

8. Observatory

9. Ventilation Holes

10. Four Pits (like Shell Craters)

11. Standpipe Tap

12. Nearby Tourist Spot - The Road of Mackay

13. Nearby Tourist Spot - Reverend Mackay's Residence

14. Nearby Tourist Spot - Tamsui Girls' School

15. Nearby Tourist Spot - Aletheia University

16. Master Bedroom

17. Study and Office

18. Cloister

19. Tamsui Customs Officer's Residence

20. Hollow Brick Wall

21. Food Delivery Window

22. Increased Kitchen space; the size and the shape of the opening window is used for food delivery.

23. The space is partitioned by a fireplace. The larger space with the fireplace is probably being utilized both as a study and an office.

24. The verandah is designed around the cloister on three sides and is a popular spot for wedding photo shoots and Instagram-worthy photos nowadays.

25. It is a typical British colonial-style building, nicknamed 'Little White House' by the locals because of its white outer walls.

26. The remaining walls surrounding the official residence were heritage of architecture technique a century ago.

27. Founded by the Christian Presbyterian Church in 1884, which heralded the establishment of girls' school in Taiwan.

28. Also known as Oxford College, it was the first school operated with Western education system in Taiwan.

29. It is so full of life and has lived for a long time that it has been designated and monitored as a 'precious tree' by New Taipei City Government.

30. Rectangular iron windows are embedded around the foundation of the building every few meters, to let air in and prevent humidity.

31. On the lawn, there are four sunken pits, which are said to be the remains of shell craters left after Sino-French War and the Battle of Hobe.

32. During the Japanese period, it was used for water supply and fire-fighting purposes, which resembled a postal mail box.

33. Approximately where the Mackay Street and Zhenli Street in Tamsui District is located nowadays.

34. It belongs to the Christian Presbyterian Church and is a very unique and elegant building.

35. Tamsui n-style building in Tamsui.

36. Tamsui n-style building in Tamsui.

37. Tamsui n-style building in Tamsui.



## Promising Highlights

"Little White House" in Tamsui, or officially known as the "Official Residence of the Tamsui Customs Officer of the Qing Dynasty", earned the nickname from the locals because of its white buildings. In the courtyard, there are frangipani trees planted long ago. The observation deck of the courtyard overlooks the Tamsui River and commands an excellent view of Mount Guanyin across the river in the Bali District.

## Historical Footprints

Cooling lava from the Tatan Volcano formed into five hills in Tamsui, and the second hill seen from the estuary of the river was the Puding neighborhood, formerly known as "Paotai Pu" (Fort Pu). After Tamsui was opened up for commerce, Puding became a major area for foreigners to stay and do business. The clash of Chinese and Western cultures left behind many buildings with exotic style, making Tamsui unique in its own way.

In 1862, after the opening of the Tamsui port, the Hobe Customs was officially established and was initially managed entirely by the Chinese. In the following year, the Qing Empire agreed to station a foreign national as a deputy tax commissioner at Hobe (now Tamsui) and Jilong (now Keelung), which heralded the beginning of entrusting foreign nationals with the management of Taiwan Customs. As the customs services became more and more complex, the number of foreign customs officers increased. To accommodate them, Tamsui Customs Office purchased land from the residents of Hobe in 1866 to build the Customs Officers' Residence and the dormitories. Construction of three Western-style buildings were completed one after another, and the locals called them "Three Villas of Puding."

The Little White House was built in a typical British colonial style, featuring cloisters, large windows, chimneys and raised foundations. There were 11 hemisphere cloister arches on the façade and another four on both the east and west sides. The east, west and south sides of the cloisters are able to let more light in and provide shelter from the rain.

During the Sino-French War in 1884, the Little White House was once under siege by the French artillery. It was then renovated as the "Fifty Club" during the Japanese period. After the war, it was left idle until the end of 1949, when it became the residence of the American Inspector General for Tax Administration, L. K. Little.

Due to less customs businesses and Tamsui port past its prime, the official residence was left unattended. After Taiwan was placed under control of the Republic of China, the Ministry of Finance's Taipei Customs Office (now Keelung Customs Office) took over the buildings. In 1996, they were at one point at risk of being torn down. Thanks to efforts by the locals, scholars and experts, the buildings were preserved ever since and designated as a municipal historic site in 1997.

### Address

No. 15, Zhenli St., Tamsui District, New Taipei City

### Transportation

Take the MRT Tamsui Line, get off at Tamsui Station. Then, take Red Bus No. 26 or shuttle bus No. 836. Get off at Little White House (Tamsui Police Precinct) stop or Fort San Domingo (Aletheia University) stop. Then follow the sign to Little White House.

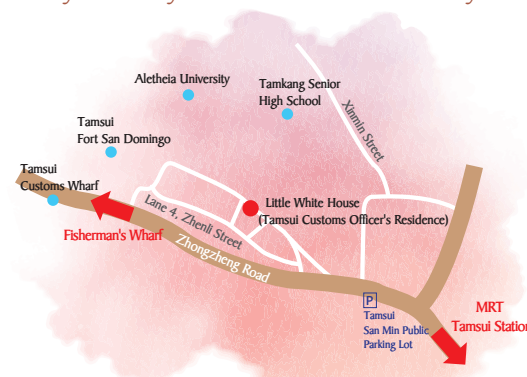
### Opening Hours

Monday ~ Friday 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday, Sunday and National Holiday(s) 09:30 – 18:00

### Closed on

The first Monday of each month (if it is National Holiday, the House is open as usual and closed the next day), Chinese New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year's Day, Off-Work Day due to natural disaster announced by the government, and other necessary closed days will be announced additionally.



For more information on visiting the Museum, please click the official website of the Tamsui Historical Museum, New Taipei City, or scan the QR-Code.

新北市立淡水古蹟博物館  
Tamsui Historical Museum, New Taipei City

*Tamsui Customs Officer's Residence*  
*Pu-Ding Western House*  
*Exotic Charm*

ADVERTISE