

Historic Building Appraisal
Stone House, Central Kwai Chung Park,
San Kwai Street, Kwai Chung, N.T.

Located currently in the Central Kwai Chung Park, the Stone House was originally built as a residence for the Tsang family and is the only surviving building of the former Shui Fung Dairy Farm (瑞豐牧場). **Historical Interest**

The former Shui Fung Dairy Farm was at S.A. and S.B. of Lot No. 136 in D.D.448¹ (later renamed as KCTL 6) which was sold to Tsang Shui-yau (曾瑞有) by Irving Yeung (楊向榮), owner of the adjacent Leung Fat Dairy Farm, on 28 December 1949 at a cost of \$6,000, covering an area of 296,812 sq. ft.² The two farms, separated by a stream, were the only dairy farms not just in the Ha Kwai Chung area, but also in the New Territories in the 1950s.³

Tsang Shui-yau, apart from owning Shui Fung Dairy Farm, also owned Wah Hing Construction Company (華興建築公司), a contractor on the Public Works Department's List of Approved Contractors.⁴ The company participated in various major government projects, including the demolition of the Japanese War Memorial (忠靈塔) in 1947,⁵ the construction of the infrastructure works at Kai Tak Airport,⁶ government piers⁷ as well as social welfare projects such as the "Children's Village" in Wu Kai Sha,⁸ the predecessor of the present-day Youth Village. Tsang was an active member of the Building Contractors' Association between 1950 and 1980 and served as a committee member in the 1960s.⁹ He was also an active member of the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (基督教香港崇真會), attending the Kwai Chung church from 1956 to 1965, and served as an elder for the Sham Shui Po church from 1958.¹⁰

It is believed that Shui Fung Dairy Farm started operations in the early 1950s.¹¹

¹ Property particulars of lot no. 136 in D.D. 448 are section A, section B and remaining portion of lot no. 136 in D.D. 448.

² Property particulars of section A and section B of lot no. 136 in D.D. 448, TW53840 dated 28 December 1949.

³ Gan Bee Lay, 'Dairy Farming in the Colony of Hong Kong', dissertation (B.A.), The University of Hong Kong, 1955.

⁴ Hong Kong Government Gazette of 13 February 1948, notification no. 135.

⁵ 'Jap War Memorial – Demolition Will Cost Over Three and Half Lakhs and Take Three Months', *South China Morning Post*, 9 January 1947.

⁶ *Report of the Director of Public Works for the Year 1947-1948*, 1948; *Report of the Director of Public Works for the Year 1949-1950*, 1950.

⁷ Hong Kong Government Gazette of 8 July 1949, notification no. 664.

⁸ 「烏溪沙兒童新村第二期工程完成 首批孤兒已遷入」，《華僑日報》，1957年7月14日。

⁹ *The Building Contractors' Association Year Book*. (Hong Kong: The Building Contractors' Association, 1950-1966).

¹⁰ 周天和，《看風望雲與使命》（香港：道聲出版社，2006），194頁。

¹¹ The exact year in which Shui Fung Dairy Farm started operation is not certain, although an old aerial photo shows that most of the major farm structures were in place in 1954. Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Aerial photos dated 18 November 1954 (ref. no. 0112 V/81A/RAF/552).

With a herd of around 150 dairy cows in its heyday,¹² the farm consisted of a number of major farm buildings, including cowsheds, living quarters for workers, an office building, a storage building for the daily milk production and sheds for farm machinery and equipment.¹³ Unlike the large dairy companies like Dairy Farm and Kowloon Dairy, which sold a variety of products under their own brands, Shui Fung Dairy Farm was a small-scale family business and produced only raw milk supplied to other dairy product manufacturers for pasteurisation, bottling and distribution. The milk was also available for sale at the family-run Shui Fung Café (瑞豐冰室) on Tung Choi Street in Mong Kok for some years.¹⁴

According to the oral accounts by a grandson of Tsang Shui-yau, the farm was mainly run by Tsang's wife Lo Yan-ying (羅忍英) together with their second son Tsang Hon-fai (曾罕輝) who studied agriculture in Japan.¹⁵ Aerial photos suggest that Stone House was built around 1950, as before that, in 1949, only footprints, and no buildings, could be seen where the house later stood.¹⁶ The construction year is substantiated by the license for erection of building, which was issued in 1950.¹⁷ Originally built as a holiday villa for the Tsang family, Stone House later became Tsang Hon-fai's family home in the 1960s. Shui Fung Dairy Farm operated until 1982 when Tsang Hon-fai moved it to Ping Che and Tai Po. He closed down his dairy business when he migrated to Canada in the late 1980s.¹⁸

The plan for a park in Kwai Chung was announced in the late 1970s, but concrete planning only began in the 1980s.¹⁹ By 1983, all the structures at Shui Fung Dairy Farm, except the Stone House, the office building and one of the cowsheds were designated as ruins.²⁰ The plot of land occupied by the farm, along with the adjacent land previously used by Leung Fat Dairy Farm, was surrendered to the government and permanently allocated to the then Regional Services Department in November 1984.²¹ The office building and the cowshed were demolished during the site formation works.²² The area was subsequently redeveloped into Central Kwai Chung Park which was opened to the public in 1986. Since then, the Stone House has been used as the park office. Since 2000, the park has been managed by

¹² Yiu Wai Wan, Vivien, 'A Land Use Survey of Tsuen Wan, Division 2', thesis (B.A.), The University of Hong Kong, 1966.

¹³ Oral history interview and family photos provided by the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm showing some of the farm buildings. The interview was conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

¹⁴ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

¹⁵ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

¹⁶ Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Aerial photos dated 20 June 1949 (ref. no. 5001 81A/145) and 18 November 1954 (ref. no. 0112 V/81A/RAF/552).

¹⁷ Property particulars of section A of lot no. 136 in D.D. 448, building licence no. 409 issued on 1 December 1950.

¹⁸ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

¹⁹ Lands Department, KCTL6 (file ref: LNT:39/WLT/82II).

²⁰ Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Map of 1983-12 (map ref.: 161-NE-A).

²¹ Lands Department, KCTL6 (file ref: LNT:39/WLT/82II).

²² Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Map of 1983-12 (map ref.: 161-NE-A); Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Map of 1985 (map ref.: 161-NE-A).

the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

Shui Fung Dairy Farm extended over the slope of a hill at Ha Kwai Chung, and Stone House was located at the top overlooking the rest of the farm. In addition to farm structures, it can be seen from the old plans and photos that a swimming pool and a number of wells were built in close vicinity to the house.²³ According to Tsang Shui-yau's daughter, the house was designed and built by Tsang Shui-yau and his eldest son Tsang Wing-fai (曾榮輝)²⁴ who also had a background in civil engineering but later became a Lutheran pastor and missionary.

*Architectural
Merit*

Stone House is a two-storey building with a flat roof terrace. As it was originally designed as a holiday villa for the family, the ground floor had guest rooms, a dining room, a kitchen and a full bath while the upper floor accommodated the living quarters of the farm owners, the Tsangs.²⁵ Connecting the two floors is a staircase finished with terrazzo which is still intact. A chimney stack can be found on the roof, confirming the oral history accounts that there was a kitchen on the ground floor (where the dangerous goods store is now located).²⁶

The work to convert Stone House into the administration building for Central Kwai Chung Park in 1986 included several alterations that are readily visible. Part of the ground floor area was converted into a refreshment kiosk with counter, which is now used as a storeroom. The rest of the area was turned into offices, a general storage area, a dangerous goods store and lavatories with new partitions. The first floor was initially converted into offices with a large lounge in the middle, but has subsequently been developed into a classroom for the Training Section of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. New railings were added to the ground floor veranda and the roof parapet, while the balustrades on the first floor were replaced by galvanised iron pipe (G.I.P.) railings. The original steel windows were replaced by new galvanised mild steel (G.M.S.) windows and original doors were replaced by new doors and roller shutters. The open-frame system on the roof terrace was covered with a new pergola.

Stone House was built in a modernist style. Common features include the curved building façade, the simple and slender round columns of the verandas, the composition of rectangles such as small square openings in the roof parapet, a rectangular open-frame system on the roof terrace and rectangular window openings. The deep veranda is a typical feature of the colonial period intended to provide better ventilation and shelter from the sun. The elevation design makes use of stone blocks²⁷ to contrast with the plastered and painted surfaces, another relatively common feature of post-war buildings in Hong Kong.

²³ Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Map of 1970 (map ref.: 161-NE-A), and family photos from the 1960s provided by the Tsang family during an oral interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

²⁴ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

²⁵ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

²⁶ Oral history interview with the Tsang family who ran Shui Fung Dairy Farm, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 12 January 2022.

²⁷ The information was relayed to the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 18 February 2022 by one of the building designers, Tsang Wing-fai, via his sister Tsang Mo-wei. According to Tsang Wing-fai, the whole house was built with bearing stones.

Stone House is a typical example of post-war modernist architecture in Hong Kong. The building features considerable authenticity on the exterior, where no significant large-scale alterations or additions have been made and nothing has been demolished. The terrazzo staircase has been kept as built in the interior. Shui Fung Dairy Farm and Leung Fat Dairy Farm were the only dairy farms in the New Territories in the 1950s,²⁸ and Stone House is the last surviving building of the two farms as well as the oldest surviving dairy farm structure in the New Territories. The building bears witness to the dramatic changes in Kwai Chung between 1950 and 1980 as it was developed from an agricultural area to an industrial and residential district.

***Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

In addition to the significant contribution it made to society supplying dairy products for the daily needs of the public, the farm was also a hub for community service in Kwai Chung. As devoted Christians, the Tsangs served the nearby community in different ways, using the farm as their base. As an active member of the Tsung Tsin Mission, Tsang Shui-yau erected a temporary structure on the farm to host church meetings for the Tsung Tsin Mission Kwai Chung church between 1964 and 1966 after the church building collapsed during Typhoon Ruby hitting Hong Kong in 1964. His daughter Mo-chung (曾慕忠) also set up the first Sunday school for the Kwai Chung congregation at the farm, and provided free schooling for children in nearby villages such as Ha Kwai Chung and Chung Kwai Chung. The farm was also open to church members and nearby villagers for other activities and festive celebrations. Old residents still remember being invited to Stone House for free milk and cookies. The milk was fresh from the farm, warmed up in a bucket and poured into mugs for the children.²⁹

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The government started to industrialise the Kwai Chung area in the 1960s and resumed a large area of farmland for the purpose, with several villages in the area subsequently resettled to make way for new factory buildings. One of these was Ha Kwai Chung Village, which was relocated to the foot of the hill at Shui Fung Dairy Farm in 1964³⁰ and became one of the nearby villages which benefitted from the Tsangs' community service.

All the inhabitants of the village used to be farmers and engaged mainly in subsistence farming or light industry in their new settlements. Low education levels and poverty among the villagers meant they had little medical knowledge. Tsang Shui-yau and his wife opened up their farm once a week for German and Swiss nurses from Tsung Tsin Mission to provide free medical services for the villagers, including providing vitamins and drugs, and conducting hygiene talks for the public.³¹ Many villagers who had lived in the vicinity since the 1960s still

²⁸ Gan Bee Lay, 'Dairy Farming in the Colony of Hong Kong'.

²⁹ Oral history interview with Ms Yip, a former resident of Central Kwai Chung Village who attended gatherings at the former Tsung Tsin Mission Kwai Chung Church, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 21 December 2021; oral history interviews with kaifongs, including villagers of Ha Kwai Chung Village and park users, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 22 December 2021 and 7 January 2022.

³⁰ 「下葵涌新村 屋宇將建成」，《華僑日報》，1963年12月7日。

³¹ Digital photos from the Tsangs, used with courtesy of the family; Oral history interview with Ms Yip, a former resident of Central Kwai Chung Village who attended gatherings at the former Tsung Tsin Mission Kwai Chung Church, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 21 December 2021.

remember Central Kwai Chung Park as a dairy farm where cows roamed the hillsides.³² A stone bull was erected during the construction of Central Kwai Chung Park to acknowledge the history of dairy farming in the area.

There are a number of graded historic buildings in the vicinity, including the Former The Salvation Army Kwai Chung Girls' Home (the main building, the garage and the corps hall are Grade 2 historic buildings), Law Ancestral Hall of Sheung Kwai Chung Village (Grade 3), nos. 4-5, 10, 14, 15, 30, 32, 39, 42, 42A and 43 Kau Wa Keng (all Grade 3), Yeung Ching Study Hall (Grade 3), the Tsang Residence (Grade 3) and Yiu Kung Ancestral Hall (Grade 3).

Group Value

³² Oral history interviews with kaifongs, including villagers of Ha Kwai Chung Village and park users, conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 22 December 2021 and 7 January 2022.

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Digital photos from the Tsang Family, used with courtesy of the Family.

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Historic Building Appraisal
Ex-Lamma Police Post
Hung Shing Yeh Wan, Lamma Island

The Ex-Lamma Police Post (前南丫警崗) is a two-storey building designed and built for use as office and accommodation for seven police constables (“PC”) and a non-commissioned officer (“NCO”) to improve the police facilities on Lamma Island and provided greater security for its residents. It was officially opened by A. Morrison, Assistant Commissioner of Marine District, on 20 December 1966¹ and remained in operation until a new police post at Yung Shu Wan (榕樹灣) came into service in end 2013.

**Historical
Interest**

Lamma Island had long come under the jurisdiction of the marine police in Hong Kong. Before the Ex-Lamma Police Post was built, from 1962 onwards, law and order on the island was maintained by Village Penetration Patrols (鄉村巡邏隊) until the temporary police post at the current location of the sitting-out area next to Tin Hau Temple in Yung Shue Wan, was decommissioned in 1966 when the Ex-Lamma Police Post was opened.

Illegal immigrants, offences related to dangerous drugs and gambling, the growth in the population as well as the wish of rural committees and local leaders soon prompted the establishment of a police post at a suitable site on Lamma Island.² The proposal was put forward and approved in December 1963.

According to a sketch plan prepared in July 1964, the site of the Ex-Lamma Police Post was located almost at the midpoint of a path connecting Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan (索罟灣) serving both North and South Lamma.³ The post was located at the top of a small hill near Hung Shing Yeh Wan (洪聖爺灣) overlooking West Lamma Channel (西博寮海峽), a major route for shipping and other vessels. The estimated cost of constructing the post was \$158,000, covering a barrack room for seven police constables, a barrack room for one NCO, an office / report room, a mess / recreation room, a kitchen, a bathroom, a drying veranda, a hallway, a generator room and a typhoon signal mast/station.⁴ A radio installed in the new post enabled communications with

¹ ‘Opening of Police Post on Lamma Island’, *South China Morning Post*, 21 December 1966.

² HKRS156-1-11154, *Lamma Island Police Post*, 15 June 1963 – 15 May 1969, encl. 2.

³ Oral history interviews conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with members of Lamma North Rural Committee on 16 July 2021, with retired police officers previously stationed at Lamma Police Post on 17 July 2021 and with serving police officers previously stationed at Lamma Police Post on 20 and 21 July 2021.

⁴ HKRS156-1-11154, *Lamma Island Police Post*, 15 June 1963 – 15 May 1969, encls. 2, 4, 13,

the parent station on Cheung Chau, police launches on patrol and Marine Police Headquarters in Kowloon.⁵ At the request of the Hong Kong Observatory, a typhoon signal station was built on the site to serve the inhabitants of neighbouring villages as well as the craft that ploughed the West Lamma Channel.⁶ The typhoon signals were operated by the police officers on duty who displayed symbols made of expanded metal on steel frames during the day and issued signals using lights at night.⁷

The construction of the Ex-Lamma Police Post was not easy as the site was 20 minutes' walk from the pier and could not be accessed by vehicle, which made transporting materials and labour to the site far more expensive.⁸ A well-known local leader Fong Loi (方來) who served as the chairman of the Lamma Island (North) Rural Committee from the 1970s to the early 2000s and ran a construction company, was a sub-contractor for the police post.⁹

The Ex-Lamma Police Post commenced operations in late December 1966 and was assigned to the Cheung Chau Division. Retired police officers remembered that about ten police officers were on duty each day, including two corporals and eight police constables who were divided into two teams for patrolling Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan respectively. Due to the limited size of the post, suspects were usually sent to Cheung Chau Police Station and held there while the investigations against them were pursued.

Starting from the mid-1970s, the Ex-Lamma Police Post was also assigned the function of registering deaths from natural causes¹⁰ which were undertaken by the sub-divisional inspector of Cheung Chau previously. When the officer in charge of the Lamma Police Post was later upgraded to the rank of station sergeant, the law was amended to allow the officer to sign death certificates.¹¹

17 and 18.

⁵ 「配合地方發展需要，離島續建警崗，並增設消防局」，《華僑日報》，1966年11月8日；‘Opening of Police Post on Lamma Island’, *South China Morning Post*, 21 December 1966.

⁶ HKRS156-1-11154, *Lamma Island Police Post*, 15 June 1963 – 15 May 1969, encl. 10.

⁷ Oral history interviews conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with members of Lamma North Rural Committee on 16 July 2021 and with retired police previously stationed at Lamma Police Post on 17 July 2021.

⁸ HKRS156-1-11154, *Lamma Island Police Post*, 15 June 1963 – 15 May 1969, encl. 16.

⁹ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with members of Lamma North Rural Committee on 16 July 2021.

¹⁰ HKRS1391-2-10, Village Penetration Patrols and Village Affairs - North Lamma Island, 31 May 1974 – 15 October 1981, encls. 3 and 13.

¹¹ HKRS1391-2-10, Village Penetration Patrols and Village Affairs - North Lamma Island, 31 May 1974 – 15 October 1981, encls. 6 and 11.

The Ex-Lamma Police Post was related to the freighter Skyluck which arrived in Hong Kong waters in February 1979 with around 2,700 Vietnamese boat people on board and was later forced to anchor in the West Lamma Channel between Lamma Island and Cheung Chau for more than four months. On 11 March 1979, about 100 boat people leapt overboard and attempted to swim to Lamma Island. Around 50 of them reached Hung Shing Yeh Beach where they were arrested and escorted to the police post. The boat people detained unfurled a banner written “Please help us” in front of the media to attract attention to their request for boat people to land.¹²

The Ex-Lamma Police Post is situated on a small hill near Hung Shing Ye Wan, roughly the centre point of the island. It is a tiny two-storey building of ordinary construction in reinforced concrete equipped with basic facilities, initially a report room, a mess and a kitchen, barrack accommodation for seven police constables and a bedroom for the NCO in charge.¹³ The building features a functional design with a square-like plan form. The silhouette of the staircase in the northwest corner providing access to the roof. The narrowly spaced vertical concrete grilles on the first floor of the north façade was used as a drying veranda. The windows on the southern side provided a view of the sea. *Architectural Merit*

The façade on the first floor is set back to accommodate a slanted parapet. There are rectangular embrasures (or small rectangular openings) along the roof parapet, probably designed for defensive operations. Small projections at the corners of the building intended for lamp fixtures are still intact. A typhoon signal mast was erected in the compound for alerting fishermen of impending danger, while a flag pole was mounted on the high level of the north façade for being seen from a distance.

Retired police officers served at the post recalled that the rubble stones arranged as ‘LAMMA’ on the slope next to the entrance were done by their colleagues stationed at the police post around 1966-1968 with stones collected from Hung Shing Yeh Beach.¹⁴

¹² ‘Refugees leap overboard in protest swim’, South China Morning Post, 12 March 1979; South China Morning Post, ‘Skyluck, the ship that smuggled 2,600 boatpeople to Hong Kong – and freedom’, <https://multimedia.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/3006757/skyluck/index.html?src=social>, accessed on 7 August 2021.

¹³ Director of Public Works, *Annual Departmental Report for the Financial Year 1966-1967*, Hong Kong: The Government Press, 1966-1967, p 19.

¹⁴ Oral history interview conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with retired police officers previously stationed at Lamma Police Post on 17 July 2021.

To cater for operational needs, several additions and alterations to the police post were carried out in the 1990s and 2000s. For instance, the terrace outside the mess was fully enclosed¹⁵ and later used as a N.C.O. in charge's office. Some of the vertical concrete grilles on the first floor were enclosed for conversion into toilets. The barrack room was turned into a staff changing room and the bedroom for the N.C.O. in charge became a staff bedroom. The armoury room in the reporting room was served as the lock-up previously. The entrance with the metal cladding, metal canopy and stone steps was refurbished. A loading and unloading area at the northwest corner and a one-storey room in the southeast corner were added. Since 2013, the Ex-Lamma Police Post had been vacant with the typhoon signal mast removed.

From the time it opened in late 1966 until it was decommissioned, the police post had played a role in maintaining the law and order on the Island, as well promoting good relations with the communities.¹⁶ Nevertheless, on most occasions, locals did not visit the Ex-Lamma Police Post unless it was deemed necessary, such as seeking assistance from the police or delivering goods upon request from the police.¹⁷ Social gatherings like thanksgiving celebrations in honour of the god Kwan Tai (關帝) were occasionally held at the police post with only local leaders invited.

***Social Value
and Local
Interest***

Only one historic building, Tin Hau Temple at Yung Shue Wan (Grade 3), is located within 20 minutes' walk from the Ex-Lamma Police Post.

Group Value

The Ex-Lamma Police Post is one of the 1960s purpose-built police posts on the outlying islands and embodies the development of law and order in Hong Kong's remote areas. Its construction and scale followed the Peng Chau Police Post which was constructed in 1965.¹⁸ Few changes to the general layout were observed over the years, but the internal alterations and refurbishments and the lack of maintenance since it was decommissioned have diminished the authenticity of the building.

***Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value and
Authenticity***

¹⁵ According to record drawings provided by Architectural Services Department, it is believed a room was added by the terrace in the early 1990s.

¹⁶ Oral history interviews conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with members of Lamma North Rural Committee on 16 July 2021 and with serving police officers previously stationed at Lamma Police Post on 21 July 2021.

¹⁷ Oral history interviews conducted by the Antiquities and Monuments Office with local residents of Lamma Island on 22 January and 18 February 2022.

¹⁸ HKRS156-1-11154, Lamma Island Police Post, 15 June 1963 – 15 May 1969, encl. 3; 「配合地方發展需要，離島續建警崗，並增設消防局」，《華僑日報》，1966年11月8日。

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Historic Building Appraisal
Ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School
No. 2 Tsing Chau Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon

Situated at No. 2 Tsing Chau Street, the ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School *Historical Interest* was a government school that was built in 1949 with the donations from the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd. (香港黃埔船塢公司) and named after the Kowloon Docks (九龍船塢) of the company in Hung Hom.¹ The school was founded to meet the increased demand for education after the Japanese Occupation (1941 - 1945).

The rapid growth of Hong Kong's population after the Second World War resulted in an acute shortage of school places. As a temporary measure, the government approved for schools to be opened in tenement houses and the rooms of trade union premises, which did not meet the health regulations, or more generally the normal standards for schools.² In early 1949, the government expressed its concern that the schools should be properly run and accommodated in suitable premises and put forward a proposal for two new schools to be built, one in Kowloon and one on Hong Kong Island, that would operate with a morning and an afternoon session. In Kowloon, the government's concern was met by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd. The company's Chief Manager, Robert Gilchrist Craig,³ wrote to the government in May 1949, initiating to contribute HK\$250,000 towards the construction of a new school in Hung Hom on the understanding that the government would contribute an equal amount, and the school would be a government school named as "Kowloon Docks Memorial School" in commemoration of the company's employees and their families killed during the Japanese bombing in 1941 and later in the Allied bombing raids on the dockyard between the middle of 1944 and early 1945. In addition, priority would be given to the children of the company's employees. The government agreed to the proposal, while also expecting that the school would absorb the pupils from schools previously set up for workers' children.⁴ The ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School was opened on 22

¹ The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd. was opened (開業) in Hong Kong in 1868. It operated three dockyards in the city, namely Kowloon Docks in Hung Hom, Cosmopolitan Docks in Tai Kok Tsui and Aberdeen Docks. The head office was housed in the Kowloon Docks.

² The government provided financial help for the scheme by paying a special contribution of \$3 per pupil per month. Donations were also made by the public, some large firms and some union members. The pupils were only required to pay a fee of \$4 to \$5 per month.

³ Robert Gilchrist Craig first arrived in Hong Kong in February 1928 to join the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd. as a naval architect. He was appointed Assistant Chief Manager in 1930 and became Chief Manager after Hong Kong was liberated in 1945.

⁴ By June 1949, twelve schools for workers' children had been established by the Education Advancement Society for the Children of Workers in Hongkong and Kowloon (港九勞工子弟教育促進會) which was established in August 1946 and inaugurated on 1 September in the same year. The schools organised by the society were supervised by a Management Committee consisting of religious, education and labour leaders.

September 1949, staffed by 15 teachers under the Headmaster. According to Pong Wing-shiu (龐永紹), the school's first Headmaster, admission was also opened to the children of the workers of the Kowloon-Canton Railway and the nearby factories.

In addition to academic subjects, such as Chinese Language, English Language, History, Geography and Social Studies, the school also provided some elementary training in woodwork for boys, while for girls the curriculum included Home Economics.

In the morning, the ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School was a government primary school, while in the afternoon, it provided a temporary home for the Hung Hom Kaifong Public School (紅磡街坊公立學校), a subsidised primary school operated by the Hung Hom Kaifong Association (紅磡街坊福利會)⁵ that eventually moved to its new campus in September 1964. The ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School then had separate morning and afternoon sessions. In 1992, the ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School was amongst the first batch of schools selected for the pilot scheme to provide whole-day schooling, and it then operated on this model from September 1992 until it was closed in 1995.

The school building was constructed by the Public Works Department, with Lam Woo and Co. (聯益建造公司) engaged as the building contractor. As a single-storey building with an E-shaped plan in roughly symmetrical layout, it was utilitarian in design and construction without decorative architecture features. The staff rooms and the Headmaster's office were located at the central core on either side of the main entrance. The middle wing included an assembly hall-cum-gymnasium with a stage and changing rooms with showers next to it. There were classrooms at the east and west wings, while a practical room and a caretakers' quarters were located at the west wing. Two separate playgrounds were provided, one for the boys and one for the girls.

*Architectural
Merit*

The front elevation of the school rises up along the gentle slope of the site, or otherwise it could be considered as symmetrical. The name of the school, "Kowloon Docks Memorial School 九龍船塢紀念學校", was once inscribed above the entrance, flanked by a flag pole on each side. But only one flag pole remains today. The building was constructed of brick pier using panel walls of hollow concrete blocks. The roofs are slightly pitched and were first built as "roofing felt on

⁵ The school known as Hung Hom Kaifong Free Public School (紅磡街坊公立義學) was temporarily housed in the Hung Hom Public Dispensary (紅磡公立醫局) before it was relocated to the premise at No. 2 Tsing Chau Street and renamed as Hung Hom Kaifong Public School (紅磡街坊公立學校) in 1949.

boarding” (木板蓋以防水層).⁶ They were replaced by a steel roof structure in 2011-2012. According to some photos of the 1960s, the windows were made of timber. But in the late 1970s, as many of them were in very poor condition as a result of termite infestation, they were later replaced with steel ones and in 2012-2013, most of the steel ones were further replaced by aluminum windows. At present, there are only some steel windows at the assembly hall and only a few wooden panelled doors in dilapidated condition at the classrooms. Besides, almost all the original flooring of the school had been changed to either modern tiles or vinyl carpet tiles with only some timber boarded flooring still identified on the stage in the assembly hall.

The ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School is within walking distance from the Kwun Yam Temple (觀音廟) at Station Lane (差館里) (Grade 1). **Group Value**

Governor Sir Alexander Grantham paid an informal visit to the Kowloon Docks Memorial School on 5 December 1949 shortly after the school was open. The school's Speech Day, Sports Day and Open Day were sometimes reported in newspapers. After the school was closed in 1995, the site was used as the temporary campus of the schools that were waiting for the completion of their own school premises, such as Heep Yunn Primary School (協恩中學附屬小學) from 1999 to 2001 and the HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity (香港兆基創意書院) from 2006 to 2007. Having served as a primary school for some decades but then having ceased operation for more than two decades, the ex-school building has some social value, mainly to its alumni and the older generations of the local community. **Social Value & Local Interest**

The ex-Kowloon Docks Memorial School is one of the government schools established in the early post-war years. However, its authenticity has been compromised to a great extent by the renovation and alteration works over the years. **Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity**

⁶ Architectural Office, Public Works Department Hong Kong, *School for Workers' Children Hung Hom & South Elevation*, drawing no. A26/2, 1949.

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