

Historic Building Appraisal
Hung Leng Station
Sha Tau Kok Road, New Territories

Erected in 1911 and in service from 1912-1928, Fanling-Sha Tau Kok Branch Line (粉嶺沙頭角支線) was the first mass transit system for the northeastern part of the New Territories. Hung Leng Station (孔嶺站) is the only remaining building structure of the Branch Line (with the other two wayside stations at Wo Hang (禾坑) and Shek Chung Au (石涌凹)). The Hung Leng Station was closed in 1928 due to the closure of the Branch Line as an aftermath of the construction of Sha Tau Kok Road. In view of the above, Hung Leng Station is significant in the historical development of transportation in this area.

*Historical
Interest*

Purposely built as a functional railway station, Hung Leng Station is simply a covered shelter for passengers with minimal decorations and ornamentation. The building is long, narrow and rectangular with rooms opening off a front open verandah divided into five bays with rendered brick or possibly concrete columns. The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated sheeting. The gable end walls have ornamental parapets similar to those seen on village houses. The walls are built of brickwork which seems to have been coated with a grey cement slurry but not rendered as the brick courses and joints can be seen. The interior is divided up into five rooms possibly used originally as male and female waiting rooms, male and female toilets, and a small ticket office with a stove and chimney. Original wooden battened doors and wooden casement windows still survive. There is a U-shaped red-brick wall at the rear of the building acting as a revetment or retaining wall. The architectural style is simple rural vernacular similar in construction to Chinese village houses. It is probably best categorised in the **Utilitarian** classification.

*Architectural
Merit*

As the only surviving building of the old Fanling-Sha Tau Kok Branch Line, Hung Leng Station is a rare building and a valuable piece of built heritage. Although vacant and abandoned, its authenticity has not been affected by alterations and additions.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

Hung Leng Station had special social value to travellers to Fanling and people living there. Before the operation of the branch line, there was no public transport and people had to travel on foot. The line also played an important role in transportation of building materials, country produce, livestock and general merchandise. Hung Leng Station remains as a historical reminder of the old railway line.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

It is believed that the building was once used as a Highways Department store, hardly an appropriate use for this historic old building. It should be restored to its original condition and used as an annex to the Tai Po Railway Museum with a display of old photographs and railway relics and momentos. The vacant site at the rear of the building could be used as a visitors' car park with access through the adjacent Agricultural Station.

Adaptive

Re-use