

Historic Building Appraisal

Nos. 5 & 6 Tui Min Hoi

Sai Kung, New Territories

The houses situated at Nos. 5 and 6 Tui Min Hoi (對面海), originally called Tsiu Lung (蕉壟) and established in the early nineteenth century as a scattered coastal Hakka village, are a pair of semi-detached village houses built in 1933 by the third generation of the Chungs in Tui Min Hoi and replaced an earlier village house which had become dilapidated. The houses have been the residences of the Chung (鍾) family for four generations. The Chungs continued to live in Nos. 5 and 6 during the Japanese Occupation. For almost six years after the Occupation, emergency food rations of rice were distributed by the Hong Kong Government through the Sai Kung Self-Governing Committee (西貢區自治委員會) in front of the Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) in Sai Kung Market. Two Chung brothers, Tim-choi (添才) and Ting-yau (丁有), were recruited by the British Army. Ting-yau worked for fifteen years in the transportation section. In the 1950s, Tim-choi and Ting-yau inherited No.5 and No.6 respectively.

*Historical
Interest*

The dwelling houses are situated on a raised platform at the foot of a hill and originally faced the sea, but the sea view is now blocked by a new development called Lakeside Garden (翠塘花園). The front façade of the building is comprised of an open verandah or porch at ground floor level with three columns supporting an open verandah at first floor level. Round and square columns on the first floor verandah support an entablature, a central curved pediment, and an eye-catching parapet wall composed of posts and pinnacles with ornamental panels in-between.

*Architectural
Merit*

The main walls of the building are rendered and white-washed with small casement windows protected by guard bars. Internally the two halves of the building are divided up by wooden partitions to form living rooms at the front, bedrooms in the middle, and kitchens and bathrooms at the rear. Some original patterned floor tiles can still be seen. A staircase leads up to the first floor rooms and the roof terrace. As the building exhibits Western architectural influence in the façade it can be categorized architecturally as **Chinese Eclectic**.

The ornamental pediment and parapet to this building is a distinctive feature which is quite rare. The building is a good example of a 1930s local tenement house showing Western influence and has important built heritage value. Although looking rather dilapidated, there is little evidence of major alterations so that the building retains its authenticity.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the building lies in its role since it was built as a typical village residence which has been occupied by the same family for four generations. Its distinctive features give it local interest.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

The best use for the building is for it to continue to be used as a family dwelling. The question of adaptive re-use depends a lot on the requirements of the local community.

*Adaptive
Re-use*