

Historic Building Appraisal

Old Sheung Shui Police Station

Sheung Shui Heung, Sheung Shui, New Territories

Old Sheung Shui Police Station (舊上水警署) was built in **1902** and was one of thirteen police stations built soon after the British took over the New Territories. It appears to have been built to replace an earlier police station which was opened in 1899 at Fu Ti Au (虎地凹), a remote part of Sheung Shui which was in a vulnerable position and had become too small to accommodate additional personnel. ***Historical Interest***

On 8 March 1915, the Old Sheung Shui Police Station received a report that a tiger had been seen in Lung Yeuk Tau. The tiger was shot but not before it had attacked constable Ruttan Singh (屈頓星) who died from his injuries. The tiger's head was later presented to the local museum in the Old City Hall, where it was on view until the demolition of the building in 1933. Since then, it was stored at Central Police Station for 55 years until the opening of the new Police Museum in 1984.

Between 1941 and 1945, the Old Shueng Shui Police Station was occupied by the Japanese troops as divisional headquarters. After the Liberation, British soldiers set up their headquarters there. In 1945, police officers reoccupied the premises. In March 1979, the new Sheung Shui Police Station was opened and the old station became a police reporting centre (警民關係組辦公室) and later a Junior Police Corps (JPC) Club House (少年警訊會所).

There are three structures in the old police station compound being the main building, a rear wing separated by an open yard, and a barrack and canteen block which was built in 1979. The two old buildings were built in **Neo-Classical Colonial** style with possibly some **Arts and Crafts** influence. The two-storey main block has plain rendered and painted walls with open arched and colonnaded verandahs at the front. Originally it had a pitched Chinese tiled roof, but this was replaced by a flat roof, corner observation towers and a defensive parapet wall with loopholes. The arches and columns are decorated with moulded architraves, keystones and moulded capitals. The single-storey rear wing has plain rendered and painted walls, a Chinese tiled pitched roof, chimney stacks and some original wooden casement windows. The barrack and canteen block is also single-storey with plain rendered and painted walls, a pitched roof of corrugated sheets and modern doors and windows. ***Architectural Merit***

It is rare to find a colonial style building in a rural area such as this. Now over 100 years old, the old police station has historical value as well as built heritage value. Inevitably, some alterations and changes have been made over the years for operational requirements, but the old building still retains its colonial charm.

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

The social value of the old police station lies in the role it played in maintaining law and order in this remote part of the New Territories. As a Western style colonial building surmounted by village houses it brings local interest to the area.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

Old Sheung Shui Police Station is one of the oldest surviving police stations in the territories. Both the layout and the structure of the building compound, as well as its decorations, mouldings, windows and doors have been preserved well. There are also other historic buildings in traditional Chinese style nearby. They are Liu Ying Lung Study Hall, Ming Tak Tong (明德堂) and Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall (廖萬石堂) founded by the Liu lineage.

Group Value

Since July 1993, the Old Police Sheung Shui Police Station has been used as a Junior Police Corps Club House.

***Adaptive
Re-use***