

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Bishop's House**  
**No. 1, Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong**

Located on a commanding site in Central District, formerly known as Tit Kong (鐵崗) or Iron Mound, the Bishop's House (會督府) is one of the most remarkable symbols of the development of the Anglican Church of Hong Kong (also known as Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui 香港聖公會). The first building on the site appears to have been a boys' school constructed in 1845-1848. Alterations and additions were made to the school building in 1851. The building then housed St. Paul's College (聖保羅書院) and also the Residence of the first appointed Bishop, George Smith, who was Warden of the College. The College nurtured many figures, including Wu Ting-fang (伍廷芳), a well-known diplomat and the first unofficial Chinese member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council in 1880.

*Historical  
Interest*

In December 1941, the school closed when Japan invaded Hong Kong. In 1950, St. Paul's College moved to Bonham Road. The old college building then became the residence and office of the Bishop of Hong Kong. Today the stone plaque inscribed with 聖保羅書院 (St Paul's College) is still visible near the main entrance of the Bishop's House.

The design of the building, which is quite unusual for Hong Kong, bears the influence of the Tudor Revival style. The building is two-storey with a semi-basement and an octagonal three-storey tower at the north-east corner. The oriel window, flat head and pointed windows, label mouldings over the windows, buttresses, and imitation cross-shaped loopholes to the top of the tower, for instance, display the influence of the Tudor Revival style. Classical elements are also apparent in the use of quoins, rusticated granite stonework to the ground floor storey on the north-east facade, the regularly spaced windows and the glazing bar patterns. A local adaptation is the use of red painted Chinese roof tiles. Overall the impression is castle-like and imposing. Internally, the building is believed to have undergone extensive modernisation, but the exterior is considered to be largely original and authentic. It is a rare piece of architecture with obvious built heritage value and local interest.

*Architectural  
Merit*

*Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

*Rarity, Social  
Value & Local  
Interest*

The Bishop's House is the heart of the Diocese of Hong Kong Island. It has group value with other historic buildings in its neighbourhood, such as St. Paul's Church (聖保羅堂, Grade 1), Church Guest House (教堂禮賓樓, Grade 1), the Old S.K.H. Kei Yan Primary School (舊聖公會基恩小學, now Kong Kit Building, originally the south wing of St. Paul's College, Grade 2), the Old Dairy

*Group Value*

Farm Depot (舊牛奶公司倉庫, Grade 1), the Former Central Police Station Compound (前中區警署), the Former Victoria Prison Compound (前域多利監獄) and the former Central Magistracy (前中央裁判司署) (all Declared Monuments) and the Old Victoria Barracks (舊域多利軍營, Grade 1).