

Central Cop Shop Hong Kong



By Brian L. Coak



Central Police Station

Central Police Station together with the Magistracy and Victoria Prison is one of the oldest heritage compounds in Hong Kong with rich Victorian, Edwardian and Oriental architectural styles.

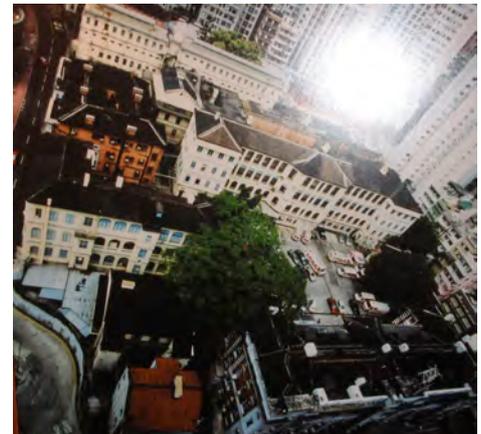
The oldest structure within the compound is the barrack block built in 1864. It is a three-storey building constructed adjacent to Victoria Prison. A storey was later added to the block in 1905. The Headquarters Block facing Hollywood Road was constructed in 1919. Subsequently in 1925, the two-storey Stable Block was constructed at the north-west end of the parade ground and later used as an armoury.

The Central Police Station (traditional Chinese: 中區警署) is located at the eastern end of Hollywood Road, in Central, Hong Kong.

Barrack	1864
Block A	1910
Block B	1910
Block C	1910
Block D	1910
Headquarters	1919
Stable Block	1925

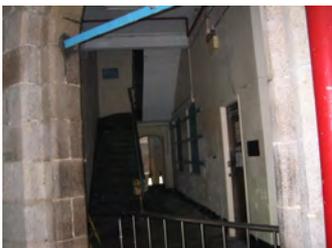


- Central Police Station Compound**
1. Headquarters Block
 2. Block A
 3. Block B
 4. Block C
 5. Block D
 6. Barracks Block
 7. Sanitary Block
 8. Stable Block
 9. Gateway
 10. Former Central Magistracy
- Victoria Prison**
11. A Hall
 12. B Hall
 13. C Hall (East Wing)
 14. C Hall (West Wing)
 15. D Hall (West Wing)
 16. D Hall (East Wing)
 17. E Hall
 18. F Hall
 19. Bauhinia House (Watch Tower)
- Buildings allowed to be demolished**
- a. Duty Office
 - b. General Office
 - c. Temporary Office
 - d. Workshop
 - e. Temporary Structure
 - f. Garage
 - g. Rear Annex of Barrack Block
 - h. Temporary Structure
 - i. Temporary Structure
- Legend**
- Type "A" Buildings & Walls
 - Type "B" Buildings & Walls
 - Buildings & Walls which may be demolished



The Barrack Block

The three-storey Barrack Block is adjacent to Victoria Prison. *(Left 1960 & right 2005 below)* The Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the Central Magistracy have formed three icons as part of the administration of Justice for over a hundred years.



Other blocks were added between 1910 and 1925.



Subsequently, in 1925, the two-storey Stable Block was constructed at the north-west end of the parade ground and later used as an armoury.



The Headquarters Block

The Headquarters Block facing Hollywood Road was constructed in 1919



The main building Headquarters Block has four storeys built with classical Doric-style columns. The Central Police Station is one of the very last physical reminders of Hong Kong's colonial heritage.

During the Pacific War the compound received bomb damage. In the past, the police station was used as police headquarters; however, its importance declined when the new

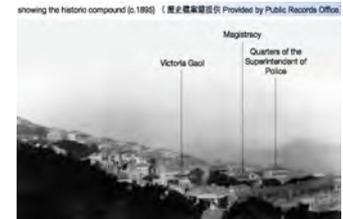
police headquarters was built in Wan Chai after World War II. It functioned as a police station, dormitory, prison, and was used as both the Hong Kong Island Regional Police Headquarters and the Central District Police Headquarters until 2000s.

Central Magistracy

The former Central Magistracy is located at 1, Arbuthnot Road, Central, Hong Kong. It was constructed from 1913 to 1914.



The construction of the Central Magistracy commenced in 1913 and was completed in 1914. The site was originally occupied by the first Hong Kong Magistracy which was probably erected in 1847 but was later demolished to make way for the present building.



The provision of an extensive basement in the new magistracy caused much difficulty and delay in the construction work to allow remand defendant's detention cells prior to court appearance and passage to the prison. The building has imposing pillars of the facade and other features in the Greek-revival style. The massive retaining walls were constructed with granite blocks. The Central Magistracy was closed in 1979. (Shown below are the courts and the writer's balcony prosecution office during the 1967 riots below right)



Central Police Station Compound Declared a Monument

The buildings of the former Central Magistracy, together with the adjacent Central Police Station and the Victoria Prison is categorized as Central Police Station Compound and were declared monuments in 1995 under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap 53).

The Government decided in April 2003 to develop the site for tourism and dispose of the site in the form of a land grant through an open competitive process and the successful bidder would be granted the site on a normal 50 year term land lease. The tender was scheduled in early 2004. However, public documents revealed that a substantial weighting would be given to land premium.

The Conservancy Association sent letters to the authorities concerned in August 2004, urging them to put the tendering process on hold. The Association formed the Central Police Station Heritage Taskforce with The Hong Kong Institute of Architects and other organizations and made their views known.

CA co-organized the Central Police Station Heritage Compound Open Days with the Tourism Commission, Central and Western District Council and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. CA explained the pros and cons of different models of conserving the

Compound to the visitors through a set of exhibition boards displayed in Court no. 2 of the former Central Magistracy.

Through the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Club has recently agreed to make HK\$1.8 billion capital available to renovate the 19th-century compound, and transform it into a heritage, arts, cultural, and tourism with a 'glass bubble' and theatre. Three views of the Central Police Station



The renovated police station compound is expected to become a tourist destination with historical significance and especially those who have worked there over the years.



Conversion work may take place in January 2009 and the entire site is expected to be opened to the public in mid-2012.

“Justice should not only be done but should be manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done” Lord Hewart (1870–1943)



<http://web.mac.com/briancoak/iWeb>

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