

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Old British Military Hospital, Main Block**  
**Nos. 10-12 Borrett Road, Hong Kong**

Construction work on the Old British Military Hospital (舊英軍醫院) started in 1903. It was officially opened in 1907. During the Japanese Occupation it continued to function, surrounded by a fence and watchtowers and part of the hospital was used for the sick British prisoners-of-war requiring hospital care. After the War it continued to be used by the British Garrison until the new British Military Hospital opened in King's Park in 1967. It was then used as the Hong Kong Island School until 1979, and offices of several Government Departments until 1988. Since 1990, a number of non-government organizations have set up their offices in the building at a nominal rent to the Government.

*Historical  
Interest*

The Main Block is a three-storey red brick building built in **Edwardian Neo-Classical** style. It consists of a Central Block, East Wing and West Wing. The main features are long arched and colonnaded verandahs, some open and some enclosed. There are projecting bays or annexes at intervals which serve as staircase enclosures, toilets, storerooms and water towers. The red brick walls are relieved by horizontal granite bands, vertical rainwater downpipes and pedimented entrance doorways. A heavy moulded painted cornice runs around the building at parapet level. The roofs are pitched covered with Chinese tiles. Doors to rooms off the verandahs are mostly original glazed and panelled doors. Windows are a mixture of original wooden framed windows and modern aluminium units. Internally, original features such as stone staircases, metal balustrades, floor finishes, skirtings, cornices, doors, and transverse arches across the verandahs and corridors still exist. The Central Block has a basement which was once the boiler house. The two wings have semi-basements or cellars used as underground operating theatres and X-ray department during the Second World War.

*Architectural  
Merit*

The extensive use of exposed red brickwork and the dates of construction place this building firmly in the Edwardian period. It is therefore an architectural period piece with built heritage value. It has undergone many changes, most internally, over the years but manages to retain a fairly authentic appearance externally.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

The building has great significance in the military medical development of Hong Kong. It has contributed to the well-being and development of society and the local community having been used firstly as a hospital, and then for

*Social Value  
& Local  
Interest*

school premises and NGOs for charitable social purposes.

At the rear side, the Old British Military Hospital faces woodland. The surroundings are very quiet with limited traffic, thus creating a peaceful environment which further enhances the building's splendour. It is situated close to the historic compound of the old Victoria Barracks, including the Former Explosive Magazine (舊域多利軍營軍火庫), Flagstaff House (舊三軍司令官邸), Rawlinson House (羅連信樓), Cassels Block (卡素樓), Wavell Block (華福樓), Roberts Block (羅拔時樓) and Montgomery Block (蒙高瑪利樓), with the Flagstaff House being a declared monument and the others graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board. Together they form a significant group of buildings which served the former British military garrison. **Group Value**

The Main Block has been used for several purposes since it was built proving that it is fairly adaptable. It might even be possible to convert it for residential purposes. **Adaptive Re-use**