

Historic Building Appraisal
Sing Lei Hap Gei Lime Kiln Factory
No. 2 Nam Wan, Peng Chau

Sing Lei Hap Gei Lime Kiln Factory (勝利合記石灰窯廠辦公室) was one of three lime kiln factories on Peng Chau (坪洲). It was built at Nam Wan (南灣, also known as South Bay) in the **1920s** by a syndicate all of whom were members of a Tseung (蔣) (alias Chiang or Cheung) family which had other business undertakings in Hong Kong; for example, Tseung Fu-kwong was not only one of the owners of the land lot, but also one of the hotel proprietors of King Edward Hotel (英皇大酒店) at No. 5 Ice House Street in Central (中環雪廠街 5 號) and had shares of Taxi Cab Company and Hong Kong Restaurant. The Tseungs came from Xinhui in Guangdong province (廣東新會) and founded the lime-making business on Peng Chau. Their factory (Sing Lei Hap Gei, 勝利合記) was one of the three largest lime-kiln factories on Peng Chau – the other two being Tai Lee (大利) and Tung Hing (東興). Their factory even had its own private jetty for the convenience of transportation of raw materials and products. The factory continued production throughout the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), but business rapidly declined after the Second World War due to the competition brought by the lime imported from Mainland China and Japan, and the increased popularity in construction with reinforced concrete. The factory eventually ceased operation in the 1970s. The building under study was believed to have been used as the office and mess of the factory. The annexes to the building were later additions used as staff quarters.

*Historical
Interest*

The actual lime kiln factory and furnace no longer exist and the building under study is believed to have been the office and mess for the factory workers. The building consists of a pair of two-storey pitched roof houses built side by side with a lean-to annex built on to the southeast corner and another lean-to annex built on to the northwest corner. All the structures have walls of brickwork or masonry which have been rendered and painted. The wall finishes are seriously dilapidated but the name of the factory and decorative motifs can still be made out on the facades. The roofs appear to be finished with Chinese tiles. Windows are steel framed and doors are made up of sheet metal. The annex on the southeast corner has an ornamental ventilation grille formed of diaper brickwork. Internally, the China fir pole construction of the first floor can be seen and a straight flight wooden staircase. The building can be classified as a simple vernacular village house put to Utilitarian use.

*Architectural
Merit*

The building is not a particularly rare type nor does it have much architectural merit. The trace of the former factory, including the name of the

*Rarity,
Built Heritage*

factory and decorative motifs, on the exterior merits some degree of authenticity. As one of the old lime kiln factory buildings, it carries some built heritage value and historic value. ***Value & Authenticity***

The building's social value lies in the role it has played in the lime-making industry on Peng Chau. It is well known and has local interest to the inhabitants round about. The areas where the coral and sea shells were stored before conversion to lime, the factory furnace area, and the old pier are all shown on the ordnance survey map of Nam Wan . ***Social Value & Local Interest***

The factory contributed to the development of the local (Hong Kong) lime-making industry. From the heritage point of view, the Office and Mess of Sing Lei Hap Gei Lime Kiln Factory is situated nearby the historic item of Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) and a number of items recorded by the Antiquities and Monuments Office including the Stone House at Peng Chau Wing On Street (坪洲永安街), Peng Chau Chi Yan Public School (坪洲公立志仁學校) at Peng Chau Lane (坪洲里), Leather Factory Site (牛皮廠) at Chi Yan Lane (志仁里), Ruins of Great Match Factory (大中國火柴廠址) at Peng Lei Road (坪利道) and I-Tsz at Wing On Toi (永安台). All the buildings form the cultural cluster of Peng Chau area. ***Group Value***