

Historic Building Appraisal
St. Margaret's Church
No. 2A Broadwood Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

St. Margaret's Church (聖瑪加利大堂) was built in 1923. It was associated with the First World War which attracted a massive influx of immigrants to Hong Kong. This prompted Bishop Pizzoni (the third Vicar Apostolic of Hong Kong) to negotiate with the Hong Kong government for the exchange of lands. Lands were granted by the government on 14 January 1922 for erecting the present church in order to serve the spiritual needs of the growing population. The Church was intended to provide seating capacity for four times the number of worshippers at the old church (St. Francis Church in Wan Chai) and to serve as the administrative centre for the Pontifical Institute the Foreign Missions of Milan (P.I.M.E.) 宗座外方傳教會 in China.

***Historical
Interest***

With a typical basilica plan, St. Margaret's Church is a good example of church architecture in the **Classical Revival** style in Hong Kong. The front façade resembles an ancient Greek temple with its use of giant columns, entablature, triangular pediment and sculptures. There are two towers: the nave tower, also pedimented, above and behind the entrance portico and the bell tower at the other end. The church has a semi-circular apse surmounted by the half-dome and a barrel vaulted coffered ceiling over the nave which has colonnaded aisles on either side. The interior is tastefully decorated in classical style. Paintings, sculptures, marble floors and stained glass windows add to the grandeur. Classical style balustrading and decorative stone urns decorate the main structure and parapet to the terrace.

***Architectural
Merit***

St. Margaret's Church is a fine example of Classical Revival Style and a valuable piece of built heritage. The church appears to be fairly authentic in appearance with only minor alterations and additions in evidence.

***Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

There are other churches in Hong Kong in this architectural style, but each church is unique in its design excepting the basilica plan which is common to all having been adopted by the early Christian Church from Roman architecture.

Rarity

Although the church was not built by public subscription, many Catholics living in the neighbourhood made their contributions by donating furniture to adorn and embellish the church. This reflects their strong sentimental connection with the building.

***Social Value &
Local Interest***

The church administers to the needs of the local Catholic community through its church services and St. Margaret's Parish Centre next door. Although

now surrounded by high-rise buildings, the church is situated on an elevated site at the junction of Ventris Road and Broadwood Road and is a well known local landmark in the area.

The Church has group value with other historic buildings in Happy Valley and Causeway Bay such as St. Paul's Primary Catholic School (聖保祿天主教小學) in Wong Nai Chung Road. ***Group Value***

It is unlikely the church will cease to be used as a place of worship and therefore the question of adaptive re-use does not arise. ***Adaptive Re-use***