

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Old Wan Chai Market**  
**No. 264 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong**

The Old Wan Chai Market at No. 264 Queen's Road East was built in 1937 to replace its predecessor, which was built in around 1858 and finally demolished in 1937. The building inherited the original role and function of the earlier establishment. A story goes that the Japanese troops used the basement of the building for the storage of corpses during the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945). There were stalls selling a variety of market produce (e.g. fish, meat, vegetables and poultry). The building was included in the redevelopment scheme of Wan Chai Road / Tai Yuen Street under the Urban Renewal Authority.

***Historical  
Interest***

The building is of two storeys with a basement built in International Modern style. It is built to a triangular plan with rounded corners. The plan is symmetrical on the central axis. The structure is reinforced concrete with cantilevered floor and roof slabs supported on round columns known as *piloti*. This allowed an open plan and maximum light and ventilation to be provided in the elevations. Windows and ventilation openings are provided in bands protected from the weather by projecting typhoon canopies which give the building a striking appearance. Walls are rendered and painted white with black trim to the edges of the canopies. The roof is flat with safety railings around the parapet. Open cantilevered staircases are provided at the rear of the building.

***Architectural  
Merit***

The unique shape of the building makes it a rare piece of 1930s architecture with real built heritage value representing an outstanding local example of the International Modern Style. The major architectural features are still identifiable on the main facade, has been retained.

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

For decades, the building has served the local community and is fondly remembered by Wan Chai residents.

***Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest***

The Old Wan Chai Market is within walking distance from other historic buildings, such as the Old Wan Chai Post Office (舊灣仔郵政局), Yuk Hui Temple (玉虛宮) (both Declared Monuments), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖古廟), Nam Koo Terrace (南固臺), and Nos. 72, 72A, 74 and 74A Stone Nullah Lane (石水渠街) (all Grade 1).

***Group Value***