Historic Building Appraisal

S.K.H. St. Luke's Settlement Neighbourhood Elderly Centre

No. 47 Victoria Road, Hong Kong

Historical Interest

S.K.H. St. Luke's Settlement Neighbourhood Elderly Centre (聖公會聖路加福群會長者鄰舍中心), previously known as St. Luke's Chapel (聖路加堂), was built in 1951. It was used both as a church and a clinic providing services to the poor people in the neighbourhood from the 1950s to 1970s. However, this medical service was ended once Kennedy Town Jockey Club Clinic (堅尼地城賽馬會診療所) and other medical services were established in this area in the 1970s. St. Luke's Chapel then provided other social services for the public. It was used as a youth centre that provided recreation place and courses for the youth. It also provided cafeteria for the students and working people nearby. With the funding provided by the Social Welfare Department, it has become a centre for the elderly since 1979.

Architectural Merit

The building consists of a two-storey central part flanked on each side by single-storey wings. The walls are finished with rough dressed masonry and the pitched roofs are finished with corrugated sheets. Windows have concrete surrounds in 1950s style. The windows are mostly metal framed casements. The cockloft over the centre part seems to be used for storage. Exposed trusses can be seen supporting the roof. A stone chimney can be seen at the rear which served the kitchen. A bellcote surmounted by a cross is featured over the front gable wall which is finished with a chequered pattern decorated with crosses. Internally, original wooden panelled doors and the wooden staircase can be seen. The architectural style of this building has been described as modernized **Arts and Crafts**.

Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

The architecture of the 1950s has been somewhat overlooked. This modest little building is quite a good example although renovation and alteration works have changed its original appearance. A large renovation project, involving the roofs and the external walls, took place about 1993. During that time, the building was re-roofed and the original front porch was enclosed to become a small activity room. Two windows of the set of three on the west wing were replaced by a single door, which is now sealed up to make the interior space into a sitting area. Nevertheless the building has built heritage value.

Social Value & Local Interest

The social value of the building lies in the role it has played as a religious centre, a clinic, and a centre for the elderly providing social welfare services. It is of local interest in the area.

Group Value

Located along Victoria Road, St. Luke Chapel is at a distant from the centre of Kennedy Town, where the location is considered to be a relatively remote area. Lui Ming Choi Memorial Primary School (呂明才紀念小學) is situated uphill at the back, which has a close connection with St. Luke Chapel. It is physically close to Sai Ning Street Park (西寧街公園), where a boundary stone of Victoria City is located. On the other hand, the arch and foundation stone for the Tung Wah Smallpox Hospital (東華痘局拱門與奠定石) laid in 1901 is found at the bus terminus of Kennedy Town which is also nearby.

Adaptive Re-use

An adaptive re-use could probably be found, but as the building is relatively small and car parking is limited, it is difficult to suggest an appropriate use.