

Historic Building Appraisal
English Schools Foundation Peak School
No. 20 Plunkett's Road, The Peak, Hong Kong

The Peak School in Plunkett's Road (賓吉道) was built in **1953** and additional classrooms were added in 1966. Since its establishment, the Peak School had been dedicated to the education of English-speaking children living in the Peak area. It had its first school building constructed in 1915 in No.7 Gough Hill Path (歌賦山里) where the former Peak School with approximate areas 42,312 square feet was built by the Public Works Department. The present school building was opened in 1953 to replace the former school building which had become too small due to the increase in the population of the Peak. The Peak School was formerly managed by the Education Department. Since 1979, it has come under the management of the English Schools Foundation (英基學校協會).

*Historical
Interest*

The school is built to an irregular and asymmetrical roughly U-shaped plan. It is three stories high and stepped to suit the site formation platform. The steps and numerous set-backs give the building an organic form. The architectural style may be described as **International Modern**. The school has a reinforced concrete space frame, with beams, columns and slabs. The elevations are compositions of vertical and horizontal geometric designs tastefully painted in pale blue and white contrasting with the vertical staircase enclosures which are built of natural granite. Most of the original steel framed windows and doors still survive. Some of the interior finishes have been changed but original terrazzo skirtings and old style mosaic floor tiles still exist to the two staircases. Other than that there do not appear to have been any significant alterations.

*Architectural
Merit*

The Peak School is a good example of post-World War II International Modern architectural style and should be regarded as having considerable built heritage value. It appears to have retained much of its original authentic design.

*Rarity, Built
Heritage Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the Peak School lies in the role it has played in providing English style education to children in the Peak area. The school is well known in the area. The Peak is an area of tourist visiting and high grade residences including some buildings of similar age and full of greenery that offer a quiet low density and relax environment matches with the heritage quality of the Peak School. Many of the buildings in the surrounding area were designed in pre-modern style that match with this school building.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

Certain heritage buildings are neighbouring include the Former Chatham English School (前漆咸英文學校) in No.1 Chatham Path, Matilda Hospital (明德醫院) in No.41 Mount Kellett Road, the Peak Café (山頂餐廳) in No.121 Peak Road, The Peak Tramway Office (山頂纜車辦事處) in No.1 Lugard Road, the Peak Depot (山頂倉庫) in No.102 Old Peak Road, Ho Tung Gardens (曉閣園) in No.75 Peak Road, the Peak Police Station (山頂警署) in No.92 Peak Road and the Former Peak School (前山頂學校) in No.7 Gough Hill Path.

Group Value

As far as is known there are no plans to close down the school so that the question of adaptive re-use does not really arise.

Adaptive***Re-use***