

Historic Building Appraisal

Maryknoll House

No. 44 Stanley Village Road, Stanley, Hong Kong

Maryknoll House (瑪利諾會) was established by **Bishop James A. Walsh**, the first Maryknoll priest who set foot in Hong Kong in 1917. Built in **1935** with funds borrowed from the **Paris Foreign Mission Society**, it served as the headquarters of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and also as a summer rest home and a language school for priests who were going to preach in China. *Historical Interest*

In 1941, the House was used by the British in preparation for the battle against the Japanese military. As the Japanese gradually approached Hong Kong Island, Maryknoll House became a refuge for many Chinese refugees. It did not take long for the Japanese to conquer Hong Kong, and they requisitioned two classrooms at the House for quartering their men numbering some two hundred. Later, the priests were ordered by the Japanese to evacuate Maryknoll House and they were interned at the Stanley Internment Camp together with several hundred other British, Canadian and Dutch civilians. The House was immediately converted into the Japanese military headquarters.

After World War II, many refugees found shelter there including displaced missionaries from the mainland. From then on, education and social welfare turned out to be the missionaries' major endeavour, as exemplified by the opening of a community centre administered by Father John Curran in Ngau Tau Kok and the Bishop Ford School in Tung Tao Tsuen (1953) as well as the Maryknoll Fathers School (1957). Medical care was also provided for the Chinese as the Maryknollers erected clinics in Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon Tsai and Kwun Tong. The most ambitious project of all was the opening of Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital in Wong Tai Sin.

The three-storey building has a handsome red-brick facade showing the strong character of Chinese architecture combined with western elements and details in a style known as **Chinese Eclectic**. This style was purposely chosen by the Maryknoll Fathers according to their vision of spreading the gospel in China. Chinese architectural features include green glazed tiled roofs, green glazed Chinese grilles, octagonal and hexagonal shaped windows, and various decorations and motifs on the façade. The building is symmetrical in plan and the façades also exhibit regular fenestration with only minor deviations here and there. There have been renovations, alterations and additions internally over the years to meet changing requirements, but *Architectural Merit* *Rarity, Built Heritage*

externally the building remains fairly authentic and a rare piece of built heritage of architectural interest and value. *Value & Authenticity*

Today, the House stands as a reminder of the changes that have taken place in Stanley and is one of the most spectacular historic buildings in the area. *Social Value & Local Interest*

The building is situated in a quiet environment overlooking the beautiful scene of Stanley. Although its immediate environment has been developed into residential clusters, and the fishing village of Stanley has long since disappeared and replaced by a bustling tourist haven, several of its surviving predecessors in its proximity still hold the memory of Old Stanley. For instance, the declared monuments Old Stanley Police Station (舊赤柱警署) and School House of St. Stephen's College (聖士提反書院校舍) can be found in the area. The building is also close to historic buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board such as the Stanley Fort (赤柱炮台) (Proposed Grade 2 or Grade 3), historic buildings at St. Stephen's College (聖士提反書院) (Grade 3) and Stanley Post Office (Grade 2). *Group Value*

Economic pressures and changing circumstances may mean that an adaptive re-use may have to be found for the House in the future. *Adaptive Re-use*

REFERENCES

Document Records at The Land Registry Office, Hong Kong

Property Particulars of the Remaining Portion of Rural Building Lot No. 333

Books, Articles, and Other Sources

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香港赤柱赤柱村道44號瑪利諾神父宿舍
Maryknoll House, No. 44 Stanley Village Road, Stanley, H.K.

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G/IC Provision in the Stanley Area

Type of Facilities	HKPSG	HKPSG Requirement (based on planned population)	Provision		Surplus/Shortfall (against planning provision)
			Existing Provision	Planning Provision	
Secondary School ¹	1 whole-day classroom for 40 persons aged 12-17	23 classrooms	56 classrooms	56 classrooms	+33 classrooms
Primary School ¹	1 whole-day classroom for 25.5 persons aged 6-11	34 classrooms	36 classrooms	36 classrooms	+2 classrooms
Kindergarten / Nursery ¹	34 classrooms for 1,000 children aged 3 to under 6	11 classrooms	7 classrooms	7 classrooms	-4 classrooms
District Police Station	1 per 200,000 to 500,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Divisional Police Station	1 per 100,000 to 200,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Hospital	5.5 beds per 1000 persons	97 beds	240 beds	240 beds	+143 beds
Clinic/Health Centre	1 per 100,000 persons	0	1	1	+1
Magistracy (with 8 courtrooms)	1 per 660,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	1 for 12,000 persons aged 6-24	0	1	1	+1
Integrated Family Services Centre	1 per 100,000 to 150,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Library	1 district library for every 200,000 persons	0	1	1	+1
Sports Centre	1 per 50,000 to 65,000 persons	0	1	1	+1
Sports Ground/Sports Complex	1 per 200,000 to 250,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Swimming Pool Complex - standard	1 complex per 287,000 persons	0	0	0	0

Remarks:

¹ The provision of secondary school, primary school and kindergarten/nursery exclude classrooms in international schools registered under Education Bureau.

G/IC Provision in the Southern District

Type of Facilities	HKPSG	HKPSG Requirement (based on planned population)	Provision		Surplus/Shortfall (against planning provision)
			Existing Provision	Planning Provision	
Secondary School ¹	1 whole-day classroom for 40 persons aged 12-17	290 classrooms	492 classrooms	492 classrooms	+202 classrooms
Primary School ¹	1 whole-day classroom for 25.5 persons aged 6-11	453 classrooms	431 classrooms	461 classrooms	+8 classrooms
Kindergarten / Nursery ¹	34 classrooms for 1,000 children aged 3 to under 6	185 classrooms	171 classrooms	171 classrooms	-14 ² classrooms
District Police Station	1 per 200,000 to 500,000 persons	1	0	0	1
Divisional Police Station	1 per 100,000 to 200,000 persons	2	1	1	1
Hospital	5.5 beds per 1000 persons	1,817 beds	3,601 beds	3,601 beds	+1,784 beds
Clinic/Health Centre	1 per 100,000 persons	3	3	3	0
Magistracy (with 8 courtrooms)	1 per 660,000 persons	0	0	0	0
Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	1 for 12,000 persons aged 6-24	4	5	5	+1
Integrated Family Services Centre	1 per 100,000 to 150,000 persons	2	2	2	0
Library	1 district library for every 200,000 persons	2	4	4	+2
Sports Centre	1 per 50,000 to 65,000 persons	5	6	6	+1
Sports Ground/Sports Complex	1 per 200,000 to 250,000 persons	1	1	1	0
Swimming Pool Complex - standard	1 complex per 287,000 persons	1	1	1	0

Remarks:

¹ The provision of secondary school, primary school and kindergarten/nursery exclude classrooms in international schools registered under Education Bureau.

² The overall provision of kindergarten/nursery in Southern District, including international schools, is about 210 classrooms which has a surplus against the planned provision of kindergarten/nursery.