

Historic Building Appraisal

Stone House

No. 15 Kotewall Road, Mid-levels, Hong Kong

Stone House (石寓) is a two-level building that was probably built in 1923. It originally had three levels and the top level was demolished to make way for redevelopment of the present high-rise Hattan House. The second floor were probably used as a servant's quarter while the ground floor was utilized as a coach house (or garage) with access to Kotewall Road. Stone House is the only surviving coach house in Kotewall Road associated with the style of social living in Mid-Levels in the early colonial period. *Historical Interest*

Stone House was probably the coach house for the former nearby Hatton House, the site of which has been redeveloped into the new Hatton House in 1972. According to an archive in 1939-1940 now deposited at the Hong Kong Public Records Office, Sir Robert H. Kotewall (羅旭龢, 1880-1949) was the owner of No. 15 Kotewall Road (Old Hattan House, also known as "Kotewall House"). Sometime during the late 1940s Stone House was occupied by the Foreign Correspondents' Club, a journalists' association formed in Chungking in 1943.

Stone House is built in a rather simplified **Classical Revival** style which was popular in the 1920s. The two-storey building is 3,128 square feet in size, with mezzanine bedrooms and an elegant **Regency** style staircase. The structure is a composition of reinforced concrete beams and slabs and massive granite external walls six feet thick. The front façade facing Kotewall Road has three large door openings at ground floor level and three rectangular shaped windows at upper level with bow-shaped heads and key-stones. Decorations are simple. The walls are painted white, the doorways are flanked by simple classical columns and there is a dentil moulded projecting cornice at parapet level. A semi-circular glazed canopy, planters, coach lamps and window boxes are considered to be later additions. The end wall is an interesting bow shape again indicating **Regency** influence. *Architectural Merit*

Old coach houses were once quite common in Hong Kong, but Stone House is now the only remaining example left in Kotewall Road and has therefore some built heritage value. Renovations have been carried out internally and it is believed that an upper third floor level was demolished as part of the redevelopment work in 1972. Otherwise the basic structure of Stone House remains undisturbed. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

Due to its associations with the social living style of Mid-levels residents in the inter-war colonial days, Stone House has historical value and local interest. *Social Value & Local Interest*

With its high ceilings and mezzanine floors it would make an ideal studio for artists or sculptors. *Adaptive Re-use*