

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Ladder Street, Hong Kong

Ladder Street (樓梯街) was built between 1841 and 1850. The Street started from Queen's Road Central (皇后大道中) near the junction of Lok Ku Road (樂古道) to Caine Road (堅道). The name "Ladder Street" first appeared on a plan of Victoria dated 1856. It was so named because it extends straight up and down like a ladder. Its Chinese name was directly translated into *Lau Tai Gai* (樓梯街, meaning Ladder Street).

***Historical  
Interest***

Ladder Street played an important role in connecting Central district and the Hill district. There are several historic items along Ladder Street, including the declared monument of the Old Pathological Institute (舊病理學院) built in 1906, now the Museum of Medical Sciences (香港醫學博物館) as well as two historic buildings, namely, Chinese Y.M.C.A. of Hong Kong Central Building (香港中華基督教青年會中央會所, opened in 1918) and Man Mo Temple (文武廟, built in 1847).

Ladder Street starts at Queen's Road Central at the junction with Lok Ku Road and extends up to Caine Road. It is intersected by Hollywood Road and Bridges Street and has junctions with Upper Lascar Row ("Cat Street"), Square Street and Rozario Street. The street is built with steps and landings formed by granite slabs or concrete paving. Metal railings are installed at the centre of the street and open drainage channels are provided at each side to drain off rainwater. There are many interesting old sections of stone retaining walls and boundary walls along Ladder Street. These old structures provide evidence of the long-term development of the area, show old construction techniques, and give visual variety to the appearance of the street. Ladder Street has no particular architecture style, but it may be classified as **Utilitarian**.

***Architectural  
Merit***

Ladder Street is a valuable piece of Hong Kong's built heritage. It is of considerable historical interest. Although many old granite slabs have been replaced with concrete and modern railings have been installed the steps still manage to retain their authentic appearance.

***Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

The social value of Ladder Street lies in the role it has played in providing a pedestrian access way connecting up to many important streets above Queen's Road Central. It is of considerable local interest.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

The two streets near to Ladder Street, where shops selling antiques or Chinese handicrafts can be found, are known as Upper Lascar Row and

***Group Value***

Hollywood Road.