

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: **15007003**

Historic Status: **NRHP Determined Eligible 1980**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Tong Fat Co.**

Sector: **22 Iwilei Station Sector**

Location: **425 N. King St.**

Owner: **Cupboard LLC**

Station Block: **Iwilei Station Block**

Date-Original: **1920 (1922)**

Source: **Tax Office (Date on Building)**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Commercial / Residential**

Architectural Description:

This large two-story commercial building measures about 200' x 50' and has shops on the first floor and rented rooms on the second. The façade of the building has a stepped parapet with a thin cornice. A stringcourse spans the length of the facade just above the second-floor windows. Between the stringcourse and the cornice are ten scupper-type openings in the parapet, four rectangular inset panels, and the Tong Fat Ltd. Co. sign and 1922 date. The second-floor windows are jalousies. The street level facade has aluminum-framed storefronts with a continuous band of transom windows that is broken only by columns spaced every 20'. A pent roof canopy shades the storefronts.

Integrity:

Storefronts and windows in the Tong Fat building have been changed. However, the building still retains the identity for which it is significant (NR Bulletin 15, p. 45).

Significance:

Criterion "A" - associated with the development of the A'ala neighborhood. Criterion "C" - The Tong Fat building is a good example of a large commercial building of the 1920s. This was a prosperous time in Honolulu when much new construction was begun. The building was situated on the fringes of Honolulu's densely populated Chinatown, in the A'ala small business area which originally stretched to Buckle Lane near Vineyard Boulevard and Liliha Streets. The shops on the first floor would have catered to the neighborhood while the rooms above were for residential or hotel use. During the years before WWII the upper rooms of the Tong Fat Building were probably rented out, either to shop owners, or, like other hotels in Aala, to Japanese customers who were traveling via the steamships that would have berthed at the piers opposite Chinatown (Okihiro, *Aala* 2003, 46).

