

## Historic Building Appraisal

No. 62 Fuk Wing Street,  
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

The exact year of construction of the 4-storey building at No. 62 Fuk Wing Street (福榮街) cannot be ascertained, but from a review of land records, it is believed to have been built around 1933. The land lot on which the building stands (New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1683) is held under Government Lease. The 75-year lease, renewable for 24 years, was granted on 1 July 1898 – the date of the commencement of the Convention respecting an extension of the Hong Kong territory (展拓香港界址專條) signed as a result of war under which the New Territories (including New Kowloon) was leased to Britain. *Historical Interest*

Sham Shui Po (深水埗) was originally a rural area with a few villages scattered around. There was once a pier nearby built close to rocky cliffs where the deep water allowed easy anchorage of boats. Thus the name Shum(deep) Shui(water) Po(pier). The earlier reclamations in Sham Shui Po were done at the expense of the owners of large lots. From 1912, the government started to develop the area by building new roads, reclaiming land and filling the water tunnel to link scattered flat lands together. A second reclamation scheme was begun in 1919, which attracted more people to move into the area.

Fuk Wing Street (福榮街) – that is, the street where this building stands – was formerly called Tin Liu Street (田寮街) and it had appeared as early as 1925 in *Annual Report of the Director of Public Works* that year. It was renamed Fuk Wing Street in August 1930. In December 1933, the government re-arranged the Fuk Wing Street house numbers and what had been previously “No. 159 Fuk Wing Street” had become “No. 62 Fuk Wing Street” – a house number that has been used ever since.

The first registered owner of the building is **Chan Kam Shee**, but the background of this person (e.g. trade or business, in any) is not known. Typical as other pre-World War II Tong Lau 唐樓 (Chinese residence, shophouse), this building has been used for commercial purpose at the ground floor and residential accommodation at the upper floors. The ground floor has long been occupied by a Hong Kong-style “cha chan ting” (茶餐廳) selling coffee and noodles.

No. 62 Fuk Wing Street is built on an elongated rectangular plan with narrow frontage facing southwest. It is in the form of **Verandah Shophouse**. *Architectural Merit*

The upper floor verandahs project over the pavement supported on columns to form a covered walkway in front of the shop on the ground floor. It shares the partition wall with No. 64 at its northwest, and its southeast side is an alley leading to back alley of the building.

The building is painted in light brown. The building has retained some original classical features, such as the square-shaped columns on the ground floor and their capitals and plinths, the stylish and delicate motifs at the façade at the ground and first floors, a projecting cornice at the first floor, the parapet and decorative column heads at the roof, window hoods and quite a number of the original wooden framed windows at the alley side of the building. The wide projecting cornices with prominent dentils are in the **Italianate** style, whilst the decorative cartouches and tablets at the top of the columns recall the **eclectic design Mannerism of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts** style of architecture in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This type of Tong Lau (唐樓) is now becoming rarer in Hong Kong due to redevelopment and urban renewal. No. 62 Fuk Wing Street is in fact the only remaining pre-World War II shophouse in the street. There are alterations and additions, for example, the balconies at the first and second floors have been enclosed by modern aluminium-framed windows, and there is an additional one-storey structure on the original roof; however, the architectural authenticity of the building is kept to a large extent.

**Rarity,  
Built Heritage Value  
& Authenticity**

The social value of the building lies in the fact that it is a typical pre-World War II Tong Lau (唐樓) where business was, and still is, being operated on the ground floors while residential accommodation is located on the upper floors, thus signifying the history of Sham Shui Po being an old district with mixed residential and commercial/ retail uses. Therefore, it has social value and local interest as well as being a part of Hong Kong's history.

**Social Value  
& Local  
Interest**

The building is within a walking distance with a number of other historic buildings, such as Sham Shui Po Police Station (深水埗警署) (Grade 2), Sam Tai Tsz Temple (三太子宮) (Grade 2), Mo Tai Temple (武帝廟) (Grade 2), Pak Tai Temple (北帝廟) (Grade 3) and a row of shophouses at Nos. 117-125 (odd numbers) Nam Cheong Street (南昌街 117-125 號的單數門牌號) (Grade 3).

**Group Value**