

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Old Victoria Barracks, Montgomery Block**  
**No. 42B Kennedy Road, Central, H.K.**

Old Victoria Barracks was one of the first British military compounds in Hong Kong. There were over thirty military buildings in the Barracks but most of them were demolished. The buildings which still exist; for example, Cassels Block (卡素樓), Montgomery Block (蒙高瑪利樓), Roberts Block (羅拔時樓), Rawlinson House (羅連信樓) and Wavell Block (華福樓) – together with the declared monument Flagstaff House (舊三軍司令官邸) – used to serve as residences and dormitories. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the buildings were used by the Japanese. In 1979, Victoria Barracks was handed back to the Hong Kong Government, and part of it was converted into the Hong Kong Park. Today, the buildings are individually converted into a visual arts centre, offices, and museum respectively.

*Historical  
Interest*

Named after Field Marshal **Bernard Law Montgomery** (1887-1976), **Montgomery Block** is located high above Kennedy Road. It was built in the same phase as Cassels Block in the early 1900s as army married quarters to solve the quartering problem following the surrender of North Barracks and part of Wellington Barracks to the Royal Navy. In 1987, **Montgomery Block** was occupied by an organization known as Mother's Choice, and in 1992 a small portion of the building was given rent free to a non-government organization called KELY Support Group (啟勵扶青會).

Montgomery Block is a three-storey building with white painted stuccoed elevations. The front elevation consists of Tuscan order columns forming rectangular window and balcony openings supporting horizontal strings and cornices. The balconies on the west elevation have been enclosed by glazing but the original balustrading still exists at first floor level. The central part of the roof is pitched. Internally, some original wooden French doors, ceilings and fireplaces have been preserved. The architectural style of the building can be classified as colonial **Edwardian Classical Revival**.

*Architectural  
Merit*

As one of the surviving buildings of the old Victoria Barracks, Montgomery Block has built heritage value, although enclosure of the verandahs and other alterations and additions have affected the authenticity and appearance of the building.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

As army married quarters, the social value to the community of *Social Value*

Montgomery Block was relatively low, but Mother's Choice and KELY Support Group provide social services and give the place local interest. ***& Local Interest***

Montgomery Block, together with other blocks of the Old Victoria Barracks, the Flagstaff House (舊三軍司令官邸) and the Former Explosives Magazine (舊域多利軍營軍火庫) in the vicinity form an integral part of the historic compound of the old Victoria Barracks. They are also physically close to items graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board such as St. Joseph's College (聖約瑟書院), St. Paul's Co-educational College (聖保羅男女中學) and First Church of Christ Scientist (基督科學教會香港第一分會). ***Group Value***

If the present tenants move out presumably others could be found, or the block restored for residential use. The building could also be converted into small offices or workshops. ***Adaptive Re-use***