

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 7, 8, 9 & 10 Sheung Wo Che
Sha Tin, N.T.

Sheung Wo Che (上禾輦) was a small village having a history of 150 years occupied by the Lams (藍), the Chans (陳) the Wongs (黃) and the Cheungs (張). The village was expanded with new houses of city dwellers used as their holiday villas and summer retreat after the construction of the Kowloon-Canton Railway in 1911. Houses were built mainly along the railway line and near the railway station. The houses at Nos.7, 8, 9 and 10 form one of the examples. It is said that houses Nos. 7 and 9 were first built by a Tsui Kwai-fong (崔桂芳), a widow in Sham Shui Po in the 1930s. No. 10 was later added and used as a kitchen and a bathroom and No.8 added in the 1960s. The houses were sold to a Lee Chun (李椿) and finally to the Yaus (丘) who moved from Pai Tau (排頭) village of Sha Tin and settled in the village in the early 1920s.

***Historical
Interest***

The houses are connected together with No. 7 on the far right and No. 10 on the far left. They are a short distance from the railway line with some houses in between. The houses are mainly in Chinese Eclectic style. No. 9, a three-bay structure, is the tallest and widest building having two storeys with an impressive front façade. Its middle bay is with a Tuscan column on either side of its entrance and two up on the upper floor by the window. A pilaster with festoon moulding is on either side of the columns. Above the entrance is a pediment and at its roof edge a parapet wall with interlocking geometric patterns. No. 7 is a one-storey building with a pilaster on either side of its entrance topped with a parapet with festoon mouldings. No.8 is the only pitched roof building with no decoration. The houses are constructed of concrete, granite blocks and bricks with its walls and columns to support its roofs. The buildings are plastered and painted in earth yellow colour externally.

***Architectural
Merit***

The houses are residential buildings to witness the history and changes of Sheung Wo Che.

Rarity

The special style of the houses has considerable built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The basic authenticity of the houses is kept.

Authenticity

Villagers in Sheung Wo Che were mainly farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing and pig and poultry rearing. They also collected firewood and grass for sale in Kowloon City and Chuk Yuen (竹園) markets. They got their daily necessities at the old Tai Po Market (舊大埔墟).

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***