

Historic Building Appraisal

308

Sham Shui Po Police Station

No. 37A Yen Chow Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

Sham Shui Po Police Station (深水埗警署) was built in 1925. The architects were Palmer and Turner and the contract was let to Wing Yick Company. It was built in response to rapid increase of population due to the influx of Chinese immigrants. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the police station was used as a command post to administer the internment camp nearby. During the riots in October 1956, which first broke out in Lee Cheng Uk (李鄭屋), the police station was besieged by Nationalist (Guomindang) sympathisers and tear-gas and firearms were deployed. After the establishment of Cheung Sha Wan Police Station (長沙灣警署) in 1978, it became a sub-divisional police station.

*Historical
Interest*

The police station premises consist of five blocks named from A to E. The oldest building is Block C, which is a three-storey block having a symmetrical plan, with Neo-Classical facades facing Yen Chow Street (欽州街) and Lai Chi Kok Road (荔枝角道). The facades have deep verandahs at first and second floor levels with ornamental balustrades and giant columns. The verandahs jut out over the pavement and are supported by an arcade of semi-circular arches. The finish of the walls appears to be Shanghai plaster and the arches and columns of the arcade are grooved with imitation voussoirs, keystones and joints to resemble stonework. The roof is pitched and covered with Chinese tiles. Several chimney stacks protrude above the roofline. The facades facing the courtyard are more modern looking. The facades of the other blocks are also of modern design with rectangular forms, flat roofs, white walls, regular bands of windows and long horizontal projecting balconies and typhoon canopies.

*Architectural
Merit*

Sham Shui Po Police Station is one of the oldest police stations in Kowloon. With its powerful and symmetrical facades, it is a distinctive piece of architecture with obvious built heritage value. It is well maintained with many original architectural features still preserved.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the police station lies in its continuous service to the local community in maintaining law and order since its establishment in 1925. Special programmes targeting the district's needs have been launched such as the setting up of Neighbourhood Policing Units and the Police Community Youth Camps for teenagers living in the district. With its prominent position at the corner of Yen Chow Street and Lai Chi Kok Road it is a landmark in the

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

area.

Sham Shui Po Police Station is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as Nos. 51 & 53 Yen Chow Street (欽州街) (Grade 1), No. 58 Castle Peak Road (青山道), Sham Shu Po (Grade 2), Sham Shui Po Public Dispensary (深水埔醫局, Grade 2), Tin Hau Temple (天后廟, Grade 3), Mo Tai Temple (武帝廟, Grade 2), and Sam Tai Tsz Temple (三太宮, Grade 2) and Pak Tai Temple (北帝宮, Grade 3). **Group Value**