

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station,**  
**No. 1 Shan Tung Street, Yuen Long, N.T.**

The Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station was built in 1962 to replace an earlier police station on the same site. Completed in 1963 and strategically located at the top of a small hill of Lau Fau Shan town, overlooking Ping Shan in the east and Deep Bay (后海湾) and Shenzhen (深圳) in the west, it was an outpost and operational base of the Hong Kong police to keep a watch on illegal immigration, a function that it had fulfilled for decades. Moreover, the Lau Fau Shan Automatic Weather Station was operated there during the 1980s to meet the growing demands for regional meteorological data for engineering projects in areas under development. In 2000 the squad stationed in this police station were incorporated into the manpower of Tin Shui Wai Police Station. Thereafter, this police station ceased operation. It is now an available site for location filming.

*Historical  
Interest*

It is a utilitarian building of the 1960s. It is a three stories high concrete beamed split level building built to a U-shaped plan. The elevations consist of expressed reinforced concrete columns and beams with infill panels and bands of aluminium framed windows. The flat roofs are accessed by metal cat ladders. An external staircase flanked by masonry retaining walls leads up from the front yard of Lower G/F to the main entrance at G/F level. The site is enclosed by a chain link perimeter security fence with security lights all round the building. A path runs around the perimeter fence on the inside for patrols. Numerous cable pits, inspection chambers and manholes can be seen in the front yard.

*Architectural  
Merit*

The Lower G/F has several parking spaces with open fronts and sides with grille block screen walls for ventilation. Accommodation consists of a generator room, document room, workman's room, equipment room, support office, Laundry room and two tiled washtubs. The Drying Area is at the southwest end of the building where there is also a small singled storey detached outhouse. The finishes are tiled and mosaic floors with plastered and painted walls and ceilings. The aluminium windows are fitted with burglar bars and all doors are wooden flush doors. An internal reinforced concrete staircase with a typical 1960s style metal balustrade leads up to the G/F level.

The staircase leads up to the main Reception Area which is fitted out with a low wooden counter. Behind the Reception Area there are offices, cells and toilets with iron grille doors and steel shutters to some of the windows. Outside the Main Entrance there is a Loading/Unloading Area for guns with rubber safety

matting and a metal-framed canopy. Above the G/F accommodation are situated a Mess and recreation room with a shrine of Kwan Tai (關帝), a kitchen, a kitchen storeroom, and male and female toilets. Other accommodation on the G/F includes a computer equipment room, general office, interpreter's office, barrack rooms, bathrooms and toilets. The finishes are tiled and wood parquet floors, plastered and painted walls, wooden flush doors, and aluminium-framed windows with wooden boards to cills.

The staircase continues up to the 1/F level which consists of barrack rooms or dormitories, bathrooms and toilets, as well as a PABX room, police radio station, instrument room, Briefing operation room, conference room, JPO changing room and night duty room. A fair sized balcony overlooks Deep Bay and has a flagpole and cat ladder to the upper flat roof. Finishes are the same as the other floors with white glazed tiles in bathrooms and toilets.

Windows and doors are sound (some doors removed), but the flat roofs are obviously leaking as damp patches and flaking paint are fairly widespread. Vegetation growing on the flat roofs was noted no doubt contributing to the leakages. Some damage was noted to floor tiles and to wash basins in toilets. The decorations in the interior are in a poor state with peeling and flaking paint in many places. In sum, this police station is purely functional with no architectural features or decorations of merit.

At the roof level are two circular structures, which are the signature feature of this building. The former staff of the police station called these two circular structures as 炮台 (literally, "gun batteries"). Facing southeast, the gun batteries presumably served a function for reaction to any hostile activities on the formerly British section of the New Territories. The gun batteries are accessed through a cat ladders at the male toilet and night duty room at the 1/F inside the building, therefore officers was not exposed to gun-fire threat when entering the gun battery.

It has undergone renovation such as installation of aluminium window and air-conditioner; however, its exterior has been maintained since its completion in 1962. An old photo taken around 1960s shows this police station without the two circular pillboxes, indicating that they are later additions on the building.

***Built Heritage  
Value  
Authenticity  
Rarity***

The police station played a role in maintaining law and order of Lau Fau Shan neighbourhood. It should be regarded as part of Lau Fau Shan's historic fabric. It is a landmark building of the district due to its prominent location on a hilltop. It also enjoys beautiful scenery of Deep Bay.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

The police station has distant group value with the base of operation of the late *Group Value* Qing revolutionaries at the Fortified Structure at Ha Pak Nai (下白泥碉堡, Declared Monument).