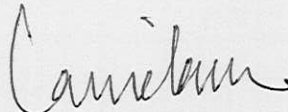


Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Building) Notice 2011

(Made by the Secretary for Development under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive)

1. Declaration of historical building

The fortified structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, New Territories, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. YLM7759 signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development, is declared to be a historical building.


Secretary for Development

7 June 2011

Explanatory Note

This Notice declares the fortified structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, New Territories, to be a historical building for the purposes of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53).

**Heritage Value of the Fortified Structure
at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, New Territories**

The fortified structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai () *Historical Interest* of Yuen Long (the Building), built around 1910, is the only remaining building in Hong Kong with solid evidence of having direct connection with the revolutionary movement under the leadership of Dr. SUN Yat-sen () (1866-1925) and his compatriots. The movement led to the rise of modern China and marked a turning point in Chinese history. As a testimony to Hong Kong's role in the revolutionary movement, the Building has high historical significance.

With the good transportation connections of Hong Kong with other places in the world, during the early decades of the 20th century the revolutionaries made use of Hong Kong as a place to form political partnerships, recruit members and raise funds, and as a haven for disbanded revolutionary members escaping from Manchu vengeance.

The previous address of the Building was No. 39 Long Chok Tsuen (). Formerly known as Leung Tseuk Hang Hau (), Long Chok Tsuen was a village facing Deep Bay () and Shenzhen ().

With its advantageous location overlooking Deep Bay and Shenzhen, No. 55 Ha Pak Nai became another operational base of the revolutionary movement in Hong Kong, in addition to Castle Peak Farm () in Tuen Mun. A place of refuge for the revolutionaries under the cover of a rice mill and sugar refinery was set up around 1910 at the site after the Mutiny of the New Army in Guangzhou (). The Building was also built to keep watch on the area across Deep Bay, which was then under the administration of the Qing authority. With the intelligence obtained from the surveillance at the Building, the revolutionaries could swiftly flee to the other revolutionary bases if the base in Ha Pak Nai was in

danger of being raided.

The Building was built by Mr. TANG Yam-nam (DENG Yinnan,) (1846-1923), who was a core member of Hsing Chung Hui (Xing Zhong Hui,). The site was mainly owned by Mr. LI Ki-tong (LI Jitang,) (1873-1943), who joined Hsing Chung Hui in 1900 and was a son of the wealthy businessman Mr. LI Sing (LI Sheng,) (1830-1900). TANG originated from Kaiping of Guangdong Province () and once operated farms and sugar plantations in Hawaii. He was a friend of Mr. SUN Mei () (1845-1915), the elder brother of Dr. SUN Yat-sen. He joined Hsing Chung Hui in Hawaii in 1894 upon its establishment. TANG came to Hong Kong in 1895 to pursue revolutionary activities.

The Building is a two-storey rectangular structure built of grey bricks, with a mezzanine floor between the first floor and the roof. A staircase bulkhead is found on the flat roof. Gun loops at various levels on the elevations can still be found. Internally, the plain rooms have screeded floors. To serve defence purposes, tapered and recessed window openings allowed a greater viewing angle from the inside of the Building. Architecturally, the Building is essentially a functional structure for surveillance.

***Architectural
Merit***

Alterations appear to have been made to the Building, particularly the insertion of windows and the erection of the attached temporary structures. A building once attached to the Building, but was subsequently demolished. Traces of the demolished building are still visible.

Authenticity

The Building is now the only remaining building which bears witness to the revolutionary activities in the area in the early 20th century. The Building is a unique and rare example with its exceptional historical value.

***Rarity &
Built Heritage
Value***

The revolutionary base in Ha Pak Nai set up by Mr. TANG Yam-nam formed another important operational base of the revolutionary movement in Hong Kong, in addition to Castle Peak Farm in Tuen Mun. The Building has high social value as the Hong Kong community shows an increasing interest in local history and the role of Hong Kong in Chinese history, which could be symbolised by this valuable piece of built heritage.

Social Value & Local Interest

The Building has some group value as it is situated close to the Tin Hau Temple in Sha Kong Tsuen, Ha Tsuen (), a Grade three historic building.

Group Value



Front elevation of the Building



North elevation of the Building

