

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Cape Collinson Lighthouse**  
**Cape Collinson, Hong Kong**

Cape Collinson Lighthouse (歌連臣角燈塔) was named after Lieutenant *Historical Interest* Thomas Collinson, who was a British Army Royal Engineer and was responsible for preparing many early maps of Hong Kong Island. The original Cape Collinson Lighthouse was built in 1876 and remains of the old structure can still be seen incorporated into the new lighthouse which was built on top of it in **1966**. The lighthouse was stationed by European officers at the early years. In the 1960s, it was stationed by a Chinese lighthouse-keeper named Mr Kwok Yuk-shing (郭玉成) who was responsible for maintaining the lighthouse and turning the light on and off. The Marine Department (海事處) managed the lighthouse until 1966 when the Royal Observatory took it over. Since the 1970s the lighthouse has been automated.

Due to extensive renovation and alteration in 1966 the present lighthouse *Architectural Merit* is now a **Modernist** structure with a **Utilitarian** function. The building is two-stories high with rendered and white painted walls, flat roofs and tubular steel “ship’s railings”. Windows and doors are rectangular in shape and protected by steel shutters. A bridge and steps give access to a walkway at first floor level which extends around the block. Internally, the walls are plastered and painted also the ceilings. Window openings are fitted with steel guard bars. Floors are screeded. A straight flight staircase connects the two floors. The interior is clean and tidy and well maintained. The site of the lighthouse is bounded by tall fences. There is a raised grassed area on the west side of the lighthouse where European staff quarters used to stand.

Cape Collinson Lighthouse differs from other tower type lighthouses in that it is a two-storey structure with the light apparatus on the roof. It is believed to be the only one of its kind. It has been extensively altered and renovated over the years so that its authenticity has been greatly diminished. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity* Nevertheless it has historic value and also built heritage value.

The social value of the lighthouse lies in the role it has played in guiding sea and air traffic for over a century. As a strictly functional building of modern appearance it is doubtful whether it attracts much local interest. *Social Value & Local Interest*

Situated in the mountainous area of Siu Sai Wan in Eastern District, Cape Collinson Lighthouse is sited in beautiful greenery and an advantageous location at the north-eastern end of Hong Kong Island. The declared *Group Value*

monument — Law Uk Hakka House (羅屋) is also located in the area. Other historic items in the vicinity include the few cemeteries along Cape Collinson Road, such as Sai Wan War Cemetery (西灣國殤紀念墳場), Cape Collinson Muslim Cemetery (歌連臣角猶太墳場) and Holy Cross Roman Catholic Cemetery (聖十字天主教墳場) which are all recorded by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

The question of adaptive re-use is not likely to arise in the foreseeable future. *Adaptive Re-use*