

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Upper Levels Police Station
No. 1F High Street, Hong Kong

Old Upper Levels Police Station (舊半山區警署), also known as No. 8 Police Station, was built in **1934-1935** at No. 1F High Street (高街). It is now occupied by Crime Wing Hong Kong Island Regional Headquarters (港島總區刑事總部). The formation deals with serious crimes and inter-district crimes, and is also responsible for collecting, collating and evaluating intelligence on criminals and criminal activities in the region. *Historical Interest*

The first Old No. 8 Police Station was probably erected at Station Street (差館街) in Tai Ping Shan District (太平山區) in 1870. In the 1890s, another police station was built at Hospital Road (醫院道), in replacement of the first one. In 1928, the one at High Street was finally erected, replacing the one at Hospital Road. The original building was demolished in 1934 and rebuilt on the same site during 1934 and 1935 as a sub-divisional station.

This five-storey building is built in stylised **Neo-Classical** style with **Art Deco** and **Modernist** influence. Walls are rendered and painted and the ground floor storey is grooved to imitate stonework. The building features open verandahs with streamlined balustrading on the front and rear façades. The east and west façades have regular bands of windows unified by projecting string and band courses. Original wooden casement windows still exist. The front façade is obscured by trees, whilst the rear façade is fairly exposed and features four strong vertical stylised giant columns in the centre. The main entrance to the building is reached by a bridge from High Street which is flanked on either side by steps, boundary walls and three-bay covered parking spaces or garages at each front corner of the site. Internally, architectural features include panelled wooden doors, ceiling coving and period fireplaces which are served by chimney stacks on the flat roof. *Architectural Merit*

The architectural style of this building is quite rare in Hong Kong and unusual for police stations. It is an interesting example of architecture with strong emphasis on verticality and horizontality, and should be regarded as having considerable built heritage value. Apart from minor additions such as security grilles and window mounted room coolers, alterations appear to be minimal so that the building retains much of its authenticity. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of the police station lies in the role it has played in maintaining law and order. With its unusual architectural style the building adds local colour and interest to the area. *Social Value & Local Interest*

Old Upper Levels Police Station is close to a number of historic buildings such as Old Lunatic Asylum (前華人精神病院), Hop Yat Church (合一堂), Old Tsan Yuk Maternity Hospital (舊贊育醫院), Kau Yan Church (救恩堂), King's College (英皇書院), Kwong Fuk Tsz (廣福祠), Main Block, Tung Wah Hospital (東華醫院主樓), Chinese Y.M.C.A. of Hong Kong (香港中華基督教青年會), Man Mo Temple (文武廟) and the Declared Monument of Main Building of St. Stephen's Girls' College, (聖士提反女子中學主樓). **Group Value**

The ex-Upper Level Police Station site will be used for the re-provisioning of the facilities of the existing David Trench Rehabilitation Centre currently located at Bonham Road. **Adaptive Re-use**