

Historic Building Appraisal
No. 6 Stewart Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

No solid evidence can be found to show when the present building at No. 6 Stewart Road was constructed. It was probably built in the **1930s** on land reclaimed in the Praya East Reclamation which was completed in 1929. The lease commenced on 11 May 1928 for a term of ninety-nine years with the right of renewal for a further term of ninety-nine years. The property is known to have changed ownership during the Japanese Occupation.

***Historical
Interest***

Stewart Road was named after Sir Frederick Stewart, the son of a crofter tailor of Aberdeenshire in Scotland. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1862 at the age of twenty-five, and later served as a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils and as Colonial Secretary.

There is a residential-cum-commercial building once occupied by a restaurant, a healthcare centre and two offices with residential units on the upper floors. It is a four-storey structure on the corner of Jaffe Road and Stewart Road. The upper three storeys are projected over the pavement to Stewart Road to form a covered walkway. The Jaffe Road elevation has long horizontal cantilevered balconies with round ends at each floor level with a matching typhoon canopy at parapet level. The building is constructed of reinforced concrete framing which can clearly be seen. Ornamentation is minimal being confined mainly to horizontal and vertical fluting to give a streamlined effect. The building can be classified as a **Verandah Type Shophouse** in the **International** or **Modernist** design.

***Architectural
Merit***

Shophouses are becoming rarer year by year due to redevelopment. No. 6 Stewart Road therefore is a rare piece of built heritage. Its authenticity and original appearance have been affected to some extent by enclosure of front verandahs and modern aluminium replacement windows but these alterations can be considered as reversible.

***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 types and this particular shophouse is part of the historical urban fabric. It is however probably only of local interest to historians and conservationists.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

It is within walking distance from the other shophouses on 72, 72A, 74 and 74A Stone Nullah Lane (石水渠街) (Grade 1), those on Nos. 6, 8, 10 and 12 Burrows Street (巴路士街) (Grade 2), Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 Hing Wan Street (慶雲街) (Grade 3), Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 Mallory Street (茂羅街) (Grade 2) and Nos. 186, 188 & 190 Queen's Road East (皇后大道東) (Grade 3). Nearby historic buildings include, for example, Old Wan Chai Post Office (Declared Monument), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖古廟) on Nos. 129-131 Queen's Road East (Grade 1), and Wan Chai Market (灣仔街市) on No.264 Queen's Road East (Grade 3).

Group Value

An adaptive re-use for the building could probably be found but the shophouse's authenticity might be affected. The best use is for it to continue to be used for its present purpose, but pressure to redevelop the site might be too great.

Adaptive

Re-use

REFERENCES

Document Records at The Land Registry Office, Hong Kong

Property Particulars of Section I of Inland Lot No. 2756

Books, Articles, and Other Sources

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Hacker, Arthur. *Arthur Hacker's Wanchai*. Hong Kong: The Guidebook Company Limited, 1997.

Wordie, Jason. *Streets: Exploring Hong Kong Island*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2002.

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