Historic Building Appraisal

Peak Police Station

No. 92 Peak Road, The Peak, Hong Kong

Historical Interest

Peak Police Station (山頂警署) was built in 1886 to replace the Victoria Gap Road Police Station. It was also known in the early 1900s as Mount Gough Police Station and Gough Hill Police Station (歌賦山警署). In the past, Indian and Chinese (Shandong 山東) constables, led by a European Sergeant and his European deputy, were living in the station. On top of crime fighting, the police station was also responsible for fire fighting and monitoring the situation of malaria in the Hill District during inter-war years. The fire-fighting ability of the Peak police was so well known that they were even called to a large fire on Ap Li Chau (鴨脷洲) in 1937. The police station was taken over by the Japanese during World War II. It was severely damaged by looters who stole all the woodwork after the war and was not reopened until 1949. The 1950s was a busy time for the station as burglaries were ramping in the District. It is now a sub-divisional station coming under Central Police Station (中區警署).

Architectural Merit

The four blocks which make up the police station proper are the Main Block, the Servants and Kitchen Block, the Barrack Shed and the Former Cell. The Main Block is a long single storey building which was built originally in **Neo-Classical Colonial** style with open colonnaded and balustraded verandahs and a pitched roof of Chinese tiles. The verandahs have now been enclosed and the pitched roof replaced with a flat roof. Its authenticity and architectural value have therefore been destroyed. The Barrack Shed and the Servants and Kitchen Block are single-storey structures with Chinese tile roofs. They are of local **Arts and Crafts** style featuring white painted walls, black plinths, prominent chimney stacks and segmental arched doorways and windows. The original windows have been replaced with modern units. The Former Cell is a small square brick structure now used as a store.

Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

The buildings themselves are not particularly rare and their authenticity and architectural value have been destroyed by alterations and additions. Nevertheless the basic structures remain and could be restored to their original appearance by a sympathetic restoration project.

Social Value & Local Interest

The social value of the police station lies in its role in maintaining law and order on the Peak. It is a popular tourist spot famous for its outdoor exhibits including an old cannon and a relief model of the district which is used to help visitors locate places on the Peak.

Peak Police Station is a tourist attraction. It is also important as an integral component close to a number of graded buildings, namely, Peak Depot (山頂倉庫), Old Peak Café (舊山頂餐廳), Former Peak School (前山頂學校), Maternity Block of Old Victoria Hospital (舊域多利醫院) and Matilda & War Memorial Hospital (明德醫院). ***Group Value***

As far as is known there are no plans to close down the police station so that the question of adaptive re-use does not really arise. It will probably continue to be used as a police station for many years to come. ***Adaptive Re-use***