

## Lo Wu Brick Company

- It is believed that a brick company named “羅湖磚廠” was once operated on the land of Fu Tei Au



- This is a historical map (suspected to be a Japanese map) dated back in 1939. See “羅湖煉瓦製造所” located around today’s Fu Tei Au. The coloured map underneath the old one represents current day’s mapping.



- Another map dated in 1928. See “Lo Wu Brick Works”.



- Upon further investigation, we successfully discovered and retrieved an old file at Government Record Services. It documents a land application submitted by Lo Wu Brick Company to land officers in year 1923 for brick work purposes at Fu T(e)i Au. See below pictures.

(O. S. 52.)

No. 24601923

From—	Clerk of Councils.
Place—	Hongkong.
Date—	29th. March, 1923.
Received—	do.

**SUBJECT.**

Proposed Brick-work at Lu Wu, New Territories.

Last previous paper.	Next subsequent paper.
Correspondence attached.	

L. O.

Attached application for sale by private treaty is submitted.

This land is required to allow for condition No. 4 of the sale of the original lot to the Brickworks Coy. viz.—"No soil etc. shall be dug or works carried on within six years of the boundary fences". The land is useless for any other purpose, and is only required by applicant in order to comply with our conditions.

sd. E. I. Wynne-Jones,  
D. O./N. 28. 12. 23.

(O. S. 52.)

No. 16451924

L. O. No. 334 19 23	From—	LAND OFFICER
	Place—	HONGKONG
	Date—	31st. December, 1923.
	Received—	

**SUBJECT.**

Land at Fu Ti Au, Northern District, N. T.,  
Demarcation District 88 Lot No. 614 (extension  
to Lot No. 103).

Application by Lo Wu Brick Company ----- for  
Brick Works purpose.

To The Land Officer.

DISTRICT LAND OFFICE.  
28. 12. 1953

Application has been made for land at Fu Ti Au. of which I give particulars and recommendations below.  
A sale by private treaty is recommended.

I certify to the best of my knowledge there is no probability of any competition for this lot and that the applicant is the only person interested. The application is for bona fide Chinese occupation and there is not in my opinion a likelihood of much development in the neighbourhood.

sd. E. I. Wynne-Jones, District Land Officer/N

Name of applicant.	S. D. No.	Locality.	Area in acres or sq. feet	For what purpose required.	Period of years recommended.	Premium recommended.	Annual Crown Rent recommended.	Special conditions & Remarks.
Lo Wu Brick Co. trustee Tse Pan Shang of 54 Queen's Road, Central Hongkong	88 Lot 614	Fu Ti Au	33,840 S.F. Brick Works or .78 ac. extension to lot 105 sold vide 2460/23		75	\$85	\$4.00	Premium at 1/4 cent a sq.ft. Crown Rent at \$5.00 per acre Special condition No. 5 published in G.N. 276 of 1921 & No. 1 in G.N. 697 of 1909.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY, LAND OFFICER.

Submitted. The recommendations are in order.  
sd. Philip Jack, Land Officer  
31. 12. 1953

Approved by Command  
sd. E. I. Wynne-Jones, District Land Officer  
31. 12. 1953

Please report result of sale  
sd. Philip Jack, Land Officer  
7. 1. 1954

- Below paragraph follows the discussion between officers in related to the land ownership of the proposed Fu Tei Au territory for brickwork purposes in question. The second line implies that there is a chance where the Lo Wu Brick Company had already owned part of the Fu Tei Au land before the time of application and might have started operating for some time.

Hon. C. S.,

Schedule of lot coloured blue on plan in (1) herewith, showing owners. (2). Lots coloured yellow are already the property of the Brick Coy. Lots coloured red are Crown land for the most part, but Lot 1136 is a pit or pond & of no use: Lot 1692 forms a means of access to the pathway & hillside from the river & should not be sold: Lots 1138/9 are private land. the block 1136 - 37 38- 39 - 40 had better be left out.

The large irregular lot of Cr. land to the N. of Lots 82 & 76, differs from the original application (see tracing attached (3))

This will of course be surveyed in due course.

sd. E. I. Wynne-Jones,  
D.O./N. 4. 7. 23.

- The next page of the conversation goes on to describe the difficulty of acquiring the land. The underlined paragraph seems to imply that Mr. Tse, son of the company's manager, had already started the business and so that he may carry on the work even without acquiring the land.

4. Mr. Tse informs me that the brickworks could carry on for about 4 or 5 years without the privately owned land. They have machinery for getting clay from a depth of 30 ft. so that if the clay is there, they should get plenty to go on with.

He further tells me that the private owners say it is not a question of money, but that they want the land to grow food: the Coy. is willing to pay more than their offer quoted by Mr. Tratman in his minute of 10. 4. 23 above, but the owners will not even name a figure. This looks as if they were in earnest, and I respectfully submit that in those circumstances it would be wrong to resume their land for a commercial undertaking.



No. S. 336.—It is hereby notified that the following Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction will be held at the District Office, Tai Po, at 11.30 a.m., on Wednesday, the 17th day of October, 1923.

LAND OFFICE.

The Lots are sold for the term of Seventy-five years from the 1st day of July, 1898, with the right of renewal for a further term of 24 years less 3 days at a re-assessed Crown Rent as Brickworks subject to the General Conditions of Sale published in Government Notification No. 365 of 1906 and to the Special Condition No. 5 published in Government Notification No. 278 of 1911 and to the Special Conditions hereunder specified.

### PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

Registry No.			Locality.	Boundary Measurements.				Contents in Acres.	Upset Price.	Annual Crown Rent.
No.	D. D.	Lot.		N.	S.	E.	W.			
				feet.	feet.	feet.	feet.			
1	52	1	Fu Ti Au.	As per plan deposited in the District Office, North.				36 acre.		1.80
2	"	2	"	"				17 "		.90
3	"	26	"	"				02 "		.10
4	"	17B	"	"				01 "		.10
5	"	27	"	"				08 "		.40
6	"	28A	"	"				12 "		.60
7	"	1183	"	"				07 "		.40
8	"	1185	"	"				05 "		.30
9	"	1190	"	"				01 "		.10
10	"	1348	"	"				07 "	1057	.40
11	95	1703	"	"				53 "		2.70
12	88	95	"	"				12 "		.60
13	"	69A	"	"				16 "		.80
14	"	65	"	"				05 "		.30
15	"	67	"	"				03 "		.20
16	"	62	"	"				53 "		2.70
17	"	54	"	"				02 "		.10
18	"	103	"	"				7.30 (about)		36.50
				Total... ..				9.70		49.00

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

1. The Purchaser shall within 6 months from the date of sale expend a sum of not less than \$100,000 in the construction of a brickwork on these or adjoining Lots capable of turning out not less than 7,500 bricks per diem.

- In addition, pieces of old newspapers indicates the existence of the brick company:

**THE CHINA MAIL.**

<p><b>CHANCE FOR SOMEONE.</b></p> <p><b>BRICKWORKS AT FU TI AU.</b></p> <p>Eighteen lots of Crown land at Fu Ti Au comprising 9.7 acres are to be auctioned at The District Office, Tai Po, at 11.30 a.m. on October 17.</p> <p>The lots are to be sold for the term of seventy-five years from the 1st day of July, 1898 with the right of renewal for the further term of 24 years less 3 days at a re-assessed crown rent as brick-works.</p> <p>One of the special conditions laid down is that the purchaser shall within 6 months from the</p>	<p><b>CRICKET.</b></p> <p>The following will represent Shamoen Sports Club in their match with the Hongkong Cricket Club on Monday next:—H. H. Benson (capt.), P. E. Baskett, S. G. Beare, D. Duncan, H. S. Gordon, S. E. King, F. E. Lammiert, V. C. Olive, F. V. Read, J. Rodger and Capt. D. R. Wahl.</p> <p>date of sale expend a sum of not less than \$100,000 in the construction of a brickwork on these or adjoining lots capable of turning out not less than 7,500 bricks per diem.</p>
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**BRICKWORKS SITE.**

**ANOTHER SALE OF LAND.**

At the District Office, Tai Po, on the 17th. instant, there will be sold by auction 18 lots of Crown land, aggregating about 7.70 acres, the upset price for which is \$1,057.

The purchaser will be required within six months of the date of sale to spend not less than \$100,000 for the construction of brick-works on these and adjoining lots, capable of turning out not less than 7,500 bricks per day.

- Brief articles posted on the China Mail & the Hong Kong Telegraph on 6/10/1923 (6 months after the initial land application as shown above) for auction promotion in recruiting potential buyers interested strictly in brick work operation on Fu T(e)i Au land.

**新界上水 羅湖磚廠 昨晨被劫**

失贓將達二百元

商務不景、已告停工、祇有夥伴三數人、司理為謝良、六十一歲、昨晨二時四十五分、同在磚廠入睡、忽聞門外犬聲亂吠、於是起床、約同夥伴廖有、出視、樓前察、發現燈光、似是電筒之注射、知有匪前來、店伴疾鳴警笛召警、惟該地僻靜、未獲援助、僅數秒鐘、則已被賊等闖進、謝見勢不佳、遂奔上天面、以求躲避、斯際飽受驚恐、迨後賊搜括完畢、店伴始將事報告、謝乃返下、檢查所失、計被劫去現款一百三十五元、貯於房中之夾萬內、賊等搗毀而劫去、其他則為衣物、統計損失約一百九十八元、至賊年貌、因當時深夜、未能分辨、約在十五至廿五歲之間、寺有報云、

本港新聞

# 新界上水發生劫案

羅湖磚窰被四賊械劫  
失贓約值百餘元

新界上水、近數月以來、屢次發生劫案、不下六七宗之多、警察當局已極加注意防範、奈地位居華界邊境、疑賊黨由華界偷渡英界行劫、得手後、潛匿華界、致令警察無從搜破也、至昨早兩點四十五分鐘、上水羅湖村之羅湖磚窰、突被賊匪四人、持械入內行劫、結果劫去現款一百三十五元、及衣物值六十三元五毫、各匪得手後、即逃去無踪、茲將其行劫情形、分錄如下、

## 報劫情形

據該窰主人赴上水警署報稱名謝良、當是早兩點四十五分鐘、彼于夢中突為守衛之犬狂吠聲所驚醒、即偕一伴名廖有者、潛出騎樓觀察、則見有賊四人、手持燈三枝、已行至門前、同時又聞其伴鄭文鳴警笛呼援、兩三分鐘後、各賊匪已入屋內、各賊手持短鎗兩枝、彼懼而奔返房內倒臥不敢動、迨後由其伴廖有到房喚之、并告以賊經已遠去、彼始相繼下樓、點查各物、則其睡房中之門已毀、房中之物件凌亂、檢查後、計共被劫現款一百卅三元

及衣物等物、共一百九十八元八毫云、

## 店伴所述

又據該磚窰店伴廖有稱、謂是早從夢中被賊驚醒、偕各人出騎樓觀察、見有賊匪四人在外、手持燈火、未幾、已破門而入、各賊中有二人持短鎗向各伴指嚇、由持鎗者視盤、其他二人則入房中搜劫、約十分鐘之久、各賊即携贓而去、因天色異常黑暗、故不知其去向、各賊年在二十三歲至卅五歲者云、

## 警探查究

昨早上水警署據報後、該署長郭辦除通電各屬警區知照及派出武裝印警四出查緝外、即親偕探目劉明、華探楊興、前往該村被劫之家查究、並召集鄰人查究賊黨所去之行踪、惟四出查搜至天明後、尙無所獲、于是偕事主返警署存案查緝、

## 青洲火藥庫

## 失四萬磅魚炮

昨日青洲火藥庫管理人卑利氏到警署報

Articles posted on 6/8/1935 by 天光報 and 香港工商日報 respectively in regards to burglary at Lo Wu Brick Company. The first article mentions that the brick work has already stopped operating at that time due to financial difficulty. Therefore, it can be deduced that the company ran for approximately one decade since the land application.



## ARMED ROBBERY IN NEW TERRITORIES

### Brickworks Premises Ransacked

Five armed robbers entered the Lo Wu brickworks at Sheung Shui early this morning and decamped with money and clothing to the tune of nearly \$200.

In a report to the Police, Tse Lung, aged 61, manager of the Lo Wu Brickworks, states that at about 2.45 a.m. to-day he was awakened by his dog and went to the verandah with a foki. He saw two or three lights and a few minutes later one of the robbers came up, so he ran away and hid on the roof. After a while his foki told him that the robbers had left and he found that the place had been ransacked and a safe broken open, from which \$135 had been taken. The robbers also took some clothing.

In all there were five men, two of whom were armed with revolvers. The direction of their flight is unknown, and no arrests have yet been made.

Another English article reporting the raid at the brickwork premises by the China Mail on 5/8/1935.



The brick factory at Lo Wu & Canton railway

A picture believed to be taken by the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards stationed at the Lo Wu Camp (across the Sheung Yue River, a correctional institution nowadays). If you look closely, you can spot the train passing as well as the two major kilns which we believe to belong to the Lo Wu Brick Company at the time.