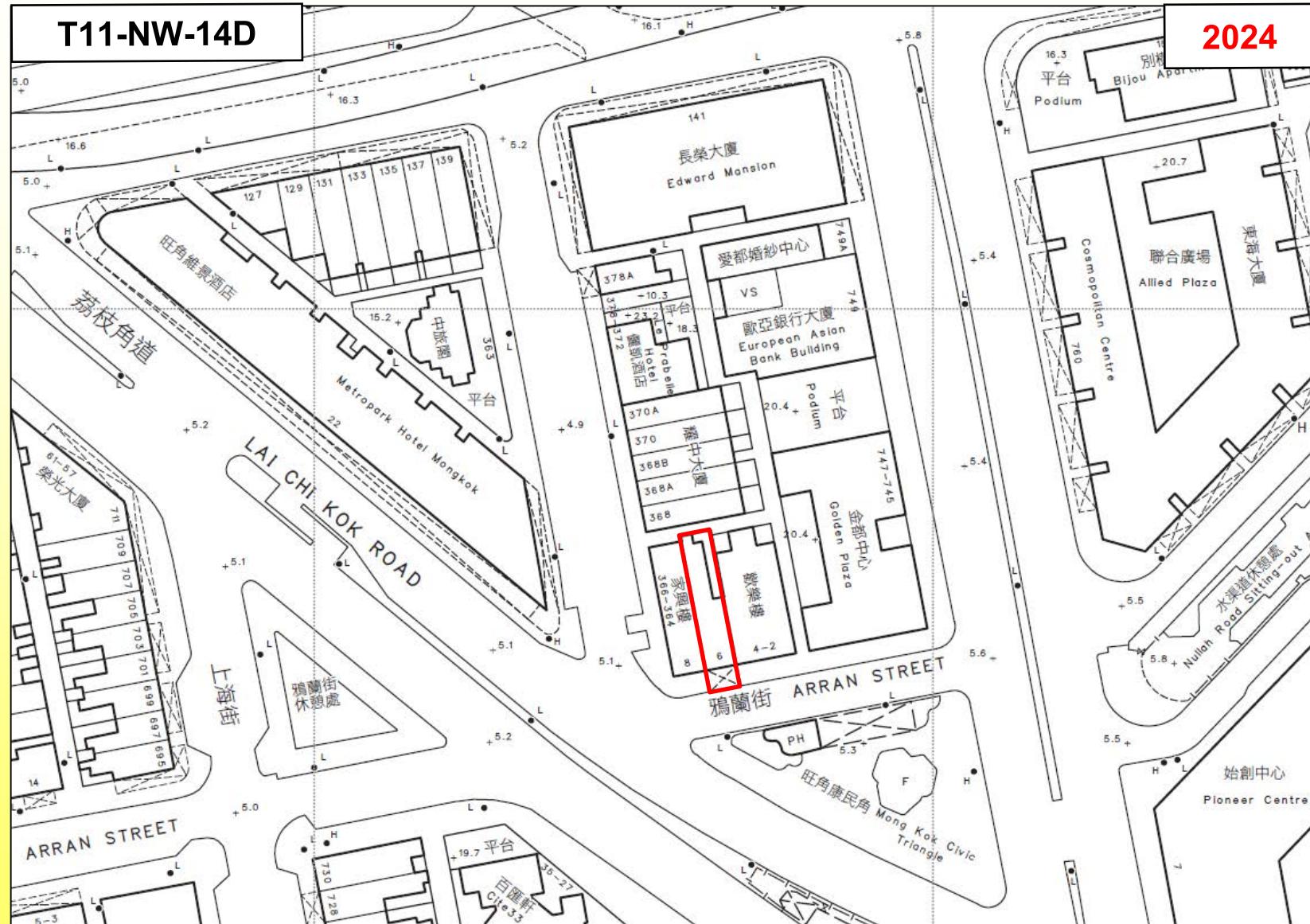


**N432**

**九龍旺角鴉蘭街6號  
No. 6 Arran Street,  
Mong Kok, Kowloon**

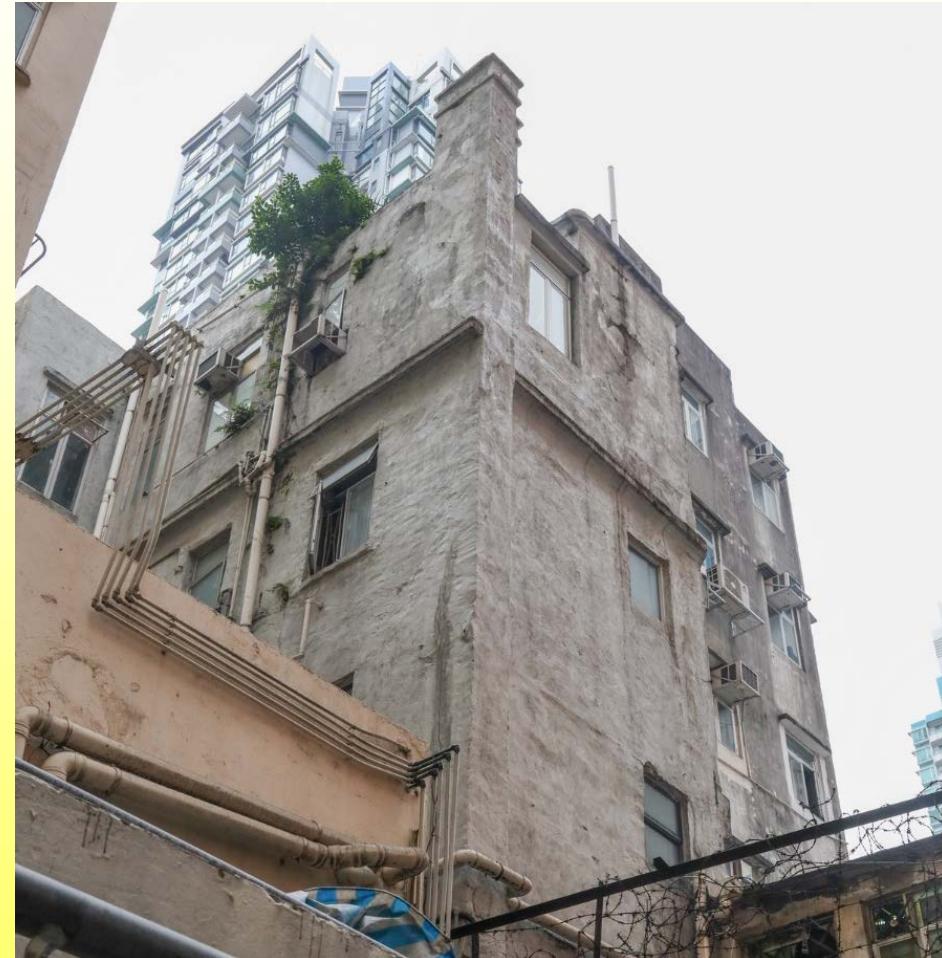
擬議三級歷史建築  
Proposed Grade 3



約建於1930年  
Built around 1930



正立面  
Front elevation



背立面及側立面  
Rear and side elevations

## Historic Building Appraisal

No. 6 Arran Street,

Mong Kok, Kowloon

Situated on Kowloon Inland Lot no. 2162 (KIL 2162), the four-storey verandah-type building at No. 6 Arran Street sits near the junction of Arran Street and Portland Street. It is also visible from Nathan Road and Lai Chi Kok Road. According to Government lease, the lot was acquired by Cheng Lui Kwan (鄭侶鯤) in December 1928.<sup>1</sup> The verandah undertaking that was signed in September 1930<sup>2</sup> suggests that the current building was completed in 1930. Cheng sold the lot and the building at No. 6 Arran Street to Chiu Wai Shan (趙渭臣) in May 1935,<sup>3</sup> and the building was later inherited by Chiu's descendants after his death.<sup>4</sup>

*Historical Interest*

The records of the House Registration Office of the Japanese Military Government state that the whole building, including the ground floor, was used for "residential purposes".<sup>5</sup> It is not known for certain when the ground floor was converted into a shop, but in an old photo taken in the 1960s,<sup>6</sup> the granite columns of the building bear the name "丹山人像畫社", which was presumably a portrait studio. It is also noted in the land records that the building housed a restaurant in the 1980s.<sup>7</sup> The ground floor has operated as a pharmacy since the 2010s.

*Architectural Merit*

According to the verandah undertaking signed in September 1930, the building at No. 6 Arran Street was constructed by Raven & Basto Architects, an architectural firm that operated between 1922 and 1937 and that was also responsible for designing Kowloon Cricket Club (Grade 2), which was built in 1932.<sup>8</sup> No. 6 Arran Street, together with the buildings at Nos. 2, 4 and 8 Arran Street were built in the same style by Raven & Basto at the same time to form a row of verandah buildings, but only No. 6 Arran Street now remains.

According to the records of the House Registration Office of the Japanese Military Government, the building at No. 6 Arran Street was originally three

<sup>1</sup> The Land Registry. Government Lease of K.I.L. No. 2162, 31 December 1928.

<sup>2</sup> The Land Registry. Memorial No. UB120916, 9 September 1930.

<sup>3</sup> The Land Registry. Memorial No. UB146568, 30 May 1935.

<sup>4</sup> The Land Registry. Memorial No. UB1084034, 27 June 1974.

<sup>5</sup> Public Records Office. HKRS57-6-9980, "K.I.L. 2162", 1942 to 1945.

<sup>6</sup> "1960s Classic Car". *Gwulo*, 28 August 2017, <https://gwulo.com/media/28737> (accessed on 21 October 2024).

<sup>7</sup> The Land Registry. Land Register of G/F of K.I.L. No. 2162, 21 October 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Peter A. Hall, *Kowloon Cricket Club: A History* (Hong Kong: Kowloon Cricket Club, 1980), p. 22.

storeys high.<sup>9</sup> The fourth storey was added in 1954 and is set back from the pediment.<sup>10</sup> Designed in a Western style, the building has verandahs on the first and second floors that project over the street and are supported by three granite columns. Corbels and mouldings with a geometric design can be found on top of each column.

The first-floor verandah features a curved concrete barrier on the right (where the staircase is located), while the balustrades are decorated with Art Deco elements such as circular and rectangular mouldings. The second-floor verandah features concrete grilles formed by squares and lines. The original roof level is topped by a semi-circular pediment, on top of which is a parapet that used to be connected to the building at No. 8 Arran Street and that also features a decorative moulding. Dentil mouldings can be seen at the soffit of the pediment, the eaves of the original roof and the first-floor verandah. Right below the roof eaves and in line with the top of the three supporting columns, three festoons in Neo-classical style can be found.

When viewed from the ground level, the underside of the verandah reveals mouldings and brackets. The entrance to the building has been partially blocked by the ground floor shop, but a semi-circular iron grille with a *tai chi* (太極) symbol can be seen above the entrance gate. The gate installed at the entrance prevents access to the staircase and the upper floors, but still allows a view of the floor tiles and the staircase featuring a wooden bannister and mouldings at the foot of each step. An enclosed backyard and a chimney stack are visible from the back elevation.

When it was first built in 1930, No. 6 Arran Street was only three storeys high and an additional floor was completed in 1954.<sup>11</sup> Old photos reveal that the building was designed in the same style as Nos. 2, 4 and 8 Arran Street.<sup>12</sup> However, these three buildings were redeveloped in the 1970s.<sup>13</sup> Most of the decorative elements visible on the façade of No. 6 Arran Street, including the decorative motifs on the columns, the pediment and the eaves, are authentic. The observable parts of the interior, i.e. the floor tiles and the staircase on the

#### **Authenticity & Rarity**

<sup>9</sup> Public Records Office. HKRS57-6-9980, “K.I.L. 2162”, 1942 to 1945.

<sup>10</sup> Building Records Access and Viewing On-line, Buildings Department. “Occupation Permit of No. 6 Arran Street” (OP No. D229/54), 1954.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Information Services Department. “Street scene of Kowloon, north end of Nathan Road; Lai Chi Kok (Lichi Kok) Road forks left, Kowloon Bus Co’s old office on right (1937).”, 1937 (Photo ID: 14560-044); Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Photo dated 1973 (Photo Ref.: 20\_96\_73).

<sup>13</sup> Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Topographic Map, 1:600, sheet number C-179-NE-9, April 1973; 1:1000, sheet number 11-NW-14D, February 1979.

ground floor, are also thought to be original features, although the floor tiles are now faded and worn from persistent use over the years.

From an old photo that was likely taken in the early to mid-1960s,<sup>14</sup> it can be observed that the verandahs had already been enclosed by windows by that time. The window frames have changed over the years, however. The photo shows that the barrier on the left side of the first-floor verandah still had balustrades like its curved counterpart on the right, but has since been changed into a solid panel. A comparison with the building in the 1970s reveals that the opening of the second-floor verandah on the right was originally taller and had the shape of an arch.<sup>15</sup> The opening of the top of the verandah has been levelled and enclosed with cement, however, and now sits above a row of steel-framed windows.

As Yau Tsim Mong district has undergone development over the years, shophouses, in particular those in a Western style, have become more rare. The original buildings at Nos. 2, 4 and 8 Arran Street were redeveloped in the 1970s and the building at No. 6 Arran Street stands as testimony to the district's earlier history among the modern high-risers that surround it.

The upper floors of No. 6 Arran Street have always been used for residential purposes and are therefore of little social value or local interest. The ground floor shop, however, has served the local community for more than 50 years, first as a portrait studio and later as a restaurant. The influx of tourists from mainland China in recent years, combined with the establishment of cross-border coach stops on Portland Street, prompted the conversion of the ground-floor shop into a pharmacy in the 2010s, as it continues to adapt and bear witness to the changing needs of customers.

No. 6 Arran Street is within walking distance from Lui Seng Chun (Declared Monument), two rows of tenement buildings at Nos. 190-204 and Nos. 210-212 Prince Edward Road West and three more at Nos. 600-606, 612-614 and 620-626 Shanghai Street (both Grade 2), Nos. 1 and 3 Playing Field Road, No. 1235 Canton Road, Nos. 177 and 179 Prince Edward Road West, No. 729 Nathan Road and Nos. 1166 and 1168 Canton Road (all Grade 3).

**Social Value & Local Interest**

**Group Value**

<sup>14</sup> “1960s Classic Car”. *Gwulo*, 28 August 2017, <https://gwulo.com/media/28737> (accessed on 21 October 2024).

<sup>15</sup> Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department. Photo dated 1973 (Photo Ref.: 20\_96\_73).

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