

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Ping Shan Police Station
Ping Shan, Yuen Long, New Territories

Situated at the hilltop east of Hang Tau Tsuen (坑頭村) in Ping Shan, Old Ping Shan Police Station (舊屏山警署) was built in **1900/01** after the British takeover of the New Territories. It was to command villages and the valley lying between Castle Peak and Deep Bay. The site for the police station is said to have been chosen by the Superintendent of Police **Francis Henry May** in 1899. Local villagers stated that the police station, which imitates a rock suppressing the crab-like hill, upset the *fung-shui* of the village. The police station was replaced by Yuen Long Police Station in 1961 and was used by the Police Dog Unit from 1966 until 1995, then the West Sector Base of Traffic New Territories North until 2001. Nowadays, the premises have been converted into Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery (屏山鄧族文物館).

*Historical
Interest*

The main building in the police station complex is a two-storey white walled building with observation posts at roof level and arched and colonnaded verandahs. Originally it had a pitched roof of Chinese tiles. It was a typical **Neo-Classical Colonial** style building. On the north side, quarters for officers in the form of a two-storey rectangular structure connected to the main building form the Annex Block. This annex building also has white walls, open verandahs and a pitched Chinese tile roof. Two chimney stacks are prominent on this building. There is also a small rectangular single-storey detached building that was originally a store. It is a simple brick built building with a pitched roof and overhanging eaves. A single chimney stack to serve the fireplace still remains. Other buildings in the compound were the dog kennels for the Police Dog Unit which was based there from 1966 to 1995.

*Architectural
Merit*

These colonial style buildings are quite rare in such a remote rural area and taken together they have group value as well as built heritage value. The authenticity of the main building has been compromised to some extent by replacement of the original pitched roof with a flat roof and four corner observation towers.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the police station lies in its role in maintaining law and order in this remote corner of the New Territories. As one of the early British police stations in the New Territories it has historical as well as local interest.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

Old Ping Shan Station is near Ping Shan Heritage Trail, which links up a number of traditional Chinese buildings and structures within easy walking

Group Value

distance.

Old Ping Shan Police Station has now been converted into a folk museum devoted mainly to the Ping Shan Tang Clan.

Adaptive

Re-use