

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 189 Apliu Street,
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

Apliu Street (鴨寮街) was developed in the early 1900s and Nos. 187 and 189 appear from Land Registry records to have been built in the early 1920s. No. 187 Shophouse has been discarded for over twenty years and substantially altered. Not much else seems to be known about the history of these adjoining shophouses. *Historical Interest*

The village of Sham Shui Po was built on land owned by the Tang family (鄧氏) of Kam Tin (錦田) and also the Chow family, Lee family, Chang family, Wong family etc. In the past, the north of Sham Shui Po village was a cluster of matsheds where the huts were built on the beach and partly over water. This street, called Apliu (鴨寮) literally meaning duck sheds, has retained much of the remnants of the secular life. The site allows contemplation of the fundamentals of every day living of the average immigrant to Hong Kong.

Nos. 187 and 189 were designed in an “one-stair for two-flats” type (一梯兩伙), of which they share a stairway in between. Each is three stories high with the first floor verandah jutting out over the pavement supported on granite columns to create a covered pedestrian walkway or arcade. The front facades of the two shophouses also feature ornamental balustrades bearing western style motifs to verandahs. The side elevation of the adjoining houses is at No. 187, which featured a fine classical window with columns supporting an architraved arch and keystone. Unfortunately, No. 187 has undergone substantial alteration, with those classical features removed. *Architectural Merit*

Shophouses are now quite rare in Hong Kong. No. 189 is one of the surviving examples of pre-war verandah-type shophouses and should be preserved as an important part of Sham Shui Po’s built heritage. Some alterations have been made over the years such as enclosure of verandahs with windows, rooftop structures and unsightly pipework, but some of the original architectural fabrics and features are still retained. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of No. 189 Apliu Street lies in its historical role in the commercial development of Sham Shui Po and for the economical residential accommodation it provided. It also gives local interest to Apliu Street. *Social Value & Local Interest*

No. 189 Apliu Street is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as other pre-war shophouses at No. 96 Apliu Street, No. 58 Pei Ho Street *Group Value*

(北河街) (both Grade 2), Nos. 269 and 271 Yu Chau Street (汝州街) and Nos. 117-125 Nam Cheong Street (南昌街) (all Grade 3).