

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Peak Café
No. 121 Peak Road, The Peak

As for the origins of the existing Old Peak Café (舊山頂餐廳), it is evident that an open-sided shelter was built in 1901-1902 by the Public Works Department (PWD) on this site for the accommodation of both public and private sedan chairs. On the other hand, it is believed that before the completion of the sedan chair shelter, the Peak Tramways had built on this site a workshop and a shelter for engineers responsible for the construction of the Peak Tram in 1888. On completion of the tramway the site and the building thereon was handed back to the government. The site was used as a shelter for sedan chair bearers until 1947, when the building was converted into an open-air cafeteria. In 1973 a public petition was raised to prevent redevelopment of the site and to save the building from demolition.

*Historical
Interest*

The Old Peak Café is a pitched-roof single-storey building built in the style of an English country cottage. It is built in the style of architecture known as **Arts and Crafts** which was a popular style in the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. Externally, notable architectural features are the stone walls, arched windows, black-and-white half timbering to the gable and prominent stone chimney stack. The use of Chinese tiles for the roof is a local adaptation. The low random rubble masonry boundary wall and the trees and shrubs in the garden complete the image of a picturesque rustic cottage.

*Architectural
Merit*

Examples of Arts and Crafts architecture are rare in Hong Kong and the Old Peak Café is an important part of our built heritage, although due to many alterations and improvements over the years its original appearance must have been changed somewhat.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

As the 1973 campaign to save the café proved, the building has sentimental and social value to many local people. Its rare style of architecture and rustic appearance blends in well with the surrounding environment.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

The Old Peak Café is physically close to the Peak Depot (山頂倉庫), the Victoria Gap Substation (爐峰峽變壓站) and the Peak Tramways Co. Ltd. (山頂纜車有限公司).

Group Value

Although adaptive re-uses could probably be found for the building, it has a loyal clientele as a café and is likely to remain as such in the foreseeable future.

*Adaptive
Re-use*