

**Heritage Appraisal of Hung Lau  
near Shek Kok Tsui Village, Castle Peak, Tuen Mun, New Territories**

The exact year of construction of Hung Lau is not known. Hung Lau is commonly known as the “Red House” (紅樓), although whether this name comes from its revolutionary associations or its reddish colour may be a matter of conjecture.

***Historical  
Interest***

Hung Lau is situated at the former Castle Peak Farm (青山農場) which was originally owned by Li Ki-tong (李紀堂), alias Li Pak (李柏), the third son of a wealthy merchant named Li Sing (李陞), a dedicated follower of Dr. Sun Yat-sen (孫逸仙 / 孫中山) and a member of the anti-Qing revolutionary society Hsing Chung Hui (or “Xingzhonghui”) (興中會). Between 1901 and 1911, the former Castle Peak Farm had been used as a depot for weapon storage, a ground for the manufacture and experimentation of firearms required for the contemplated uprisings, a meeting place of revolutionaries and a haven for disbanded revolutionaries escaping from the Manchu vengeance. Having said that, no direct relationship between the building and revolutionary activities led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen could be fully established.

Hung Lau, which is more Western than Chinese, is not particularly distinguished. The main part of the house is a two-storey pitched-roof building divided into two units by cross walls, with a two-storey verandah extension at the front and a two-storey kitchen and storeroom annexe at the rear. From the layout, it would appear that the building originally was two semi-detached living units. There are few architectural embellishments. Windows are plain metal windows in hooded openings. The balustrade to the first floor verandah is formed of pierced screen blocks, virtually the only ornamentation. The walls are constructed of bricks and plastered with a faded pink finish. The roof and floor construction is of timber using Western structural methods. Internally, the only items of interest are the glazed and panelled wooden doors to the verandahs.

***Architectural  
Merit***

The present building carries some characteristics of the architecture in the 1920s and 1930s. In comparison of old survey plans, discrepancy is noted on the building’s location and configuration. It is uncertain as to whether the existing building is the same original structure that existed on the site in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its present use is residential.

***Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

Due to its location in the former Castle Peak Farm, Hung Lau is a piece of built heritage with social value and local interest. The former Castle Peak Farm is still a reminder of Hong Kong's role in the revolutionary movement in Chinese history.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***