

Stone Nullah Lane/Hing Wan Street/King Sing Street
(Blue House Cluster)

1. Historic Linkage

72-74A Stone Nullah Lane (Blue House)

- 1.1 Blue House was originally a 2-storey building. It was listed as “Wah To Hospital” (also known as “Wan Chai Kai Fong Hospital”) in the 1872 Rate Book. It was possibly the first hospital in Wan Chai to provide Chinese medical services to local Chinese.
- 1.2 The building was then used as a temple for the God of Medicine, Wah To (or “Hua Tuo”) after the hospital closed in 1886.
- 1.3 The building was demolished around late 1910’s or early 1920’s and turned into four 4-storey tenement blocks in mid 1920’s. The Ground Floor of 72 Stone Nullah Lane probably housed “Wah To Temple” after the tenement blocks were completed.
- 1.4 The temple was subsequently replaced by a martial arts school in the 1950’s by Lam Cho, the nephew of Lam Sai Wing (one of the followers of Wong Fei Hung) and later by the existing osteopathy clinic in the 1960’s.
- 1.5 Yat Chong College on the 3rd and the 4th floors of 72 Stone Nullah Lane was the only English School in the area before World War II. Kang Ham Free School on the 2nd floor provided free education for children throughout the territory.
- 1.6 The Chamber of Commerce for Fishmonger's was based on the 4th floor of 74 Stone Nullah Lane as their meeting place. A set comprising a stone table with two stone benches for playing mahjong by fishmongers is still preserved in-situ on the roof of the building.

2-8 Hing Wan Street (Yellow House)

- 1.7 The building was built 3 to 4 years after Blue House were built. No major alteration has been made to the building.

8 King Sing Street (the Orange House)

- 1.8 Once used as a timber yard. The existing building was probably built around 1950's.

2. Architectural Attributes

- 2.1 The 8 pre-war tenement buildings (Blue House and Yellow House) represent a rare assembly of well-preserved buildings from the 1920's, displaying the then typical configuration of shops on the ground floor and residential quarters on the upper floors.
- 2.2 Blue House is one of the few remaining *Tong Lau* of the balcony type in Hong Kong.
- 2.3 The façade of the Yellow House is well articulated in the Art Deco style and the roofs are timber structure paved with concave Chinese gray tiles.