

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Police Bungalow
Nos. 173 and 175 Kwong Fuk Road, Tai Po, N.T.

Built in 1909, the Old Police Bungalow is located on the top of a hill along Kwong Fuk Road (廣福路) in Tai Po, opposite to the Old Tai Po Police Station (舊大埔警署) and the Old District Office North (舊北區理民府) which were also built around that period. The bungalow was the residence of four single police officers at the time when it was built. In the late 1940s, it provided accommodation to senior police officers such as the Divisional Superintendent of the New Territories (e.g. Norman Burgess Fraser) and the Senior Superintendent of Police (e.g. Alexander Lundie Gordon and Thomas Cashman). In 1991, the bungalow was taken over by Norwegian School (挪威學校) as a kindergarten. The detached servants' quarters and stable building were believed to have been built at the same time as the bungalow. A cannon is found in the southern part of the bungalow, facing Tolo Harbour.

***Historical
Interest***

The bungalow is a single-storey building with a semi-basement; part of the building is raised and supported on brick arches. The walls are of red brickwork, and the huge pitched roof is of double pan-and-roll Chinese tiling carried on hardwood rafters and China fir poles. The roof is hipped with wide overhanging eaves on ornamental brackets and central chimney stacks at the apex. The design bears Arts and Crafts influence. Such influence is also identified at the servants' quarters annex and the separate stable building in the grounds. From visual inspection and scrutiny of the plans it is evident that an open verandah ran most of the way all around the bungalow.

***Architectural
Merit***

The bungalow and its outbuildings are rare examples of surviving colonial style buildings in the New Territories and, as such, of obvious built heritage value. Although various alterations have been carried out over the years such as enclosure of the bungalow's open verandah and painting of the stable block's walls, the buildings still retain an authentic appearance.

***Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

The bungalow is situated near to the Old District Office North responsible for civil administration in the district, and the Old Tai Po Police Station responsible for law and order in the area. These buildings, together with Island House, former residence of the former North District Officer, later the District Commissioner of the New Territories and finally the former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, symbolised the power of colonial administration in the old days and therefore have high group value, social value and local interest.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The Old Police Bungalow is located in vicinity to other colonial buildings of its time, such as the Old Tai Po Police Station (舊大埔警署, Grade 1), the Old District Office North (舊北區理民府, Declared Monument) and Island House (前政務司官邸, Declared Monument). ***Group Value***