

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**No. 3 Shek O Road,**  
**Shek O, Hong Kong**

No. 3 Shek O Road was constructed around 1929 by the Shek O Development Company Limited. Established in 1921, the Company consisted of English shareholders who were architects, accountants, solicitors and medical practitioners. Most shareholders had very well-off backgrounds, such as Godfrey Vernon Bird, Herbert William Bird and Lennox Godfrey Bird, the architects of Palmer and Turner; Cedric Blaker, the Director of the Messrs. Deacons Hong Kong; Frederick Charles Hall, the merchant of the Jardine, Matheson & Company Ltd.; and Colin Cunningham Scott, the merchant of the Butterfield & Swire Hong Kong. *Historical Interest*

The bungalow was part of the first phase of a development scheme of Shek O Development Company, which purchased a large piece of paddy and agricultural land in 1922 from the Shek O villagers to develop the area into a European residential resort with a golf course, clubhouse and other recreational facilities. Development plans of several land lots owned by the Company were submitted by Lennox Godfrey Bird, a partner of Palmer & Turner or by Palmer & Turner to the Government from 1924 to 1931, during which some of the buildings had been completed. Developed through the 1920s, a number of western country bungalows scattered centered or along the golf courses of the Shek O Country Club (石澳鄉村俱樂部). The bungalow at No. 3 Shek O Road was occupied by Mr. Colin Cunningham Scott, a merchant of Butterfield & Swire Hong Kong, as a summer villa in 1934, for instance.

The bungalow is built to an L-shaped plan with a single-storey wing and a two-storey wing. The walls finished with painted roughcast rendering, support pitched tiled roofs. There are two chimney stacks on the roofs. The front entrance porch is set in the internal angle formed by the two wings and has a triangular shaped roof and privacy screens of grille blocks. The original windows which were probably standard metal casements have been replaced with modern units. The design of the bungalow shows Arts and Crafts influences. *Architectural Merit*

The bungalow is quite a rare type of building in Hong Kong and the Shek O resort development was an innovative concept. The development is part of the history of Shek O and therefore this bungalow together with its neighbours is considered as having built heritage value and group value. Alterations include the replacement of the windows and possibly the addition of the top storey to the two-storey wing. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of this bungalow to the local community is limited as the Shek O resort development was designed exclusively for Europeans. It is of local interest as part of the development. The concept of a reserve for Europeans only is a part of Hong Kong's history.

*Social Value & Local Interest*

The Shek O area is mainly a high grade residential resort and integrates with this country villa's physical and spiritual quality. The surroundings are a rural area of nice green hills and sea views remote from the city.

No. 3 Shek O Road has group value with the clubhouse of the Shek O Country Club and No. 7 Shek O Road (all Grade 3).

*Group Value*

## REFERENCES

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Property Particulars of Rural Building Lot 268.

### **Archives at Public Records Office, Hong Kong**

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HKRS265-11D-3337-2. R.B.L. No. 259 – Mortgage.

HKRS337-4-78. Shek O Development Co., Ltd. G.L. 81.

HKRS58-1-92-3. Shek O Reservation.

HKRS58-1-92-4. Shek O Lots.

HKRS58-1-92-5. Shek O Reservation.

HKRS58-1-172-50. Shek O Inland Lot.

### **Information in the Cyber Search Centre of Companies Registry**

Company Particulars of “The Shek O Development Company Limited”.

### **Printed Documents of the Colonial Office and Hong Kong Government**

Hong Kong Government Gazette, April 1913 to 1922, from Hong Kong Government Reports Online.

### **Books, Articles, Newspapers and Other Sources**

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Wordie, Jason. *Streets: Exploring Hong Kong Island*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2001.