

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Aberdeen Police Station
No. 116 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Old Aberdeen Police Station (舊香港仔警署) was built in 1891. It was a replacement of an old station to strengthen the law and order of the expanding fishing community in the Southern District. The premises were bombarded during the Japanese invasion in 1941 and the European officers of the Station were sent to the Stanley Internment Camp during the wartime when Hong Kong was occupied by the Japanese. The premises were badly damaged during the Japanese invasion in 1941. The old police station was closed in 1969 following the construction of a new police station in Wong Chuk Hang Road.

***Historical
Interest***

Since 1969, the Old Aberdeen Police Station has been used by various government departments. From 1969 to 1980, the building served as a Detective Training School. From 1979 to 1982, it was used as the Marine Police Training School. From 1982 to 1986, the building was occupied by the Marine South Station. From 1987 to 1994, the premises were left vacant. During this period of time, the building was once temporarily occupied by the Financial Investigation Group of the Narcotics Bureau in 1989. The site has been rented to a non-profit organization called The Warehouse (蒲窩) for use as a teenagers' centre and clubhouse since 1995.

The old police station and its annexes and extensions are built in **Neo-Classical Colonial** style with **Arts and Crafts** influence. The main building is a long rectangular two-storey building with open front verandahs in red Canton brickwork. Originally the roof was pitched but it is now a flat roof. Tall chimney stacks project above the roofline. The brickwork is trimmed with granite string courses and moulded projecting cornices. Verandah columns have granite bases and capitals. Windows have granite cills and lintels and narrow strips of granite on either side said to resemble Chinese couplets. Original casement windows, metal balustrades and sun baffles still remain. The rear elevation is plainer with an extended verandah roofed with Chinese tiles. The annex buildings are all single-storey, built in a similar but simpler style to the main building with red bricks, stone dressings, extended verandahs and Chinese tiled pitched roofs. Original doors and windows also chimney stacks still remain.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is quite rare to find old red-brick buildings nowadays in Hong Kong as most had have their brick walls painted over. The buildings are interesting examples of late Victorian Neo-Classical colonial style buildings and should be regarded as having considerable built heritage value as well as historical value.

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

Although repairs and renovations have been carried out over the years the buildings still retain their original authentic appearance.

The social value of the buildings lies in their function as a police station, government offices and latterly as a teenagers' centre. Set on a hill overlooking the sea, the old police station would have been a visible reminder of the presence of authority, law and order. The buildings are important as they are part of the built heritage of Aberdeen and, with other old buildings nearby, have significant group value.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

Old Aberdeen Police Station is important as an integral component of a significant architectural and historical group of buildings in Aberdeen. At the foot of the sloping terrace, the Shek Pai Wan Tin Hau Temple (1851) is found, and the Holy Spirit Seminary (1931) is also situated in an elevated position not far away.

Group Value

The floor plans show that the main building is well planned with good circulation and numerous rooms. It should not be too difficult to find an appropriate re-use for it should the present occupants move out.

***Adaptive
Re-use***