

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 Mallory Street,**  
**Wan Chai, Hong Kong**

The site which is now occupied by Mallory Street and Burrows Street was originally a shipyard and timber yard owned by the Whampoa firm of **T. Hunt & Co.** Later the site appears to have been acquired by the American firm, **Burrows & Sons**, and **Mr. Lawrence Mallory**. As shown in the Land Records, the present sites of **Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 Mallory Street** (Inland Lot No. 2240) and of Nos.6, 8, 10 and 12 Burrows Street (Inland Lot No. 2239) were registered as the Marine Lot No. 110 which commenced in 1859 for leasing 999 years. In 1921, after the declining influence of American companies in Wan Chai, Marine Lot No. 110 was divided into Inland Lots Nos.2239, 2240 & 2241 owned by **Mr. Ko Ho-ning** (高可寧) – the chairman of Macau Chamber of Commerce 澳門中華總商會 for 1941 and a wealthy man who competed for Macau gambling licensing with Stanley Ho (何鴻燊) in 1961).

**Historical  
Interest**

The shophouses at Mallory and Burrows Streets date back to the 1910s, and were built by the **Hong Kong Land Investment Company**. Shops occupied the ground floors and the upper floors were used for either storage or residential purposes. After it was surrendered to the Government in the 1970s, the ground floor of Nos. 3-7 was used as a Street Sleepers Shelter (露宿者之家) and the ground floor of Nos. 9-11 has been occupied by Yau Tsai Kee Chinese Restaurant (有仔記酒家) for four decades. The restaurant is now the oldest shop on the street.

Mallory Street was named after Mr. Lawrence Mallory in 1859. Lawrence Mallory possessed Burrows Street and also bought the next street as Mallory Street. He was a long time resident who died in Hong Kong in 1904.

The Mallory Street shophouses are four stories high with cantilevered balconies projecting over the street. Kitchens are located at the back in rear annexes, and there are small back-yards served by a scavenging lane. There are no toilets. Shared staircases are located between the shophouses. Construction is believed to be structural brick walls, reinforced concrete cantilevered balconies, and wooden floors and stairs. The roof is pitched and probably was covered with Chinese tiles originally. The elevations are rather simple, the character of the shophouses being defined by the cantilevered balconies.

**Architectural  
Merit**

The shophouse or *tong lau* is a traditional building type that was commonly found in urban South China before the 1970s, albeit in various designs. The Mallory Street shophouses are rare examples of the **Cantilevered Balcony** type and part of Hong Kong's built heritage and local streetscape.

**Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity**

Inevitably some alterations and additions have been made but these are considered to be reversible. Original features such as floor tiles, doors and windows still exist.

The social value of the shophouses lies in the role they played in the commercial development of Wan Chai, and the cheap living accommodation they provided for the working class. Although very basic in design and lacking sanitary facilities, they are part of Hong Kong's history.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

Shophouses on Nos. 6, 8, 10 and 12 Burrows Street (巴路士街), Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 Hing Wan Street (慶雲街), Nos. 72, 72A, 74 and 74A Stone Nullah Lane (石水渠街), Old Wan Chai Post Office (舊灣仔郵政局) (Declared Monument), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖古廟) on Nos. 129-131 Queen's Road East and Old Wan Chai Market (舊灣仔街市) are other historic buildings nearby.

***Group Value***

In March 2005, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) announced the commencement of the Mallory Street Project for Cultural and Creative Industries. The project will conserve the shophouses and create units of about 650 square feet each for the use of cultural and creative industries. Subject to a detailed conservation policy, all character defining elements including vintage architectural features of the buildings such as the balconies, French windows and pitched roof will be kept as they are.

***Adaptive  
Re-use***