

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2016

INTRODUCTION

After consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”)¹ and with the approval of the Chief Executive, the Secretary for Development (“SDEV”), in his capacity as the Antiquities Authority under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (the “Ordinance”), has decided to declare three Grade 1 historic buildings, namely Blocks 7, 10 and 25 at the old Lei Yue Mun Barracks (the “Barracks”), currently the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, to be historical buildings (“historical building” is one type of “monument” as defined under the Ordinance) under section 3(1) of the Ordinance.

A
2. The declaration is made by the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2016 (the “Notice”) (**Annex A**), which will be published in the Gazette on 20 May 2016.

JUSTIFICATIONS

Heritage Significance

3. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”)² of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has carried out research on and assessed

¹ AAB is a statutory body established under section 17 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance to advise the Antiquities Authority on any matters relating to antiquities, proposed monuments or monuments or referred to it for consultation under section 2A(1), section 3(1) or section 6(4) of the Ordinance.

² AMO is the executive arm of the Antiquities Authority dealing with matters, among others, relating to research, examination and preservation of any place, building, site or structure which is of historical, archaeological or palaeontological value.

the heritage significance of the three buildings set out in paragraph 1 above (the “Buildings”). AMO advises the Antiquities Authority that the Buildings have high heritage value that meets the high threshold required for declaration as historical buildings under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. The heritage value of the Buildings is summarised in paragraphs 4 to 11 below and elaborated in **Annex B**.

B

The Barracks

4. The Barracks was one of the earliest and most important British Army fortifications in Hong Kong. Situated at the northeast corner of Hong Kong Island overlooking the eastern approach to the Victoria Harbour, Lei Yue Mun occupied a strategic position. In 1885, the military decided to construct a permanent infrastructure at Lei Yue Mun. In 1889, land was transferred to the War Department for constructing barracks at Lei Yue Mun. The Barracks consisted of the central area (main barracks), the western ridge (upper fort) and the headland (lower fort). The main barracks, built at different times from 1890 to 1939, mainly served as offices and married quarters for the British Army. By the 1890s, the fortifications at Lei Yue Mun had fully become an important point of coastal defence and continued to expand in the following decades.

5. By the 1930s, however, the strategic importance of Lei Yue Mun declined considerably as a result of technological and tactical advances. On 19 December 1941, the Barracks fell to the hands of the Japanese in the Battle of Hong Kong. In the post-war period, the Barracks was used by the British Army as a training ground until 1987, after which the Barracks was returned to the Hong Kong Government for civil use. The central area and the western ridge have become the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village since 1988, whereas the military installations at the headland were restored to form the Museum of Coastal Defence which opened in 2000.

Block 7

6. Block 7 was built in 1890-1895 at the north end of the Barracks on top of a prestigious hill overlooking Lei Yue Mun Pass. It is believed to be one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development. Originally it was built as Officers Quarters for the Royal

Artillery. In the post-war period, it was used by the Hong Kong Military Service Corps as a Training Centre.

7. The architectural style of Block 7 is “Colonial Vernacular”, which featured the characteristic wide open verandahs on three sides, a raised ground floor and a central “Jack-Roof”. The building is rectangular in plan, of single-storey brick construction and set on low segmental arches. Two ornamental brick and granite chimney stacks still exist. External architectural features include simple square Tuscan order columns which support the verandah roofs. The main entrance doorway has a segmental arch and central keystone. Some Classical plaster mouldings to the ceiling cornices still remain.

Block 10

8. Block 10 was built in 1890-1895 with an extension added in 1935. The older part is believed to be one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development. It occupies a commanding site towards the north. Originally it was built as Soldiers Quarters for the Royal Artillery.

9. Block 10 is probably the most elegant building in the Barracks and a rare piece of simplified Classical design architecture. It is a three-storey long rectangular building featuring open arched, colonnaded and balustraded verandahs on the front and rear facades. The segmental arches are supported on square Tuscan order columns. The first and second floor verandahs have classical urn-shaped balustrading. The 1935 extension was generally constructed to the same scale and to the same design as the older block. The chimneys and most of the fireplaces still exist.

Block 25

10. Block 25 is believed to have been built in the late 1890s to early 1900s. It is one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development and is a good representative example of early colonial military architecture. It was used as the Officers Mess.

11. Block 25 is an elegant simplified Classical design two-storey building with open colonnaded and balustraded verandahs on three sides.

The east facade retains much of its original appearance. The walls and columns are painted brickwork. The verandahs are supported by square brick columns with simple bases and capitals. The first floor verandah has typical urn-shaped classical balustrading, but the balustrading to the ground floor verandah is of a different design. There are moulded cornices at the first floor level and at the eaves level. Internally, the spaces remain structurally similar to their original appearances.

Declaration as Monuments

12. The Buildings have been accorded with Grade 1 status by the AAB having regard to the recommendations of an independent assessment panel³ under the existing administrative grading mechanism⁴. AAB advised in November 2008 that all Grade 1 historic buildings should, given their outstanding heritage value, form a pool of potential candidates for the Antiquities Authority to consider monument declaration. With the recommendation of AMO as set out in paragraph 3 above, the support of the AAB and the approval of the Chief Executive, SDEV, as the Antiquities Authority, has decided to declare the Buildings as monuments under the Ordinance. In addition to reflecting the outstanding heritage value of the Buildings, the declaration will provide the Buildings with statutory protection⁵.

13. The declaration of the Buildings as monuments will be made by the Notice published in the Gazette on 20 May 2016. Copies of plans showing the locations of the Buildings declared by the Antiquities Authority as

C

³ The assessment panel comprises experts from the fields of town planning, architecture, engineering as well as history.

⁴ The grading system is an administrative arrangement to provide an objective basis for determining the heritage value, and hence the preservation need, of historic buildings in Hong Kong. Under the grading system:

- Grade 1 status refers to buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.
- Grade 2 status refers to buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve.
- Grade 3 status refers to buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

⁵ Section 6(1) of the Ordinance provides:

- “6(1) Subject to subsection (4), no person shall –
- (a) excavate, carry on building or other works, plant or fell trees or deposit earth or refuse on or in a proposed monument or monument; or
 - (b) demolish, remove, obstruct, deface or interfere with a proposed monument or monument,
- except in accordance with a permit granted by the Authority.”

historical buildings and deposited in the Land Registry are at **Annex C**. The Notice will take immediate effect and will be tabled in the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 25 May 2016.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

14. The declaration is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no financial, civil service, economic, productivity, environmental, family or gender implications. As far as sustainability implications are concerned, the declaration is conducive to upholding the sustainability principle of protecting Hong Kong's heritage assets.

15. Upon the declaration of the Buildings as monuments, the Government will continue to provide financial and technical assistance for their maintenance, with the relevant department meeting the maintenance costs concerned under the prevailing practice.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

16. AAB was consulted on the proposed declaration as required under section 3(1) of the Ordinance on 18 April 2016 and rendered its support.

PUBLICITY

17. A press release on the declaration will be issued on the date of declaration (i.e. 20 May 2016). A spokesman will be available to answer media and public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

18. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Mr. José YAM, Commissioner for Heritage of the Development Bureau, at 3509 8270.

Development Bureau
17 May 2016

**Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments
and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment)
Notice 2016**

(Made by the Secretary for Development under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive)

**1. Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and
Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) Notice amended**

The Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) Notice (Cap. 53 sub. leg. B) is amended as set out in section 2.

2. Paragraph 3 amended (declaration of historical buildings)

(1) Paragraph 3(bz)—

Repeal

“Development.”

Substitute

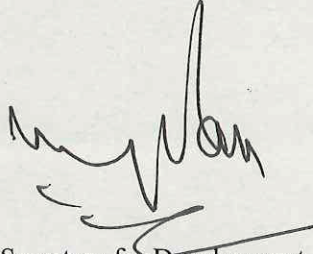
“Development;”.

(2) After paragraph 3(bz)—

Add

“(ca) Block 7 of the old Lei Yue Mun Barracks at 75 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM10000a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development;

- (cb) Block 10 of the old Lei Yue Mun Barracks at 75 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM10001a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development;
- (cc) Block 25 of the old Lei Yue Mun Barracks at 75 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM10002a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development.”.



Secretary for Development

14 May 2016

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings)
(Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2016

Explanatory Note
Paragraph 1

3

Explanatory Note

This Notice declares Blocks 7, 10 and 25 of the old Lei Yue Mun Barracks at 75 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, to be historical buildings under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53).

Heritage Appraisal of Block 7, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks (the “Barracks”) was one of the earliest *Historical* and most important British Army fortifications in Hong Kong. The name *Interest* was taken from the fishing village of Lei Yue Mun¹ (鯉魚門), the “Gateway of the Carp”, which lies on the mainland side of the narrow strait below Devil’s Peak. The Barracks was divided into three parts – the central area (main barracks), the western ridge (upper fort) and the headland (lower fort). The main barracks, built at different times from 1890 to 1939, mainly served as offices and married quarters for the British Army.

Situated at the northeast corner of Hong Kong Island overlooking the eastern approach to the Victoria Harbour, Lei Yue Mun occupied a strategic position. Before the establishment of the Barracks in the late nineteenth century, the British military had in 1844 built barracks at the nearby Sai Wan² (西灣) to the south of the channel³. Due to prevalent diseases such as malaria and dysentery which killed a sizable number of British soldiers and civilians, the barracks was later abandoned⁴. In 1885, the military switched their attention to construction of a permanent infrastructure at Lei Yue Mun. This was probably attributed to the possible attacks from Russia and France to the colony. As war fears increased, the then Hong Kong Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen was compelled to fund the construction of a fort at Lei Yue Mun Pass. In addition, other military installations, including a redoubt, barracks and a series of tunnels were built in the subsequent years, which altogether formed the Barracks. By the 1890s, the fortifications at Lei Yue Mun fully became an important point of coastal defence.

In the following three decades, the military installations at the Barracks continued to expand in size and number, including the erection of a number of new blocks in the central area. By the 1930s, however, the

¹ The place name of "Lei Yue Mun", in its old usage, includes "Lyemun", "Lyeemun", "Lyemoon" and "Lyeemoon".

² The place name of "Sai Wan" was also called "Saiwan" and "Sywan".

³ Bard, Solomon M. *Notes on the History of Hong Kong's Coastal Defences during the British Administration, with Special Reference to Lei Yue Mun*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, 2015: 37.

⁴ Ko, Tim Keung & Wordie, Jason. *Ruins of Wars: a Guide to Hong Kong's Battlefields and Wartime Sites*. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing (HK) Co. Ltd., 1996: 75.

strategic importance of Lei Yue Mun declined considerably as a result of technological and tactical advances which had prompted the establishment of new defence positions in the territory.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Barracks fell into the hands of the Japanese. On 8 December 1941, the Japanese launched their attacks in Hong Kong. After the fall of the New Territories and Kowloon, the British Forces immediately strengthened the defences at Lei Yue Mun to prevent the Japanese from crossing the Lei Yue Mun Channel from Devil's Peak. On 19 December 1941, the Barracks fell despite the fact that it was defended by various units, including a company of the Royal Rifles of Canada, the 5/7 Rajputs and the 6th Battery of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

In the post-war period, the Barracks was used by the British Army as a training ground until 1987. During the first half of the 1950s, the upper fort was occupied by a troop of air defence artillery. From 1948 to 1984, the Barracks housed the Depot and Record Office of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps ("HKMSC"). In 1987, the Army relinquished the Barracks to the Hong Kong Government and the site was then converted to civil use. The central area and the western ridge have become the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village since 1988, whereas the military installations at the headland were restored to form the Museum of Coastal Defence which opened in 2000.

Block 7 was built in 1890-1895 at the north end of the Barracks on top of a prestigious hill overlooking Lei Yue Mun Pass. It is believed to be one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development. Originally it was built as Officers Quarters for four single Royal Artillery officers, who were probably required to help organise the mounting of new guns and their emplacements, then under construction at the time. The building was later used as the Officers Mess until about 1909 when the building was converted to Officers Quarters once more. In the post-war period, it was used as a Training Centre for the HKMSC until the Corps moved out from the Barracks in 1984.

The architectural style of Block 7 is "Colonial Vernacular", built in a *Architectural* basic Classical version of a traditional "bungalow", which featured the *Merit*

characteristic wide open verandahs on three sides, a raised ground floor for ventilation and damp-proofing purposes, and a central “Jack-Roof”⁵. The building is rectangular in plan, of single-storey brick construction and set on low segmental arches. Two ornamental brick and granite chimney stacks still exist. The building was originally set out as accommodation for four single officers, with four separate en-suite bedrooms. External architectural features include simple square Tuscan order columns which support the verandah roofs. The main entrance doorway has a segmental arch and central keystone. There are short flight of masonry steps fitted with modern metal balustrading, leading up to both the front and rear entrances. Internal architectural features include the remains of the brick fireplaces, some Classical plaster mouldings to the ceiling cornices and timber skirting boards.

Alterations to the building include the replacement of the tiled pitched “Jack-Roof” by a flat concrete roof, the demolition of most of the internal brick partitions, the blocking-in of the open verandahs, and new flooring. Nevertheless, the original main brick external structure and sub-floor still exist in good condition. ***Authenticity***

Block 7 was constructed at the start of the first phase of building development at Lei Yue Mun, to provide the initial accommodation and facilities for the Royal Artillery, who were manning the coastal defence guns. It is therefore a rare and early example of the once popular “bungalow” design of dwelling house that was introduced to Hong Kong from India by the British. ***Rarity***

When Block 7 was exclusively used by the British Army, it had little social value to the local community. Now as a coffee shop for the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, it has become very popular among the public for both refreshments and also as an excellent spot for scenic views and photo shoots, and therefore acquired higher social value and local interest. ***Social Value & Local Interest***

Block 7 is physically remote from other main buildings in the ***Group Value***

⁵ A “Jack-Roof” is a small separate pitched roof, erected about 1-2m on top of the main pitched roof, in order to provide a horizontal gap between the two roofs for ventilation and light. It was widely used in “bungalow” style houses in British Malaya and India.

Barracks (this was a deliberate choice in order to give the officers living there a restful location), but it still forms an integral part of the overall composition and understanding of the original barracks layout. It has been contributing to the group value of the historic buildings in the Barracks, as well as the military installations at the site of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and the Sai Wan Fort and Redoubt (西灣炮台及堡壘). The Barracks is also physically close to other graded historic buildings such as Salesian Mission House, Main Building (慈幼會修院主樓) (Grade 2), Salesian Mission House, Villa (慈幼會修院房舍) (Grade 2), Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) (Grade 2), Tam Kung Temple (譚公仙聖廟) (Grade 3) and Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟) (Grade 3).

Photos of Block 7, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks, Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan



The north and east facades, originally surrounded by wide verandahs set on low segmental arches.



The two-step flat roof converted from the original pitched "Jack-Roof".



The front verandah with windows installed.
Originally the open verandah would have been a common sitting-out area for the tenants.



Brick chimney breast with fireplace is now bricked up.
A portion of old ceramic red quarry tile flooring still remains.



Classical plaster mouldings to the ceiling cornices.



Typical view of the ventilated sub-floor,
showing grey brickwork and arched supports to the main ground floor structure above.

Heritage Appraisal of Block 10, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks (the “Barracks”) was one of the earliest *Historical* and most important British Army fortifications in Hong Kong. The name *Interest* was taken from the fishing village of Lei Yue Mun⁶ (鯉魚門), the “Gateway of the Carp”, which lies on the mainland side of the narrow strait below Devil’s Peak. The Barracks was divided into three parts – the central area (main barracks), the western ridge (upper fort) and the headland (lower fort). The main barracks, built at different times from 1890 to 1939, mainly served as offices and married quarters for the British Army.

Situated at the northeast corner of Hong Kong Island overlooking the eastern approach to the Victoria Harbour, Lei Yue Mun occupied a strategic position. Before the establishment of the Barracks in the late nineteenth century, the British military had in 1844 built barracks at the nearby Sai Wan⁷ (西灣) to the south of the channel⁸. Due to prevalent diseases such as malaria and dysentery which killed a sizable number of British soldiers and civilians, the barracks was later abandoned⁹. In 1885, the military switched their attention to construction of a permanent infrastructure at Lei Yue Mun. This was probably attributed to the possible attacks from Russia and France to the colony. As war fears increased, the then Hong Kong Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen was compelled to fund the construction of a fort at Lei Yue Mun Pass. In addition, other military installations, including a redoubt, barracks and a series of tunnels were built in the subsequent years, which altogether formed the Barracks. By the 1890s, the fortifications at Lei Yue Mun fully became an important point of coastal defence.

In the following three decades, the military installations at the Barracks continued to expand in size and number, including the erection of a number of new blocks in the central area. By the 1930s, however, the

⁶ The place name of "Lei Yue Mun", in its old usage, includes "Lyemun", "Lyeemun", "Lyemoon" and "Lyeemoon".

⁷ The place name of "Sai Wan" was also called "Saiwan" and "Sywan".

⁸ Bard, Solomon M. *Notes on the History of Hong Kong's Coastal Defences during the British Administration, with Special Reference to Lei Yue Mun*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, 2015: 37.

⁹ Ko, Tim Keung & Wordie, Jason. *Ruins of Wars: a Guide to Hong Kong's Battlefields and Wartime Sites*. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing (HK) Co. Ltd., 1996: 75.

strategic importance of Lei Yue Mun declined considerably as a result of technological and tactical advances which had prompted the establishment of new defence positions in the territory.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Barracks fell into the hands of the Japanese. On 8 December 1941, the Japanese launched their attacks in Hong Kong. After the fall of the New Territories and Kowloon, the British Forces immediately strengthened the defences at Lei Yue Mun to prevent the Japanese from crossing the Lei Yue Mun Channel from Devil's Peak. On 19 December 1941, the Barracks fell despite the fact that it was defended by various units, including a company of the Royal Rifles of Canada, the 5/7 Rajputs and the 6th Battery of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

In the post-war period, the Barracks was used by the British Army as a training ground until 1987. During the first half of the 1950s, the upper fort was occupied by a troop of air defence artillery. From 1948 to 1984, the Barracks housed the Depot and Record Office of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. In 1987, the Army relinquished the Barracks to the Hong Kong Government and the site was then converted to civil use. The central area and the western ridge have become the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village since 1988, whereas the military installations at the headland were restored to form the Museum of Coastal Defence which opened in 2000.

Block 10 was built in 1890-1895 with an extension added in 1935. The older part is believed to be one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development. It occupies a commanding site towards the north. Originally it was built as Soldiers Quarters for the Royal Artillery.

The architectural style of Block 10 is a simplified Classical design, *Architectural Merit* built in the traditional British Colonial Barrack style. It is a three-storey long rectangular building of brick construction with plaster rendering, featuring open arched, colonnaded and balustraded verandahs on the front and rear facades. The segmental arches are supported on square Tuscan order columns with plaster mouldings. The first and second floor verandahs have classical urn-shaped balustrading. The 1935 extension

was generally constructed to the same scale and to the same design as the older block. Internally, the building is a typical army barrack block with adjoining barrack rooms formed by cross walls. The spaces remain structurally similar to their original appearances. The chimneys and most of the fireplaces still exist.

Apart from the major extension constructed in 1935, there have been few major changes to the external of the structure over the years. The internal part of the building has also seen little change, mainly because the use as a barrack block has remained the same for a considerable period of time. Although the verandahs on the rear elevations appear to have been partially enclosed at the ablution areas and the old timber roof truss structure has now been replaced, Block 10 retains its elegant authentic appearance. *Authenticity*

Block 10 is probably the most elegant building in the Barracks and a rare piece of simplified Classical design architecture from the earliest period in the history of this important military site. *Rarity*

When Block 10 was exclusively used by the British Army, it had little social value to the local community. Now as part of the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, it has become a very popular venue for the public, especially children, and therefore acquired higher social value and local interest. *Social Value & Local Interest*

In terms of military history, as a good representative example of the early colonial military architecture, Block 10 forms an integral part of the overall composition and understanding of the original barracks layout and therefore has been contributing to the group value of the historic buildings in the Barracks, as well as the military installations at the site of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and the Sai Wan Fort and Redoubt (西灣炮台及堡壘). The Barracks is also physically close to other graded historic buildings such as Salesian Mission House, Main Building (慈幼會修院主樓) (Grade 2), Salesian Mission House, Villa (慈幼會修院房舍) (Grade 2), Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) (Grade 2), Tam Kung Temple (譚公仙聖廟) (Grade 3) and Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟) (Grade 3). *Group Value*

Photos of Block 10, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks, Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan



The east facade featuring the long open arched, colonnaded and balustraded verandahs.



Tuscan-style columns, Classical urn-shaped balustrades and granite coping stones of the verandah.



Junction of the older block (right of photo) and the 1935 extension (left of photo).



The large barrack room on the second floor,
originally used for junior soldiers' accommodation.



A room on the ground floor, once used as the armoury.



A cast iron fireplace in a smaller room on the first floor, originally used for senior soldiers' accomodation.



A brick fireplace on the ground floor.

Heritage Appraisal of Block 25, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks (the “Barracks”) was one of the earliest *Historical* and most important British Army fortifications in Hong Kong. The name *Interest* was taken from the fishing village of Lei Yue Mun¹⁰ (鯉魚門), the “Gateway of the Carp”, which lies on the mainland side of the narrow strait below Devil’s Peak. The Barracks was divided into three parts – the central area (main barracks), the western ridge (upper fort) and the headland (lower fort). The main barracks, built at different times from 1890 to 1939, mainly served as offices and married quarters for the British Army.

Situated at the northeast corner of Hong Kong Island overlooking the eastern approach to the Victoria Harbour, Lei Yue Mun occupied a strategic position. Before the establishment of the Barracks in the late nineteenth century, the British military had in 1844 built barracks at the nearby Sai Wan¹¹ (西灣) to the south of the channel¹². Due to prevalent diseases such as malaria and dysentery which killed a sizable number of British soldiers and civilians, the barracks was later abandoned¹³. In 1885, the military switched their attention to construction of a permanent infrastructure at Lei Yue Mun. This was probably attributed to the possible attacks from Russia and France to the colony. As war fears increased, the then Hong Kong Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen was compelled to fund the construction of a fort at Lei Yue Mun Pass. In addition, other military installations, including a redoubt, barracks and a series of tunnels were built in the subsequent years, which altogether formed the Barracks. By the 1890s, the fortifications at Lei Yue Mun fully became an important point of coastal defence.

In the following three decades, the military installations at the Barracks continued to expand in size and number, including the erection of a number of new blocks in the central area. By the 1930s, however, the

¹⁰ The place name of "Lei Yue Mun", in its old usage, includes "Lyemun", "Lyeemun", "Lyemoon" and "Lyeemoon".

¹¹ The place name of "Sai Wan" was also called "Saiwan" and "Sywan".

¹² Bard, Solomon M. *Notes on the History of Hong Kong's Coastal Defences during the British Administration, with Special Reference to Lei Yue Mun*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, 2015: 37.

¹³ Ko, Tim Keung & Wordie, Jason. *Ruins of Wars: a Guide to Hong Kong's Battlefields and Wartime Sites*. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing (HK) Co. Ltd., 1996: 75.

strategic importance of Lei Yue Mun declined considerably as a result of technological and tactical advances which had prompted the establishment of new defence positions in the territory.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Barracks fell into the hands of the Japanese. On 8 December 1941, the Japanese launched their attacks in Hong Kong. After the fall of the New Territories and Kowloon, the British Forces immediately strengthened the defences at Lei Yue Mun to prevent the Japanese from crossing the Lei Yue Mun Channel from Devil's Peak. On 19 December 1941, the Barracks fell despite the fact that it was defended by various units, including a company of the Royal Rifles of Canada, the 5/7 Rajputs and the 6th Battery of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

In the post-war period, the Barracks was used by the British Army as a training ground until 1987. During the first half of the 1950s, the upper fort was occupied by a troop of air defence artillery. From 1948 to 1984, the Barracks housed the Depot and Record Office of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. In 1987, the Army relinquished the Barracks to the Hong Kong Government and the site was then converted to civil use. The central area and the western ridge have become the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village since 1988, whereas the military installations at the headland were restored to form the Museum of Coastal Defence which opened in 2000.

Block 25 is located on the rising ground to the south of the former parade ground and is believed to have been built in the late 1890s to early 1900s. It is one of the earliest buildings constructed in the first phase of the barracks development. Throughout the military period of the Barracks, it served as the Officers Mess until the Army moved out.

The architectural style of Block 25 is a simplified Classical design, built in the traditional British Colonial Barrack style. The elegant two-storey building features open colonnaded and balustraded verandahs on three sides. The east facade retains much of its original appearance. The walls and columns are painted brickwork. When originally built the brickwork (probably local red bricks) would have been left unpainted. The verandahs are supported by square brick columns with simple bases

***Architectural
Merit***

and capitals. There are moulded cornices at the first floor level and at the eaves level. The first floor verandah has typical urn-shaped classical balustrading, but the balustrading to the ground floor verandah is of a different design. Internally, adjacent rooms have been formed by cross walls. The spaces remain structurally similar to their original appearances, although some fireplaces have been blocked up. The old internal staircases are still intact (now with extended safety handrails).

There have been alterations and additions to the north end, which projected from the original face of the building. Apart from that, there have been few major changes to the external of the structure over the years. The internal part of the building has also seen little change, mainly because the use as an officers mess has remained the same for about a hundred years. Recent alterations include replacement of the tiled pitched roof and general refurbishment of the interiors to be suitable as accommodation for the Holiday Village. ***Authenticity***

Block 25 is one of the oldest buildings in the Barracks. It is a good representative example of early colonial military architecture. ***Rarity***

When Block 25 was exclusively used by the British Army, it had relatively little social value to the local community. Now as an overnight accommodation in the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, it has become a very popular venue for families, and therefore acquired higher social value and local interest. ***Social Value & Local Interest***

In terms of military history, as a good representative example of early colonial military architecture, Block 25 forms an integral part of the overall composition and understanding of the original barracks layout and therefore has been contributing to the group value of the historic buildings in the Barracks, as well as the military installations at the site of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and the Sai Wan Fort and Redoubt (西灣炮台及堡壘). The Barracks is also physically close to other graded historic buildings such as Salesian Mission House, Main Building (慈幼會修院主樓) (Grade 2), Salesian Mission House, Villa (慈幼會修院房舍) (Grade 2), Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) (Grade 2), Tam Kung Temple (譚公仙聖廟) (Grade 3) and Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟) (Grade 3). ***Group Value***

Photos of Block 25, Old Lei Yue Mun Barracks, Lei Yue Mun, Chai Wan



East facade with open colonnaded and balustraded verandahs supported by square brick columns with simple bases and capitals.



The south facade, of the same design as the east, with urn-shaped classical balustrating on the first floor verandahs.



The old dining room on the ground floor and the original granite fireplace.



Classical plaster mouldings to the ceiling cornices and picture rails of the old dining room.

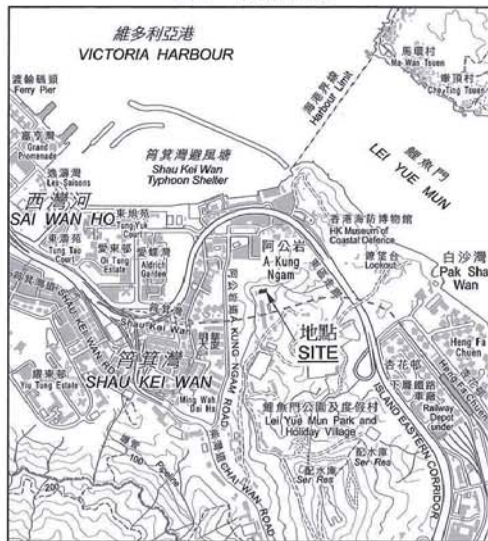


Former officers bed-sitting room, now used as a family accommodation unit.



The handrail scroll of an internal staircase.

位置 LOCATION

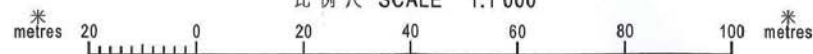


比例 SCALE 1:20 000



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 377 平方米
EDGED RED AREA 377 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(陳茂波 Paul M P Chan)

發展局局長 Secretary for Development

日期 Date 14 May 2016

只作識別用 FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

地政總署 港島測量處
District Survey Office, Hong Kong
Lands Department

© 香港特別行政區政府 版權所有 Copyright reserved - Hong Kong SAR Government

古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的香港柴灣柴灣道75號
舊鯉魚門軍營第7座圖則
ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
PLAN OF BLOCK 7 OF THE OLD LEI YUE MUN BARRACKS
AT 75 CHAI WAN ROAD, CHAI WAN, HONG KONG
DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/HK 14/2/5/2 & DSO/HK W2451

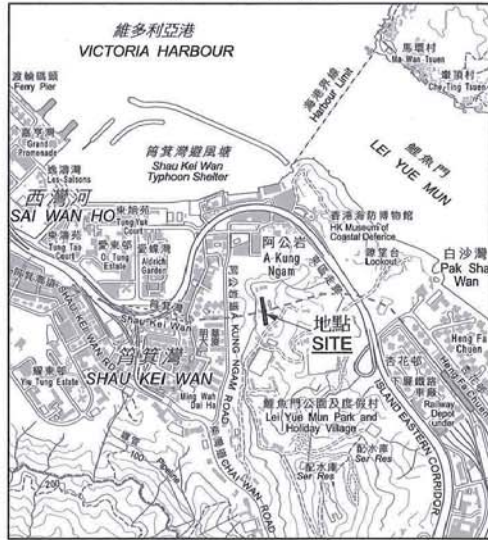
測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-SE-9C

發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. --

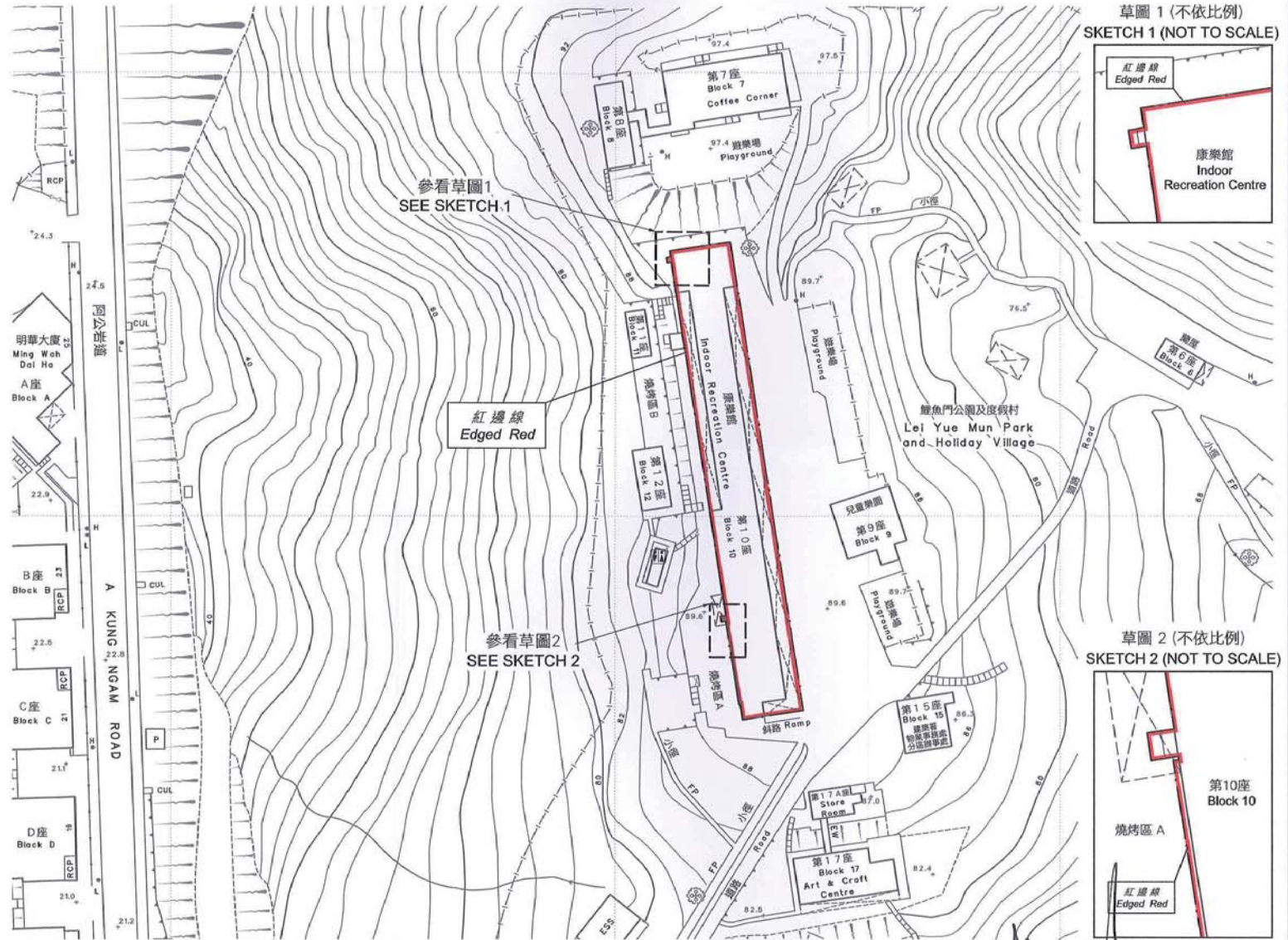
參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. --

圖則編號 PLAN No. HKM10000a

位置 LOCATION

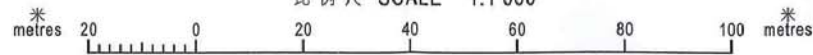


比例 SCALE 1:20 000



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 1490 平方米
 EDGED RED AREA 1 490 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(陳茂波 Paul M P Chan)

發展局局長 Secretary for Development

日期 Date 14 May 2016

只作識別用 FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

地政總署 港島測量處
 District Survey Office, Hong Kong
 Lands Department

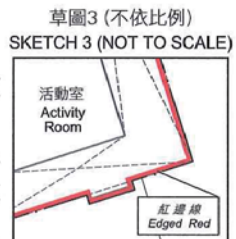
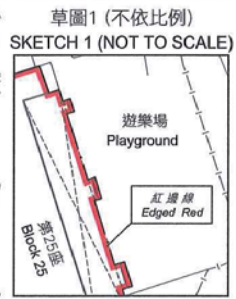
© 香港特別行政區政府 版權所有 Copyright reserved - Hong Kong SAR Government

古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
 根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的香港柴灣柴灣道75號
 舊鯉魚門軍營第10座圖則
 ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
 PLAN OF BLOCK 10 OF THE OLD LEI YUE MUN BARRACKS
 AT 75 CHAI WAN ROAD, CHAI WAN, HONG KONG
 DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/HK 14/2/5/2 & DSO/HK W2451
 測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-SE-9C & 14A
 發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. ---
 參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. ---
 圖則編號 PLAN No. HKM10001a

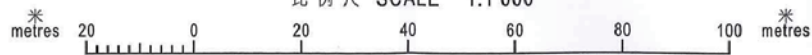


比例 SCALE 1:20 000



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 616 平方米
 EDGED RED AREA 616 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(陳茂波 Paul M-P Chan)
 發展局局長 Secretary for Development
 日期 Date 16 May 2016

只作識別用 FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

地政總署 港島測量處
 District Survey Office, Hong Kong
 Lands Department

© 香港特別行政區政府 版權所有 Copyright reserved - Hong Kong SAR Government

古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
 根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的香港柴灣柴灣道75號
 舊鯉魚門軍營第25座圖則
 ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
 PLAN OF BLOCK 25 OF THE OLD LEI YUE MUN BARRACKS
 AT 75 CHAI WAN ROAD, CHAI WAN, HONG KONG
 DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/HK 14/2/5/2 & DSO/HK W2451
 測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-SE-14A
 發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. --
 參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. --
 圖則編號 PLAN No. HKM10002a

日期 Date: 05/05/2016