

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**No. 58 Pei Ho Street,**  
**Sham Shui Po, Kowloon**

No. 58 Pei Ho Street (北河街) was probably one of the thirty-two houses constructed in the early 1920s by Li Ping (李炳, 1871 – 1953), alias Li A Ping (李亞炳) and Li Shui Kam (李瑞琴), who was the first developer of Sham Shui Po.<sup>1</sup> He was granted Crown Leases for 108,900 square feet comprising Inland Lot Nos. 17 to 25 on 12 April 1906. *Historical Interest*

It is said that No. 58 Pei Ho Street was erected for Shing Fung Pawnshop (成豐押), which was owned by Ko Ho-ning (高可寧), Chairman of Macau Chamber of Commerce (澳門中華總商會) for 1941, who ran a great variety of businesses, such as banking, trading, housing and financing in Hong Kong and Macau. His pawnshop business covered both Hong Kong and Macau, which formed an extensive chain-store network of pawnshops. Shing Fung Pawnshop ran its business for almost 50 years until it moved to North Point in the 1970s, in order to avoid direct competition with the nearby Nam Cheong Pawnshop (南昌押) which still remains on Nam Cheong Street.

From the 1970s onwards, No. 58 Pei Ho Street has been occupied by Dai Kam Lung Medicine Co. (大金龍參茸藥材海味公司). As told by a shopkeeper in the early 2000s, the shop was originally opened on Ko Shing Street (高陞街) in Sheung Wan. Due to an acute competition and a sharp increase of rent in that district, the shop was moved to Sham Shui Po.

In the past, the location of No. 58 Pei Ho Street was very near to the shore. It was the uploading area and many sailors got off their ships from the piers nearby. According to the locals, No. 58 was a shack that sold alcohol to seamen in the early days. Throughout the twentieth century, the government had undertaken a series of reclamation scheme in Sham Shui Po. The coastline at present is much further west than before. Thus the entire Pei Ho Street is inland now, and has developed into a market area.

This three-storey building is situated on the south corner of the junction of Tai Nan Street (大南街) and Pei Ho Street. It is a verandah type shophouse, a type commonly found in the 1920s. The front part of the shophouse projects over the pavement to Pei Ho Street to form a covered walkway. The first floor verandah has been enclosed with steel framed windows and there is a later-added structure on *Architectural Merit*

<sup>1</sup> The late Li Ping was the owner of Li Cottage (玉山艸堂) at Tung Lo Wan (銅鑼灣), Sha Tin (Grade 1).

the roof of the verandah. The façade to Tai Nan Street is rendered and painted with regularly spaced windows and projecting string courses at each storey level. There is a cantilevered balcony with an ornamental ironwork balustrade at second floor level. The roof of the building is flat with a plain parapet wall. There is a small walled yard at the rear of the building containing a small single-storey building which may be a kitchen or toilet.

Shophouses are becoming rarer year by year due to redevelopment. No. 58 Pei Ho Street therefore is a rare piece of built heritage. Its authenticity and original appearance have been affected to some extent by enclosure of the front verandah, the erection of an roof structure and internal alterations.

***Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

The social value of the shophouse lies in the contribution it has made to urban development. It has evolved through several different phases and this particular shophouse is part of the historical urban fabric of Sham Shui Po with some social interest.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

No. 58 Pei Ho Street is within walking distance of Nos. 269 & 271 Yu Chau Street (汝州街), Sam Tai Tsz Temple (三太子宮), Pak Tai Temple (北帝宮) (all Grade 3), and Sham Shui Po Police Station (深水埗警署, Grade 2).

***Group Value***