

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Block GG of the Old Victoria Barracks**  
**Justice Drive, Central, Hong Kong**

**Block GG** is one of the last remaining structures of the Old Victoria Barracks, which was one of the first British military compounds in Hong Kong. There were over thirty military buildings in the Barracks but most of them were demolished in the 1980s. Block GG is believed to have been built around the 1930s. It was initially used as an outpost station of the military explosives depot, and latterly as the Command Pay Office by the Royal Army Pay Corps. After the military left the barracks it was used as a maintenance contractor's workshop and as a store for core samples by the Geotechnical Control Office.

***Historical  
Interest***

This old barrack block has an elongated U-shape with a verandah along the front elevation facing a small garden. Rooms are arranged along the corridor and also in the projecting wings at the return ends. The rear façade faces Justice Drive and there is a flight of access steps at the north end of the building. Block GG is a single-storey structure with a flat roof. Windows, doors and rainwater pipes are placed at regular intervals. The walls are rendered and painted although much of the paint finish has now weathered away. The building exhibits some colonial influence in the open verandah, but there are virtually no decorations externally and its architectural style is probably best classified as **Utilitarian**. The interior is very much dilapidated, but some rather basic architectural features still remain intact.

***Architectural  
Merit***

Due to redevelopment all around it, Block GG is now one of the oldest buildings in the vicinity, and remains as an example of military utilitarian style architecture. As one of the buildings of the former Victoria Barracks it has built heritage value. There are no apparent alterations to the building which retains its authentic appearance.

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

As a former military building, Block GG does not have a lot of social value, but it has some sentimental value to those who remember Victoria Barracks in its heyday. As one of the last remaining buildings of the old barracks it has historical and local interest.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

Block GG is an integral part of the historic compound of the Old Victoria Barracks, including Rawlinson House (羅連信樓), Cassels Block (卡素樓), Wavell Block (華福樓), Roberts Block (羅拔時樓) and Montgomery Block (蒙高瑪利樓) in the vicinity. In the southern side is the Former Explosive

***Group Value***

Magazine (舊域多利軍營軍火庫) which is considered an integrated part of Block GG. It is also enclosed in an environment rich in natural resources.

Block GG will be preserved and restored by incorporated in a scheme to *Adaptive* convert the compound into a “Place of Recreation, Sports and Culture” to be *Re-use* run by the **Asia Society Hong Kong Center** which was established in 1990 and has become a forum for public discussion of regional and global affairs.