

Historic Building Appraisal
Queen Mary Hospital Nurses Quarters
No. 102 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong

The **Nurses Quarters** (now known as Nurses Quarters Block A) of Queen Mary Hospital (瑪麗醫院), together with the Main Block, were the two oldest structures of Queen Mary Hospital which came into operation in 1937. The **Nurses Quarters** has served as a supporting facility to Queen Mary Hospital for over 70 years. The Nurses Quarters together with other hospital buildings form a large medical compound in the hillside of Pok Fu Lam. It is one of the remaining examples evidencing the medical history of Hong Kong.

*Historical
Interest*

Queen Mary Hospital was built by the Public Works Department and named after Queen Mary. Once the largest hospital in Hong Kong, it has been (and still is) providing clinical training for students of the Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong. During the period of Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), it served as a military hospital. In the past decades, the hospital compound underwent several facelifts; however, the **Nurses Quarters** still stands and remains authentic in external appearance.

The **Nurses Quarters** is rectangular in shape and consists of six storeys. Sharing the same architectural style with the Main Building, the Nurses Quarters is Neo-Classical with Italianate Renaissance influence. The facade of the ground floor storey is rusticated with voussoirs to the rectangular windows. There is a moulded string course at first level, a moulded cornice at fourth floor level and a wide projecting eaves at parapet level. The main walls are plain with no ornamentation. Windows are abundantly and regularly spaced. The sixth floor was built on the original flat roof in 1982. Similar to the Main Block, the Nurses Quarters probably has a steel framed structure with external walls finished in Shanghai plaster. It is well maintained both externally and internally.

*Architectural
Merit*

The **Nurses Quarters** has built heritage value and remains authentic in appearance. It appears to have undergone some extent of modification like the installation of elevators. Contrary to the Main Block, all verandahs of the Nurses Quarters remain open. Internal wooden fittings like doors, staircases and some flooring are still in place.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The **Nurses Quarters** is one of the two oldest buildings on the hospital

Social Value

site. It is well remembered by the nursing staff of the Hospital. Ms Clara Ko, *& Local Interest* who was a probationer nurse in 1938, recalls:

I was living at the Nurses Quarters where each of the rooms was shared by two occupants. My monthly salary was \$40 from which \$10 was deducted as fees for meal and laundry. I can still remember that we enjoyed the moonlight on the verandah of the Nurses Quarters, particularly at the Moon Festival.

Ms Ruby Leung, the principal of the Hospital's Nursing School in 1997, recalls:

As soon as I set foot on Queen Mary Hospital as a student nurse, I was particularly struck by the Nurses Quarters – a building with an elegant appearance.... The building was floored with timber and decorated with arm chairs and old-styled gramophone.... The nurses like to gather at the verandahs of the Nurses Quarters to enjoy the fascinating view of the sunset.

The Queen Mary Hospital **Nurses Quarters** is one of the oldest buildings on the hospital site. The other old building on site is the Main Block (also built in 1937). They are physically close to a number of historic buildings, including “**Jessville**” (Grade 3) at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road, **Douglas Castle** (德格拉斯堡) (the present University Hall, Declared Monument) at No. 144 Pok Fu Lam Road, **Bethanie** (伯大尼修院) (Declared Monument) and Cowshed of the Old Dairy Farm at No.139 Pok Fu Lam Road and “**Alberose**” (玫瑰邨) (Grade 2) at Nos. 132A & 132B Pok Fu Lam Road.

Group Value