

**Preliminary Appraisal of the Historic Structures at
Former Police Married Quarters Site at Hollywood Road**

Staunton Street Boundary Wall

The boundary wall along Staunton Street consists of a rendered wall constructed of bays and intermediate posts built on top of a random rubble retaining wall. The old gate posts on either side of the entrance are massive square granite pillars in classical architectural style. The construction of the intermediate bays and posts of the wall is probably brickwork rendered and painted.

2. The chain link fence mounted on top of the wall and the metal entrance gate are not considered to be of architectural or historic interest. The authenticity of this wall has unfortunately been undermined by alterations over the years. A historical photograph of Queen's College in 1903 shows that the wall originally had pierced panels between the pillars and not solid panels as it is now.

Underground Public Latrine

3. The Underground Public Latrine is divided into two sections with separate entrance via flights of steps in Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street. The interior of the latrine has been modernized with glazed ceramic tiles and nothing of historic interest remains. The balustrade walls to the entrance staircases are low panelled walls of some interest, but unfortunately they have been clad with modern mosaic tiling destroying their historic appearance and authenticity.

4. On the police quarters side the exposed wall of the latrine can be seen. It is constructed of flared red brickwork in Flemish Bond with buttresses, ventilators and louvred window openings at intervals. The corner section of the old random rubble retaining walls was obviously demolished in order to build the latrine, as it can be seen where the red brick wall was toothed and bonded into the old wall. The parapet wall was obviously rebuilt on top of the red brick wall. A projecting plinth with a stone coping runs along the entire length of the red brick wall and probably conceals the footings. A detailed description of the construction of the latrine was given in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Works for the year of 1918.

Aberdeen Street Boundary Wall

5. This boundary of the Site has walls constructed of several different types including random rubble walling with massive dressed ashlar coping stones, and rendered walls of bays and intermediate posts built to a stepped formation to suit the inclination of Aberdeen Street. From an old photograph of Queen's College dated 1903, it can be seen that the stepped wall at the corner with Staunton Street had panels of exposed brickwork that were obviously rendered on later on.

6. The main vehicular entrance has two massive granite gate posts of identical construction to those previously described for Staunton Street. This portion of wall was obviously altered to cater for the vehicular access to the police quarters in the 1950s. The chain link fence mounted on top of the wall and the metal entrance gates have no architectural or historic merit.

Hollywood Road Boundary Wall

7. The retaining wall to Hollywood Road is of a type known as random rubble walling built of irregular unsquared stones not in courses. The wall is approximately two metres high at the east corner of the Site and rises to approximately three metres high at the north corner. The wall is built mostly of grey stones intermingled with some pink and brown stones possibly recently pointed in lime mortar. The wall has dressed ashlar coping stones and is topped by a rendered dwarf wall which has a metal mesh panelled fence mounted on it. The wall appears to be sound and in good condition as no cracks or bulging was noted. Dressed ashlar quoin stones are bonded into the returns of the wall at the north and east corners. No weep holes were noted in the wall indicating that it may have been a dry stone wall without mortar originally.

8. An important feature of the wall is a series of trees growing along the top of the wall which due to their conspicuous position are highly visible and bestow a pleasant sylvan landscape character to the area. The roots of the trees hang down and spread over the face of the wall, and penetrate through the crevices between the stones to reach the soil volume held behind the wall, so as to tap moisture and nutrients and to give an assured anchorage.

Shing Wong Street Boundary Wall

9. The section of wall behind Nos. 76-82 Hollywood Road could not be inspected due to difficulty of access. The wall facing the steps of Shing Wong Street is similar in construction to the random rubble wall along Hollywood Road. The wall is stepped in several places to follow the inclination of the flight of steps. From an old photograph dated 1897, it can be seen that the stepped wall at the corner with Staunton Street had panels of exposed brickwork that were obviously rendered later on.

Flight of Steps at Staunton Street Entrance

10. This flight of granite steps is built along the random rubble retaining wall on Staunton Street. According to the site plan of the proposed Victoria College dated 16 July 1883 and the Plan of the city of Victoria dated 1889, there was originally a matching flight of steps, which was demolished for the construction of the police quarters in 1948.

Flight of Steps linking the two platforms

11. The flight of granite steps leading from the central platform to the lower platform is similar in construction to that at Staunton Street entrance. From an old photograph dated c. 1900, it is noted that a matching flight of steps was demolished to accommodate the existing building of Junior Police Call Club House. Although the retaining walls appear to remain intact, the dwarf wall with balustrades on top of the retaining walls was obviously replaced later on by the existing chain link fence.