

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Old Kowloon Fire Station**  
**Main Block & Accommodation Barrack**  
**No. 33 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon**

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Old Kowloon Fire Station was built in 1920 and the two-storey barrack block at the rear (used as accommodation barrack for firemen and foreman) was built in 1922. It served as a fire station, except during the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), until 1971 when it was replaced by the new fire station in Canton Road. The buildings then served as a temporary parcel receiving and delivery division of the Post Office until 1985, when the first floor was taken over by the Marine Police and used as changing and locker rooms. In 1991 it was reallocated to the Police Force Catering Office for use as a temporary office and store. In 1986 the ground floor was leased to the Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui Culture and Arts Association (油尖區文化藝術協會) at a peppercorn rent. The Welfare Handicrafts Store (福利工藝社) used to be next to it.

*Historical  
Interest*

The buildings are built with red-brick walls and imitation stonework ornamentation such as plinths, string courses, cornices, parapets, keystones, lintels, column capitals and cappings to chimney stacks. Some of the windows have flat arches of gauged and rubbed bricks. Original wooden casement windows still exist. The roofs are a mixture of flat roofs and Chinese tiled pitched roofs. The architecture is both utilitarian and stylish at the same time and cannot conveniently be classified into an architectural category. Probably the buildings can best be described as Colonial Eclectic, meaning Colonial style buildings which adopt some local traditional features, in this case Chinese tiled roofs.

*Architectural  
Merit*

Buildings of this style are quite rare and hard to find in Hong Kong. It is unusual to see fair faced brickwork these days as most brick buildings have had their exterior walls painted over. Although the buildings have acquired many excrescences over the years they still manage to retain an authentic appearance.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

The social value of the old fire station buildings lies in the various functional uses they have been put to in the past which mostly served the needs of the community. With their distinctive red-brick appearance and prominent position on the corner of Kowloon Park Drive and Salisbury Road, the buildings have been well known landmarks in Tsim Sha Tsui for many years.

*Social Value  
& Local  
Interest*

The Old Kowloon Fire Station is within walking distance of other historic

*Group Value*

buildings, such as the former Kowloon-Canton Railway Clock Tower (前九廣鐵路鐘樓), the former Marine Police Headquarters Compound (前水警總部), the Signal Tower at Blackhead Point (大包米訊號塔, all Declared Monuments), and Peninsula Hotel (半島酒店, Grade 1).