

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wo Fat Chop Sui House

Other names/site number: Wo Fat Chop Suey House

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 115 North Hotel Street

City or town: Honolulu State: HI County: Honolulu

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Chinese vernacular
MODERN MOVEMENT / Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

CONCRETE, CMU, STUCCO, CERAMIC TILE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

See Continuation Sheets – Section 7, Page 12.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets – Section 7, Pages 12 – 18.

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ETHNIC/HERITAGE (Asian)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937-1971

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Chinese/Chinese American

Architect/Builder

Char, Y. T. (Yuk Tong) (architect)
Ching, W. S. (general contractor)

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

See Continuation Sheets – Section 8, Page 19.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See Continuation Sheets – Section 8, Pages 19 – 42.

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Continuation Sheets – Section 9, Pages 43 – 48.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, Honolulu, HI

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one (0.149 acres)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 21.312428° | Longitude: -157.863330° |
| 2. Latitude: 21.312516° | Longitude: -157.863124° |
| 3. Latitude: 21.312318° | Longitude: -157.862990° |
| 4. Latitude: 21.312214° | Longitude: -157.863162° |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

All of that parcel of land comprising part of the land described in Royal Patent 55, Land Commission Award 694 to Paniani and part of the land described in Royal Patent 34, Land Commission Award to Louis Gravier, situate at the West corner of Hotel and Maunakea Streets, Honolulu aforesaid, and thus bounded and described: BEGINNING at a spike in concrete sidewalk at the East corner of this piece of land, being also the West corner of Hotel and Maunakea Streets, the true azimuth and distance to a Government Survey Street Monument near the West corner of Hotel and Maunakea Streets being 282° 26' 30" 14.10 feet; said Street Monument is set on an offset of 10-feet to the Southwest side of Hotel Street and on an offset of 10 feet to the Northwest side of Maunakea Street (running

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

Southwesterly) and the co-ordinates of said Street Monument referred to Government Survey Triangulation Station "PUNCHBOWL" being 25.50 feet North and 4,692.00 feet West and thence running by azimuths measured clockwise from true South from the above described initial point:

- | | | | |
|----|------|-----|---|
| 1. | 57° | 15' | 69.83 feet along the Northwest side of Maunakea Street to a "+" cut on concrete sidewalk; |
| 2. | 160° | 00' | 32.40 feet along L.C.Aw. 604 to the heirs of Richard Ford to a "+" cut on concrete; |
| 3. | 72° | 00' | 5.00 feet along L.C.Aw. 604 to the heirs of Richard Ford to a "+" cut on concrete; |
| 4. | 157° | 48' | 11.20 feet along the remainder of L.C.Aw. 694 to Paniani to a "+" cut on concrete; |
| 5. | 70° | 20' | 5.00 feet along the remainder of L.C.Aw. 694 to Paniani to a "+" cut on concrete; |
| 6. | 155° | 35' | 50.92 feet along the remainder of L.C.Aw. 694 to Paniani to a "+" cut on concrete; |
| 7. | 246° | 10' | 64.29 feet along Lot 3 of Land Court Application 408 (Amended and 431 to a pipe; |
| 8. | 327° | 38' | 84.55 feet along the Southwest side of Hotel Street to the point of beginning |

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the entire parcel associated with the building.

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

Honolulu, HI
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stanley Solamillo/Architectural Historian (with contributions by David Moore/Historian)
organization: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HHM & Associates, subconsultant to Jacobs, prime contractor to HART)
street & number: Ali'i Place, 1099 Alakea Street, 17th Floor
city or town: Honolulu state: HI zip code: 96813
e-mail: ssolamillo@honolulu.gov
telephone: 808-768-6187; cell 808-250-3273
date: October 20, 2014 (revised October 22, 2021)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
See Continuation Sheets – Additional Documentation, Pages 52 – 61
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
See Continuation Sheets – Additional Documentation, Pages 49 – 112.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SECTION 7 – Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House is a three-story commercial building at 115 North Hotel Street (See Maps 1-4). Situated at the northwest corner of North Hotel and Maunakea Streets, the restaurant has two principle facades, each of which faces onto two of the busiest thoroughfares in Honolulu’s Chinatown. Since its construction in 1937-38, it has been an iconic architectural landmark in this urban enclave and has come to best represent the historic enclave near the city’s port and dock area during the nineteenth century. Stylistically, the building displays architectural motifs indicative of traditional Chinese architecture, and noteworthy elements include the curved tile roof, decorative brackets, three-story pagoda, and distinctive signage with Hanzi script. The building retains most of its salient and character-defining features although the ground-level changes and the replacement of original windows have diminished aspects of integrity (design and material) and historic character. The most significant alteration occurred in 1968 when the third-floor pavilion was enclosed by two additions. However, this change is part of the building’s physical evolution and is now a distinctive architectural feature. Overall, the building retains its historic integrity to an exceptional degree, and it remains among Honolulu’s most recognizable and distinctive historic buildings.

Narrative Description

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House at 115 North Hotel Street in Honolulu is a three-story, three-part commercial block building that displays elements of traditional Chinese architecture as well as other physical features that are associated with the Art Deco style. The restaurant was erected from 1937–1938 and is the best and most representative example of Chinese vernacular architecture in Honolulu’s Chinatown Historic District (NR Site No. 73-00-0658).

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House is in the heart of Honolulu’s Chinatown, a densely developed urban area that evolved near the waterfront and Honolulu’s historic downtown. Chinatown includes an area roughly bounded by present-day North Beretania Street, Nu’uanu Stream, Honolulu Harbor, and Nu’uanu Avenue. The immediate area around the building contains a high concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that typically range in height from one to three stories. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House is located on a corner site at the intersection of North Hotel and Maunakea Streets. The building makes full use of the pentagonal-shape parcel on which it was built, leaving only a public easement on the two primary facades with concrete-paved sidewalks (Maps 9-10).

The following narrative is taken from the Historic Preservation Certification Application to obtain federal tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of the building. The National Park Service approved the application (Project Number 39,703) on February 25, 2019. Room number references included in the following text are noted with brackets, which correspond to the floor and roof plans included as Figures 1-4.

Exterior

The Wo Fat Chop Sui House is a Chinese vernacular building with Chinese and Art Deco details. It was designed by Chinese American architect, Yuk Tong “Y.T.” Char and erected in 1937-38 by general

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

contractor W.S. Ching. This distinctive architectural expression was developed by Char and employed on Wo Fat Chop Sui House as well as a number of other buildings that he designed in Honolulu during the late 1920s and 1930s. The Art Deco Style, as designed and built in the Territory of Hawaii (T.H.), was popular from 1925–1940 and used for buildings that were produced by a number of well-known Euro-American and European architects in Honolulu. They included: C.W. Dickey, Claude Stiehl, Bjarne Dahl, and Conrad (“Connie”) Conrad, and architect Harry Sims Bent.

The building has nine and one-half bays that face N. Hotel Street and eleven and one-half bays that face Maunakea Street (Photos 1-4). The corner that faces the intersection of both streets is clipped, one half bay in width and forms the base of an octagonal corner pagoda. The building has both five- and six-pile depths, measures 69'-9" x 85'-4" and has a stepped, pentagonal footprint. It is of concrete-frame construction whose voids have been infilled with concrete masonry units (CMU) or “concrete block.” The building has a concrete foundation as well as concrete floor and roof slabs, piers, columns, and longitudinal and transverse beams.

The building faces two thoroughfares—Maunakea Street and N. Hotel Streets—, and there are two front facades. The front (southeast) façade facing Maunakea Street is divided into four horizontal zones (Photo 2). Its lower zone is fenestrated with four-and-one-half entry bays that are enclosed by metal roll-up grilles and two half-bays that are enclosed by storefronts. The storefronts are fixed metal with glazing that has been installed on top of decorative concrete bulkheads. The lower-middle zone is fenestrated with paired, multi-light wood transoms that are located above the canopy at each bay. The upper-middle zone consists of double-volume bays that have been further sub-divided in two, which increases the bay count to nine bays, and each is fenestrated with single-light glazing that replaced original paired, multi-light wood casement windows and transoms. The upper zone is comprised of a metal shed roof addition that has been erected on top of an original green glazed clay tile hipped roof with upturned eaves that is supported by simplified brackets. The addition is fenestrated with fourteen single-light, fixed and operable metal sashes, and it obscures an original third-floor pavilion.

The front (northeast) façade facing N. Hotel Street is similarly divided into four horizontal zones (Photo 4). Its lower zone is fenestrated by one entry bay that is enclosed by a metal roll-up grille and four-and-one-half bays that are enclosed by storefronts; its middle zone is fenestrated with paired, multi-light transoms that are located above each entry bay. Each bay is further sub-divided above the transoms into two bays, which increases the bay count to eleven bays, each fenestrated with single-light glazing that replaced paired multi-light metal casement windows and transoms; and an upper zone that is comprised by a shed-roof addition that has been erected on top of an original green glazed clay tile hipped roof with upturned eaves that are supported by simplified brackets. The addition is fenestrated with eighteen, single-light, fixed and operable metal sashes that enclose an original third-floor pavilion. A single-story octagonal pagoda addition has been erected at the northwest corner of the building.

The clipped corner that is one half-bay in width and faces the intersection of Maunakea and N. Hotel Streets provides a corner entry and support for an octagonal pagoda on the third floor that is the dominant element and focal point for the building (Photo 3). It is fenestrated with a single, fixed light in seven sides that replaced original metal casements and an entry on the eighth side that faces the northwest. The pagoda has an eight-sided roof that is finished in green glazed tile and features upturned eaves that are supported by simplified brackets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Interior: First Floor

Access to the first floor of Wo Fat Chop Sui House is through three entrances that are located in bay A-B on Maunakea Street, bay 5-6 on N. Hotel Street, as well as through a metal turnstile in corner bay 1-2 that faces the intersection of both arterials (fig. 1). Product shelving has been arranged in bays B-F to prevent egress without payment, and eleven rows of shelving have been oriented northwest-southeast in bays 1-5 (Photos 5 and 6). Primary circulation routes are located in bays A-B and 5-6 and terminate at cash registers located at Maunakea and N. Hotel Streets. A service corridor [note as 101 on plan] is located in bay C-D that provides access to men's and women's restrooms [note as 102 and 103 on plan] a service stair [note as 104 on plan] to a mezzanine level for storage, and an exit to a rear alley behind the building. A large storage area [105] is located in the rear of bay A-B. It is flanked by a corridor, located in the same bay, that provides access to two walk-in coolers [noted as 106 and 107 on plan] as well as a second rear exit. Ancillary storage [note as 108 on plan] is found in bays 6.5-8 and is adjacent to an enclosed service stair that provides access to the second floor. A glazed concrete-tile roof with upturned eaves (corresponding with an identical exterior feature that was installed in 1993 and removed at an indeterminate date) is located on the interior wall above the entrance in bay 5-6). Original finishes in the first floor public areas have been replaced throughout but have been retained in the service areas. Extant paint colors include cream for concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls, white for concrete columns, as well as white for the undersides of exposed floor slabs and beams. The concrete floors are unpainted but appear to have had a sealant applied to their surfaces.

Access to the second floor and the former main dining hall [noted as 200 on plan] is provided by an entry in a separate storefront [note as 109 on plan] that is located in bay 6-7 facing North Hotel Street. The space includes an elevator with an Art Deco-styled frame in a lobby [note as 110 on plan] as well as a staircase [note as 104 on plan] whose walls are finished with painted modern wood wainscoting, beaded wall board, and mirrors. Extant paint colors in bay 6-7 include red for concrete beams, yellow for walls and panels attached to the underside of the exposed second floor slab that were concealed by a modern dropped ceiling in the lobby [note as 109 on plan], as well as red for wood wainscoting and beaded wall board, and black for modern composite ceiling tiles with dragon and phoenix motifs in the staircase [104]. The elevator frame is painted green, the wainscot in the elevator lobby [note as 110 on plan] is trimmed in green, and the beaded wallboard has been left unpainted. The floor finishes in the entry bay and elevator lobby are ceramic tile and faux marble, respectively.

Interior: Second Floor

The second-floor landing [noted as 200C on plan] provides access to the former main dining hall [noted as 200 on plan and appearing in Photo 7] with a stage and stage storage [noted as 201 on plan], an elevator located behind a bar, as well as former food preparation and kitchen areas [noted as 205-209 on plan] (fig. 2). A pair of small offices [noted as 202 and 204 on plan], separated by a corridor [noted as 203 on plan], and converted into an apartment, are located at the northeast corner of bay D-F. Another corridor [noted as 209A on plan] provides access to a pair of dumbwaiters [noted as 205 on plan], food storage [noted as 207 on plan], food preparation [noted as 206 on plan], and other service areas [noted as 208-209 on plan] whose exact uses remain unidentified. A stair to a mezzanine storage area is provided in bays A-C.

The former main dining hall includes ancillary storage [noted as 200B on plan], a bar [noted as 200A on

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

plan], and a corridor [noted as 210 on plan] that provides entry to men’s and women’s restrooms [noted as 211-212 on plan] as well as another corridor [noted as 213 on plan] that terminates in stairs to the first and third floors. A portion of the dining hall [noted as 200 on plan] has been walled off to form another area of unidentified use [noted as 214 on plan]. Access to a small roof is provided from another room [noted as 208 on plan] to an exterior ladder to the third-floor roof.

Original polychrome finishes in a large portion of the main dining hall [noted as 200 on plan] have been over-painted. Former red columns as well as polychrome walls, perimeter, longitudinal, transverse beams, and ceilings that were decorated with geometric, floral, and zoomorphic patterns have been painted black. The interior faces of exterior walls have been painted red in bays A-F and 1-8. However, the original painted designs are still intact in portions of the dining hall that were walled off (as well as a number of original wood transoms with colored and clear glazing) above ceiling grids in offices [noted as 202-204 on plan], corridors [noted as 203, 210, 213 on plan], and a service area [noted as 214 on plan] (Photos 8-9). The original floor finish of colored Masonite in an alternating square pattern remains in place in the main dining hall, but the original flooring in other areas of the second floor has been replaced. Non-original materials and finishes introduced to the second-floor include ceramic and vinyl tile, painted gypsum board, painted and unpainted wood wainscoting, beaded wood wallboard, mirror glass, wallpaper, metal ceiling grids with acoustical as well as embossed ceiling tiles with dragon and phoenix motifs. Paint colors include black, red, white, green, and yellow.

Interior: Third Floor

Access to the third-floor pavilion is provided by a staircase from the second floor as well as an elevator that opens into the main room [noted as 300 on plan] (fig. 3 and Photo 12). A scullery [noted as 301 on plan] with a pair of dumbwaiters is adjacent to the staircase. The limits of the original pavilion are bays B.5-E and 2-8 with additions made to bays E-F and 1-2. The original exterior walls with bracketed eaves are still intact, but the original fenestration has been changed. Unidentified storage or service areas [noted as 302-303 on plan] were added to the original pavilion plan, while another unidentified room [noted as 305 on plan] may be original. The third-floor additions include a corridor [noted as 304 on plan] that provides entry to men’s and women’s restrooms with showers [noted as 306-307 on plan] as well as an unidentified room [noted as 308 on plan] that provides additional access to the second-floor kitchen and food preparation areas [noted as 205 and 206 on plan]. Peripheral rooms [noted as 309-310, 312-318 on plan] are of indeterminate uses. The octagonal-shaped dragon room [noted as 311 on plan]— located at the east corner of the building and overlooking the intersection of Maunakea and N. Hotel Streets—retains two of its original wood-casement windows with colored glazing, as well as a ceiling mural of a dragon in flight above the ceiling grid. Original polychrome ceiling beams and panels with geometric, floral, and zoomorphic patterns have been covered with black paint in bays C-E and 4-6. However, like the extant artwork on the second floor, painted designs are still intact above the ceiling grid in bays C-F and 2-4 (Photos 10-17). The original floor finish of colored Masonite in an alternating square pattern remains extant. Replacement finishes include vinyl flooring, ceramic tile, indoor/outdoor carpet, painted wood wainscoting with beaded wall board, painted gypsum board, unpainted wood paneling, wallpaper, mirror glass, and metal ceiling grids with acoustical tile. Paint colors include white, black, light blue, turquoise, yellow green, yellow, and gold.

Roof

The building has multiple roofs that are flat, hipped, and shed (fig. 4). Original green glazed clay roof

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

tiles manufactured by Gladding McBean of Lincoln, California, identified from the maker’s mark “GMB” (1938), are located on the hipped roofs facing N. Hotel and Maunakea Streets as well as on the octagonal pagoda and the third-floor pavilion. Later green glazed clay roof tiles produced by Ludowici Celadon Co., of Chicago, Illinois, identified by the factory’s imprint “LUDOWICI CELADON CO.” (1968), are located on the octagonal elevator penthouse and used as replacement tiles on small sections of the roof of the third-floor pavilion. Shed roofs that were added to the third-floor pavilion are covered with roll roofing over metal slats or pans. Flat roofs are covered with roll roofing over concrete slab. Remnants of neon tubes that Char employed to accentuate rooflines at night on Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House and at another restaurant that he designed—Lau Yee Chai in Waikiki (1929)—are located along the ridges of the octagonal pagoda, on the undersides of its eaves as well as those of the third-floor pavilion, and were formerly installed at the top and bottom of the cornice of the first floor canopy. A second-floor roof located between two rooms [noted as 208 and 212 on plan] was the location for votive offerings as evidenced from a small container for burning incense that is identified with a small sign in Hanzi above it that is translated as: “[The] heavenly god blesses the people.”¹ The roof also provides access to a vertical metal ladder and the roofs above.

Signage

The original sheet metal and neon tube sign with the restaurant’s name “WO FAT CHOP SUI,” and “和發酒家,” fabricated by S.I. Sugimoto in Honolulu, is still located on the east corner of the building. The painted letters and Hanzi characters as well as neon tubes are intact. The first-floor bays are flanked by inscribed vertical panels on piers that may have been originally intended to function as couplets (signage), but none appear to have been employed in that way from a review of historic photographs. In 1998, however, a pair of couplets were recorded as having been painted at the entrance to bay 6-6.5 (fig. 23). There is no other historic signage that remains extant on the building. A recent sign that reads “NEW HONG KONG MARKET” and “新香港超市” in Hanzi is positioned above the corner entry at bay 1-2.

Alterations

The fifty-eight-year operational history of the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (1938–1996) at its current location, as well as its use by subsequent owners and tenants, has produced a number of alterations to both the building’s exterior and interior. Despite such changes, however, the building’s essential character-defining features remain intact, and its integrity remains largely uncompromised. The building has been and continues to be a favorite subject to photograph for both visitors and residents alike, and they have produced a substantial number of images (figs. 21-26). Along with building permit drawings that were submitted to the City & County of Honolulu in 1993 and 1997, these images provide a visual record of exterior as well as some late-twentieth-century interior modifications.

Exterior Alterations

Aside from partial oblique black-and-white newspaper images that were taken in 1938 that are identical with one taken in 1943 (fig. 12), the first oblique photograph that showed the two primary facades in their entirety was taken in 1945 by Ray Jerome (R.J.) Baker (1800–1972; fig 13). Partial oblique black-

¹ The heavenly god is one of the three main deities in Taoism. Yim, Kit, translation (trans.), February 4, 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

and-white and color images that were produced by Robert Huffstater (1943) and James B. Lipinski (1954) indicate that little change to the building's exterior was made during the first twenty years after its construction (figs. 12, 21). A color postcard image that was printed as a souvenir by Wo Fat, Ltd. (1960) recorded the installation of a metal canopy, supported on metal pipe columns, that occurred on the third floor facing Hotel Street as well as a change from the building's original polychrome to monochrome color scheme (fig. 22). A second metal canopy was added to the third floor of the building facing Maunakea Street by the early 1960s. Both expansions were subsequently enclosed and fenestrated with louvered and fixed windows (1968 and 1993). During the 1960s, small fans were also added to the operable wood transoms in the second floor, air conditioning units were installed on the roof of the first floor canopy, and a rear addition was constructed in the alley facing N. Hotel Street (1964; not shown). The next image that recorded the entire N. Hotel and Maunakea Street façades of Wo Fat was produced by an unidentified *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* photographer (fig. 24), and although heavily retouched to remove a plethora of power lines for publication, it showed that an elevator penthouse had been added to the third floor.

A color image that was taken by an anonymous photographer (1970) showed the extent of the third-floor expansion as well as the elevator penthouse, replacement of wood-sash windows with louvered units on the second floor, changes to retail entries on the first floor, and newly painted N. Hotel and Maunakea Street façades in a polychrome color scheme. Oblique black-and-white views taken by State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) staff (1973; fig. 25) and an unidentified photographer who produced a group portrait for the Michael Feary Band two years later indicated that no change had occurred beyond those recorded in 1970. An anonymously produced color photograph (1980) substantiated entry changes that had been made to the first floor by 1970 as well as a new color scheme. A Kodachrome slide taken by Douglas Peebles (1980) provided an enhanced view of newly painted facades as well as replacement antique-styled streetlight fixtures and traffic signals that had been installed late in that year.

Building permit drawings were submitted to the City & County of Honolulu by architect James R. Matichuk in 1993 for improvements that were constructed at an indeterminate date afterward. They included the installation of plate-glass windows at the second floor as well as changes to the retail and dining hall entries fronting N. Hotel Street. Other permit sets that were submitted in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 by Matichuk and others, respectively, were for further alterations to the same entries. The latter work was photographed by Dawn Duensing during a University of Hawai'i survey of the Chinatown Historic District that was conducted in 1998. Photographs taken by Stanley Solamillo (2000) and Tony Martie (Photos 1-19) indicated that with the exception of general deterioration, little change to the building's exterior had occurred since 1998.

Interior Alterations

Unlike the substantial coverage from a variety of sources for the exterior of Wo Fat Chop Sui House that documented alterations, there are not as many photographs of the building's interiors that could be used for the same purpose. Small photographs of a bar on the first floor directly beneath the corner pagoda as well as an oblique view of the dining hall and third-floor pavilion were produced by unidentified *Honolulu Advertiser* photographers (1938), but their quality is poor. James B. Lipinski produced five black-and-white images of a banquet (1954) that provided views of the polychrome interior of the main dining hall prior to modifications, but it is difficult to ascertain their exact locations. A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

second color postcard that was printed as a souvenir by Wo Fat, Ltd. (1960) featured both an exterior oblique and a second image that remains the only known color interior view of the second-floor dining hall that was later printed as a cropped image. A number of photographs of banquets were produced from the 1940s through the 1970s. Although they are largely group portraits, they indicate that the second-floor main dining hall interior remained relatively unchanged. One image taken by On Char & Sons (1946) provided a complete view of a polychrome beam and capital behind a group of Mutual Telephone Co. employees (fig. 14). Two black-and-white photographs of polychrome interior, painted columns, furnishings, and decor in the dining hall were taken by Dion Coschigano for the Historic Hawai'i Foundation (1989), but their exact locations remain indeterminate. A digital image produced by an unidentified photographer (2005) and circulated on the internet showed the dropped ceiling in the dining hall with modern tiles embossed with a dragon and phoenix motif that were removed at an unknown date, but the exact location remains indeterminate. A single black-and-white image of moderate quality of the third-floor interior was produced by an unknown photographer for a group portrait of contractors and remains the only known interior photograph of the space that was taken after the second of two metal canopies had been added (1962) but prior to their enclosure (1970).

Building permit drawings submitted by architect James R. Matichuk and others to the City & County of Honolulu in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 provide a record of interior improvements that were constructed at indeterminate dates afterward. They include changes made to the first-floor retail areas as well as the second-floor dining hall, staircase, and ancillary spaces.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SECTION 8 – Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House² is a physical and cultural landmark in Honolulu's Chinatown and arguably is the building most representative and closely associated with this distinctive area in Honolulu's downtown. Built in 1937–1938, it housed a restaurant of the same name and was designed in the vernacular Chinese style with Art Deco details by a local Chinese American architect named Yuk Tong "Y. T." Char (1890–1974). The three-story concrete edifice—with upturned green tile roofs supported by simplified Chinese brackets and a three-story corner pagoda—was erected by Chinese American contractor, W. S. Ching, along with the assistance of a group of multi-ethnic subcontractors at the northwest corner of North Hotel and Maunakea Streets. It was constructed in four months' time, at a cost of \$50,000 and provided an isolated and unique opportunity for Chinese and Japanese sub-contractors to work together while their ancestral countries of origin were engaged in the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945). Consequently, the opening of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House on March 10, 1938 was significant for the two communities and reported in the Chinese and Japanese language press as well as the English language press. The event and the amicable relations that it fostered between the two Asian communities was short lived, however. As news of the Imperial Japanese Army's continuing atrocities in Nanking (Nanjing) and other cities reached Honolulu's Chinese community, a local boycott of all Japanese businesses and products was initiated later in that year which lasted for the duration of the war. Wo Fat as a corporate entity in its various permutations survived destruction in the Chinatown fires of 1886 and 1900, changed its locations and physical plants, and transformed its culinary offerings and menus over time to serve generations of Chinese and non-Chinese customers. Given its popularity and length of operations, Wo Fat was known both locally and internationally. Its building retains its historic integrity despite alterations, is an iconic edifice in Honolulu's Chinatown, and arguably is the most photographed subject in the Chinatown Historic District. The building displays a rare combination of architectural detailing that draws inspiration from traditional Chinese motifs as well as the geometric forms associated with the Art Deco style. The building evidences the considerable skill of its designer Y. T. Char, a successful Chinese American architect practicing in Honolulu at the time. The property is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic/Heritage (Asian) and Commerce and under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance extends from 1937 when construction work began and ends at 1971, the 50-year age threshold normally used for listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

1. CRITERION A: COMMERCE AND ETHNIC HERITAGE

1.1. Founding and Early Operations of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

The formal establishment of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House is not well documented, although it is purported to have started in 1881³ or 1882⁴ when baker Wat Ging (1859–1931) opened a bakeshop in

² The restaurant name changed from "Wo Fat Chop Sui House" to "Wo Fat Chop Suey House" at an indeterminate date before 1938. For consistency, this narrative will refer to the building as "Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House" unless either name is used in quote or title.

³ "Wo Fat Opening New Home; It has Operated 57 Years," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 9, 1938, 9: 2.

⁴ Franklin Ng, "Food and Culture: Chinese Restaurants in Hawai'i," *Chinese America: History and Perspectives* (San Francisco: Chinese Historical Society of America, 2010): 115.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 20

Honolulu's Chinese quarter. However, those dates are not likely since census records indicate that Wat immigrated to Hawai'i in 1883, which suggests an opening in the latter year at the earliest.⁵ By that time, Chinese merchants had established businesses in Honolulu even though they had already established a commercial presence in the city as early as 1789. The building that originally housed Wat Ging's business along with its contents were destroyed by a fire that burned a large part of the district in 1886.

The first known publication in which "Wo Fat," meaning "peace" (和) and "prosperity" (發), was mentioned was the 1890 *Lane's Directory and Hand-Book of the Kingdom of Hawaii*. "Wo Fat, bakery" and its owner were recorded as being located at "56 Maunakea, res same."⁶ The latter description comports with anthropologist Franklin Ng's later observation that: "[m]any of the first restaurants operated by the Chinese were combination bakeries and coffee shops or coffee saloons [while o]thers were dining areas attached to grocery stores or general merchandise stores."⁷

In 1894 F.M. Husted's *Directory and Hand-Book of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands* described "Wo Fat" as a "restaurant," located on "Maunakea nr Hotel."⁸ Two years later, Wo Fat appears to have added a retail store and was listed as "provisions," but was still located at "Maunakea nr Hotel," along with its owner, Wat Ging, who lived on the premises, as indicated by the abbreviation, "r same."⁹ In 1898 the business was once again described as a "restaurant," given the street address of "120 Maunakea," and still contained the residence of its owner.¹⁰

One year earlier, however, Wat Ging and a group of Chinese investors formed a company named Wo Fat & Nee Chong. News of the venture was announced in the English-language daily newspaper *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* on December 19, 1898 with the statement that: "Wo Fat & Nee Chong is the firm name of a new bakery, restaurant, etc. Wat Ging is manager."¹¹ In the same issue, the newspaper printed a formal notice that had been filed with the authorities three days earlier. It stated: "WONG TUCK YOU, LAU YEE Chong, Wong See Yong, Ho Shee, Ho Syak, Lee Shin, Lee Sum, and Wat Ging, formed partnership. (firm name Wo Fat and Nee Chong.) Commencing 1st Feb, 1897. Business as bakers, restaurant, manufacturers of candy, etc., etc. [sic], Honolulu, H.I. Dec. 16, 1898."¹² The latter description was the first indication of the company's products and services, which were later reported to have been augmented by the establishment in the same year of a "letter exchange business," "operated on a commission basis...to facilitate local Chinese sending money to China."¹³

Despite Wat Ging's financial support from a group of investors, business ventures in Honolulu remained risky. He and other entrepreneurs sought investors and placed advertisements in local newspapers

⁵ "Thirteenth Census of the United States," "City of Honolulu," Enumeration District 42, Sheet 35A, Line 18, May 11, 1910.

⁶ J. C. Lane, *Directory and Hand-Book of the Kingdom of Hawaii* (Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Company, 1890): 383.

⁷ Ng, "Food and Culture," 114.

⁸ F. M. Husted, *Directory and Hand-Book of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands* (San Francisco: F.M. Husted, Publisher, 1894): 245.

⁹ F. M. Husted, *Directory and Hand-Book of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands* (San Francisco: F.M. Husted, Publisher, 1896): 319.

¹⁰ F. M. Husted, *Directory and Hand-Book of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands* (San Francisco: F.M. Husted, Publisher, 1898): 299.

¹¹ *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, December 19, 1898, 9: 1.

¹² *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, December 19, 1898, 10: 2.

¹³ *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, March 10, 1938, 10: 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 21

offering leases and opportunities to join established businesses.”¹⁴ As precarious and uncertain as the outcomes could be, however, few of the owners anticipated a complete loss of their assets once again by fire.

Two years after Wo Fat & Nee Chong’s notice of co-partnership, their store was razed by a second conflagration – the Chinatown Fire of 1900. The fire started as a controlled burn by the Department of Health on January 20 of that year after 26 Chinatown residents died from Bubonic Plague in December 1899. The conflagration, however, soon spread out of control and quickly swept through 38 blocks, destroying 4,000 buildings and displacing some 6,000 persons.¹⁵ In the wake of the disaster, Wo Fat & Nee Hong joined other Chinese (as well as Euro-American) businesses and property owners who filed 6,750 claims against the government asking for a combined total of \$3.2 million to compensate for their losses.¹⁶ The case took several years to be heard in court and was ultimately resolved by a settlement offered by the US Government. Property and business owners were given almost \$1.5 million in a group settlement—considered to be a paltry sum—which caused severe economic hardship for many and was remembered with disdain for generations.¹⁷

In the interim, Wo Fat briefly moved outside of the district and reopened in “Camp 2,” a workers’ enclave that existed temporarily on the north side of Nu’uanu Stream.¹⁸ In 1901, the establishment relocated to a new site at 247 N. King Street, opposite or “makai of A’ala Park.”¹⁹ By 1904, however, Wo Fat returned to Chinatown where it was still described as a “restaurant” and located on “Hotel [Street] n[ea]r Maunakea (Map 6).”²⁰ The listing remained unchanged through 1910.²¹ In that year, census taker Sam Wong recorded Wat Ging as residing on Smith Street along with his wife Chong Shee, who had immigrated to Hawai’i from China in 1896. At the residence on Smith Street, the census also recorded their two sons, Wat Haw Tim and Wat Kai Wing, and a daughter, Wat Kim Shuu, all of whom had been born in Hawai’i in 1897, 1905, and 1904, respectively.²²

City directories of the early 1900s continued to note that Wo Fat advertised itself as a “Manufacturer of Fancy Chinese Candies, Saimin and other Fancy Chinese Soups;” however, a “Notice of Copartnership” filed in 1910 with territorial and local government officials indicated that the business had begun to expand its operations. This document stated that the business would be maintained as a “grocery and general merchandise business under the firm name of Wo Fat Company.” The partners included Wat Ging, Lee Sum, Lee Shin, Leon Sam, Lee Tim, Wong Wui Chin, Kok Leon, and Sing Fat.”²³

¹⁴ *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, March 10, 1938, 10: 3.

¹⁵ James C. Mohr, *Plague and Fire: Battling Black Death and the 1900 Burning of Honolulu’s Chinatown* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005) 141-143.

¹⁶ Mohr, *Plague and Fire*, 190.

¹⁷ Mohr, *Plague and Fire*, 192-193.

¹⁸ “Wo Fat Reopens,” *Hawaii Chinese Journal (T’an Shan Hsin Pao)*, Supplement, March 10, 1938.

¹⁹ *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1902: 438.

²⁰ *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1904: 389, 597.

²¹ *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1905-06: 382, 599; *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1907: 601; *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1908: 546; *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1909: 595.

²² Thirteenth Census of the United States, “City of Honolulu,” Enumeration District 42, Sheet 35A, Lines 19-22, May 11, 1910.

²³ “Notice of Copartnership,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, June 20, 1912, 10: 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 22

Through the 1910s, Wo Fat continued to enjoy further success. By 1912, Charles Lee Tim, son of co-founder Lee Tim, began managing the business, and he helped the business grow and further establish itself as “one the most prominent of Honolulu Chinese business firms.”²⁴ Lee soon became known as “Charlie Wo Fat” and remained a popular and well-known figure in Chinatown for much of the next four decades. Charles Lee Tim, identified as “Lee Tim” in the city directories, first served as manager of Wo Fat from 1917–1918,²⁵ after Wat Ging, who had been in that position from 1907–1916.²⁶ Lee Tim was then assigned as assistant manager from 1919–1922.²⁷ He was not identified with Wo Fat in the city directories from 1923–1929. However, he was re-appointed manager again by 1930,²⁸ identified as “Chas Lee Tim,” and remained in that position through 1951, even after being elected president of Wo Fat Co., Ltd. earlier in 1937.²⁹

Though Wo Fat continued to enjoy success, the owners of the firm dissolved the partnership by mutual assent on February 10, 1933 and subsequently established its successor, Wo Fat Co., Ltd.³⁰ The newly reorganized business continued to occupy the old wooden building on Hotel Street (Map 7), and in April of that year, it was among the first establishments in Honolulu to receive a license to serve beer not long after the first stage in the repeal of Prohibition.³¹ The ability to serve the beverage and the new business it generated may have been a factor in the shareholders’ decision to undertake “extensive repairs” to the restaurant later that year.³² Any such improvements or renovations of the existing building stock in Chinatown would likely have been considered a positive development at that time. Much of the surrounding area contained a number of buildings that were deemed fire hazards and of public health concern. The enduring memory of the devastating Chinatown fires of 1886 and 1900 continued to haunt residents, in 1936, one newspaper noted the 50th anniversary of the first Chinatown fire, lamenting that Chinatown was “still a menace” and advocated that much work still needed to be done to improve conditions in that part of Honolulu.³³

In 1937, the shareholders of Wo Fat embarked on their most ambitious project yet – the construction of a new building (Map 9). With the influx of additional investors—including Henry H. “Awa” Wong, who operated a distillery nearby and was known unofficially as the “Mayor of Chinatown” because of his involvements in multiple business and civic groups in the area—the project moved forward.³⁴ (For more information about Wong, see heading 1.5 below.) They decided to hire Chinese American architect Y.T. Char (fig. 7) and contractor W.S. Ching to design and build their new restaurant. They chose to construct the building at the present restaurant site and consolidated their land holdings by acquiring adjoining

²⁴ “Obituaries: Mrs. Lee Tim,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, May 23, 1918, 8: 5; “Oldest Chop Sui House Reopens,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, July 29, 1933: 3: 6.

²⁵ *Polk-Husted Directory Co.’s Directory of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii* 1917: 837; 1918: 815.

²⁶ *Husted’s Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii* 1907: 601; *Polk-Husted Directory Co.’s Directory of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii* 1916: 791.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 1919: 825; *Ibid.* 1922: 941.

²⁸ *Ibid.* 1930: 569.

²⁹ *Polk’s Directory of City and County of Honolulu* 1951: 1057; *Polk-Husted Directory Co.’s Directory of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii* 1937-38: 581.

³⁰ “Notice,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, February 17, 1933, 17: 8, 7.

³¹ “500 Make Application for Beer Licenses as Committee Starts Work,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, April 11, 1933, 1:8.

³² “Extensive Repairs for Wo Fat’s Restaurant,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 8, 1933, 8.

³³ “Still a Menace,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, April 19, 1936, 20:1.

³⁴ “Chinatown Mayor’ Dies at 79,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, December 4, 1974, 19: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 23

parcels. Wo Fat Co. had been acquiring parcels since 1900 and finally consolidated its holdings by 1937, which were later converted to fee simple by 1981.³⁵

1.2. A New “Chinese Style Building” for Chinatown: Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

By August 1937, news of the proposed new building was made public, and an article in the *Honolulu Advertiser* described the project within the context of efforts to clean up dilapidated and fire-prone structures in Chinatown. The article noted that “another tenement section of Honolulu will be eradicated in September...[and that] plans are being drawn for the rebuilding and modernizing of commercial and tenement buildings at Hotel and Maunakea streets.”³⁶ Work began a few months later, and the project received considerable attention. For example, the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* announced the project’s initiation on November 12, 1937 beneath the headline, “Construction Starts on Wo Fat Building.”³⁷

In the following week, the newspaper’s editor, William Lee, wrote that:

The largest construction job now underway [in Chinatown] is the \$43,400 three[-]story concrete building at the corner of Hotel and Maunakea Sts., which will house Wo Fat Chop Sui House and other Chinese grocery stores. The new structure will be completed by next February. Mr. Ching and Mr. Char [is] the contractor and architect respectively.³⁸

By the end of the project, however, the cost was reported as having increased to \$50,000.³⁹

As construction neared completion, proprietors of Wo Fat began placing the first of several “Help Wanted” advertisements in the Chinese-language paper *United Chinese News (Sun Chung Kwock Bo)*. It read: “Wo Fat would like to hire female cashiers, waiters and waitresses who must know Chinese, and kitchen helpers. Anyone interested, please come to Wo Fat’s office between 10 am and 2 pm for an interview.”⁴⁰ By the time of the opening, many of the new waitresses, cashiers, and bartenders posed for group portraits along with president and general manager Charles Lee Tim, which were printed in the *Honolulu Advertiser*.⁴¹

The media coverage for the grand opening celebration on March 10, 1938 was extensive, and the event was publicized by the Chinese, English, and Japanese language press, which included the *I Chinese Journal (T’an Shan Hsin Pao)*, *United Chinese News (Sun Chung Kwock Bo)*, *New China News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)*, *The Honolulu Advertiser* and *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* as well as the *Nippu Jiji* – no doubt a rare occurrence across such a broad spectrum of local news sources (figs. 9-11). On March 8, the *United Chinese News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)* announced that the “Wo Fat Chop Sui [House would be] opening on March 10,” along with a “Special Meal [that would] be served in the afternoon” and “a dance

³⁵ Bureau of Conveyances; Moana Rowland, “Kapuukolo and Holau Market,” Unpublished manuscript, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2014; “Wo Fat Chop Sui House,” Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1 – Evaluation of Significance, 2018, 7.

³⁶ “Tenement Section To Be Modernized,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, August 18, 1937, 1:1

³⁷ “Construction Starts on Wo Fat Building,” *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, November 12, 1937: 3, 2.

³⁸ *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, November 19, 1937: 1, 4.

³⁹ *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, March 10, 1938.

⁴⁰ *United Chinese News*, February 5, 1938; Kit Yim, trans., December 2014.

⁴¹ *Honolulu Advertiser*, March 10, 1938, 7: 2-4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 24

[that would] be held [o]n the roof terrace [th]at night.”⁴² The following day, the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* carried a half-page advertisement that included the following statement from Wo Fat, Co., Ltd.:

It's been over half a century since Wo Fat Chop Sui was established in Honolulu, and in the course of that time many changes have come to pass. The oldest café in Hawaii has seen Honolulu grow from a pioneer village sprawled lazily along a frontier harbor to the Jewel City of the Pacific, embracing all the culture, refinement and commercial progress that the most worldly could desire...yet perpetuating her traditions of royal hospitality and gentle friendship.

Wo Fat has changed, too, during the passing years...and now, with the completion of this beautiful building, culminates an impressive past with every augury for an impressive future. Yet the service, unexcelled cuisine, the typical atmosphere of Wo Fat remain[s] unchanged...although augmented by the most skillful and elaborate designing, the most unique furnishings and a table and cuisine second to none. Wo Fat has become a veritable palace for connoisseurs of food.⁴³

The *Honolulu Advertiser* featured a half-page advertisement on the morning of March 10 that announced to the public: “You Are Invited to Inspect Our New, Three Story Building, [with] Three Floors For Better Service.” It also encouraged readers to “Come to Our Opening and Renew Your Old Acquaintance with the Territory’s Oldest Chinese Restaurant Where Old Standards of Quality are Observed in Modern Ways.”⁴⁴ Under the sub-head of “Three Floors for Better Service,” the copy continued:

ON THE MAIN FLOOR you will find a modern bar with all kinds of beverages at moderate prices—a quick service dining room and a specialty shop where Chinese sweetmeats, and foods to be taken out, may be secured.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR is our main dining room, beautifully decorated and seating 300 persons comfortably—a service bar provides instant catering to your beverage requirements.

IN THE CHINESE PAGODA ON THE THIRD FLOOR, the Dragon room may be reserved for private dinner or tea parties. Once each week dancing will be held there with a first-class orchestra.⁴⁵

The article posted the opening-day schedule, with regular restaurant service at 10:00 a.m.,⁴⁶ public inspection, refreshments, Chinese Music, “a program of entertainment” “by remote control” via “Radio Broadcast” by station KGU, and dancing with music provided by Sam Alama’s Orchestra “(\$2.00 per person).”⁴⁷

To celebrate Wo Fat’s reopening, the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* printed an additional 1,000 copies of a commemorative issue of the weekly with the center section that carried the headline, “Community Congratulates Wo Fat Chop Sui House on New Building.”⁴⁸ The publication of so many additional copies reflected the business’s success and the significance it had attained in Chinatown. It also demonstrated the shared heritage and growing pride of this segment of the population in Honolulu, despite a slow

⁴² “The Opening of Wo Fat Chop Sui,” *United Chinese News*, March 8, 1938; Kim, Yit, trans., December 2014.

⁴³ “Grand Opening Tomorrow of its Magnificent Chinese Café at 115 N. Hotel St.,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 9, 1938, 9: 2-4.

⁴⁴ “Grand Opening, Thursday, Mar. 10,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, March 10, 1938, 7: 1-4.

⁴⁵ “Grand Opening, Thursday, Mar. 10,” 7: 1-4.

⁴⁶ “Program for Wo Fat Opening Today,” *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, March 10, 1938: 1: 1.

⁴⁷ “Program for the Opening Day,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 9, 1938, 9: 2-4; “Grand Opening, Thursday, Mar. 10,” 7: 1-4.

⁴⁸ “1000 Extra Copies of Journal’s Wo Fat Issue Distributed,” *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, March 11, 1938, 1: 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 25

decline in the Chinese population within Honolulu’s Chinatown through outmigration, according to census data between 1910 and 1940.⁴⁹

The *Honolulu Advertiser* also carried a collage of interior photographs of the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, including views of the first-floor bar, second-floor restaurant, and third-floor “pagoda pavilion”⁵⁰ as well as the following descriptions:

Entering the main floor on Hotel [S]treet[,] the visitor faces a wide stairway inviting him [or her] to a main dining room above. But first[,] the large modern bar [on] the left calls for inspection. Seating 28 persons on comfortable stools[,] the bar is semi-circular in design.

At the right of the stairway is a quick service dining café and counters where foods to be taken out will be delivered. Chinese sweet meats and delicacies will be displayed here.

On the second floor[,] an “L”[-]shaped dining area seating between 300 and 500 persons is found. Palms, croton and veri-colored [sic] plants blending into the color scheme complement the soft red and buff of the rubber tiled floor and the brilliant tones of the Chinese designs used on the ceiling...

Up another floor to the pagoda-like roof...the dragon room provides an ideal setting for large tea or dinner parties. Several hundred persons can be seated here according to need, or the room tastefully arranged for dancing...[There is also a]n octagonal room at one end [that] is particularly attractive for private parties.

[B]ack [on] the first floor [there is] a balcony [on] the rear where sunlight streams into the kitchens, spic and span [with] brand new equipment...glistening concrete floors and...immaculate cleanliness for which Chinese are proverbial. Into these kitchens come tons of island grown produce each day and in cupboards are stored hundreds of pounds of delicacies imported from China. Huge cabinets [also] house thousands of specially designed dishes, also imported from China, in varied sizes for each course.

The *Honolulu Advertiser’s* descriptions concluded with the statement that the new restaurant had “an annual capacity of 50,000” (the old restaurant served approximately 20,000 persons per year) and that the space “available in the new building” allowed “1,000 persons [to] be served at [any] one time in all departments.”⁵¹

The Japanese-language weekly, *Nippu Jiji*, whose editor was Yasutaro Soga (1873–1957), carried a photograph of the new building “with its pagoda-like structure of Chinese architecture,”⁵² and an announcement of the opening, along with salutatory ads from the Japanese American sub-contractors who had worked on the project (fig. 11). They included: Robert T. Fujino, Modern Carpenter Shop; S. I. Sugimoto, sheet metal contractor; Arruda Electric Company; T. Takeuchi, interior decorating and painting contractor; and others.⁵³

⁴⁹ The Chinese population in Chinatown had actually been decreasing since 1910 because of outmigration. The Chinese who resided in the census blocks that comprise the current Chinatown HD were enumerated as 1,535 persons in 1910, 1,355 in 1920, 836 in 1930, and 527 by 1940. Stanley Solamillo, “Chinatown HD Census,” unpublished manuscript, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2015.

⁵⁰ “Grand Opening, Thursday, Mar. 10,” 7: 2-4.

⁵¹ “Territory’s First Chinese Café Celebrates in Three Stories,” “Bar on First Floor,” “Pagoda Roof Garden,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, March 10, 1938, 7: 1-2.

⁵² “Wo Fat in New Quarters,” *Nippu Jiji*, March 10, 1938.

⁵³ “Wo Fat in New Quarters.”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 26

Two days after the March 10 opening, the day’s multiple events were summarized in the *United Chinese News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)*:

At the opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m., all the tables on the first and second floors were seated [and] there were not enough tables for everyone who came to the opening ceremony...The ones who couldn’t find a seat were disappointed. A special dinner was served at 5:00 p.m. [and] all tables were reserved in advance. There was not one empty table...Around 9:00 p.m. customers finished dinner and went dancing on the roof terrace. It was free-of-charge [and t]he party didn’t end until midnight. On that day, everyone who passed by the Wo Fat building stopped and stared. The streets nearby were filled with people. Gifts were received from both the Chinese and American communities and included over one hundred floral arrangements, embroideries, vases, Chinese couplets, fireworks, calligraphy tools, and felicitations in various forms.⁵⁴

Indicating the importance of the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House and comparing it with buildings found on the US mainland and beyond, editor Lee wrote in the *Hawaii Chinese Journal (T’an Shan Hsin Pao)* that:

The grand opening of Wo Fat in its beautiful new home today marks another milestone not only for this kamaaina firm but also for the Chinese community.

Many people who have walked the streets of San Francisco’s famous Chinatown and rubbernecked at the gay Chinese chop sui palaces and impressive shop windows filled with treasures have wondered why the local Chinese have not built up our Chinatown. They have wondered why we have not developed our Chinatown into a tourist attraction [that] will draw the tourist trade to Chinese shops conducted by Chinese.

During the past few years much has been done to improve the appearance of our Chinatown. The completion of the beautiful home of Wo Fat—Chinatown’s finest building—will do much to attract people and business to this section of the city.

[The] Wo Fat building with its graceful Chinese roof and curved eaves, especially at night when these architectural features are accentuated with neon lights, is the equal in beauty with any in San Francisco’s Chinatown or even on Shanghai’s “Great Horse Road.”⁵⁵

News of the restaurant’s opening even extended from Hawaii to the US mainland. An article in the English-language monthly *Chinese Digest* of San Francisco appeared about one month following the opening and featured a description of the building and its architect.⁵⁶

1.3 The Second Sino-Japanese War and the Rape of Nanking (Nanjing)⁵⁷

Despite the inter-ethnic celebration that occurred in Honolulu with the completion and opening of the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House in March 1938, there was an undercurrent of hostility. During the clearance of the site at Hotel and Maunakea streets and construction of the new building, the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945) had begun on the Chinese mainland and continued to escalate. The conflict had started on July 7, 1937, when the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) crossed the Yongding River at Lugao (Marco Polo) Bridge, attacked and captured Beijing and Tianjin, then marched on Shanghai. Weekly reports of the conflict were printed in both the Honolulu Chinese and Japanese press. Shanghai fell on

⁵⁴ “The Opening of Wo Fat Chop Sui [House],” *United Chinese News*, March 12, 1938; Kit Yim, trans., December 2014.

⁵⁵ “Wo Fat – Another Milestone,” *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, March 10, 1938, 1: 1.

⁵⁶ *Chinese Digest* (San Francisco), April 1938, 15: 1.

⁵⁷ The Romanized Chinese name of “Nanking” was officially changed to “Nanjing” in 1950 but has been maintained in this narrative to be consistent with the place name used in period sources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 27

November 26, 1937, and the IJA marched on the capital of Nanking. Then following its surrender on December 13, 1937, and during a six-week occupation of the city, IJA troops tortured, raped, and murdered some 300,000 men, women, and children.⁵⁸

Nanking was the capital of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Republic of China (1912–1949), an ancient as well as modern city, whose "Capital Plan" (1929) had been formulated by American architect Henry M. Murphy (1877–1954) and Lu Yanzhi (1894–1929), a graduate of the Cornell School of Architecture. The master plan designated "major avenues in downtown Nan[k]ing" and "divided the city into [seven] districts: the central public affairs, municipal public affairs" as well as "industrial, commercial, educational, cultural, and residential districts."⁵⁹ During the 1920s and 1930s, in excess of one thousand buildings were erected in Nanking by young Chinese architects who had studied abroad and returned home.⁶⁰ Along with Lu Yanzhi they included: Guan Songsheng (1891–1960; Harvard University), Liu Guozhen (1897–1968; Tokyo Engineering Academy), Zhuang Jun (1888–1990; University of Illinois), Xu Jungzhi (1906–; University of Michigan), and Poy Gum Lee (1900–1968; Pratt Institute).⁶¹

Among the American-trained architects, Lee was by far the most educated – having studied architecture at Columbia University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before graduating from the Pratt Institute. He was also the most prolific and avant-garde, which caused him to eventually acquire the title of "Father of Chinese Modernism."⁶² From a firm that he started in Shanghai in 1923, Lee designed the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum (1929) in Nanking and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Canton (Guangzhou; 1931) as well as "luxury apartment [buildings,] movie theatres, churches, hospitals, schools and private residences."⁶³ Many of the traditional forms that Lee employed in his new architecture had been recorded by two other American-trained architects, Liang Sicheng (1901–1972; University of Pennsylvania) and Lin Huiyin (1904–1955; University of Pennsylvania), who spent two decades compiling the only modern records of the architectural legacy of ancient China, much of which the IJA would ultimately destroy, forcing them to move their archives from Beijing southward, ahead of the IJA advance.⁶⁴

In 1937, Nanking was a "new city" that represented the aspirations of the new Republic and contained a substantial foreign community in addition to a native Chinese population.⁶⁵ Beginning in December of that year with the headline, "Nanking Rearguard Killed to Last Man,"⁶⁶ and continuing through the Christmas holidays and into the New Year, news of the carnage was printed in the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* and other papers for a Honolulu readership. As late as the week following the March 10, 1938 opening of Wo Fat, the reportage in the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* continued to detail the atrocities with reports headlined with titles such as "Foreign Eyewitness Tells of More Nanking Horrors," "Men Burned

⁵⁸ Iris Chang. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. New York: Basic Books, 1997.

⁵⁹ *China Daily*, May 29, 2004: n.p.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Kerri Culhane, "Poy Gum Lee, A.I.A. (1900-1968)," Unpublished Ms., 2014.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Wilma Fairbank, *Liang and Lin: Partners in Exploring China's Architectural Past*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994.

⁶⁵ Chang 1997.

⁶⁶ *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, December 31, 1937: 1: 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Alive by Japanese Troops,” “Live Refugees Used for Bayonet Practice,” and “Women Raped 30 Times a Day.”⁶⁷

1.4 Wo Fat as Memorial

Given the horrific news that emanated from Nanking in late 1937 and early 1938, Char and the board of directors of Wo Fat appear to have decided to memorialize it by including artwork from the capital. Surprisingly, no Chinese painter could be found in Hawai'i in time to do the work by opening day and ironically, a Japanese American artist named T. Takeuchi was ultimately selected for the job. Takeuchi was a graduate of the Chicago Painting and Decorating School and had painted murals in the Moana Hotel, the Central YMCA, and Schofield Barracks.⁶⁸ He reproduced a series of “designs used in decorating walls and ceilings [that were] painted in the colors of the [unspecified] originals at Nanking.”⁶⁹ Takeuchi was reported as having selected the designs “after careful checking with Chinese art records at the Honolulu Academy of Arts.”⁷⁰

Little was written about the work when it was completed. Three decades later it received the attention of an unidentified local reporter who wrote that:

The ceiling designs of Wo Fat in downtown Honolulu have more history than I knew about . . . The scale[d] designs themselves were done by Tadao Takeuchi, the colors set in by Sunao Hironaka and then, after the authenticity of line and color had been approved by Chinese teachers, the work was painted on the second and third floor ceilings of Wo Fat. Every color, every design has a meaning, so accuracy was imperative, and the fact that Japanese artists were able to do complicated Chinese art [was] a matter of amusement to many. Amazing too is the clarity and beauty of the colors, for this work was done in 193[8]. A similar Nanking Lama Temple design [modeled after the Golden Temple of Jehol] was employed and displayed at the Chicago World's Fair [in 1933].⁷¹

She also noted that: “The work of these two Japanese artists [may also] be seen on the lanai ceiling of the Iolani Palace, the Korean [Christian] Church and other elaborately decorated buildings on Oahu.”⁷²

Despite the claims to a specific temple in Nanking that served as a source for the Wo Fat paintings, an analysis of the ceiling designs of the restaurant that was conducted in 2018 suggests that they may have been inspired by traditional lama temple designs instead of being exact reproductions from a particular building in that city.⁷³ Those that have survived, however, employ traditional Chinese geometry, patterns, and motifs associated with lama temples and still retain the “clarity and beauty” described by the author in 1975.

Unfortunately, the importance of Takeuchi's artwork was lost on the building's later owners and tenants. In the 1990s various attempts were made to modernize the Wo Fat interiors, including the installation of dropped ceilings that covered up the polychrome designs in the main dining hall. Their importance to customers was illustrated on at least one occasion when a visiting World War II veteran decried the

⁶⁷ Ibid., March 18, 1938: 1: 1-2.

⁶⁸ *The Honolulu Advertiser*, “Oriental Decorations,” March 10, 1938: 7: 2-4.

⁶⁹ Ibid., “Wo Fat Opening Today...” March 10, 1938: 7: 1-2.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ *The Honolulu Advertiser*, May 18, 1975: 172: 2.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Kit Yim, “Wo Fat Interior Artwork,” Unpublished Ms., March 29, 2018: 1-7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

alterations and informed the staff that because of the changes, he would never eat at the restaurant again.⁷⁴ Continuing the trend in the 2000s, a nightclub owner removed the dropped ceilings but over-painted all of the 60-year old polychrome columns, walls, ceiling beams, and panels in the dining hall in black.

1.5 The Chinese Boycott

Earlier in 1938 the Honolulu Chinese community (like overseas Chinese worldwide) responded to events in China with shock, grief, outrage, and activism. Community organizations raised funds for refugee relief, food and medicine, and also paid for aircraft, weapons and ammunition.⁷⁵ Even the smallest associations with things Japanese became abhorrent. Illustrative of the Chinese sentiment of the period, in Hollywood, famed actress Anna May Wong moved from an apartment that overlooked a Japanese garden in February 1938. Her relocation was reported by the monthly, *Chinese Digest*, along with the statement that “[b]ecause of the present Sino-Japanese conflict, anything Japanese has become anathema to Anna May Wong...[and] the Chinese actress [has] moved to another part of Hollywood, away from any Japanese influence.”⁷⁶

In Honolulu, community leaders declared a boycott on all Japanese businesses and products later in the year, and Char subsequently moved his offices out of the Sumitomo Bank to the Yuen Chong Building at 89 N. King Street, as soon as his Chinese-styled facade and interior renovations were completed. He then printed an announcement in the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* that read: “Y.T. CHAR[,] Architect,[] announces the removal of his office to the YUEN CHONG BUILDING[,] 89 N, King St[,] Second Floor, Room 7[,] Phone 3911.”⁷⁷ He shared the new space and telephone number with two other businesses – a staffing company called Young’s Service Bureau and the Superb Blue Print Shop.⁷⁸ Char remained at the N. King Street location during World War II and moved to the Dento-Medical Center at 36 South Kukui Street after his completion of the building in 1947.⁷⁹

1.6. Wo Fat Chop Sui Becomes a Landmark in Honolulu’s Chinatown

The opening of the Y. T. Char-designed edifice in 1938 marked the beginning of a new era for the restaurant, and the building itself became emblematic for Honolulu’s Chinatown, drawing greater attention and awareness of the business occupying it. Advertisements touted Wo Fat Chop Sui as a place to eat and to seek entertainment. One ad, published soon after Wo Fat began operations in its new building, encouraged patrons to enjoy dancing to the music of Sam’s Dance Orchestra on the building’s third-floor terrace.⁸⁰ The restaurant’s opening also took advantage of Honolulu’s rebounding economy, which prospered with the rapid buildup of US military bases on O’ahu, the subsequent creation of many new jobs, and the arrival of many new residents, both in the military and private sectors who had more disposable incomes. However, the opening also occurred at a time of widespread uncertainty across

⁷⁴ Cindy Choy, Wo Fat waitress, retired. Interview with Kit Yim, Honolulu, Hawai’i, February 15, March 1, 2018.

⁷⁵ *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, “10 Million to Fight Japan,” December 24, 1937: 1: 3-5; “Drive Nets \$41,400 Cash, Pledges, \$50,000 Expected,” March 18, 1938: 1: 2-3.

⁷⁶ *Chinese Digest*, “Anna May Wong Moves Away From Japanese Garden,” April 1938: 15: 1.

⁷⁷ *Hawaii Chinese Journal*, “Market is Another Y.T. Char Building,” March 31, 1939: 2: 2.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ “Formal Opening Today,” “Dento-Medical Center,” “Home of these Business and Professional Firms...” “Y.T. Char[,] Architect,” *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, March 17, 1947: 13.

⁸⁰ “Dancing” [ad], *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, April 4, 1938, 10: 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 30

much of Europe, Asia, and parts of Africa with a growing concern that the US could become directly involved in the overseas conflicts at the time.

War finally did come to Hawai'i on December 7, 1941, at 7:55 a.m., when the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the US fleet at Pearl Harbor and other military bases on O'ahu. Following the attack, the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* announced the onset of hostilities with the headline, "WAR! OAHU BOMBED BY JAPANESE PLANES."⁸¹ Governor John Poindexter responded almost immediately by declaring that martial law would take effect at 4:30 p.m. on the day of the attack. Chinatown was subsequently designated as a military vice district, which changed the character of the surrounding area and the clientele patronizing the restaurant.

Next door to the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, the New Senator Hotel at 80–87 North Hotel Street was one of 15 brothels located in Chinatown that served 250,000 US servicemen per month from 1941–1944.⁸² During those years, long lines of Euro-Americans, under a "whites only" policy, queued at its entrance near Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. For other Chinatown brothels whose entrances were located on public streets, long lines queued on sidewalks along thoroughfares. The waits were lengthy, and customers were subjected to various forms of humiliation from passersby, as well as predation from enterprising local shoeshine boys. A photograph that was taken of the northeast corner of Wo Fat during World War II showed servicemen either seated at the first-floor bar or crossing Hotel and Maunakea Streets with the pagoda clearly discernable from the thoroughfares below (fig. 12).

1.7. Chop Sui (Chop Suey): The Feature Dish of Wo Fat Restaurant

Besides bars, pool halls, and brothels, US servicemen who visited the district during World War II wanted cheap meals, which Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House provided. "Chop Sui" or "Suey" was the Anglicized version of the Cantonese term "shap sui," meaning "mixed small bits" or "odds and ends."⁸³ Chop Sui referred to a kind of stew that was made with different ingredients such as meat or chicken, mixed together with vegetables, and served with rice. It was initially used to identify a Cantonese culinary invention that dated back to the California Gold Rush (1848–1855) where such dishes were prepared by Chinese cooks and served to miners of all ethnicities at affordable prices. In like fashion, Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House in the 1940s provided 68 items that were priced to sell from \$0.40–\$1.50. The restaurant "Also Prepare[d] Food To Take Out" with Plate Lunch[es] or Dinner[s]" ranging from \$0.70–\$1.00.⁸⁴ In addition, Wo Fat is purported in the oral tradition to have offered meal coupons to servicemen "to get them in the door" and continued to honor the coupons for decades after the war's end.⁸⁵

A menu from 1943 (fig. 28) provided the following choices in the following categories:

- Chop Suey (All Orders with Vegetables): Chicken, Shrimp, Pork, Beef, and Plain with Vegetables;
- Chow Mein (Fried Noodles) (All Orders with Vegetables): Chicken, Shrimp, Pork, Beef with crisp or soft noodles;

⁸¹ *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, 1st Extra, December 7, 1941, 1.

⁸² Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Hotel Street: Prostitution and the Politics of War," *Radical History Review* Vol. 52 (1992): 54, 57.

⁸³ Andrew Coe, *Chop Suey: A Culinary History of Chinese Food in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

⁸⁴ Wo Fat Ltd., Chop Sui House Menu, 1943.

⁸⁵ *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, December 28, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 31

- Chow Wun Ton (Fried Pork Dumplings) with sliced chicken or sliced pork;
- Duck: Spiced and Crispy;
- Chicken: in eight different dishes;
- Shrimp: in seven different dishes;
- Fish: Fried Canton Style;
- Pork: in ten different dishes;
- Beef: in four different dishes;
- Egg Fuyong: either plain or with shrimp or crab meat;
- Soup: Green Pea, Chicken, Abalone, Pork, or Chop Sui;
- Rice: fried, with steamed chicken, beef, or plain;
- Wun Ton or Mein (Pork Dumplings or Noodles in Soup: in six selections with Wun Ton, Saimin, Ton Mein, or Wor Mein; and
- Chinese Tea.⁸⁶
-

Dishes tailored to the Euro-American palette such as “Pork Hash,” “Pot Roast Pork,” “Pot Roast Chicken,” and “Chicken Fritters” were offered along with entrees that featured “Sweet [and] Sour Sauce,” “Bean Sprouts,” “Soy Sauce,” and “Tomato and Green Pepper[s].”⁸⁷

In comparison with a Wo Fat menu that was printed earlier in 1927 (fig. 27), the restaurant’s menu items during the World War II era indicated a substantive change. The 1927 menu included only 39 items and were priced from \$0.15–\$0.75. Many dishes included a conspicuous ingredient—lobster. By 1943, however, lobster had been removed from the menu entirely and some of the items had become more recognizable as dishes that appeared to have been developed for the Euro-American palette.⁸⁸ In 1927, Wo Fat provided the following choices in the following categories:

- Chop Sui: Chicken, Lobster, Beef, and Pork;
- Chow M[e]in: Chicken, Pork, or Lobster;
- Egg Fu Yung: Plain, with Shrimp or Lobster;
- Fried (With Vegetables or Waterbeans [sic], Green Peppers and Tomatoes or Sour Cabbage);
- Chicken, Pork, Beef, Lobster, Fish or Fish Cake;
- Steamed fish and Fish Roll;
- Chop Vui [sic] Soup;
- Miscellaneous Items: Boiled Chicken, Roast Duck, Pot Roast or Sliced Pork, as well as Fried Rice;
- Entrees: Pork Hash, Spare Ribs, Sour Pig Feet, Salt duck egg, Chinese Sausage; and
- Wulong Tea.⁸⁹

In addition to the standard offerings, “First Class Mandarin Dinners [could be] made to order, prepared with a day’s notice.”⁹⁰

The following is a detailed analysis of menus from 1943 to 1989 (figs. 27-32), which provides keen insights into the types of food items and prices over an extended period of time:

⁸⁶ Wo Fat Ltd., Chop Sui House Menu, 1943.

⁸⁷ Wo Fat Ltd., Chop Sui House Menu, 1943.

⁸⁸ Wo Fat Chop Sui House, Menu, 1927.

⁸⁹ Wo Fat Chop Sui House, Menu, 1927.

⁹⁰ Wo Fat Chop Sui House, Menu, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 32

The menu from 1943 listed 68 items that were priced from \$0.40 – \$1.50 as well as “Prepare[d] Food To Take Out” with Plate Lunch[es] or Dinner[s]” ranging from \$0.70 - \$1.00. Wo Fat provided the following choices in 12 categories: Chop Suey (All Orders with Vegetables): Chicken, Shrimp, Pork, Beef, and Plain with Vegetables; Chow Mein (Fried Noodles) (All Orders with Vegetables): Chicken, Shrimp, Pork, Beef with crisp or soft noodles; Chow Wun Ton (Fried Pork Dumplings) with sliced chicken or sliced pork; Duck: Spiced and Crispy; Chicken: in eight different dishes; Shrimp: in seven different dishes; Fish: Fried Canton Style; Pork: in ten different dishes; Beef: in four different dishes; Egg Fuyong: either plain or with shrimp or crab meat; Soup: Green Pea, Chicken, Abalone, Pork, or Chop Sui; Rice: fried, with steamed chicken, beef, or plain; Wun Ton or Mein (Pork Dumplings or Noodles in Soup: in six selections with Wun Ton, Saimin, Ton Mein, or Wor Mein; and Chinese Tea. Dishes tailored to the Euro American palette such as “Pork Hash,” “Pot Roast Pork,” “Pot Roast Chicken,” and “Chicken Fritters” were offered along with entrees that featured “Sweet [and] Sour Sauce,” “Bean Sprouts,” “Soy Sauce,” and “Tomato and Green Pepper[s]” (fig. 28).”

During the early 1950s, the menu introduced Family Dinners that were available for two to five persons and priced from \$1.25 to \$1.75. The family dinners included Soup, Plain Deep Fried Shrimp and/or Plain Crisp Wun Ton, two to six different main dishes, and fried rice. The menu also listed 80 items that were priced from \$0.05 - \$1.50 and up and continued to offer “Prepare[d] Food to Take Out.” The Special Plate Lunch or Dinner was offered from \$1.00 and up. The menu expanded to 15 categories including two new categories: Gau Gee (Shrimp Dumplings) and Look Fun (Rice Noodles). The Gau Gee was offered in five different dishes: in soup or with noodles and sliced pork, Crisp Gau Gee with noodles and/or vegetables, or plain Crisp Gau Gee. The Look Fun was offered in six dishes: in soup with sliced pork, in soup with Wun Ton or Gau Gee and sliced pork, fried Look Fun with bean sprouts and shredded pork or vegetables and sliced pork, and soft Look Fun with broccoli and beef. There were minor changes to the other categories. New additions included a Special Chicken Chop Suey and Steamed Fish, while Egg Fuyong with crab meat was removed (figs. 29-30).

The menu from 1975 retained 16 categories from earlier menus and added seven new dishes, including Cold Chicken Vegetable Salad, Fresh Chinese Peas with Pork, Special Oyster Sauce Tenderloin Meat, Sam See Ton Mein, Wo Fat’s Special Fried Noodles with Oyster Sauce Meat, Sam See Fried Noodles, and Sam See Soup Noodles. The total number of menu items was 111, priced from \$0.35 to \$5.00 and up. Options for Family Dinners were reduced from eight to four and priced from \$7.95 for two persons to \$23.75 for five persons. A note was added indicating that the prices shown were the base prices and a state tax would be imposed as well (fig. 32).

The menu from 1989 changed significantly from previous menu in food as well as prices. The dishes were re-organized into 17 categories: Appetizers, Soup, Seafood, Chicken and Duck, Beef and Pork, Egg Fuyong, Sizzling Plates, Casseroles, Look Fun, Mein (Noodles in Soup), Chow Mein (Fried Noodles), Wun Ton, Gau Gee, Chop Suey, Rice, Dim Sum, and Desserts. The prices ranged from \$0.50 for Char Siu Bow (BBQ Pork Bun) to \$24.00 for Peking Duck. Wo Fat continued to offer Family Dinners for two to five persons, priced from \$19.95 to \$ 53.95. Special Lunches, Dinners, or Vegetarian Plates were also available from \$3.95 to \$4.75. The menu items were no longer numbered but listed totaled 135, excluding Family Dinners and Combination Plates. New dishes included Steamed Black Bean Clams, two different Squid dishes, Deep Fried Oysters, two different Scallop dishes, various Dim Sum dishes, Sizzling Plates, Casseroles, and Royal Almond Float for dessert.⁹¹

Newspapers also provide another source of information about the food served at the restaurant. The *United Chinese News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)* noted that since its return to Chinatown after the 1900 Fire, the bakery and restaurant produced “candies, cookies, dim sum, chow fun, and sashimi [that] were very popular... [and a]t th[e] time, Chinese dishes, such as won ton, sai min, chow fun etc. had become

⁹¹ Stanley Solamillo and Kit Yim, “Wo Fat Menus,” Unpublished manuscript, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2020.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 33

popular among foreigners [non-Chinese], and chop sui and stir-fries were getting popular as well.”⁹² Culinary historian David Y.H. Wu later observed in 2011 that:

By the 1960s when I first ate at Wo Fat, I realized that the dishes represented the standardized local Cantonese food. To the local Hawaiian Chinese, dishes served [at] Wo Fat represented traditional Chinese cuisine and symbolized authentic Chinese culinary art. To someone who had just arrived from Taiwan, it tasted different, though quite delicious. To me the dishes did not represent a refined cuisine of China; instead, they reflected a kind of overseas version of rural Cantonese food.⁹³

For amateur food critics, however, the food could be described differently. A Chinese American woman from Irvine, California remarked:

Want a taste of 1960s Hong Kong? Well, Wo Fat ha[d] it. This restaurant located on the 2nd floor in the heart of Honolulu's Chinatown reminded me so much of what Hong Kong was all about in the 60s and 70s. The restaurant look[ed] stuck in time and the dim sum [wa]s also the old style traditional kind – not the modern, more sophisticated type.⁹⁴

No matter how proximate or removed Wo Fat's food was to authentic Chinese cuisine, it retained its popularity among Chinese and non-Chinese alike. During the 1950s and 1960s, Wo Fat continued to be an important venue, though it increasingly began to cater to a tourist market (see figs. 21-24). In advertisements that ran in such magazines as *Paradise of the Pacific*, Wo Fat billed itself as the “Oldest Chop Sui house in Hawaii,” “open seven days a week,” and touted its “Cocktail Bar,” and “9 course dinner[s for] Parties of any size from 2 to 900.”⁹⁵

Responding to the new realities of its local customer base, many of whom had relocated to suburban enclaves in Honolulu or even further, the restaurant began emphasizing its parking lot and its proximity to Nimitz Highway.⁹⁶ Despite the need for many to commute, Wo Fat continued to be a favorite place to host banquets, birthday celebrations, wedding receptions, and christenings, and local businesses and societies often hosted important dinners at the restaurant. One banquet was photographed by Vic and Becky Lipinski on February 13, 1954 (figs. 16-20).

During the life of the establishment, Wo Fat's clientele included Asians and non-Asians; prime ministers, local and national politicians (or their spouses), movie stars, sports figures, recording artists and other celebrities, as well as soldiers, sailors, nearly indigent bachelors, and newlyweds. Dr. Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925), founder of the Republic of China, is purported in the oral tradition to have dined at Wo Fat sometime while living in Honolulu and attending 'Iolani School (1879–1882), O'ahu College (1883, Punahou School)⁹⁷ and afterward. His earliest patronage of the restaurant may have occurred in 1883, and most probably took place in subsequent years (1893, 1894, 1896, 1903, and 1910)⁹⁸ when he visited Honolulu to raise funds for armed revolts against the Qing Dynasty. Walter Nash (1882–1968), future prime minister of New Zealand (1951–1957; 1960–1963) dined at Wo Fat in 1927 while attending a

⁹² “Opening Notice and the History of Wo Fat Chop Sui [House],” *United Chinese News*.

⁹³ David Y. H. Wu and Sidney C. H. Cheung, *The Globalization of Chinese Food* (New York: Rutledge 2013), 60.

⁹⁴ “Wo Fat,” Anita L. Yelp review, October 23, 2005, accessed December 22, 2014.

⁹⁵ *Paradise of the Pacific*, February 1958.

⁹⁶ *Paradise of the Pacific*, February 1958.

⁹⁷ Punahou, “Alumni,” accessed December 11, 2014, <http://www.punahou.edu/alumni/community-groups/alumni-profiles/sun-yat-sen/index.aspx>.

⁹⁸ Allen F. Damon, “Financing Revolution: Sun Yat-sen and the Overthrow of the Ch'ing [Qing] Dynasty,” *Hawaiian Journal of History* Vol. 25 (1991): 161–168.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 34

conference sponsored by the Institute for Pacific Relations in Honolulu and kept a menu (fig. 27) as a keepsake, which was later deposited in the country's archives. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1929–1994), wife of the late President John F. Kennedy (1917–1963) was recorded as having dined at Wo Fat along with heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912–1993) during a seven-week stay in Hawai'i (1966). Wo Fat was recorded in drawings, paintings, and numerous photographs, including a promotional photograph that was produced for the Mackey Feary Band in the 1970s. Leonard Freeman (1920–1974), writer and producer of the successful CBS television series "Hawaii Five-0" (1968–1980) is purported to have arrived at the concept for the series while dining at Wo Fat and used the name of the restaurant for the villain and nemesis of the show's protagonist and main character, Steve McGarrett (played by actor Jack Lord).⁹⁹ Freeman is recalled as having told scriptwriter Jerome Coopersmith, "I got the name Wo Fat from [the] restaurant in Honolulu," while showing him a red matchbook with the restaurant's name and Y. T. Char's architectural drawing embossed on it.¹⁰⁰

1.8. Association with Henry H. 'Awa' Wong: 'The Mayor of Chinatown'

Many people were tied to the operation of Wo Fat after it moved to the new building in 1938, but none attained a stronger association with the restaurant than Henry Awa Wong. By the time he invested in the business in 1937, Wong already was a prominent and well-respected local entrepreneur and had been dubbed as the informal "Mayor of Chinatown" in the 1920s by Honolulu mayor John H. Wilson. Born in Waikīkī where his Chinese immigrant father worked on a banana plantation, Wong and his family later moved to Kaua'i where his father opened a general store in Hanapepe in 1895. Wong started working after completing the eighth grade and secured a job as a dry goods clerk at the C. B. Hofgaard general store in Waimea, Kaua'i. He quickly demonstrated his business acumen and within two years became head clerk of the store.

In 1919, Wong moved back to Honolulu, and for the next 48 years, he became a prominent figure not only within the business community of Chinatown but also in all of Honolulu. He initially purchased interest in a "five and dime" store and after prohibition opened a distillery where he produced Okolehao, a Native Hawaiian alcoholic beverage.¹⁰¹ In 1929 he was listed in a publication entitled "The Chinese of Hawai'i," which identified him as a "Corporation Executive." That publication noted that he was manager of Aala Dry Goods Co., Home Variety Store, Sai Fu Chop Sui, New Market Hardware Co., and the Hawai'i Chinese Finance, Ltd. He also became a director of the Hoo Cho Chinese Language School and was a member of both the Honolulu and Chinese Chambers of Commerce.¹⁰² In later years, he further expanded his role within the community and was instrumental in starting the Narcissus Festival, a local celebration that began in 1949 during the Chinese New Year celebration.¹⁰³ He also became a director of the Pacific Insurance Company and vice president of Liberty Bank.

⁹⁹ Yunte Huang, *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010), 210.

¹⁰⁰ Jerome Coopersmith, "Book 'em Danno!: Writing for Hawaii 5-0," *Mystery Scene*, [Spring Issue No. 84](#), (2004).

¹⁰¹ "Chinatown Mayor' Dies at 79," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, December 4, 1974, 19: 1.

¹⁰² *Overseas Penman Club, Chinese of Hawai'i, Vol. 2* (Honolulu: United Chinese Penman Club, 1929), 79.

¹⁰³ "Narcissus Festival," *Chinese Chamber of Commercial of Hawai'i*, accessed July 13, 2020, <https://www.chinesechamber.com/narcissus-festival>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 35

Wong appears to have been elected vice president of Wo Fat Co., Ltd. during or shortly after World War II. Leong Han was listed as president of the company in 1940-41.¹⁰⁴ Although no city directories were produced from 1942–1946, Wong was identified as vice president by 1947,¹⁰⁵ and he maintained the position through 1952 when he was replaced by “Tom You Shee V-Pres [and] Samuel K. H. Wong V-Pres.”¹⁰⁶ Nonetheless, his name became synonymous with the eatery by the 1940s. As his health began to fail in the 1960s, Wong began to divest himself of many of his business interests and civic duties; however, he continued to oversee Wo Fat until 1967. His decision to quit and bequeath operation of the restaurant (the last vestige of his work-related activities at that time) to his son, David, became a newsworthy event, and newspapers highlighted his illustrious and successful career. His retirement and contributions were even acknowledged in the US Congress. Representative Spark M. Matsunaga referred to him as the “Caterer of the Elite” and praised his hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Matsunaga also entered into the *Congressional Record*, “[His] warmth and genuine regard for his fellow man have brought Mr. Wong to the forefront in the business community of the Island State.”¹⁰⁷ Wong lived for another six years but continued to be plagued by health problems. His passing on December 2, 1973 was noted in local newspapers which summarized his many contributions to the entire community and explicitly stated his long association with Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House.¹⁰⁸

1.9 The Demise of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House and Re-Birth

Restaurateur and businessman George Dang purchased Wo Fat in 1991. He had come to Honolulu in 1975 from Vietnam and three years later opened the Empress Restaurant in the Chinese Cultural Center. His purchase of Wo Fat helped him to further expand and diversify his business enterprise, and he continued to operate Wo Fat through the early 1990s. However, by 1994, Dang quietly closed the restaurant, marking the end of one of both Chinatown’s and Honolulu’s best-known eateries. As one former patron later lamented:

I was told by an ol’ timer from China Town [sic] that Wo Fat is a goner... [I]t’s been sold to a Mainland Chinese company and they’re probably gonna tear it down. His story was that the termites have really done a number on the structure...[T]here have been late night gambling sessions upstairs, with police raids and everything, and they’re pretty much fed up with the place. Too damn bad. This was a real China Town landmark, [for] sure.¹⁰⁹

On July 9, 1994, a front-page article in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* included a headline announcing that “Wo Fat Chop Sui closes its doors.” In its place, a new restaurant would open as “Lou Wai Lou.” According to the newspaper, the new tenant operated under the auspices of the People’s Republic of China, which ran a restaurant by the same name in Shanghai. Instead of serving Cantonese cuisine, which most people in Honolulu were accustomed to and associated with Chinese food, the new restaurant, the newspaper indicated, would offer Shanghai-style food. In announcing the deal, lease holder Dang is quoted as saying

¹⁰⁴ *Polk-Husted Directory Co.’s Directory of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii* 1940-41: 663.

¹⁰⁵ *Polk’s Directory of City and County of Honolulu* 1947-48: 1073.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.* 1953: 1133.

¹⁰⁷ *Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates of the 90th Congress, Second Session – Appendix*, “Henry Awa Wong Retires as Honolulu Caterer to the Elite” (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office), A-3187, from GoogleBooks, <https://tinyurl.com/qs7b2dv>.

¹⁰⁸ “Chinatown Mayor’ Dies at 79,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, December 4, 1974, 19: 1.

¹⁰⁹ Mista B., “Wo Fat RIP,” January 3, 2009, accessed December 22, 2014, <https://www.yelp.com/biz/wo-fat-restaurant-honolulu>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 36

that, “Lou Wai Lou officials insisted that the new name of the 140-year-old Shanghai eatery will draw more customers than that of Wo Fat.”¹¹⁰ Another newspaper later commented that although Wo Fat had operated in Honolulu for 112 years, the new restaurant (Lou Wai Lou) “may be good for another 112 years.”¹¹¹ Despite such a glowing sense of optimism, the deal eventually collapsed as the master chefs that the new operators sought to bring to Honolulu reportedly were unable to get visas from the US government.¹¹² Since that time, the building has hosted a variety of new tenants, most of which lasted for only a relatively short duration.

Ownership of the property was eventually transferred to an absentee owner at an indeterminate date in the 2000s, although the building’s first-floor tenant, the New Hong Kong Market, continued to operate there. A number of alterations had been made during the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s that included the construction of roof additions, removal of original fenestration, and various incompatible building repairs – all of which appeared to have been made with attention to cost only.

The second-story banquet hall appears to have been vacant for many years; however, Dang briefly moved his Empress Restaurant to the building by 2000 and rebranded it as “Wo Fat Seafood Restaurant,” hoping to capitalize on the name recognition and customers’ familiarity of the building’s historic and well-known tenant.¹¹³ By 2003 the restaurant appears to have closed, and the second floor remained empty until a Los Angeles promoter and media consultant named Kristien Amer started booking performances for a new nightclub that opened in the space named “The Loft.” Amer was the granddaughter of antique dealers and had grown up in the East Hollywood Hills neighborhood of Los Feliz and Honolulu. She staged monthly Wo Fat concerts for live punk and ska acts and advertised the events with promotional posters and handbills. An article that detailed the conversion from restaurant to club, alluded to Wo Fat’s longevity, with the headline, “Like the Phoenix, Wo Fat Rises....”¹¹⁴

The character of the new source of income, however, failed to elicit discernable concern about what events that produced sustained periods of elevated decibels might do to a 76-year-old concrete building. Consequently, by 2014 the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House showed signs of sustained deterioration.

Despite its uneven occupancy and tenancy history since 1994, the building itself remains largely unaltered and continues to be a prominent and well-recognized landmark within Honolulu’s Chinatown. In 2018, a partnership led by John Davenport of Austin, Texas, with other investors that included June Jones, the former head coach of the University of Hawai’i football team, acquired the building and plans for a large renovation project. The group plans to undertake a certified rehabilitation effort and convert the edifice into a boutique hotel with a first-floor restaurant under the project moniker of “Mighty Wo Fat, LLC.”¹¹⁵ They propose to restore and reuse the building as a restaurant, bar, and boutique hotel,

¹¹⁰ Gordon Y. K. Pang, “Wo Fat Chop Sui closes its door,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 9, 1994, 1:5.

¹¹¹ “The End of the Willows,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, September 14, 1994, 14:1.

¹¹² Jeff Burns, “Whose Turn Now,” *Hawai’i Business*, June 1, 1995, from The Free Library, accessed November 15, 2019, <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Whose+turn+now%3F-a017089200>.

¹¹³ “Two New Dim Sum Spots to Dive into – Wo Fat Seafood Restaurant,” “The Weekly Eater,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, April 6, 2000.

¹¹⁴ “Like a Phoenix, Wo Fat Rises,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, December 28, 2003, F6:3.

¹¹⁵ “New prosperity envisioned for Wo Fat building,” *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, August 13, 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 37

recapturing the building’s former glory and prestige that will be a major contributing feature of current revitalization efforts in Honolulu’s Chinatown.

2. CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House derives significance from its design attributes and its association with Yuk Tong (Y. T.) Char, a talented and prolific local architect whose practice spanned much of the first half of the twentieth century. Char also has significance as a Hawai’i-born, Chinese American architect, and his successful practice showed how Honolulu’s diverse population assumed more prominent positions with Hawai’i’s civic and business communities. Although the building showcases Char’s design skills, it also reflects a popular architectural trend at the time when designers incorporated Chinese-inspired motifs on buildings within enclaves of Chinese immigrants in major cities within the United States. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House has since become synonymous with Honolulu’s Chinatown.

2.1. “Towards a New Architecture:”¹¹⁶ Designed and Built by Chinese for Chinese

When the directors of Wo Fat Chop Sui Ltd. Co. decided to construct a new building, they chose Leong Han to oversee the project. Leong wanted a modern Chinese-styled building, and his selection of Y. T. Char appears to have been predicated on the architect’s completion of the remodeled Lau Yee Chai Restaurant in Waikīkī in 1932 (fig. 6). In addition, Char also was a Chinese American born in Waipahu in 1890 and studied architecture at Cornell University in New York. Char had designed the Waikīkī Lau Yee Chai for owner P. Y. Chong by adding Chinese design elements and motifs, curved roofs with decorative columns at entries, along with a corner pagoda.¹¹⁷ Leong could have, like Chinese businessmen on the US mainland, hired a Euro-American architect for the project. The most likely candidate would have been Hart Wood, who had completed the First Chinese Church of Christ in 1926 (fig. 5) at 1054 South King Street three years before Char’s restaurant, but Leong selected Char, nonetheless. (For more information about Y. T. Char and his career, see section 2.2)

Char’s development of a vernacular Chinese style, characterized by his overlaying of Chinese architectural forms and motifs onto Western commercial façades or floor plans and adding corner pagodas, was not new. The first designs that employed such techniques and forms were generated for the rebuilding of San Francisco’s Chinatown in the wake of the earthquake of 1906. Faced with the prospect of having the entire enclave removed and relocated to Hunter’s Point—which was then being advocated by the Euro-American press and the city’s political elite—Chinese merchants, led by fellow entrepreneur and Bank of Canton founder Look Tin Eli, opted instead to hire Euro-American architects Patterson Ross and A. W. Burgren to design “emphatically Oriental structures...utilizing the latest in fire-retardant building technology.”¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ The title, “Towards a New Architecture,” was originally coined by English translators of Le Corbusier’s *Vers Une Architecture* (1923) or *Toward An Architecture* that he produced as a treatise on the Modernism movement that he espoused.

¹¹⁷ “Lau Yee Chai To Make Additions,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, January 2, 1932, 7: 5.

¹¹⁸ Sol Andrews Stokols, “Oriental Splendor: The Rebuilding of San Francisco’s Chinatown and the Commercialism of American Orientalism,” (Unpublished Ms., Berkeley: University of California, 2010), 43.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 38

Ross and Burgren produced Chinese architecture for the masses, and the first two buildings became something of an “Oriental Disneyland” and a tourist attraction.¹¹⁹ Their two projects were the iconic four-story Sing Chong Co. (1908; 601–615 Grant Avenue) as well as the four-story Sing Fat Co. (1909; 573 Grant Avenue), both of which featured three-tiered corner pagodas.¹²⁰ They were followed by other “Oriental” buildings, such as the Chinese Telephone Exchange (1909; 743 Washington Street), also with a three-tiered pagoda, that were designed by non-Chinese architects under hire to Chinese clients.¹²¹ The move by Eli, as well as a number of other merchants—many of whom were members of the Chinese Six Companies, known formally as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association or CCBA—ultimately guaranteed the survival of the district.

Their actions were emulated elsewhere in Chinatowns in Chicago and Los Angeles. In like-minded fashion, the On Leong Merchants Association in Chicago hired Norwegian architects Christian S. Michaelsen and Sigurd A. Rognstad to design a three-story building (1928; 2216 South Wentworth Avenue), with two-tiered corner pagodas, and along with other nearby buildings that were designed by non-Chinese architects, it became emblematic for that community as well.¹²² In Los Angeles, Hop Louie, owner of Hop Louie’s Jade Pagoda Restaurant (1941; 950 Mei Ling Way) hired Euro-American architects Erle Webster and Adrian Wilson to design a two-story building with a five-tier pagoda and incorporate it into their New Chinatown development (1938) with similar effect.

As one observer has noted, “For Char, like many young architects of color who were initiating their practices in the early decades of the twentieth century on the US mainland, ethnic or racial pride was an important component in providing economic opportunity, ameliorating racial prejudice, and demonstrating their equality with Euro-American colleagues.”¹²³ Consequently, it may be conjectured that Char’s design for Wo Fat—a modern Chinese building located on a prominent street corner of Honolulu’s Chinatown, built by a Chinese general contractor for a Chinese client (albeit with a number of non-Chinese subcontractors)—embodied the aspirations of his generation; all of whom, while born, raised, and educated in the United States, still lived under and experienced the repressive effects of the nation’s Chinese Exclusion laws.

2.2. Y. T. Char and the Design of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Y. T. Char had been born in Waipahu in 1890, the eldest of four sons of a farmer named Fat Char and his wife, Chong Shu (fig. 7). His father and mother had emigrated to Hawai’i from China in 1890 and 1888, respectively, and in 1910 both were recorded by census taker Wong Tim Look as working on a banana plantation in Kalihi Uka.¹²⁴ He converted to Christianity at an indeterminate date and was able to attend and graduate from Mills Institute (later Mid-Pacific Institute). He subsequently worked for local

¹¹⁹ Judy Yung, Interview with Richard Gonzales, “Rebuilding Chinatown After the 1906 Quake,” National Public Radio, April 12, 2006.

¹²⁰ Phillip P. Choy, *San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History & Architecture* (San Francisco: City Lights, 2012), 113-115.

¹²¹ Choy, *San Francisco Chinatown*, 142-144.

¹²² “On Leong Merchants Association (Pui Tak Center), 2216 South Wentworth Avenue, Chicago, IL,” Measured Drawing, Historic American Building Survey (National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, compiled after 1933), from Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (HABS IL-325, Sheet 1).

¹²³ “Wo Fat Chop Sui,” Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1 Evaluation of Significance, 2018, 9.

¹²⁴ “Fourteenth Census of the United States, Population, Honolulu (City),” Enumeration District 48, Sheet 34A, Lines 6-11, May 10, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 39

architect H. L. Kerr and later got a job with Ripley & Davis, another Honolulu-based architectural firm. After gaining valuable work experience, he pursued architecture in a more academic setting and enrolled at Cornell University's College of Architecture in the fall of 1913. He returned to Honolulu two years later and began his professional career.¹²⁵ He received a number of small commissions, as noted by the number of times his name appeared in building permits, which were published in local newspapers. He also worked in the Chinese Department of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association (HEA) and was involved with the design and construction of the "Second Chinese Church" on Beretania Street, formerly known as the "Beretania Chinese Mission." He was identified in the HEA annual report of 1918 under a line item, "Architects, Kenn, Waiamau & Heen – Y.T. Char,"¹²⁶ after having been appointed as the consulting architect for the HEA three years earlier.¹²⁷ He also designed new houses for builders Wong & Company from at least 1916 onward, whose building permits were printed in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.¹²⁸

Although his practice reflected the growing diversity in the field of architecture in Hawai'i, Char was not the first Chinese architect in the city and was preceded by Heen Afong.¹²⁹ Afong Waianuenue Heen (1884–1961) had been born in Ka'anapali, Maui, the son of H. A. Heen and Mary Meheuewa, a Native Hawaiian. He had been educated at O'ahu College (1899–1901), Heald's Business College (1901–1902), and the University of California at Berkeley (1908–1913).¹³⁰ Heen had teamed up with architects Solomon Fukumura Kenn and John K. Waiamau to form the first known Asian/Pacific Islander-owned architectural firm in Hawai'i—the short-lived company of Kenn, Waiamau & Heen (1915–1917)—that produced work for the HEA. Other Chinese American architects who followed in their footsteps included a relative named H. Char and a younger contemporary named Siu Dai Hong.¹³¹

Compared to his fellow Chinese American architects, Y. T. Char appears to have been more tenacious and a self-promoter who was determined to practice as an architect, regardless of the many daunting challenges he and his contemporaries faced. He became involved in early efforts to improve poor housing conditions in Honolulu during nascent private-sector-driven urban planning efforts in the late 1910s.¹³² He may have worked for the HEA Chinese Department on a part-time basis because he had an office that was listed in the city directories as being located at "2 Waverly [B]lock" from 1916–1917, then he moved it to "25 S[outh] King [Street] in 1918."¹³³ He briefly worked from his house at "1932 Metcalf" in the following year, then re-opened and operated from an office at "82 S[outh] King [Street]" from 1920–1922.¹³⁴ In 1922, he married Annie Chong Kyau Ho and began raising a family with the birth of their first

¹²⁵ Don Hibbard, *Buildings of Hawaii* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2011), 29, 93.

¹²⁶ Hawaiian Evangelical Association (HEA), *Annual Report of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association* (Honolulu: HEA, 1918), 59, 29.

¹²⁷ United Church of Christ, Hawaii Conference, *Annual Report of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ* (Honolulu: United Church of Christ, 1915), 23.

¹²⁸ *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, August 1, 1916, 7: 2.

¹²⁹ John William Siddall, *Men of Hawaii* Vol. 3 (Honolulu: Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 1930), 191.

¹³⁰ Siddall, *Men of Hawaii* Vol. 3, 191.

¹³¹ *Polk-Husted's Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1920: 209; *Polk-Husted's Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1921: 208; Overseas Penman Club, *Chinese of Hawaii*, Vol. 2 (Honolulu: United Chinese Penman Club, 1932), 146.

¹³² "Chinese Solving Tenement Problem," *The Honolulu Advertiser*, January 23, 1919, 2: 4.

¹³³ *Polk-Husted's Directory of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii*, 1916: 197; *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1917: 202; *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1918: 198.

¹³⁴ *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1919: 200; *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1920: 208; *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1921: 208; *Polk-Husted's Directory*, 1922: 205.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 40

child in 1923.¹³⁵ That same year, Char returned to work for the HEA once more but also worked as an “architect” or “draftsman” for a number of local firms.¹³⁶ They included Rothwell, Kangeter & Lester (1924); Herbert Cohen (1925–1929); and M. C. Cayton (1929–1931).¹³⁷ Char appears to have designed a number of buildings from his home, then re-launched his practice officially in 1932 when he opened an office at “117[0] Nu‘uanu [A]v[enue]” from which he operated for three years (1932–1935).¹³⁸ Then after another interim period at his home (1935–1936), he moved into an office at “221 Sumitomo Bank” (1936–1939).¹³⁹

Honing in on what he perceived as an untapped Chinese niche market, Char needed a means to advertise his services and projects. He found a willing agent and instrument in William Lee, the young editor of a new weekly called the *Hawaii Chinese Journal (T’an Shan Hsin Pao)*. The newspaper had been started by Chock Lun and Lee in 1937 with the first issue published on November 12 of that year. The new weekly was aimed at a Hawai‘i-born Chinese readership and contained a slogan in its masthead that read: “The Voice of 27,000 Chinese.”¹⁴⁰

From extant issues of the weekly, a partial inventory of Char’s contemporary projects can be assembled that were reported with regularity in the paper and often with bravado – which suggests that he may have been involved in writing copy. Char was not the first architect of color to use the ethnic press as a medium for self-promotion. African American architects Wallace A. Rayfield (1874–1941) and William Sidney Pittman (1875–1948) both used African American newspapers to the same end on the US mainland.¹⁴¹ Char’s completed projects that were reported by the *Hawaii Chinese Journal* from 1937–1939 included:

- Y.K. Lum Building (n.d.)
- Merry Inn (n.d.)
- Palolo Old Men’s Home for Chinese (1937)
- King Market renovation (1937)
- Korean Christian Church (1938)
- Kim Chow Chun Building (1938)
- C.S. Kam Ling Building (1938)
- Wing Sing Wo Co., Ltd. (1938)
- Tan Kwong Chinese language School (1938)
- Chong Kam Sing Theater (1938)
- Chong’s Silk House (1938)
- Oahu Market renovation (1939)
- Yuen Chong Co. Building (1939)

¹³⁵ “Marriage Licenses,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, February 25, 1922, 6: 5; “Personal Mention,” *The Honolulu Advertiser*, January 20, 1923, 8: 3.

¹³⁶ *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1923: 218.

¹³⁷ *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1924: 143; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1925: 142; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1926: 143; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1927: 129; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1928–29: 129; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1930–31: 130.

¹³⁸ *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1932–33: 128; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1933–34: 119; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1934–35: 119.

¹³⁹ *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1935–36: 115; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1937–38: 127; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1938–39: 130; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1939–40: 125; *Polk-Husted’s Directory*, 1940–41: 131.

¹⁴⁰ Franklin Ng, “The Chinese Community Press in Hawai‘i,” *Chinese Historical Society of America* (2010): 10.

¹⁴¹ Stan Solamillo, “St. James AME Church, Dallas, Texas,” City of Dallas Landmark Nomination, Meadows Foundation, 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 41

- Fong Inn Building (1939)
- Chun Hoon Market (1939)
- Chungshan Chinese Language School (1939)¹⁴²

An earlier publication, *Chinese of Hawaii*, which was printed in 1932, provided a list of projects that Char produced prior to that year but did not identify specific dates of construction (fig. 7). They included: Mun Lum Chinese School, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building, C.Q. Yee Hop Storefront and Restaurant, New Deal Market, Liberty Auto Shop, Oahu Poi factory and Seto Chan, Wahiawa Motors Building, as well as a number of single-family houses.¹⁴³

In 1939, not long after the opening of Wo Fat, he designed a store for the Chu Hoon Market at Nu'uuanu Avenue and School Street that presented a sharp contrast in style and materials. Instead of looking backward for a new interpretation of traditional Chinese architectural themes, Char chose new types of materials and designs for the market, a trend in keeping with the increasingly competitive retail grocery business in Hawai'i. His design presented a streamline look with geometric elements that, along with the use of vitrolite glass exterior finish, were representative of the Art Deco style.¹⁴⁴

By the early 1940s, newspapers noted few of his commissions and only one project during World War II; the Kalihi Food Center at Dillingham Boulevard and Mokauea Street in 1942.¹⁴⁵ Char appears to have worked for PNAB Contractors at Pearl Harbor during the war, and his employer was recorded on his draft card.¹⁴⁶ Nonetheless, the war years proved to be lean for those in the architecture profession unless they secured work through the federal government.

After the war, Char placed ads in newspapers announcing the resumption of his career as an architect.¹⁴⁷ The decision seemed to reflect a rebounding local economy and renewed business activity in the postwar era. Most of the commissions appeared to be modern conventional designs that followed popular architectural forms of the postwar era. In 1951, he designed facilities for the still-extant University Avenue Baptist Church at 1235 University Avenue. A newspaper article noted that the building was "a blending of the conservative and modern" that utilized reinforced concrete and hollow-tile construction and "modern jalousie windows," but also featured a portico and steeple evocative of traditional ecclesiastical design.¹⁴⁸ Other important commissions from the postwar era included several commercial buildings that featured simple and unadorned box-like forms, typical of commercial design of the era. A notable exception, however, was the See Dai Doo Society Building at 1513 Fort Street (demolished in 1964). Dedicated on December 10, 1950, the building incorporated traditional Chinese architectural elements that reflected its purpose – a Chinese-styled building to house a Chinese benevolent society that was

¹⁴² *Hawaii Chinese Journal (T'an Shan Hsin Pao)*, March 10, 1938, 1: 3; November 16, 1938, 2: 1-3; February 3, 1939, 4: 1-5; March 17, 1939, 3: 1-5; March 31, 1939, 4: 1-3; June 15, 1939, 4: 2-5.

¹⁴³ Overseas Penmen Club, *Chinese in Hawaii* Vol. 2: 10.

¹⁴⁴ "Chun Hoon Market Opening is Step in Family History," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 29, 1939, 19:1; "Modernism Is Keynote Says Architect Char," *The Honolulu Advertiser*, March 30, 1939, 12.

¹⁴⁵ "New Kalihi Food Center," *The Honolulu Advertiser*, January 15, 1942, 9: 2.

¹⁴⁶ Registration Card No. 2100, "Yuk Tong, Char," April 26, 1942

¹⁴⁷ "Y. T. Char, Registered Architect," *The Honolulu Advertiser*, March 16, 1947, 13:2.

¹⁴⁸ "Begins on New Baptist," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, June 23, 1951, 21: 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 42

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

erected to serve a Chinese membership.¹⁴⁹ It largely appears to be a scaled-down version of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (fig. 15). Nonetheless, Char's buildings appear to be unabashedly ethnic.

The last documented commission identified for this nomination was a seven-story condominium in Hilo, which was announced in 1970.¹⁵⁰ Char was 80 years old at the time. Four years later, he died, and the obituary noting his passing did little to capture the significance or many contributions he made to Honolulu's eclectic and diverse architectural character.¹⁵¹ His legacy lives on, though, through the many buildings he designed over the course of his long career; however, the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House endures as his best-known and most recognized commission.

¹⁴⁹ "See Dai Doo Society Is Opening New Building, The Honolulu Advertiser, December 10, 1950, II-7: 1.

¹⁵⁰ "2nd Kailua-Kona high-rise likely," The Honolulu Advertiser, September 25, 1970, C-2: 1.

¹⁵¹ "Obituaries: Yuk Tong Char," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 23, 1974, E-9: 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 43

SECTION 9 – Bibliography

Interviews

Choy, Cindy, Former Wo Fat Employee. Interview with Kit Yim. Transcript. Honolulu, Hawaii, March 1, 2018.

Yung, Judy, Historian. Interview with Richard Gonzales. Transcript, "Rebuilding Chinatown after the 1906 Quake." National Public Radio, April 12, 2006.

Bibliography

Bailey, Beth and David Farber. "Hotel Street: Prostitution and the Politics of War." *Radical History Review* Vol. 52, 1992.

Burns, Jeff. "Whose Turn Now." *Hawai'i Business*. June 1, 1995, from The Free Library. Accessed November 15, 2019, <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Whose+turn+now%3F-a017089200>.

Chang, Iris. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. New York: Basic Books, 1997.

China Daily. "Nanjing Sets Out to Protect its East-West Architecture." Accessed December 21, 2014. citymayors.com.

Chinese Digest

"\$50,000 Chinese Restaurant Opens." April 1938: 15: 1.

"Anna May Wong Moves Away From Japanese Garden." April 1938: 15: 1.

Cheng, Suellen, and Munson Kwok. Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. "The Golden Years of Los Angeles Chinatown: The Beginning." In *Los Angeles Chinatown 50th Year Guidebook*, June 1988.

Chow, Robert. "Hilo Chinese United Community Church." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, February 12, 1994.

Choy, Phillip P. *San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History & Architecture*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2012.

Coe, Andrew. *Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates of the 90th Congress, Second Session – Appendix, "Henry Awa Wong Retires as Honolulu Caterer to the Elite." Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, A-3187, from GoogleBooks, <https://tinyurl.com/qs7b2dv>.

Cornell College of Architecture. "Alumni Notes." *The Cornell Architect* Vol. 4. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, Cornell College of Architecture, 1919.

Cornell University. *Cornell University Official Publication Vol. XIII, No. 12, Cornell Alumni Directory, Containing the Foundation, history, and Government of the University, The Principal Alumni Organizations, A Directory of the Alumni*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, 1922.

Coopersmith, Jerome. "Book 'em Danno!: Writing for Hawaii 5-0." *Mystery Scene*. Spring Issue No. 84, 2004.

Damon, Allen F. "Financing Revolution: Sun Yat-sen and the Overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty." *Hawaiian Journal of History* Vol. 25, 1991.

Dieudonne, Fran. *Always Remember You Are Hawaiian, A Biography of Theodore A. Vierra, His Life and Architectural Career: 1902 -1987*. Honolulu: Neptune House Publications, 2011.

"Fourteenth Census of the United States, Population, Honolulu (City)," Enumeration District 48, Sheet 34A, Lines 6-11, May 10, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 44

Hawaii Chinese Journal

- "10 Million to Fight Japan." December 24, 1937: 1: 3-5.
- "1000 Extra Copies of Journal's Wo Fat Issue Distributed." March 11, 1938: 1:1.
- "American Citizen Held For 18 Weeks, Son of Kamaaina Merchant Finally Allowed to Land." October 14, 1938: 1:4-5.
- "C.Q. Yee Hop Building Opens." September 28, 1939: 2: 1-3
- "Many Tenants Move Into Two-Story, \$20,000 Building." September 28, 1939: 2:1-3.
- "Chinese Building Projects Total \$200,000 in 1937." December 24, 1937: 4: 3.
- "Chinese Building Projects Totaling \$106,000 Underway." November 19, 1937: 1: 4.
- "Chinese Building Will Top \$270,000." October 7, 1938 1: 35.
- "Chungshan School to Build 2 Story, Concrete Building." May 6, 1938: 1: 2-3.
- "Chungshan to Dedicate Bldg., Graduate 20." June 15, 1939: 4: 2-5.
- "Community Congratulates Wo Fat Chop Sui House on New Building." March 10, 1938: 3: 2.
- "Construction Starts on Wo Fat Building." November 12, 1937: 3: 2.
- "Daughter of Honolulan Dies in Japanese Bombing." November 25, 1938: 1: 2-3.
- "Drive Nets \$41,400 Cash, Pledges, \$50,000 Expected." March 18, 1938: 1: 2-3.
- "Fong Inn Building Truly Chinese in Architectural Work." March 17, 1939: 1: 1, 5: 3.
- "Foreign Eyewitness Tells of More Nanking Horrors." March 18, 1938: 1: 3.
- "From Shanghai." November 26, 1937: 1: 3.
- "Honolulan Dies in China Air Battle, St. Louis Alumnus Killed in Dogfight Over Matien." July 15, 1938: 3: 5.
- "Honolulan Escapes in Hong Kong Bombing." March 3, 1939: 1: 1-2.
- "Honolulan Signs Pact For More Russia Aid." April 28, 1939: 1: 1-2.
- "Honolulans Return; Describe Disorder When Canton Fell." November 25, 1938: 1: 4.
- "Honolulu Family escapes Death for Third Time." December 8, 1937: 1: 5.
- "Japan Bombs Two Canton Schools, 51 Planes Rain Death Upon Street Crowds." April 22, 1938: 1: 1.
- "Japan Boycott Grows." December 31, 1937: 1: 1.
- "Let's Back Slum Clearance." November 26, 1937: 1: 1-2.
- "Local Contractors, Firms Constructed Wo Fat Building." March 10, 1938: 1: 2.
- "Looting, Raping in See Yup Districts, Home Towns of Local Chinese Ravaged." June 1, 1939: 1: 1-2.
- "Market is Another Y.T. Char Building." March 31, 1939: 2: 2.
- "Men Burned Alive by Japanese Troops; Live Refugees Used for Bayonet Practice." March 18, 1938: 1: 1-2.
- "Nanking Rearguard Killed to Last Man." December 31, 1937: 1: 3.
- "One Year of Bloodshed." July 8, 1938: 1: 3-4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 45

"Program for Wo Fat Opening Today." March 10, 1938: 1: 1.

"Wo Fat Business Good Since Opening of New Building." March 10, 1939: 1: 2.

"Wo Fat Opening Wins S.F. Notice Via the Journal." April 15, 1938: 4: 3.

"Wo Fat Reopens, Popular Chop Sui House Moves into Chinese Style Building – Chinatown's Finest." March 10, 1938: 1: 1-2.

"Women Raped 30 Times a Day." March 18, 1938: 1: 1-2.

"Y.T. Char Designed Wo Fat Building." March 10, 1938: 7: 8.

"Yuen Chong Holds Grand Opening, Marks 53rd anniversary in New, Modern Building." February 3, 1939: 1: 5.

Hawaiian Evangelical Association. *Annual Report of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association*. Honolulu: Hawaiian Evangelical Association, 1918.

Hawaiian Gazette

April 10, 1906.

Hibbard, Don J. *Buildings of Hawaii*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2013.

Honolulu Advertiser, The

"2nd Kailua-Kona high-rise likely." September 25, 1970: C-2: 1.

"500 Make Application for Beer Licenses as Committee Starts Work." April 11, 1933: 1:8.

"Bar on First Floor." March 10, 1938: 7: 1-2.

"Chinese Solving Tenement Problem." January 23, 1919: 2: 4.

"First Chop Sui." March 10, 1938: 7: 8.

"Grand Opening, Thursday, March 10, Wo Fat, Limited." March 10, 1938: 7: 1-8.

"Hawaiian Oke & Liquors, Ltd." May 16, 1935: 9: 7.

"Henry Awa Wong Retires; Sam Wong Heads Hawaiian Oke." August 13, 1958: A6: 1.

"Henry Awa Wong Retires as Manager." May 31, 1967: 85: 2.

"History of 57-Year-Old Firm Had Romantic Intervals." March 10, 1938: 7: 6-7.

"Hungry Crowds Bring Him Joy." January 4, 1965: A11: 1.

"Kenn, Mrs. Mine Haines (Solomon F)." October 12, 1963: B3: 5.

"Marriage Licenses" February 25, 1922: 6: 5.

"Masterpiece of Woodcraft in Bar." March 10, 1938: 7: 8.

"Modernism Is Keynote Says Architect Char." March 30, 1939, 12: 3.

"New Kalihi Food Center." January 15, 1942: 9: 2.

"Notice." February 17, 1933: 17: 8.

"Notice of Copartnership." June 20, 1912: 10: 3.

"Obituaries: Mrs. Lee Tim." May 23, 1918: 8: 5.

"Oldest Cho Sui House Reopens." July 29, 1933: 3: 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 46

"Oriental Decorations." March 10, 1938: 7: 2-4.

"Pagoda Roof Garden." *Honolulu Advertiser*, March 10, 1938: 7: 1-2.

"Personal Mention." January 20, 1923, 8: 3.

"See Dai Doo Society Is Opening New Building." December 10, 1950, II-7: 1.

"Still a Menace." April 19, 1936: 20: 1.

"Tenement Section To Be Modernized." August 18, 1937: 1: 1.

"Territory's First Chinese Café Celebrates in 3 Stories." March 10, 1938: 7: 1-2.

"Wo Fat Opening Today Starts New Era for Old Firm." March 10, 1938: 7: 1-2.

"Wong Interviewed by Bob Krauss." June 1, 1967: B1: 3.

"Y. T. Char, Registered Architect." March 16, 1947, 13:2.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

"Chinatown Mayor' Dies at 79." December 4, 1974: 19: 1.

"Begins on New Baptist." June 23, 1951: 21: 3.

"Chun Hoon Market Opening is Step in Family History." March 29, 1939: 19:1.

"Dancing." [ad], April 4, 1938: 10: 4.

"Extensive Repairs for Wo Fat's Restaurant." July 8, 1933: 8.

"Grand Opening Tomorrow of its Magnificent Chinese Café at 115 N. Hotel St." March 9, 1938: 9: 2-4.

"In Old Letters." March 9, 1938: 11: 1.

"Lau Yee Chai To Make Additions." January 2, 1932: 7: 5.

"Like A Phoenix, Wo Fat Always Rises." December 28, 2003: F7: 3.

"Local Firms Had a Part in Wo Fat Building." March 9, 1938: 9: 4.

"Obituaries: Yuk Tong Char." October 23, 1974: E-9: 8.

"Picturesque and Commodious." March 9, 1938: 10: 1.

"Program for the Opening Day." March 9, 1938: 9: 2-4.

"President & General Manager Henry Awa Wong Will Retire." November 19, 1965: A4: 1.

"The End of the Willows." September 14, 1994: 14:1.

"Two New Dim Sum Spots to Dive into – Wo Fat Seafood Restaurant." "The Weekly Eater," April 6, 2000: D: 5.

"Wo Fat Opening New Home; It Has Operated 57 Years." March 9, 1938: 10: 2-3.

Huang, Yunte. *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Husted, F. M. *Directory and Hand-Book of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands*. San Francisco: F.M. Husted, Publisher, 1894-95, 1896, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1905-05, 1907, 1909.

Lane, J. C. *Directory and Hand-Book of the Kingdom of Hawaii*. Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Company, 1890.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 47

McKenney, L. M. & Co. *McKenney's Hawaiian Directory, Including a City Directory of Honolulu and Hand Book of the Kingdom of Hawaii*. San Francisco: L.M. McKenney & Co., Publishers, 1884.

Mohr, James C. *Plague and Fire: Battling Black Death and the 1900 Burning of Honolulu's Chinatown*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

"Narcissus Festival." *Chinese Chamber of Commercial of Hawai'i*. accessed July 13, 2020, <https://www.chinesechamber.com/narcissus-festival>.

Nellist, George. *Builders of Hawaii: The Story of Hawaii and Its Builders*. Honolulu: Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 1930.

New China News (Sun Chung Kwock Bo)

"Wo Fat, Ltd." March 10, 1938.

New Zealand, Archives [of]. "Wo Fat Chop Sui House, Menu, 1927." Walter's World: The Nash Collection. R22848498, Folio 89.

Ng, Franklin. "Food and Culture: Chinese Restaurants in Hawaii." San Francisco: Chinese Historical Society of America, 2010.

Ng, Franklin. "The Chinese Community Press in Hawai'i." *Chinese Historical Society of America*, 2010.

Nippu Jiji

"Aloha to Wo Fat Chop Sui." March 10, 1938: 7: 4-6.

"Grand Opening Wo Fat Chop Sui." March 10, 1938: 7: 1-3.

"Modern Carpenter Shop." March 10, 1938: 7: 4-6.

"T. Takeuchi." March 10, 1938: 7: 4-6.

"Wo Fat in New Quarters." March 10, 1938: 3: 3.

"On Leong Merchants Association (Pui Tak Center), 2216 South Wentworth Avenue, Chicago, IL." Measured Drawing, Historic American Building Survey. National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, compiled after 1933, from Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, HABS IL-325, Sheet 1.

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

"Wo Fat with Nee Chong Establishes New Bakery." December 19, 1898: 9: 1.

"WONG TUCK YOU, LAU LEE Chong...and Wat Ging, formed co[-]partnership." December 19, 1898: 10: 2.

Polk-Husted Directory Co. *Polk-Husted Directory Co.'s Directory of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii*. Honolulu: Polk-Husted Directory Co., 1913, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928-29, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41.

Polk's Directory of City and County of Honolulu, 1951.

Punahou. "Alumni." Accessed December 11, 2014, <http://www.punahou.edu/alumni/community-groups/alumni-profiles/sun-yat-sen/index.aspx>.

Registration Card No. 2100. "Yuk Tong, Char." April 26, 1942.

Rowland, Moana. "Kapuukolo and Holau Market." Unpublished manuscript. Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2014.

Schachler, Judith. *The Legacies of a Hawaiian Generation: From Territorial Subject to American Citizen*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 48

Siddall, John William. *Men of Hawaii: Being a Biographical Reference Library, Complete and Authentic, of the Men of Note and Substantial Achievement in the Hawaiian Islands*. Honolulu: Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 1917, 1921, 1930.

Solamillo, Stanley. "Chinatown HD Census." Unpublished manuscript. Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2015.

Solamillo, Stanley. "City Directory Listed Carpenters et al (1871-1898)." Unpublished manuscript. Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2015.

Solamillo, Stan. "St. James AME Church, Dallas, Texas." City of Dallas Landmark Nomination, 1999.

Solamillo, Stanley, and Kit Yim. "Wo Fat Menu." Unpublished manuscript. Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, 2020.

"Solomon F. Kenn, Architect, Old Makiki and Kaka'ako Fire Stations." *Historic Hawaii Foundation Newsletter*. November 1989: 6C.

Stokols, Sol Andrews. "Oriental Splendor: The Rebuilding of San Francisco's Chinatown and the Commercialism of American Orientalism." Unpublished master's thesis. University of California at Berkley, 2010.

Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand. "Story: Nash, Walter." Accessed November 29, 2014. teara.govt.nz.

"Thirteenth Census of the United States." "City of Honolulu." Enumeration District 42, Sheet 35A, Line 18, May 11, 1910.

United Chinese News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)
 "The Opening of Wo Fat Chop Sui [House]." March 12, 1938.
 "Wo Fat Ltd." March 10, 1938.

United Church of Christ. *Annual Report of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ*. Honolulu: United Church of Christ, 1915.

"Wo Fat Chop Sui House." Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1 – Evaluation of Significance, 2018.

Wo Fat Chop Sui House. Menu. Honolulu: Wo Fat, Ltd., 1927, 1943, c. 1950, 1953, 1963, 1975, and 1989.

"Wo Fat Restaurant." *Historic Hawaii Foundation Newsletter*. January-February 1989.

"Wo Fat Restaurant." *Historic Hawaii Foundation Newsletter*. May 1989.

Wu, David Y. H., and Sidney C. H. Cheung. *The Globalization of Chinese Food*. New York: Rutledge, 2013.

Yip, Christopher. "Association, Residence, and Shop: An Appropriation of Commercial Blocks in North American Chinatowns." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* Vol.5. Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1995: 115.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 49

Summary of Additional Documentation

Within the Additional Documentation continuation sheets herein, information is organized as set forth below:

- Maps:
 - Map 1. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location on O'ahu Island. Source: United States Geological Survey "O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1971.
 - Map 2. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location within Greater Honolulu. Source: United States Geological Survey "Honolulu, HI Quadrangle," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998.
 - Map 3. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location within Honolulu's Chinatown area. Source: United States Geological Survey "Honolulu, HI Quadrangle," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998.
 - Map 4. Aerial image with the latitude and longitude coordinates for Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Source: Esri base map, HHM overlay, 2021.
 - Map 5. Future Site of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) with arrows indicating location of future site of building. Source: Dakin Map Company (Sheet 4), 1891.
 - Map 6. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrows indicating location of original building (replaced with new building in 1938). Source: Dakin Map Company (Sheet 4), 1906.
 - Map 7. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrows indicating the location of the original Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (building replaced in 1938), Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1923.
 - Map 8. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrow indicating the location of present (1938) building. Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1927 (Revised 1950).
 - Map 9. Tax Plat map showing the boundaries of parcel that includes Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrow indicating the location of present (1938) building. Source: City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting, n.d.
 - Map 10. Land Title Survey Map of Wo Fat Sui (Suey) House, Tax Map Key: 1-7-003: 026. Prepared by R. M. Towill Corporation, Honolulu, Hawai'i. Source: "Wo Fat Renewal," Clayton & Little Architects, Austin, Texas, 2018.
- Figures:
 - Figure 1. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, First Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable]. Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.
 - Figure 2. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Second Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable]. Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.
 - Figure 3. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Third Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable]. Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.
 - Figure 4. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Roof Plan Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.
 - Figure 5. First Chinese Church of Christ, designed by Hart Wood, 1926. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Research Materials.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 50

- Figure 6. Lau Yee Chai Restaurant, remodeled by architect Y. T. Char, 1932. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Research Materials.
- Figure 7. Y. T. Char portrait and biography as it appears in *Chinese of Hawaii*, Vol. 2, Overseas Penmen Club, 1932. Source: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- Figure 8. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House drawing by Y. T. Char that was used in a variety of marketing products including advertisements, matchbooks, and menu covers (c. 1938). Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.
- Figure 9. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House drawing by Y. T. Char that was printed in an advertisement in the *New China News (Sun Chung Kwok Bo)* on March 10, 1938. Source: *The New China News*, March 10, 1938.
- Figure 10. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House advertisement that was printed in the *United Chinese News (Chung Hua Kung Pao)* on March 10, 1938. Source: *The United Chinese News*, March 10, 1938.
- Figure 11. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House advertisement for grand opening that was printed in the *Nippu Jiji* on March 10, 1938. Source: *Nippu Jiji*, March 10, 1938.
- Figure 12. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, 1943. The building on the far right is the New Senator Hotel, a brothel that was operated in the vice district that the U.S. military allowed to operate from 1941 to 1944. Courtesy Robert Huffstutter.
- Figure 13. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House and the Hotel Street block, taken at an indeterminate date in 1945. Photo by Ray Jerome (R. J.) Baker. Courtesy: Bishop Museum.
- Figure 14. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House showing employee luncheon for Mutual Telephone Company on November 12, 1946. The photo clearly shows original polychrome brackets and beams as well as second floor windows and transoms. Courtesy: Bishop Museum.
- Figure 15. A comparison of two designs by Y. T. Char. The top is a rendering of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House of 1938 and the bottom image is a rendering of the See Dai Doo Building of 1900 (demolished in 1964). For the latter, Char closely followed the design of the well-known Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House at N. Hotel and Maunakea Streets. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.
- Figure 16. Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Mr. and Mrs. Wat (left) with Tim Wat (right), son of Wat Ging, and wife (February 13, 1954). Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.
- Figure 17. Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.
- Figure 18. Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.
- Figure 19. Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.
- Figure 20. Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 51

- Figure 21. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view on May 5, 1955. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.
- Figure 22. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Souvenir post card by Wo Fat, Ltd. that shows the addition of a metal canopy to the N. Hotel Street side of the third-floor pavilion, c. 1960. Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application, Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.
- Figure 23. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (1960), detail of sign. Courtesy: Hawai'i State Archives (*Honolulu Star Bulletin*).
- Figure 24. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (1962), oblique aerial view. Courtesy: Hawai'i State Archives (*Honolulu Star Bulletin*).
- Figure 25. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view, 1973. Courtesy: State Historic Preservation Division, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.
- Figure 26. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view, 2000. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.
- Figure 27. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1927. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and Archives of New Zealand, R20967285, Folio 89-2.
- Figure 28. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1943. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and PBA Galleries 2014.
- Figure 29. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1950. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and eBay.
- Figure 30. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1951-53. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.
- Figure 31. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1963. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.
- Figure 32. Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1975. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.
- Photos*
 - Photo Log
 - Photos*
 - (See listings in photo log)

*Note that photos are also provided as high-resolution electronic files (TIFFs), complying with the National Register Photo Policy Expansion

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 52

Map	Title
1	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location on O'ahu Island. Source: United States Geological Survey "O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1971.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property

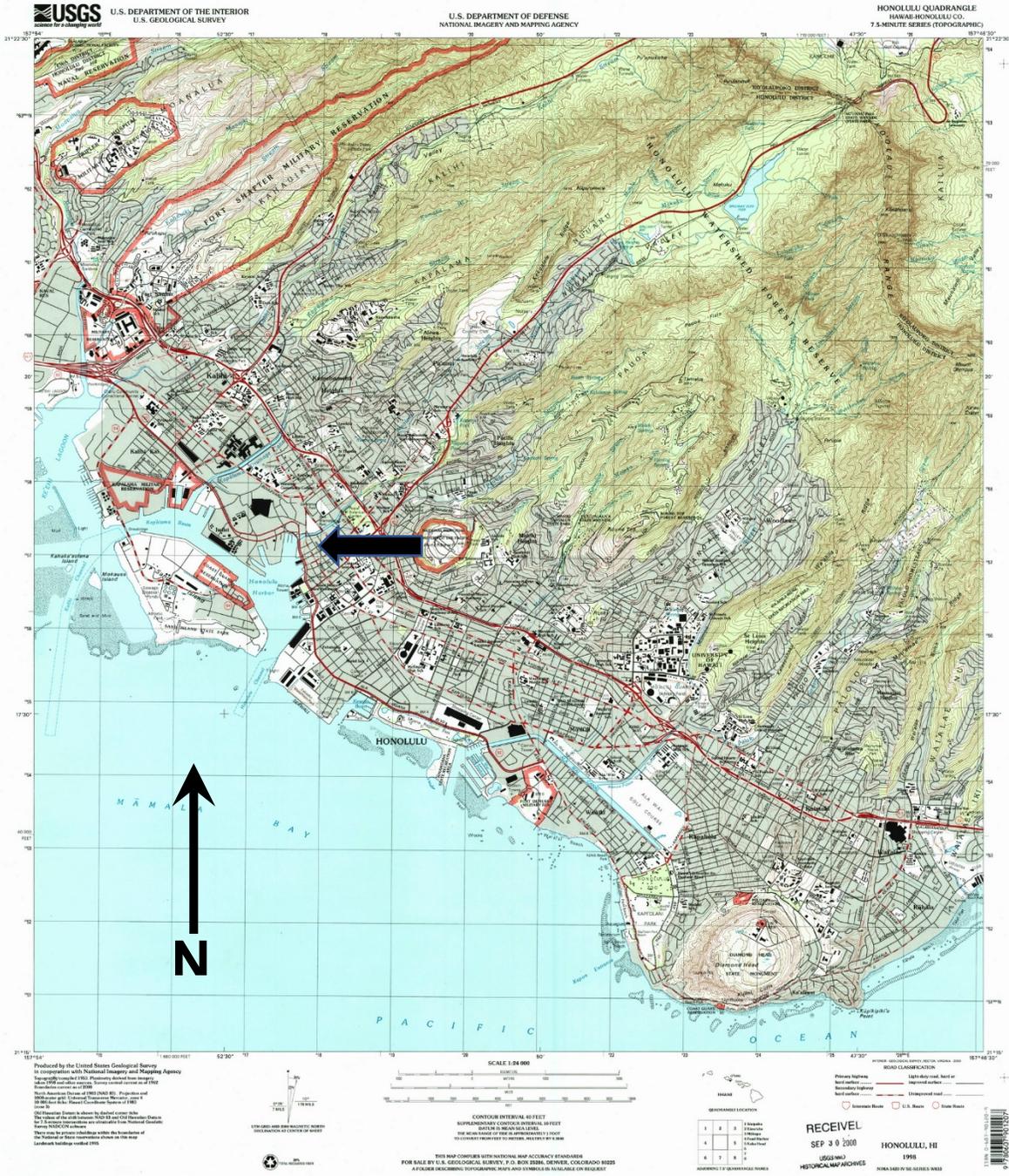
Honolulu, HI
County and State

N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 53

- | Map | Title |
|-----|--|
| 2 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location within Greater Honolulu. Source: United States Geological Survey "Honolulu, HI Quadrangle," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998. |



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

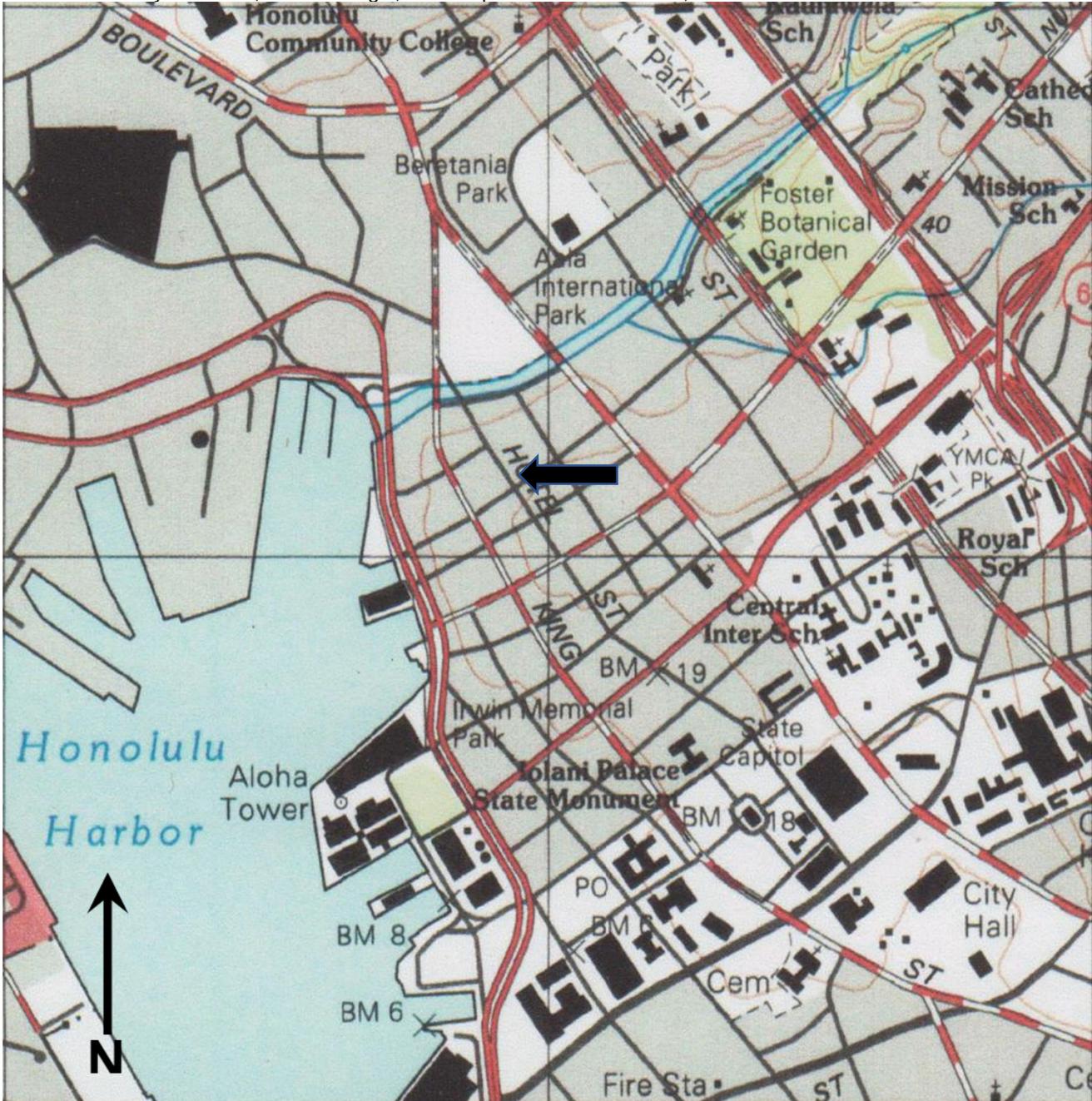
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 54

Map	Title
3	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Location within Honolulu's Chinatown area. Source: United States Geological Survey "Honolulu, HI Quadrangle," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

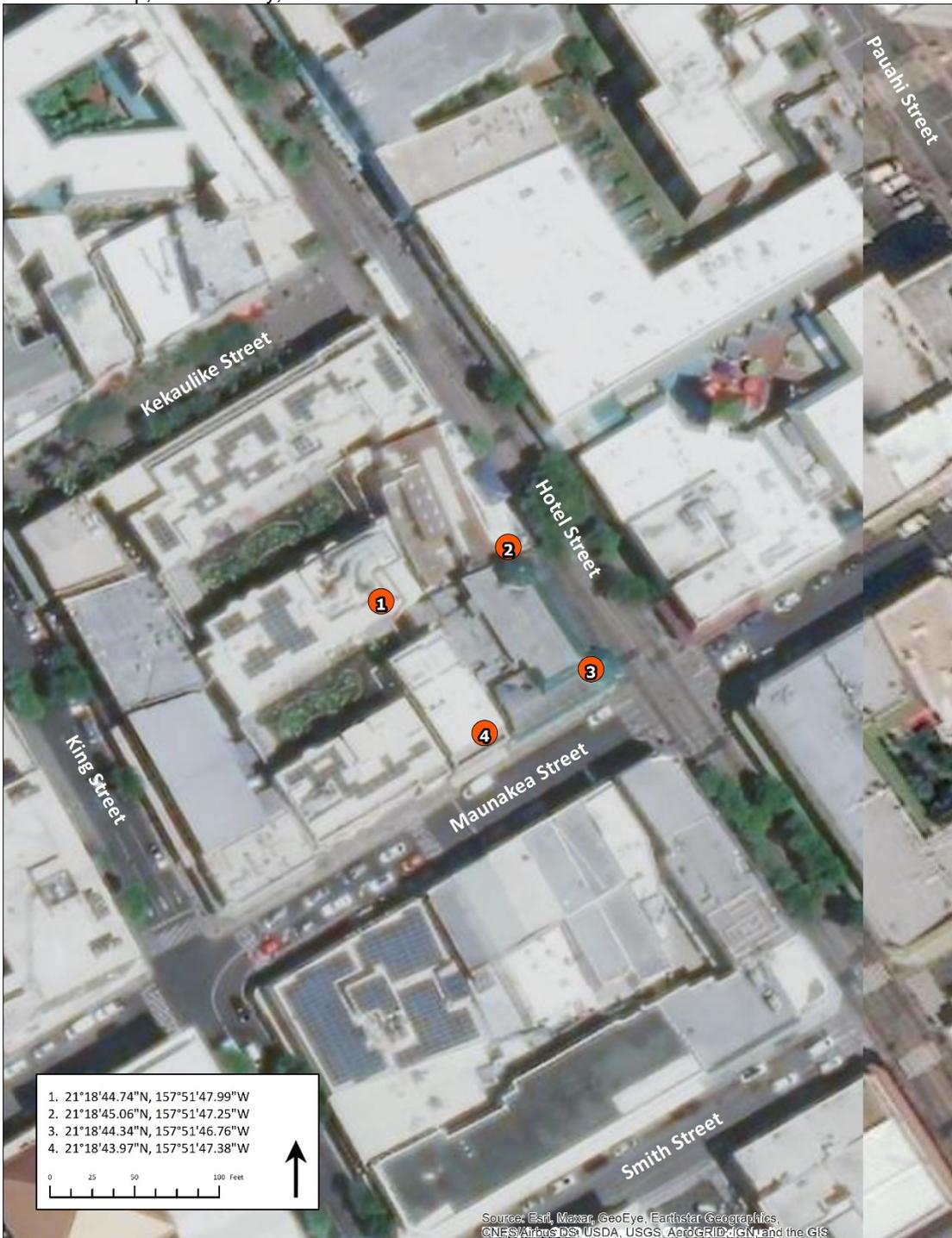
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 55

Map	Title
4	Aerial image with the latitude and longitude coordinates for Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Source: Esri base map, HHM overlay, 2021.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 57

Map	Title
6	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrows indicating location of original building (replaced with new building in 1938). Source: Dakin Map Company (Sheet 4), 1906.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

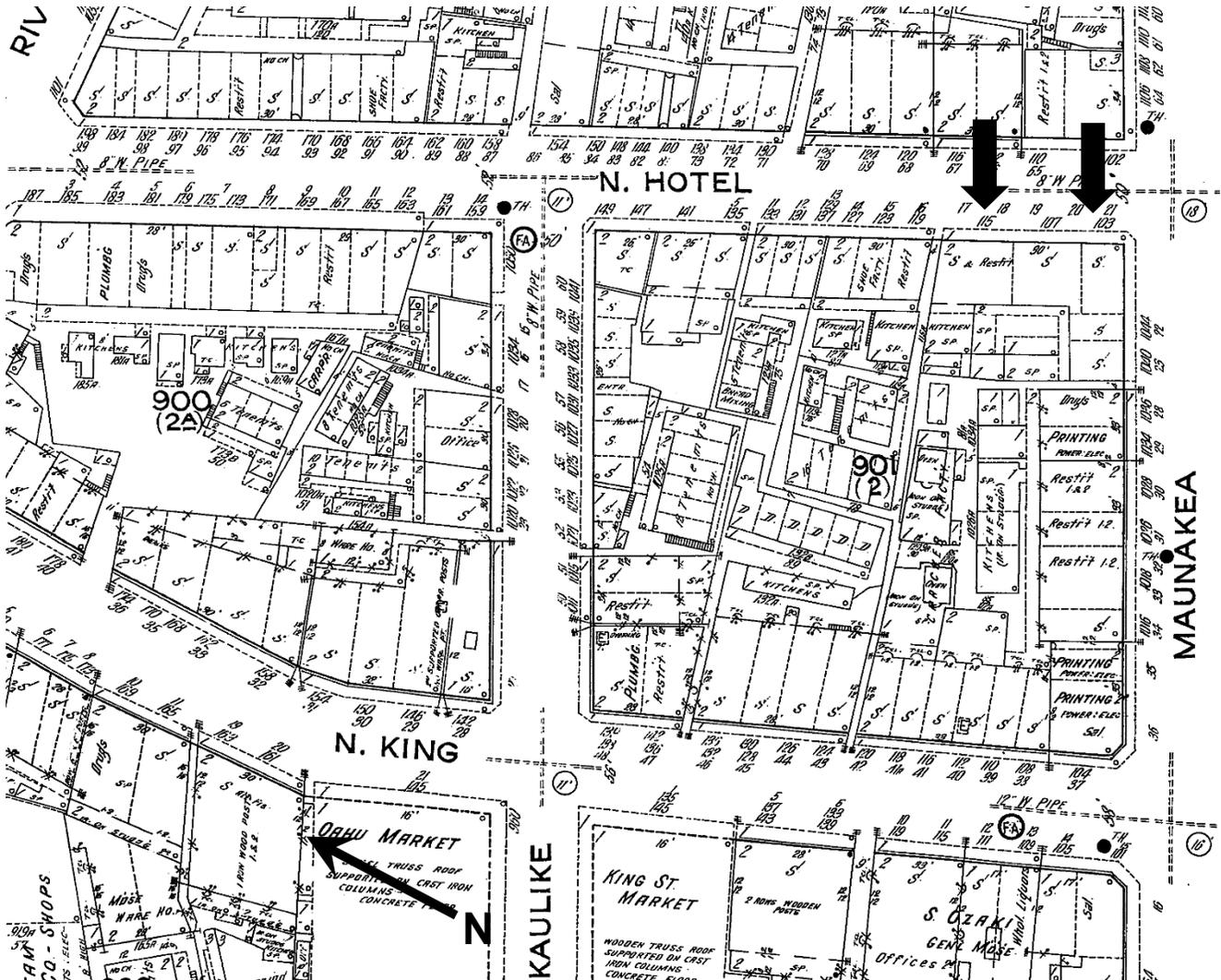
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 58

Map	Title
7	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House with arrows indicating the location of the original Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (building replaced in 1938), Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1923.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 62

- | Figure | Title |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, First Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable].
Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018. |

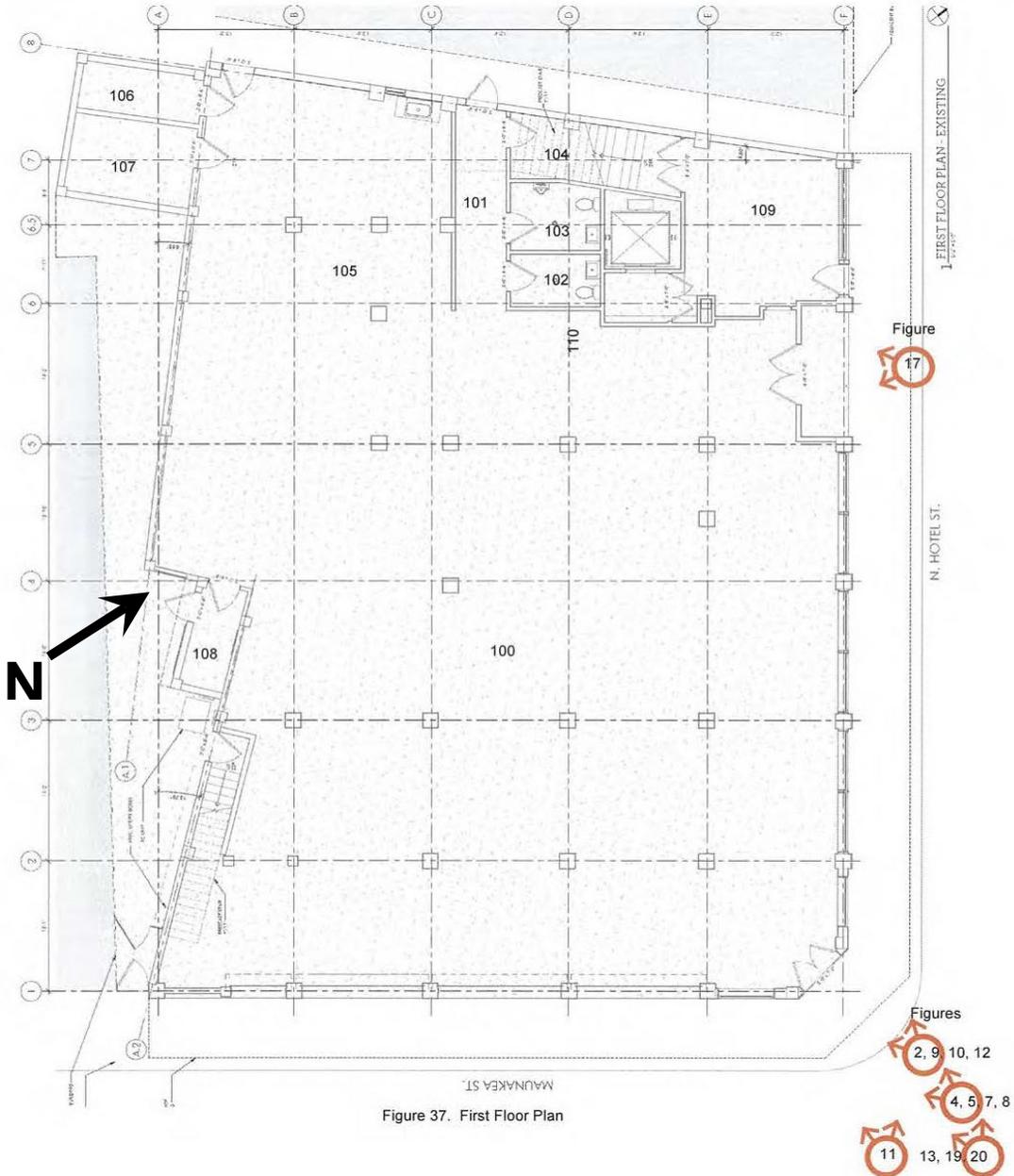


Figure 37. First Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 63

- | Figure | Title |
|--------|---|
| 2 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Second Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable].
Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018. |

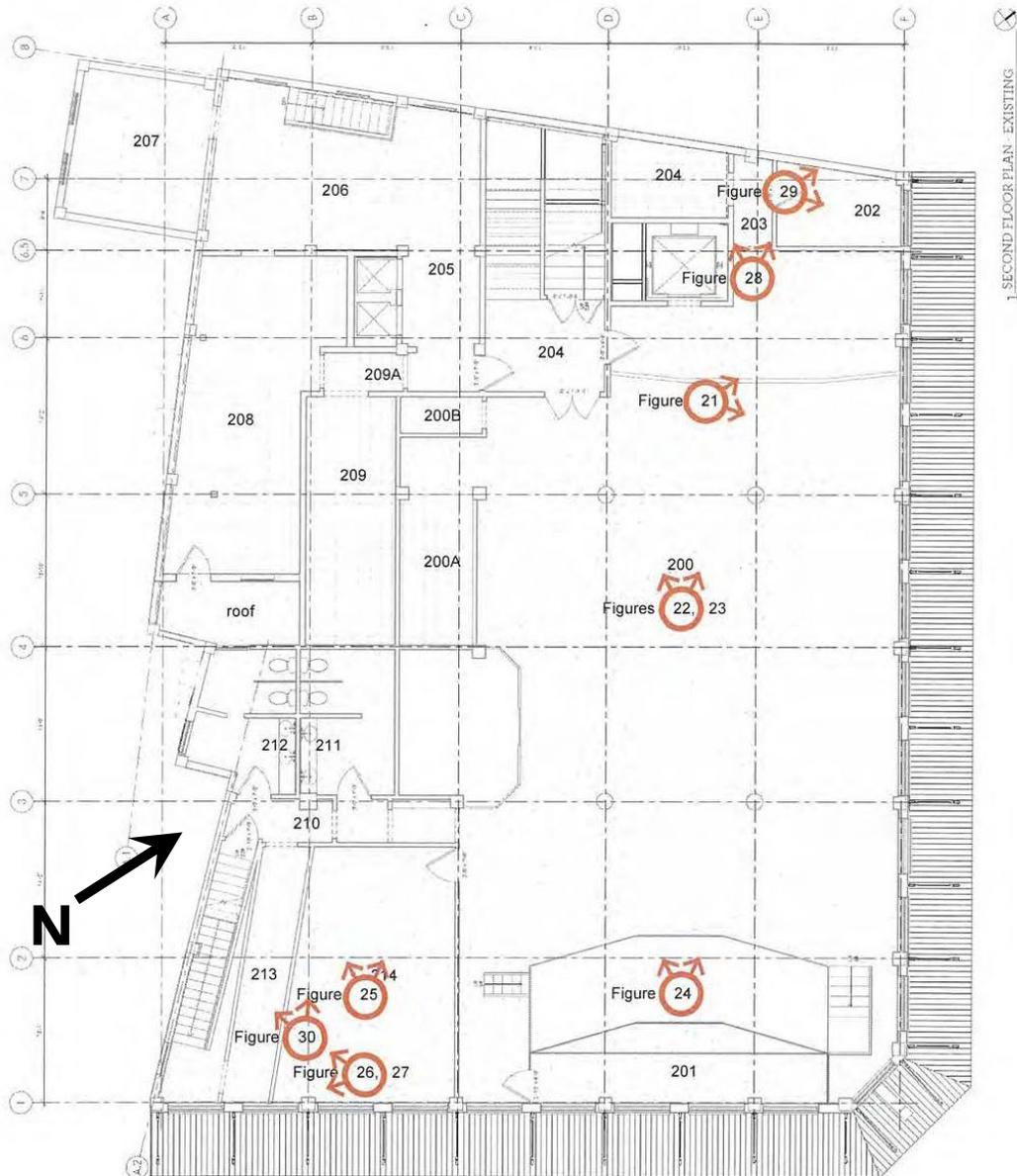


Figure 37. Second Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 64

- | Figure | Title |
|--------|--|
| 3 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Third Floor Plan with Room Numbers noted [Figure notations not applicable].
Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018. |



Figure 38. Third Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 65

- | Figure | Title |
|--------|---|
| 4 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, Roof Plan Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application: Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018. |

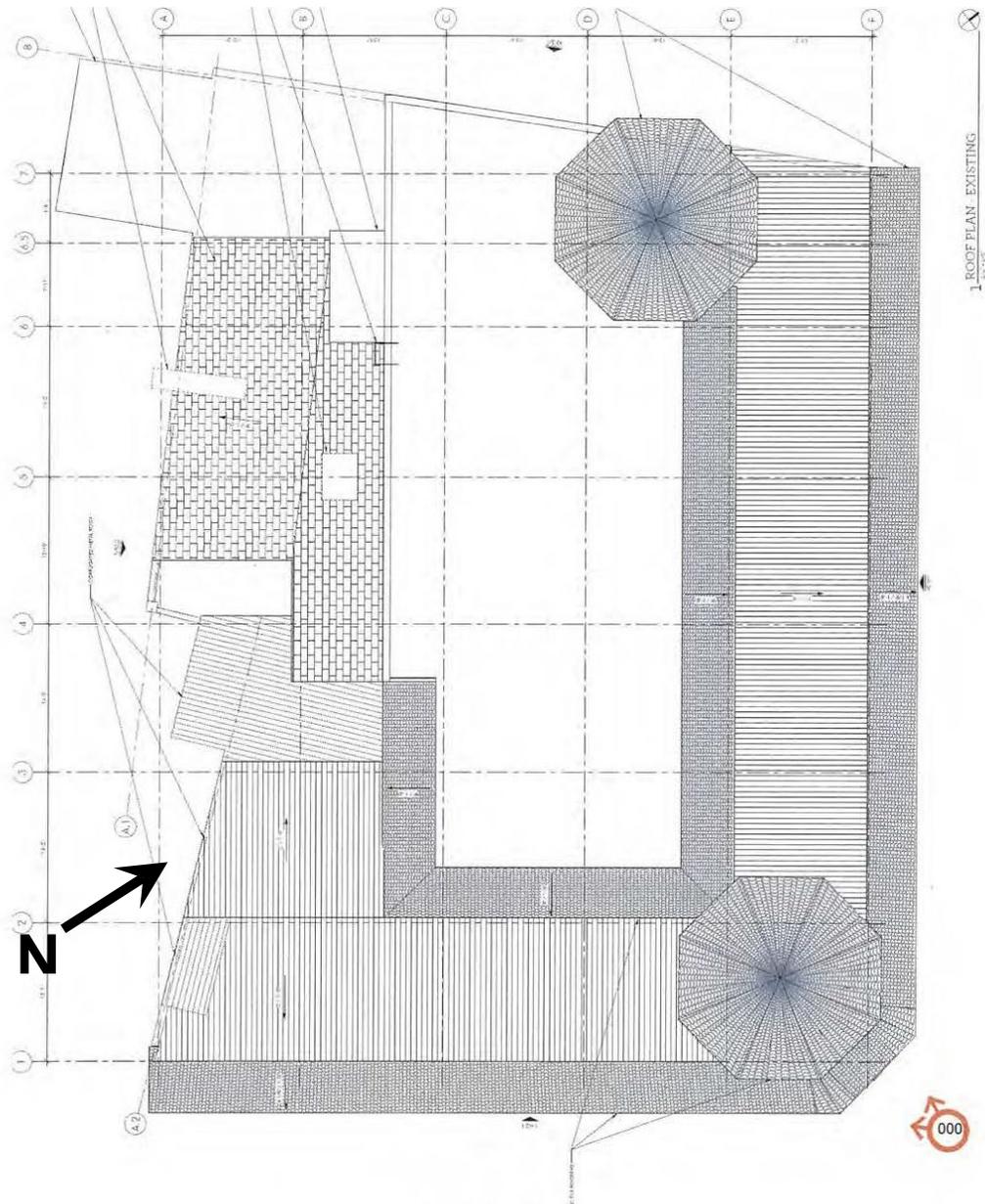


Figure 39. Roof Plan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

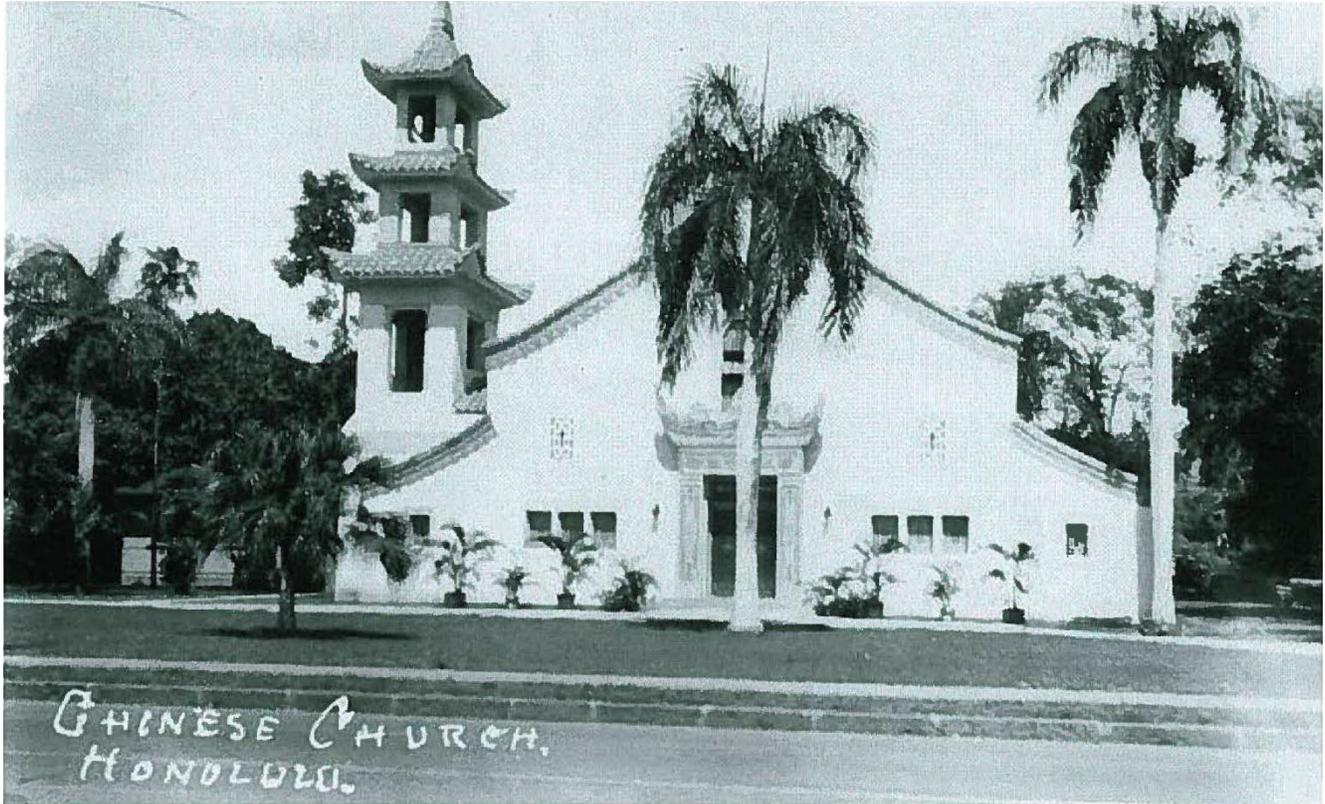
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 66

Figure Title

- 5** First Chinese Church of Christ, designed by Hart Wood, 1926. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Research Materials.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 67

Figure Title

- 6** Lau Yee Chai Restaurant, remodeled by architect Y. T. Char, 1932. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Research Materials.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 68

- Figure Title
7 Y. T. Char portrait and biography as it appears in *Chinese of Hawaii*, Vol. 2, Overseas Penmen Club, 1932. Source: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

嶺 山 華 僑 開 人 錄



謝 玉 棠

謝 玉 棠

謝玉棠，樓房輪則帥也，一八九〇年八月十九日，生於嶺山正埠，爲謝發之子，原籍廣東寶安縣，一九一〇年畢業美路中學後，赴美讀於千尼城大學，一九一五年畢業，即年回嶺，二十一年來在本埠任樓房輪則帥，如位記基督留餘齋，明倫學校，中華總商會，義合園，澳鴉湖芋瓏廠，共和自由車廠，位亞囉司徒贊樓宇，其園則皆爲謝君所繪，謝君歷任華人基督教青年會實業值理，人和會館副主席，曾任京街中華基督教自理會副主席，又爲華人生會會員，一九二二年與何長嬌女士結婚，現有三子女二，謝宅在第六街一二五〇號，其辦事處在京街美洲銀號內。

Y. T. CHAR
Architect

Y. T. Char (Yuk Tong Char), for the past 20 years an architect in Honolulu, is a native of Honolulu, born August 19, 1890, being a son of Char Fat, who came from Bao On district, Kwangtung province, China.

After graduating from Mills School in 1910, he went to the mainland and studied at Cornell University from which he was graduated in 1915, with a B.S. degree, majoring in architecture.

Among some of the projects for which Mr. Char has been architect are the Waikiki Lau Yee Chai, Mun Lun Chinese school new building, Chinese Chamber of Commerce building, C. Q. Yee Hop store front and restaurant, New Deal Market building, Liberty Auto Shop, Oahu Poi

Factory and the Seto Chan, and Wahiawa Motors buildings at Wahiawa, also numerous residences in Honolulu.

Mr. Char has been for many years a trustee of the Chinese YMCA, past vice president and present director of the Nyin Fo Fui Kon, former vice president of the King St. First Chinese Christian Church, and is a member of Cornell Club and of the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association.

In 1922 he married Miss Chong-Kyau Ho. They have three sons and two daughters, The sons are Norman, Albert and Bernard; the daughters, Adeline and Bernice. Mr. Char's office is at the American Finance, Ltd., 78 N. King St., while his residence is at 1250 Sixth Ave., Honolulu.

10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

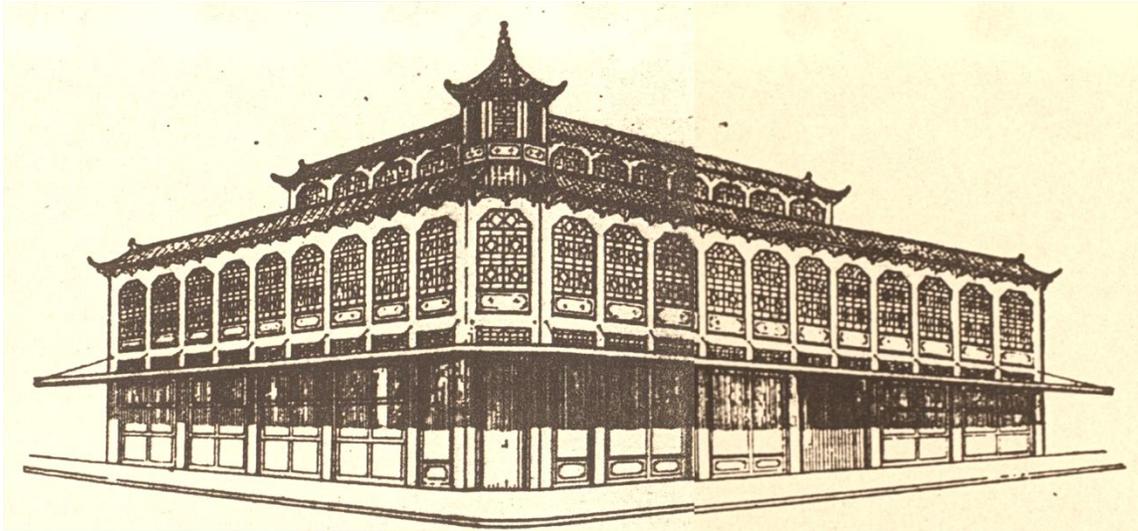
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 69

Figure Title

- 8** Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House drawing by Y. T. Char that was used in a variety of marketing products including advertisements, matchbooks, and menu covers (c. 1938). Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 70

- | Figure | Title |
|--------|--|
| 9 | Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House drawing by Y. T. Char that was printed in an advertisement in the <i>New China News</i> (<i>Sun Chung Kwok Bo</i>) on March 10, 1938. Source: <i>The New China News</i> , March 10, 1938. |



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

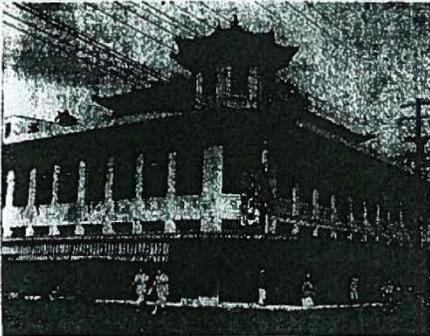
Section number Additional Documentation

Page 72

Figure Title

11 Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House advertisement for grand opening that was printed in the *Nippu Jiji* on March 10, 1938. Source: *Nippu Jiji*, March 10, 1938.

GRAND OPENING



HONOLULU'S OLDEST CHOP SUI
IN THE NEW MAGNIFICENT HOUSE

最新最美の料亭

ホテル街マウナケア角

ホノルル支那料理の老舗で

和發

電話五二六〇五二六

新築再開業謹告

●本日開店 祝賀番組

▲水菜羹

▲支那音楽

▲ラオチ放遣

▲舞踏會

▲本階に新式パー ▲三階にダンスホール

▲支那料理一切 ▲和洋酒類

▲大小の宴会需めに應じます

●本日開店 祝賀番組

▲水菜羹

▲支那音楽

▲ラオチ放遣

▲舞踏會

▲本階に新式パー ▲三階にダンスホール

▲支那料理一切 ▲和洋酒類

▲大小の宴会需めに應じます

WO FAT CHOP SUI

CORNER HOTEL AND MAUNAKEA STREETS

For Reservation Telephone 5260 or 5166

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 73

Figure	Title	Description
12	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House, 1943.	The building on the far right is the New Senator Hotel, a brothel that was operated in the vice district that the U.S. military allowed to operate from 1941 to 1944. Courtesy Robert Huffstutter.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 74

Figure Title

13 Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House and the Hotel Street block, taken at an indeterminate date in 1945. Photo by Ray Jerome (R. J.) Baker. Courtesy: Bishop Museum.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 75

Figure Title

- 14** Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House showing employee luncheon for Mutual Telephone Company on November 12, 1946. The photo clearly shows original polychrome brackets and beams as well as second floor windows and transoms. Courtesy: Bishop Museum.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

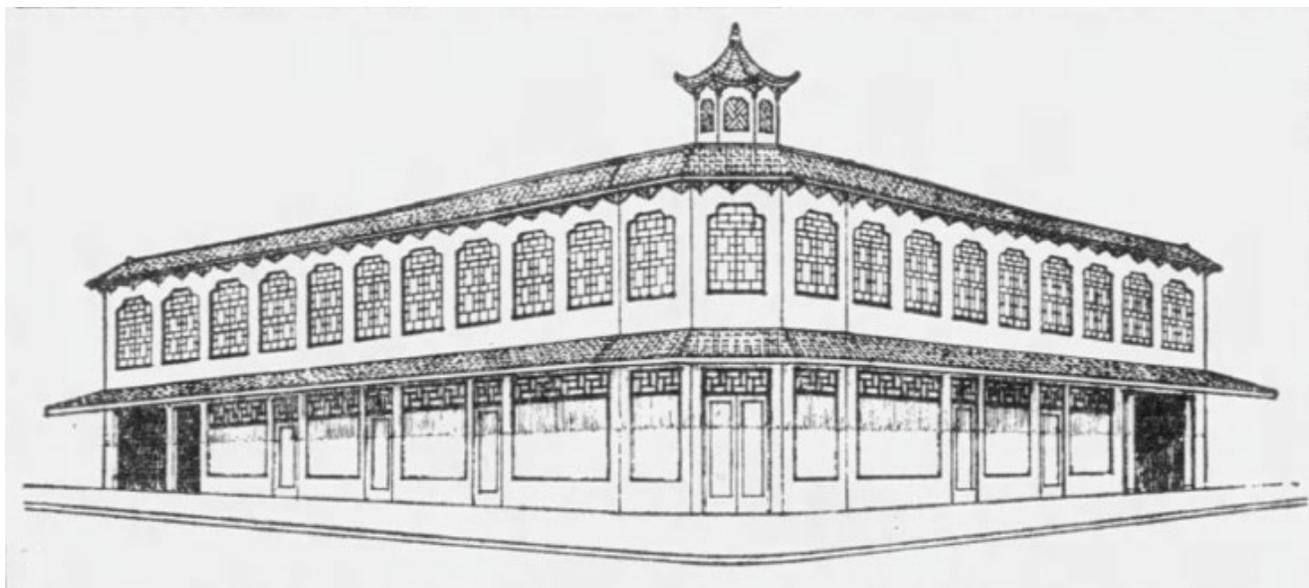
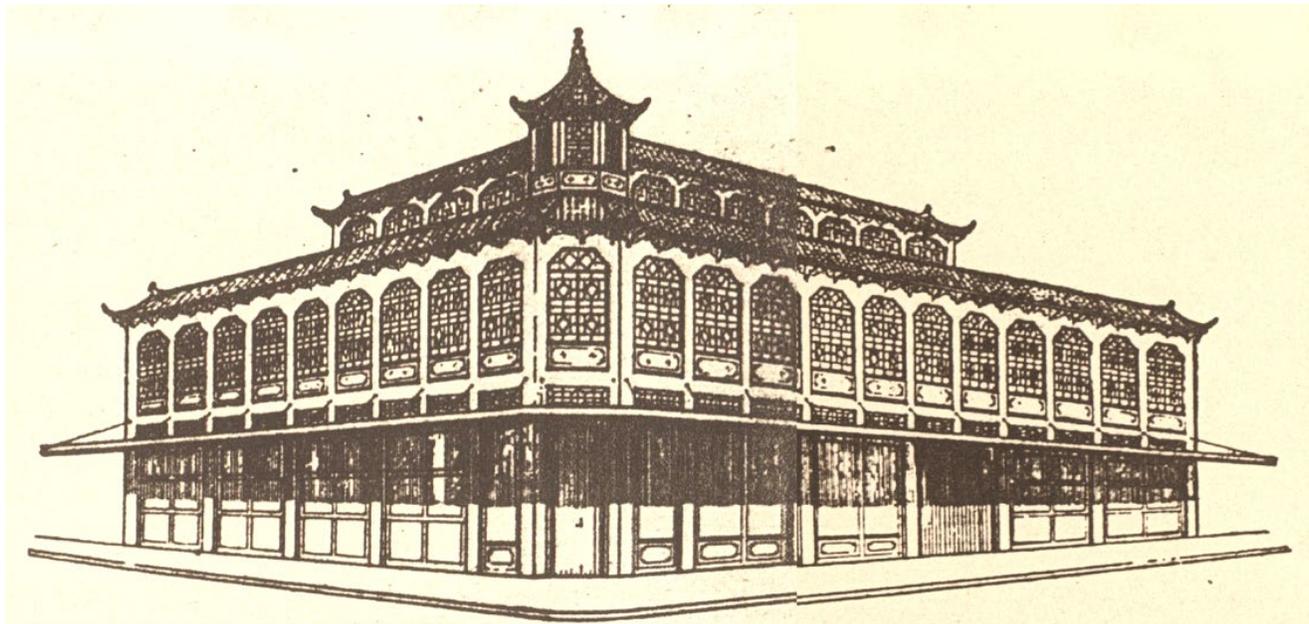
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 76

Figure Title

- 15 A comparison of two designs by Y. T. Char. The top is a rendering of Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House of 1938 and the bottom image is a rendering of the See Dai Doo Building of 1900 (demolished in 1964). For the latter, Char closely followed the design of the well-known Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House at N. Hotel and Maunakea Streets. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 77

Figure Title

16 Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Mr. and Mrs. Wat (left) with Tim Wat (right), son of Wat Ging, and wife (February 13, 1954). Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 78

Figure Title

- 17** Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 79

Figure Title

18 Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 80

Figure Title

19 Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 81

Figure Title

20 Unidentified banquet at Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. View of banquet hall and unidentified patrons, February 13, 1954. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 82

Figure Title

- 21** Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view on May 5, 1955. Courtesy: Vic Lipinski, from the Estate of James B. and Maria C. Lipinski.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 83

Figure Title

- 22** Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Souvenir post card by Wo Fat, Ltd. that shows the addition of a metal canopy to the N. Hotel Street side of the third-floor pavilion, c. 1960. Source: Historic Preservation Certification Application, Wo Fat Chop Sui House, 2018.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

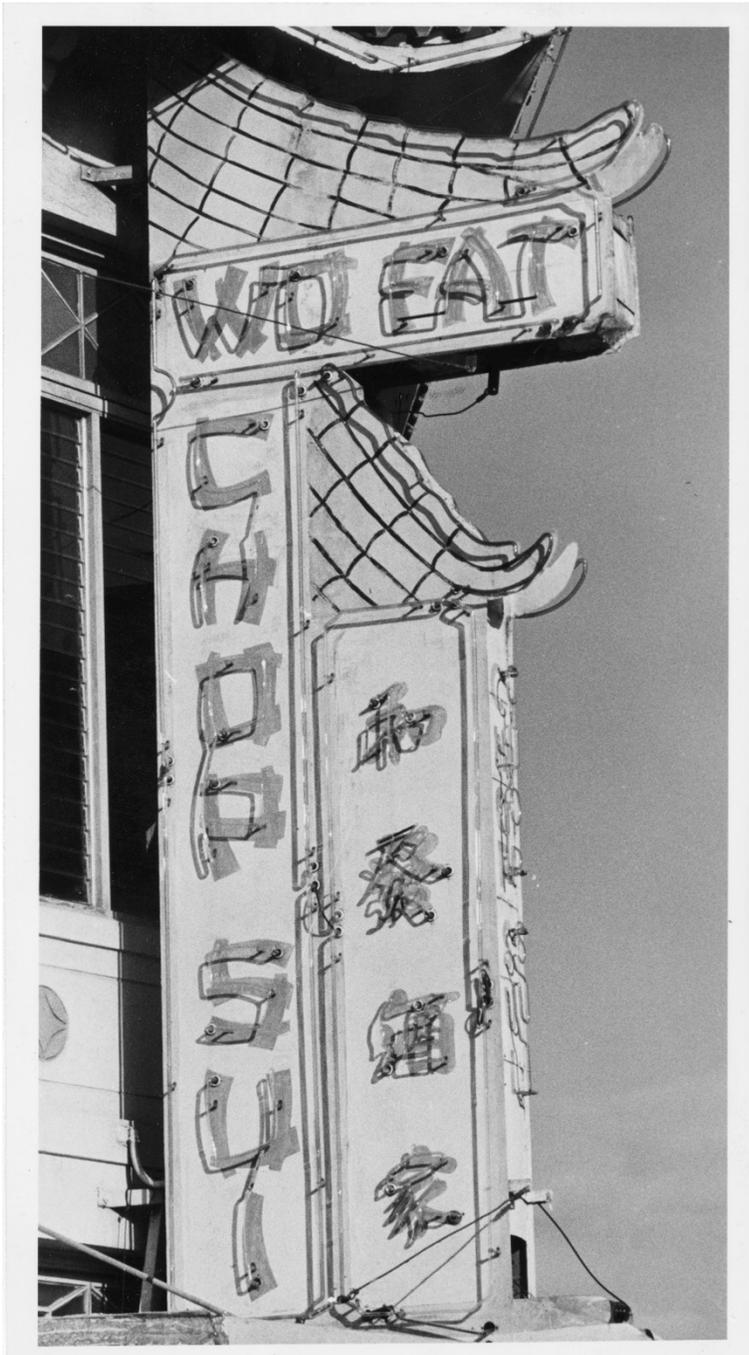
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 84

Figure Title

23 Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (1960), detail of sign. Courtesy: Hawai'i State Archives (*Honolulu Star Bulletin*).



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 85

Figure **Title**
24 **Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House (1962), oblique aerial view. Courtesy: Hawai'i State Archives (*Honolulu Star Bulletin*).**



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 86

Figure	Title
25	Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view, 1973. Courtesy: State Historic Preservation Division, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 87

Figure **Title**
26 **Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House. Oblique view, 2000. Source: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Materials.**



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

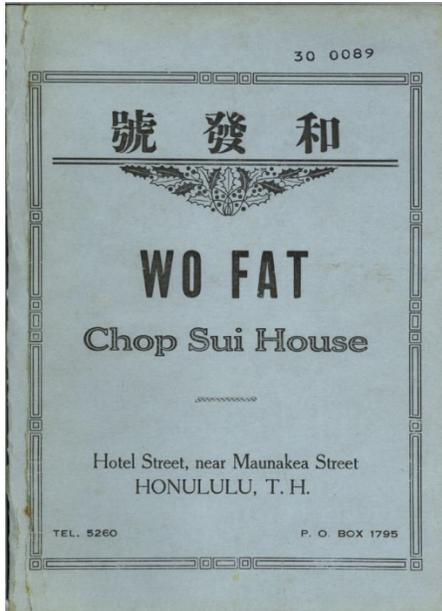
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 88

Figure Title
27 Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1927. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and Archives of New Zealand, R20967285, Folio 89-2.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

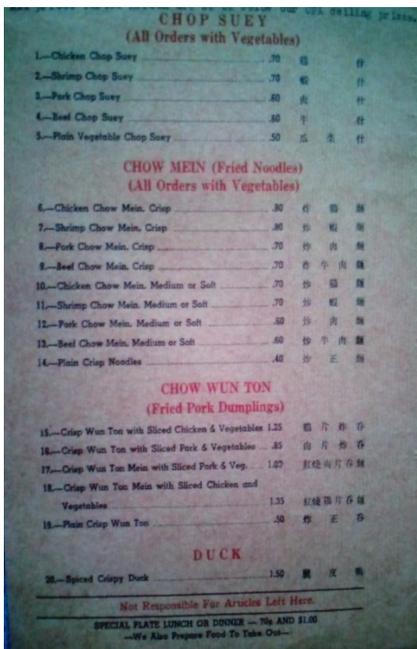
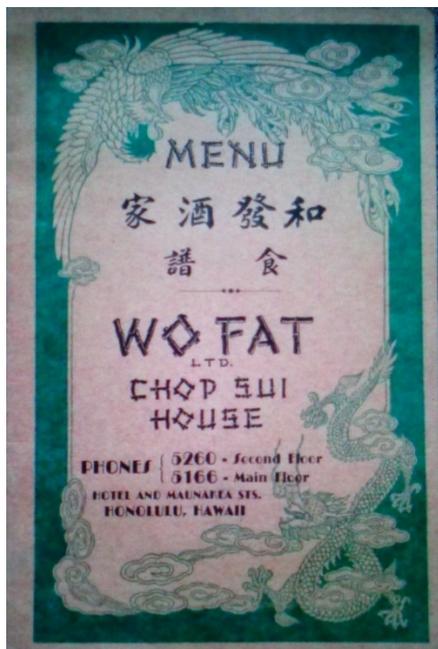
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 89

Figure Title
28 Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1943. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and PBA Galleries 2014.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

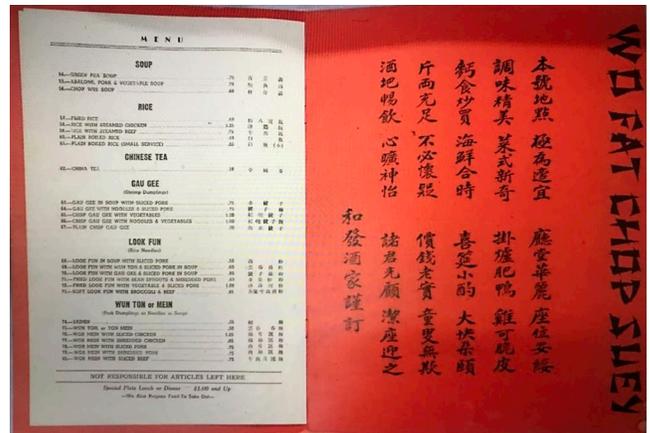
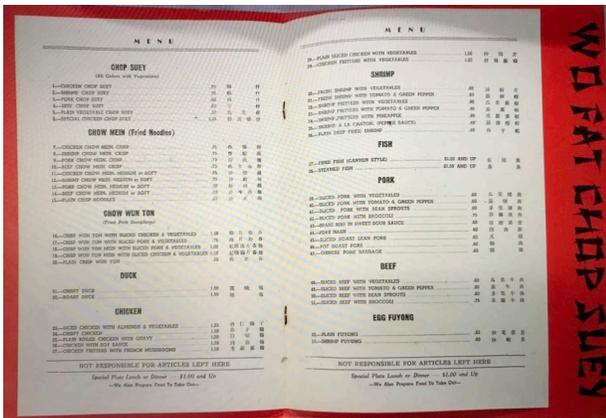
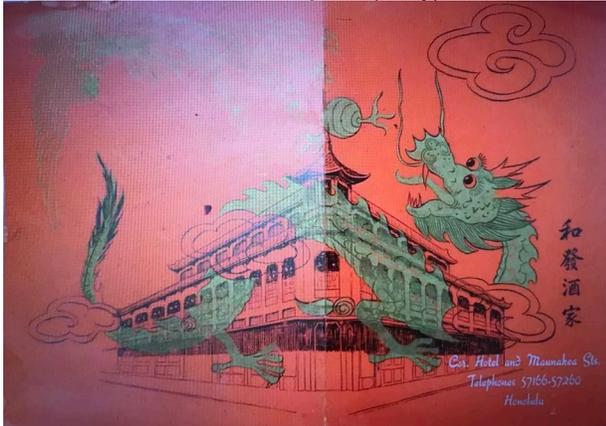
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 90

Figure 29 Title

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1950. Courtesy: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation and eBay.



本號地盤 極為適宜
調味精美 菜式新奇
鈣食妙買 海鮮合時
斤兩充足 不必復疑
酒地暢飲 心曠神怡
諸君光顧 廉潔歡迎
和發酒家謹訂

WO FAT CHOP SUEY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

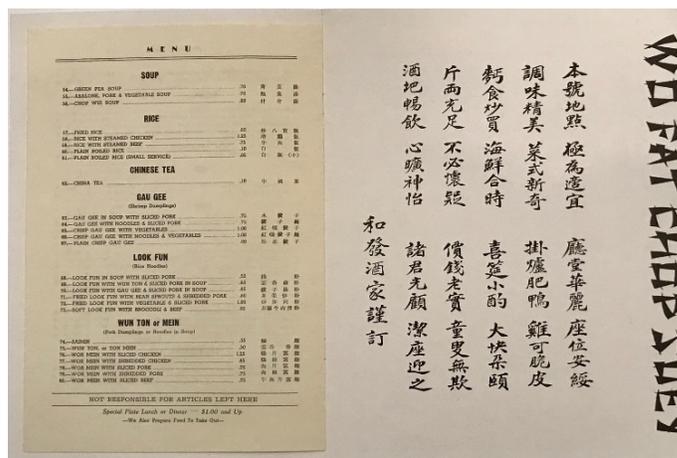
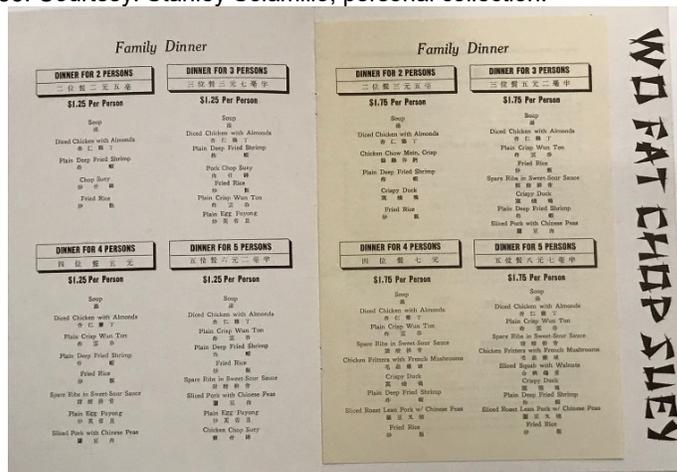
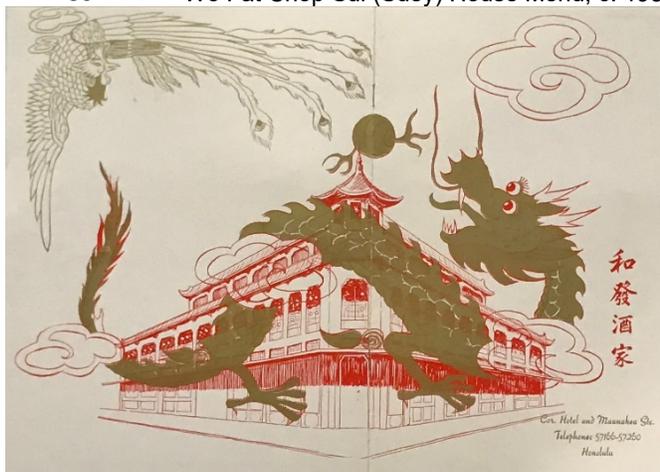
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page

91

Figure 30

Title
Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1951-53. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page

92

Figure 31

Title
Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, 1963. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.

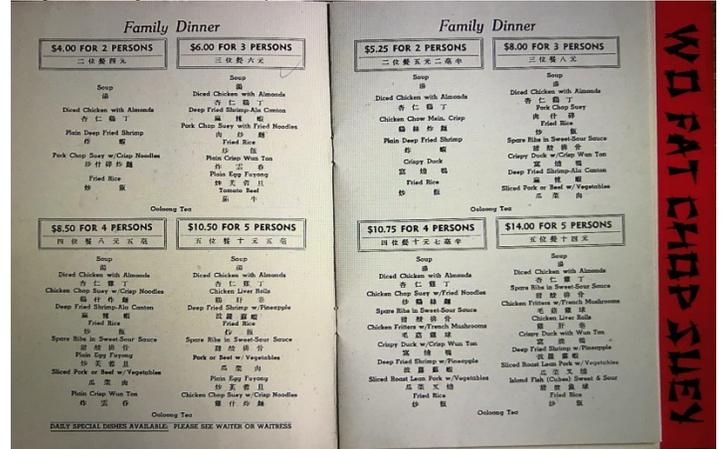


Table with 3 columns: Item Name, Price, and Description. Includes sections for SOUP, CHICKEN, FISH, LOBSTER, SHRIMP, DUCK, PORK, BEEF, EGG FUYONG, LOOK FUN, WUN TON or MEIN, and BAR SERVICE.

Table with 3 columns: Item Name, Price, and Description. Includes sections for CHOP SUEY, CHOW MEIN (Fried Noodles), CHOW WUN TON, RICE, GAU GEE, and BAR SERVICE. Includes vertical Chinese text on the right side.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

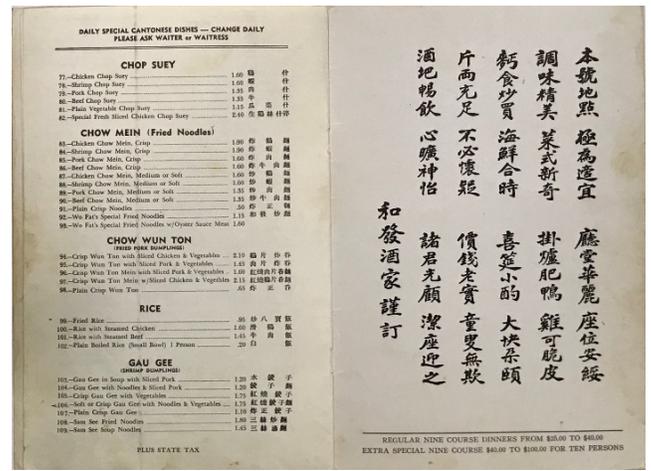
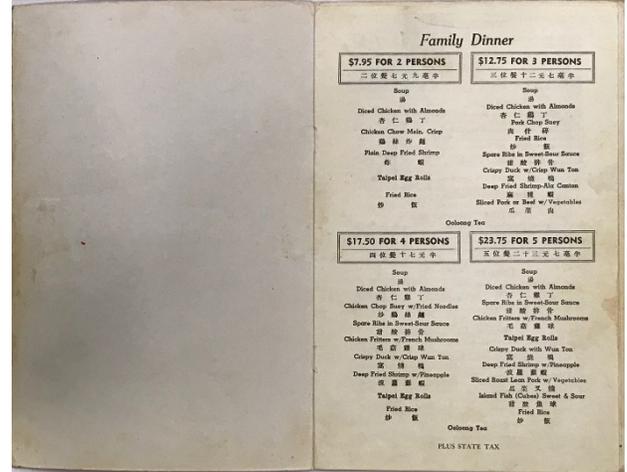
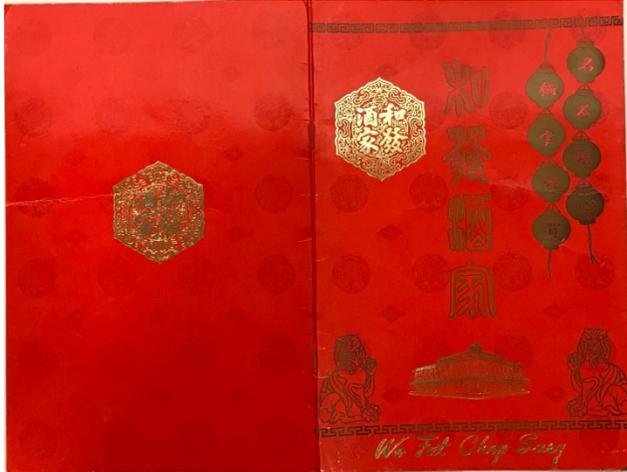
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page

93

Figure
32

Title
Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Menu, c. 1975. Courtesy: Stanley Solamillo, personal collection.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 94

Photographs

Reproductions of photos of the Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Building are embedded within the Additional Documentation Continuation Sheets below. Note that photos are also provided as high-resolution electronic files (TIFFs), complying with the National Register Photo Policy Expansion.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Address of Property: 115 N. Hotel Street
City or Vicinity: Honolulu
County: Honolulu
State: Hawaii
Photographer: Tony Martie
Date Photographed: January 3-4, 2018
Photos reflect the current condition of the building.

Photo 001 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui(Suey)House_001)
Front (southeast and northeast) façades, Bays A-F and 1-8, exterior corner, camera facing west

Photo 002 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_002)
Front (southeast) façade, Bays A-F, exterior, camera facing northwest

Photo 003 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_003)
Front (southeast) façade detail, Bay E-F, First-third floors with corner pagoda, camera facing northwest

Photo 004 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_004)
Front (northeast) façade, Bays 1-8, exterior, camera facing southwest

Photo 005 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_005)
Interior, NHKM, First floor, Bay F-E, Room 100, Retail aisle, produce bins, and shelves, camera facing southeast

Photo 006 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_006)
Interior, NHKM, First floor, Bay C-B, Room 100, Retail aisles and shelves, camera facing northwest

Photo 007 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_007)
Interior, Second floor, Bay 1-2, Room 200, Dining hall with polychrome columns, beams, and ceiling painted black, camera facing northwest

Photo 008 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_008)
Interior, Second floor, Bays 6.5-8, Room 203, Corridor with original floor tile and polychrome beam above ceiling, camera facing northwest

Photo 009 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_009)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House
Name of Property
Honolulu, HI
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 95

Interior, Second floor, Bay 7-8, Room 202, Storage room with corner painted pilaster, polychrome ceiling, beams, and wood transom above ceiling, camera facing northeast

Photo 010 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_010)
Interior, Third floor, Room 300, Bay C-E, Former roof pavilion or dragon room, camera facing northwest

Photo 011 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_011)
Interior, Third floor, Room 300, Bay C-E, Oblique view of polychrome beams at column line 4, camera facing west-northwest

Photo 012 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_012)
Interior, third floor, room 300, bay C-E, oblique of polychrome beam at column line 3, camera facing east

Photo 013 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_013)
Interior, Third floor, Room 308, Bays A-C, Detail of original pavilion exterior wall, bracket, and rafter tail, camera facing northeast

Photo 014 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_014)
Interior, Third floor, Room 311, Bay E-F, Corner pagoda, original multi-colored wood sash, camera facing southwest

Photo 015 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_015)
Interior, Third floor, Room 311, Bay E-F, polychrome dragon mural on plaster ceiling in corner pagoda, camera facing upward

Photo 016 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_016)
Interior, Second floor, Room 214, Bay 1-2, Polychrome engaged column, capital, ceiling, perimeter, longitudinal and transverse beams above former dining hall, camera facing southwest

Photo 017 (HI_HonoluluCounty_WoFatChopYimSui[Suey]House_017)
Interior, Second floor, Room 214, Bay 1-2, Detail of polychrome capital, ceiling, perimeter and longitudinal beams above former dining hall, camera facing southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 96

Photo

Title

01

Front (southeast and northeast) façades, Bays A-F and 1-8, exterior corner, camera facing west.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 97

Photo	Title
02	Front (southeast) façade, Bays A-F, exterior, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 98

Photo Title
03 Front (southeast) façade detail, Bay E-F, First-third floors with corner pagoda, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 99

Photo **Title**
04 Front (northeast) façade, Bays 1-8, exterior, camera facing southwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 100

Photo

Title

05

Interior, NHKM, First floor, Bay F-E, Room 100, Retail aisle, produce bins, and shelves, camera facing southeast.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House Name of Property
Honolulu, HI County and State
N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 101

Photo	Title
06	Interior, NHKM, First floor, Bay C-B, Room 100, Retail aisles and shelves, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 102

Photo	Title
07	Interior, Second floor, Bay 1-2, Room 200, Dining hall with polychrome columns, beams, and ceiling painted black, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 103

Photo	Title
08	Interior, Second floor, Bays 6.5-8, Room 203, Corridor with original floor tile and polychrome beam above ceiling, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 104

Photo

Title

09

Interior, Second floor, Bay 7-8, Room 202, Storage room with corner painted pilaster, polychrome ceiling, beams, and wood transom above ceiling, camera facing northeast.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 105

Photo

Title

010

Interior, Third floor, Room 300, Bay C-E, Former roof pavilion or dragon room, camera facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 106

Photo

Title

011

Interior, Third floor, Room 300, Bay C-E, Oblique view of polychrome beams at column line 4, camera facing west-northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 107

Photo

Title

012

Interior, third floor, room 300, bay C-E, oblique of polychrome beam at column line 3, camera facing east.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 108

Photo	Title
013	Interior, Third floor, Room 308, Bays A-C, Detail of original pavilion exterior wall, bracket, and rafter tail, camera facing northeast.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 109

Photo

Title

014

Interior, Third floor, Room 311, Bay E-F, Corner pagoda, original multi-colored wood sash, camera facing southwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 110

Photo **Title**

015 Interior, Third floor, Room 311, Bay E-F, polychrome dragon mural on plaster ceiling in corner pagoda, camera facing upward.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 111

Photo

Title

016

Interior, Second floor, Room 214, Bay 1-2, Polychrome engaged column, capital, ceiling, perimeter, longitudinal and transverse beams above former dining hall, camera facing southwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wo Fat Chop Sui (Suey) House

Name of Property

Honolulu, HI

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 112

Photo

Title

017

Interior, Second floor, Room 214, Bay 1-2, Detail of polychrome capital, ceiling, perimeter and longitudinal beams above former dining hall, camera facing southwest.

