**Assessment Criteria for Grading of Historic Buildings**

**1. Historic Interest**

- 1.1 Close historical association with significant event(s) in the historical and cultural development of Hong Kong.
- 1.2 This refers to the association of a building with historic figure(s), being real person(s) important for the development of Hong Kong.
- 1.3 This refers to the quality of a building which illustrates important aspects of the social, economic, cultural or military history of Hong Kong.
- 1.4 The building should bear a testimony to a cultural tradition, a culture or a phenomenon (or phenomena) which is living or which has disappeared.
- 1.5 Building age should be above 30 years and the building should have been built in or prior to 1970, unless it is of exceptional quality and significance.

**2. Architectural Merit**

- 2.1 This refers to the quality of a building which is of importance to the architectural development of Hong Kong.
- 2.2 High score should be accorded to buildings which demonstrate developments in architecture or technology, town-planning or landscape design which illustrate (a) significant stage(s) in local history.
- 2.3 Importance to the place for the interest of their architectural design, plan forms, decoration, craftsmanship, construction techniques (e.g. building exhibiting particular technological innovation or virtuosity) or use of materials/ fabric.
- 2.4 High score should be accorded to buildings exhibiting an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area, on developments in architecture or technology, town-planning or landscape design.

**3. Group Value**

- 3.1 This refers to groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of significant universal value from the point of view of history or architecture.
- 3.2 Significance as a group of buildings of harmonious design and style which enhance and exhibit the character or history of a streetscape, a district or a

place. The external appearance of a group of buildings reflects obvious visual quality which enhances the aesthetic value of Hong Kong.

3.3 The group of buildings should demonstrate a fine example of a historical human settlement or land-use, such as walled villages, terraces or purpose-built compound, which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible changes.

3.4 The group of buildings should bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition which is living or which has disappeared, or to an important historical development of Hong Kong.

4. Social Value and Local Interest

4.1 Significance as a symbolic or visual landmark recognized by the community for symbolic, spiritual, emotional or nostalgic reasons.

4.2 Importance in depicting the “cultural identity” and perpetuating the “collective memory” of the community.

4.3 The collective memory to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions and customs, with ideas, or with beliefs.

5. Authenticity

5.1 This refers to quality of buildings which have undergone little modifications and retained most of its original features, materials and character.

5.2 Alterations and additions at a later stage should not detract from the original architectural expression, including its design, material and workmanship or setting and the associated cultural landscapes.

5.3 Significant interactions between people and the natural environment are recognized as cultural landscapes.

5.4 Except for those changes or alterations that are of historical or architectural significance associated with historic event or figure, or represent a significant technological achievement.

6. Rarity

6.1 The comparative rarity of a building within the same building type can be assessed in accordance with the following aspects:

- 6.2 Historical Interest: The rarity of a building can be associated with the historical interest it embodies. The stronger is the association of the building with historical event(s)/ phase(s)/ activity(ies) and/or figure(s), the more it can reflect the historical development of Hong Kong, and/ or the older it is, the higher the score will be allocated to it in terms of rarity; and/or
- 6.3 Architectural Merit: This can also refer to buildings which represent the only or the few surviving examples of a particular type or style of architecture, building technology or fabric of Hong Kong, and are significant in exhibiting a rare or uncommon design, tradition (including traditional trades and crafts) or custom that is of exceptional interest to the community; and/or
- 6.4 Group value; and/or
- 6.5 Social value and local interest; and/or
- 6.6 Authenticity: This includes the architectural and cultural integrity and setting of a building.