

1,700 CLUB NAMES MISSING

THERE may be as many as 1,700 "missing" members on the records of the Hongkong Club who would be entitled to decide on the club's fate but have never been given the chance.

"These people are shareholders," said a spokesman for an unofficial committee of rebel members which is now applying to have the club wind up rather than see the old building be demolished.

The spokesman said that under the threat of a court action, the club had submitted a schedule of members which consisted of 1,218 names on an "addressograph" list.

The list is incomplete and the committee conservatively estimated that there could be as many as 1,700

members unaccounted for.

Together with the names on the addressograph list a total of 3,000 members would be entitled to about \$330,000 each if the site of the old building was sold, chairman of the committee, Mr. S.F. Bailey, claimed in a letter addressed to members.

INACCURATE

However Mr Bailey said the club's building is structurally "perfectly sound" and the Government should intervene to save it.

He described statements made in an English newspaper yesterday that the club's building is "one of the most flimsy old buildings in Central", and would "fall to pieces if leaned on heavily" as inaccurate.

The statement was attributed to Palmer and Turner,

a firm of architects which has applied to the Public Works Department to demolish the building.

Mr Bailey said the building is no more flimsy than most buildings in Central, and a good deal more sound than some.

A spokesman for Palmer and Turner said yesterday that his firm was particularly sorry to see the building go. "It is a very fine example of architecture of its time," he said.

Palmer and Turner were the architects of the building when it was built in 1897.