

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Hoh Fuk Tong Centre**  
**No. 28 Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories**

Hoh Fuk Tong Centre (何福堂中心) is named after Rev. Ho Fuk Tong (何福堂牧師), the first Chinese pastor in Hong Kong and the father of Sir Ho Kai (何啟爵士) who was one of the most prominent Chinese leaders in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was formerly the home of General Cai Tingjie 蔡廷鍇 (1892-1968) who led the Nineteenth Route Army (十九路軍) to fight against the Japanese and succeeded in repulsing the enemy attacks in the Battle of Songjiang-Shanghai (淞滬之戰) in 1932. *Historical Interest*

From 1946 to 1949 the site was used as a school by the Ta Teh Institute (達德學院) which was affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party. The Institute was founded under the directive of Zhou Enlai (周恩來), later Chinese Premier of the People's Republic of China. The teachers of the Institute included renowned academics from China such as Mao Dun (茅盾), Liu Yazi (柳亞子), Guo Moruo (郭沫若) and Shen Junru (沈鈞儒).

After the closure of Ta Teh Institute, the London Missionary Society (倫敦傳道會), now the Council for World Mission (世界傳道會), bought the campus and lent it to the Church of Christ in China (中華基督教會) as a seminary for training women ministers. The seminary was later renamed Hong Kong Theological Institute (香港神學院), where training was provided to local ministers to become clergy.

The Hoh Fuk Tong House (何福堂會所) was built in the 1940s as a girls' dormitory. It was known as the "Red House" (紅屋) because it was built of red bricks with Art Deco influence. As there are not many buildings of Art Deco style in Hong Kong, Hoh Fuk Tong House must be considered a rarity and worthy of retention. *Architectural Merit*

The Pavilion (涼亭) is a small structure built around 1936 on a pentagon shaped plinth with five simple square columns finished in pink terrazzo supporting a green glazed Chinese tiled roof with a central pommel or ball finial, and a projecting eaves all round. Ornamentation is simple consisting of balustrade panels in fretwork pattern and a plain frieze below the eaves painted with different coloured chevrons. It appears to be fairly authentic and *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

have built heritage value.

The Canteen (飯堂) is a pitched roof utilitarian style building probably dating from the 1950s. It is the site of the former “Democracy Hall” (民主禮堂) of Ta Teh Institute. It had been a wooden structure prior to reconstruction into a concrete building in the 1970s.

Probably built in the 1950s, the Home of Leung Fat (梁發之家) is a small single storey pitched roof stone building used as a chapel. The Mark Hall (馬可堂) and Home of Bethel (伯達尼之家), believed to be built in the same period, are similar buildings also used for religious purposes.

The Morrison Building (馬禮遜樓, the main building of the former Ta Teh Institute) has been declared as a monument. It is an imposing 2-storey building built at first glance of solid granite blocks, but which are in fact Shanghai plaster rendering marked with masonry courses to resemble stonework.

As part of the group of buildings which make up the compound of Hoh Fuk Tong Centre, all the buildings contribute to the group value and have much social value and local interest due to their historical associations.

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

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