

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Main Block, Tung Wah Hospital,**  
**No. 12 Po Yan Street, Sheung Wan, H.K.**

Tung Wah Hospital (東華醫院) was founded in 1872 and managed by the Tung Wah Board of Directors comprising Chinese community leaders. The establishment of Tung Wah Hospital could be traced back to Kwong Fuk Tze (廣福祠), a small temple built at No.40 Tai Ping Shan Street on the Hong Kong Island in 1856 for people to house the spirit-tablets of their ancestors. As the temple was gradually taken by the sick and the destitute as a refuge, it became reeked with dirt. With the endeavour of a group of Chinese community leaders, the first Chinese hospital in Hong Kong, named “Tung Wah Hospital”, was finally built upon the grant of some funds and a piece of land at Po Yan Street, Sheung Wan by the Government.

*Historical  
Interest*

With subsequent expansion, Tung Wah Hospital became one of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, the other two being Kwong Wah Hospital (廣華醫院) and Tung Wah Eastern Hospital (東華東院). The current six-storey hospital building was built in 1934 to replace the old two-storey wooden block. Over the years, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has developed into the largest and most important Chinese association in Hong Kong, providing diversified and high quality medical, education and community services for the public.

Since its establishment, Tung Wah Hospital has undergone a lot of development. The **Main Block** is now the oldest part in the entire hospital complex. It is a six-storey building with a mezzanine level above the ground floor. The building is a very stripped down **Neo-Classical** style building featuring two entrance porches with classical columns and painted rendered walls (possibly Shanghai plaster) grooved to imitate stonework. Windows are rectangular, regularly spaced with small glazing squares. Some windows appear to have been installed to enclose open balconies or verandahs. Horizontal band courses run across the facades at each storey level and a projecting cornice runs around the building at parapet level. Internally grander classical architecture can be seen in the Great Hall which features classical columns, panelling to walls and ceiling, couplets and tablets on the walls, and a display of photo-portraits of former committee members of the Tung Wah Group in ornamental marble frames.

*Architectural  
Merit*

Although the architecture of the building is not particularly rare or spectacular, the building itself has built heritage value as one of the oldest

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage*

hospitals in the Tung Wah Group. It is known that alterations have taken place internally and modifications appear to have been made externally as well. *Value & Authenticity*

The social value of the Hospital lies in the role it has played in providing medical services to the community. As the Tung Wah Hospital helped the Chinese community socially and culturally, it is regarded with great respect by most local people. *Social Value & Local Interest*

Situated at the end of Po Yan Street, the hospital is near to the Sun Yat Sen Historical Trail and very close to Kwong Fuk Tze, the old site which came to be used as a shelter where the dying poor were deposited awaiting death and where Tung Wah Hospital originated showing the significance of the present location. *Group Value*

As far as is known there are no plans to close down the Hospital so that the question of adaptive re-use does not really arise. *Adaptive Re-use*