

**For discussion
on 25 August 2015**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/13/2015-16**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

PURPOSE

This paper invites Members to consider the grading of Nos. 369 & 371 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai (the Buildings), in response to a joint letter and an appraisal of the Buildings submitted by some members of the public to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB).

BACKGROUND

2. A Grade 3 status was proposed for the Buildings by the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel, which was subsequently confirmed by the AAB on 21 December 2010.

3. Recently, a joint letter together with historical information of the Buildings (Annex A) issued by some members of the public was received by the AAB on 11 August 2015. The letter appealed to the AAB to reassess the grading of the Buildings and to declare the Buildings as proposed monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. The following information on the Buildings was provided by the signatories of the letter for AAB to re-consider the Grade 3 status of the Buildings:

- a. the Tung Tak Pawn Shop (同德押) at No. 371 Hennessy Road is associated with Li Yau Tsun (李右泉) and Ko Ho Ning (高可寧), both of whom were prominent figures in pawn-broking industry;
- b. the Tung Tak Pawn Shop is the only shophouse with curved façade located at corner site on Hong Kong Island; and

c. the building was designed by Raven & Basto Architect.

4. On 18 August 2015, an anonymous letter providing historical information on the Tung Tak Pawn Shop and Li Yau Tsun (**Annex B**) was received by the AAB.

ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW INFORMATION

5. In light of the above, the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel held an urgent meeting on 17 August 2015 to assess the information recently received. After thorough deliberations, the panel considered the Grade 3 status of the Buildings should be maintained as the history of pawn shop had been taken into full consideration when the Buildings were graded, the rarity of the Buildings was not as high as claimed as there were still about a dozen similar shophouses surviving, and the architecture of the Buildings was not innovative. The appraisal of the Buildings, with the information provided and other information included, has been revised subsequently at **Annex C** for Members' consideration.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to consider the grading of Nos. 369 & 371 Hennessy Road in view of the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel and the information provided by the joint letter.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
August 2015

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