

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 369 & 371 Hennessy Road,**  
**Wan Chai, Hong Kong**

The exact year of construction of No. 371 Hennessy Road (軒尼詩道) has not been ascertained but it was already in existence in 1942. The earliest registered owner of the property is **Mr Poon Ho-cheung**. An archival document “家屋所有權登錄申請書” recorded that **Pun Hong Shi** (潘康氏) and **Pun Leung Shi** (潘梁氏) were the executrixes of the property. At the time, it was a four-storey building used for commercial purpose. In 1946, Mr Leung Wai-man and Mr Leung Wai-tak, staff of British American Tobacco Company (China) Limited, occupied the third floor of the building.

*Historical  
Interest*

From its architectural character, No. 371 Hennessy Road was probably built in the 1930s, following the completion of the Praya East Reclamation Scheme of 1921-1931. The building is currently used as a pawnshop named Tung Tak Pawn Shop (同德大押).

The building is situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Hennessy Road and Marsh Road. It is four stories high and the upper floor verandahs project over the pavement being supported on columns to form a covered walkway in front of the ground floor shop. The building which is in the **International Modern** architectural style popular in the 1930s is a **Verandah Type Shophouse** of traditional type in spite of its modern appearance. Modernist architectural features include the curved corner, streamlined cornices and string courses and Art Deco style surrounds to verandah openings. Applied Art Deco motifs can also be made out on the columns. The structure appears to be a reinforced concrete frame with the columns and floor slabs emphasized on the facades. The verandahs may have been open originally but they are now enclosed with green painted steel framed and wooden windows. The east façade facing March Road shows the right angle return of the projecting verandahs to the main part of the building. The roof is flat featuring staircase bulkheads. The ground floor pawnshop is designed in traditional Chinese style in contrast to the rendered and painted upper facade.

*Architectural  
Merit*

Shophouses are becoming rarer due to redevelopment. No. 371 Hennessy Road therefore is a rare piece of built heritage. Its architectural style is quite unusual for a shophouse. Its authenticity has not been affected too much and it seems to retain much of its original appearance.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

The social value of the shophouse lies in the contribution it has made to urban development. The shophouse has evolved through several types. This

*Social Value  
& Local*

particular shophouse at No. 371 Hennessy Road is unusual and is part of the historical urban fabric of Wan Chai. It is probably of interest to historians and conservationists. *Interest*

Although most of the structures nearby are mainly high-rise buildings, a number of pre-war shophouses can still be found in Wan Chai such as Nos. 1-11 Mallory Street, Nos. 2-8 Hing Wan Street, Nos. 186-190 Queen's Road East, Nos. 72-74A Stone Nullah Lane and Nos. 6-8 Hing Wan Street. *Group Value*

An adaptive re-use could probably be found for the shophouse, but its authenticity might be affected. Probably the best use is for it to continue to be used for commercial-cum-residential purposes. *Adaptive Re-use*