



**THE OLD CENTRAL POLICE STATION COMPOUND
INTERPRETIVE PLAN**



**DRAFT FINAL INTERPRETIVE PLAN
DECEMBER 2009**



The Old Central Police Station and Victoria Prison, Hong Kong

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS INTERPRETATION?

“The work of revealing something of the beauty and wonder, the inspiration and spiritual meaning that lie behind what the visitor can with his senses perceive.”

Freeman Tilden

Interpretation is a communication discipline that is generally applied in the context of a museum, visitor centre or heritage site. It can be applied to a single object or an entire country.

The first person to formulate principles around the activity is generally regarded as Freeman Tilden who laid out six principles in his 1957 book *Interpreting Our Heritage*:

1. Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.

2. Information, as such, is not Interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based on information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.

3. Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is to some degree teachable.

4. The chief aim of Interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.

5. Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole person rather than any phase.

6. Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

Sometimes, Tilden’s interpretive principles are reduced to three key elements – to **relate**, **reveal** and **provoke**. These principles have been built upon in the theory and practice of the last 50 years but fundamentally remain relevant.

Other aims for interpretation can be to:

- Orientate
- Inform
- Entertain
- Persuade
- Explain
- Promote values
- Influence behaviour
- Develop a sense of identity or place

Essentially, interpretation is about communicating **a sense of value** to users so that, in the case of heritage, they may understand the reason for conserving the building or object and may even be inspired to become actively involved in that process.

1.2 WHY AN INTERPRETIVE PLAN?

An Interpretive Plan aims to turn the principles of interpretation into a reality for a specific site. It aims to be a clear statement of the aims, context, issues, approaches and methods of implementation for that site. It should act as both a strategic framework for building consensus for your objectives, as well as a plan of action for future consultants by:



- Defining the objectives of the interpretation
- Providing an overview of the context within which the interpretation takes place
- Defining opportunities and constraints for interpretation on the site
- Exploring interpretive approaches
- Laying down a messaging strategy
- Expressing a mission statement for interpretation
- Outlining implications for the site of the interpretation
- Suggesting methods and media of interpretation

These aims should tie in with the overall aims of the project that the CPSC:

1. Is a valuable heritage site that should be sensitively revitalised to become a lively and integral part of the local community
2. Should be revitalised with the public interest in mind – engaging, inclusive and financially sustainable without public subsidy
3. Should be a globally recognized example of an innovative urban regeneration and adaptive re-use of a historical heritage site

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the overall Interpretive Plan for final delivery in December 2009 is to provide:

- A review of the **visitor target groups** and their service requirements
- An exploration of issues around the **site interpretation** and devise a series of guidelines to feed into the conservation and commercial planning exercises

- A formulation of an **Interpretive Plan** including key messages, narrative themes, sub-themes and links in relation to the built elements of the site
- A description in broad terms of **implementation strategies** to deliver these storylines

In essence, it explores the following questions:

Why ... are you interpreting the site and writing an Interpretive Plan? (Chapter 1)

Who ... is the interpretation for? (Chapter 2)

What ... will it interpret? (Chapter 3)

How ... will you interpret it? (Chapters 4-6)

1.4 PROCESS OF THE STUDY

The schedule for the study is as follows:

Item No.	Milestone	When
1	Interim Paper: outlining initial thoughts around the scope of works for discussion	End Mar 2009
2	1st Draft Interpretive Plan: expanded, fleshed out ideas based around the scope of works as agreed from discussion of the Interim Paper for wider circulation	Early May 2009
3	2nd Draft Interpretive Plan: a revised document based around the scope of works following comments from wider circulation of the 1 st	Mid July 2009



	draft	
4	Draft Final Interpretive Plan: a revised document based around the scope of works following comments from wider consultation of the 2 nd Draft	Mid Oct 2009
5	Final Interpretive Plan: a revised document based around the scope of works following consolidated comment from the Trust and other consultants as may be engaged by the Trust	Mid Dec 2009

1.5 PURPOSES OF THE FINAL INTERPRETIVE PLAN

This Final Interpretive Plan aims to consolidate on the progress over the course of the project. It aims to provide an understanding of the 'Who?', 'What?' and 'How?' of the interpretation of the site.

It aims to summarise discussions with members of the wider team, especially where the interpretive process interfaces with the work of the Conservation Architects (PMT) or the New Build Architects (HdM). In particular, as the work of other team members has been evolving and ongoing, it aims to confirm uses and potential treatments for interpretive spaces as the briefing document for the eventual interpretive designers.

1.6 DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

It is hoped that this Plan will build upon the excellent work done by the team to

date on this project. It essential for any party interpreting this site to make a detailed study of the excellent Conservation Management Plans and documents produced by PMT.

Documents that have been reviewed as background for this study include:

- 2008 Hong Kong Annual Report
- Recommendation Report, Committee on Museums, LCSD, 2007
- PMT Plans Option C
- Conservation Management Plan, June 2008, Purcell Miller Tritton LLP
- Gazeteer, May 2008, Purcell Miller Tritton
- Report on Public Consultation, 11 October 2007 to 10 April 2008, HKJC
- Historical Anecdotes, August 2006, Prof. Chan Wai-kwan
- CPSC Website, HKJC
- Presentations by PMT, HdM and DTZ
- Headquarters Block CMP 2nd Draft

For other publications consulted, please see the Bibliography.



2. VISITOR TARGET GROUPS

2.1 BACKGROUND TO TOURISM IN HONG KONG

It is not in the remit of this exercise to do a comprehensive market review of tourism in Hong Kong. However, a cursory look at the sector has some instructive indicators that may provide insight into the needs of certain visitor target groups.

Based on Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) visitor arrival figures for 2008, just over 29.5 million people visited Hong Kong last year, an increase of 4.7% on visitor numbers in 2007. Of these, 58.7% stayed overnight.

In terms of regional changes in visitation numbers, there was an 8.9% increase in visitors from Mainland China, with drops in numbers being accounted for by Europe, Africa and the Middle East (- 4.4%) and The Americas (-5.5%). It can only be imagined that the global economic downturn will continue the downward trend of these latter numbers in the coming year, with figures for both these regions for January 2009 showing a decrease of 25% on the same time in 2008.

2.2 HERITAGE TOURISM IN HONG KONG

An annual review of destinations visited by tourists is undertaken annually by the HKTB. The latest edition provides a comparison of figures for 2006 and 2007. Interestingly, the list of places visited reads as follows:

Places visited	2006 %	2007 %
Victoria Peak	32.0	33.4

Open-air Market – Ladies Market	24.5	24.5
Avenue of Stars	21.9	22.1
Ocean Park	17.4	17.9
Hong Kong Disneyland	17.9	16.8
Open-air Market – Temple Street	15.4	15.2
Clock Tower at Tsim Sha Tsui	12.3	13.0
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre	14.6	12.7
Repulse Bay	14.3	12.4
Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront Promenade	9.2	10.9

It will come as no surprise to residents of Hong Kong that the activity of shopping is so well represented in the list. ‘Manufactured’ tourist attractions such as the Avenue of Stars and Hong Kong’s theme parks, are also high on visitors’ things-to-do list. Arguably the only item of ‘heritage’ identifiable on the list of results is the Clock Tower at Tsim Sha Tsui, but this is by no means a heritage attraction as such and one would assume it is on the list due to it being a recognizable icon associated with Hong Kong’s real prize heritage asset – its skyline. The Hong Kong harbour skyline accounts for four out of the ten entries on the list.

So there is no *bona fide* entry on the top ten list of places to visit for what overseas visitors might consider a cultural heritage attraction (if one discounts the Hong Kong skyline itself). This leaves an enormous gap in the market and provides an exciting opportunity.

This has not escaped the notice of the Hong Kong SAR Government and



momentum is now behind the revitalisation of historic buildings for heritage tourism purposes. In response to the announcements of the selection results for the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme) announced on 17th February 2009 by the Development Bureau, the Executive Director of Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), Mr Anthony Lau stated that:

“Experiential travel has become the trend of the day, with increased interest among visitors to explore the cultural aspect of the destination during their trip, so as to enrich their travel experience. The revitalisation of the historic buildings will not only enrich our tourism offerings in the aspect of culture and heritage, but also provide us with new angles in our tourism promotion.”

2.3 BACKGROUND TO MUSEUM VISITATION IN HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Tourism Board lists seven major museums and 22 museums of special interest. Of the seven major museums, four have a historical or heritage focus, and only two are housed in or provide some sort of interpretation to a conserved site or building. Roughly half of the special interest museums have a historical slant. The special interest list includes the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum and the Police Museum.

Attendance figures for some of these relevant museums for 2008 were as follows:

Museum	Visitors
HK Museum of History	634,000

Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	229,000
HK Heritage Museum	415,388
HK Railway Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum & Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	499,393
Museum of Tea Ware	167,000
HK Museum of Coastal Defence	132,000
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	90,000
Law Uk Folk Museum	18,000

In terms of [length of visitation time](#), except for the Space Museum and the Museum of Tea Ware, museum visitors usually stayed for more than one hour on average, with visitors of the Science Museum stayed for the longest time of 115.8 minutes on average. As for the Space Museum and the Museum of Tea Ware, the average length of stay was 56.5 minutes and 33.8 minutes respectively.

The most recent figures for [visitor satisfaction](#) were published in 2004. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has commissioned an opinion survey on LCSD museums (including the Museum of Art, Science Museum, Space Museum, Heritage Museum, Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and Museum of Tea Ware) last year, the findings of which are being consolidated. It remains to be seen if the results of this survey will be released to the public but this may shed some light on visitor expectations to feed into the interpretive planning exercise at a later date.



2.4 VISITOR TARGET GROUPS

It would be advisable to commission a market research report specifically on the issue of heritage tourism for Hong Kong. In lieu of this, we can make certain assumptions based on industry practice and experience. We divide potential visitors into four main groups:

- Tourists
 - Local
 - Mainland
 - Overseas
- Hong Kong groups
 - School
 - Community
- Casual visitors
 - Neighbourhood drop-in
- VIPs

Tourists

This group provides an important source of visitation for heritage sites throughout the world as they, to varying degrees, are actively looking for activities to do during their stay. However, due to often tight schedules in Hong Kong (between one and three days in many cases) attractions have to get onto the 'must-see' list in order to stand a chance of capturing a significant portion of the market.

Local tourists: by local tourists we mean Hong Kong residents who make a specific trip to visit an attraction. In many ways these are the easiest group to attract and to attract repeatedly. Due to their presence in Hong Kong, they are consistently exposed to marketing campaigns and word-of-mouth recommendation. Hong Kong tourists have also proven themselves to be hungry for new attractions and offers within the tourism market. For instance, the Hong Kong Wetland Park (which can be regarded as an example of natural

heritage tourism) attracted 1.2 million visitors in its first year – a large number of these being local tourists. It should be noted that, whilst this group can be relatively easily attracted, members can be some of the harshest critics of an attraction and so drive down the 'brand'. **Profile:** relatively easy to attract, best word-of-mouth ambassadors.

Mainland tourists: there are still large groups of mainland tourists coming to Hong Kong, but increasingly individual tourists are making up a proportion of the visitors. Many of these are same-day or short-stay (1-2 day) visitors. Often tours are arranged through travel agents and tour guides, so the CPSC must be well marketed to these demand drivers. It may be a problem in getting tour operators to promote the site due to the limited opportunity for them to gain revenue from a visit. The heritage of the site may not be sufficient in itself to attract this market segment and its promotion would probably need to be linked with some form of shopping and eating activity to make it attractive in relation to other competing attractions. **Profile:** heritage tourism may not be an end in itself, would require a specifically targeted offer.

Overseas tourists: we regard these as tourists outside of Hong Kong and China. This group tends to be reliant on promotional tourism information provided by guidebooks or the Hong Kong Tourist Board itself. Given the central location of the CPSC, close to areas of interest to this group such as Lan Kwai Fong and Soho and on well-know heritage trails along Hollywood Road, this must be an important target group. On top of this, many of these



visitors will be very familiar with the concept and usage of cultural heritage tourism sites and be actively looking for this type of attraction to include in their itinerary. By virtue of this fact, many of these visitors will be coming with high expectations of their visit and be prone to making comparisons with world-class international heritage attractions. **Profile:** very receptive to this form of tourism, with high expectations.

Hong Kong groups

The visitation of this category will rely on the success of the outreach activities of the CPSC.

School groups: any cultural venue, but particularly one with an educational remit, has the bulk of its visitor numbers made up by school group visits. In many ways, these are 'captive audiences' in that schoolchildren do not have a choice as to whether to visit certain venues or not. But it must be remembered that, in an ever-growing market of cultural and educational attractions, schools and teachers *do* have increasingly greater choice within the limitations of a school year. Ways in which these needs can be met will be an important factor in attracting this sector. **Profile:** should be a major component of visitation figures for interpretive facilities, requires a focused and effective offer.

Community groups: whilst outreach for community groups (such as NGOs run for older people) is done by a number of cultural institutions, they are an often overlooked source of visitor numbers, involvement and support for heritage projects. In the UK, for instance retirees are a major

contributor to the running of cultural institutions such as National Trust and English Heritage properties. **Profile:** an underutilised resource for interpretive facilities and activities.

Casual visitors

Neighbourhood drop-ins: we would expect these to divide into two distinct groups –

Office workers: given the mixed-use nature of proposed development, it is envisaged that office workers from the surrounding neighbourhood will be frequent visitors to food and beverage outlets within the CPSC. Whilst these visits may only last half an hour once or twice a week, this group should be regarded as an important potential consumer and source of support for interpretive and cultural activities. **Profile:** visitation will depend on the quality of the F&B offer, a potential source of community and word-of-mouth support for interpretive and cultural activities.

Local residents: given the amount of open space that is being set aside and enhanced in the upper and lower courtyards, we would expect that local residents, in particular older people with leisure time, will find the revitalized CPSC an attractive place to spend time and socialize. These visitors should be regarded as prime stakeholders of the project with a potential investment of precious collective memory.

Profile: a potentially valuable source of collective memory and support for interpretive activities. The Education Officers should target some specific outreach programmes to this group to promote a sense of involvement in the



objectives of the site including encouraging volunteer activity.

VIPs

Government officials or corporate sponsors will no doubt want to visit the site and may wish to hold functions there. If it is a visit, VIPs may be on a very tight schedule and need to get an overview of the activities on the site in perhaps 20 minutes to half an hour. **Profile:** arranged through official channels, need to have a specific route to make a good impression during a short visit.

2.5 NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF VISITOR GROUPS

As the study progresses, specific needs linked to particular interpretive proposals will be identified. However, there are at this stage a number of initial assumptions we can make about the needs and expectations for interpretive facilities within the site of the visitor groups outlined above.

General (common to all visitor groups)

- **Accessibility:** this applies to physical accessibility in terms of ease of flow, catering for visitors with mobility, visual, hearing or cognitive challenges, and addressing visitors of different backgrounds and learning styles.
- **Clarity of orientation:** all visitors want to know what is on offer, where it can be found, and how long it will take.
- **Authenticity:** this is important in varying degrees to different visitors, but overall people want to feel like they are 'seeing the real thing' on a heritage site. Whilst a site should be developed with tourists in mind, this should not be regarded as the primary objective. Retain authenticity and tourists will come. This, of course, leads to the whole debate of "What is authentic?"
- **Entertainment:** this may be a by-product or result of the interpretation, but would be an expectation of the overall visit taking into account other F&B facilities on the site, as well as possible cultural and artistic activities
- **Interactivity:** long a 'buzzword' in the museum world, there is now a more balanced view of what this means and a realization that, particularly in a heritage context, that the most meaningful interaction is often with a human being rather than a high-tech gadget or interactive exhibit.
- **A sense of purpose:** all visitors want to leave feeling that there has been a point to their visit and, in the main, this means the sense that they have somehow learned something and furthered their understanding of Hong Kong.
- **Online presence:** at its most basic this is a website that provides basic information about what is on offer at the site, and it can be extended to provide a pre- and post-visit experience tied in with the interpretation, as well as extensive resources for teachers and students.



- **Taxis:** a convenient taxi drop-off point
- **Take-away items:** this could be in the form of a free give-away gift that acts to promote the site or a bought souvenir from a shop.

Local tourists:

As well as the general points listed above, local tourists may expect:

- **A sense of connection:** in terms of what the interpretation of the site tells them about what it means to be from Hong Kong
- **A sense of place:** the interpretation of the site must be relevant and resonate with local people's understanding of what the site has represented in the past and what it represents for the future
- **A sense of 'money well spent':** even though this is a HKJC project, there will be a perception that the CPSC is a public asset and that public time and money has been expended on the project. Local tourists will want to see something worthwhile as a result.
- **A source of pride:** that the development of this site and its interpretation represents a step forward for heritage conservation and historic building revitalisation in Hong Kong
- **Ongoing and evolving programmes:** to keep local tourists coming back there will need to be an ongoing programme of cultural,

heritage and artistic activities

Mainland tourists:

As well as the general points listed above, mainland tourists may expect:

- **A good reason to visit:** the heritage value of the site may not be attractive enough to mainland tourists on a tight schedule. They may require a well-targeted offer including food and retail
- **Language needs:** providing tours in *putonghua* and possibly literature in simplified Chinese
- **A safe coach drop-off point**

Overseas tourists:

As well as the general points listed above, overseas tourists may expect:

- **A clear heritage positioning:** a reason to choose to visit this site before others
- **Tie-in to other heritage offers:** a coordinated promotion with other sites and inclusion in relevant local historical trails
- **Language needs:** guides (possibly audio) and literatures available in a range of languages
- **Specifically targeted themes:** to link with, for instance, interest in colonial and architectural history

School groups:

As well as the general points listed above, school groups may expect:

- **Free access:** as charging for visits will exclude the children of poorer parents



- **Good pre-visit teacher resources:** and/or on-site preparatory visits for teachers
- **Health and safety risk assessments:** help with preparing for teachers
- **Coach drop-off point:** safe and avoiding traffic congestion
- **Controllable areas:** within which students can roam 'freely'
- **A clearly defined visitation route:** which is not too dispersed around the site
- **Some division between areas of interpretation and entertainment:** to keep students from disturbing the general public using F&B
- **Curriculum awareness:** among the curatorial team of current and changing curriculum content to enable tie-in with classroom lessons or units of inquiry
- **Education packs:** some form of education pack or worksheet pitched at an appropriate level to the group (requiring a range of packs and sheets to be available)
- **Cloakroom:** a place to temporarily store school bags and coats
- **Good scheduling:** a visit lasting between half and one and a half hours depending on the age of the students
- **Outreach department:** staff specifically assigned to liaison about school trips
- **Picnic area:** a place to eat packed lunches

- **Toilets:** enough toilets suitable for schoolchildren

Community groups

As well as the general points listed above, community groups may expect:

- Much like the local tourists community groups will expect a sense of connection, of place and of pride
- **Specifically targeted programmes:** which involve them in actively contributing to the interpretive content and possibly even the running of the site through volunteer schemes
- **A sense of ownership:** genuinely engaging with community groups will be essential to fostering good will and meaning for the values and objectives of the site

Neighbourhood drop-in visitors:

- **What's on?:** well-marketed and easy to access information on events at the site
- **A hassle-free lunch hour:** the ability to have a pleasant lunch break without being disturbed by hordes of school children or tourists
- **New points of interest:** finding out something I didn't know on each casual visit
- **Specific outreach programmes:** aimed in particular at older local residents



VIPs:

- A pre-arranged route: allowing for the greatest overview in the shortest time
- A place to meet and greet: may be needed for official functions

2.6 IMPLICATIONS FOR FACILITIES AND INTERPRETATION

The needs and expectations identified above are by no means exhaustive and will be augmented and modified as the study progresses. However, they already give us some indications in terms of implications for practical facilities and interpretation (specific interpretive requirements will be further explored in the following chapter) that may be required:

- A clear front-of-house presence accessible from Hollywood Road for beginning the interpretive journey
- An orientation point for tourist information including a pick-up point for literature in multiple languages, site maps and possibly audio guides
- A safe coach drop-off point
- A clearly delineated and well-signed interpretive route or routes through the site
- Information in multiple languages
- Specific programmes of interpretation or activity for targeted groups
- A briefing and de-briefing area for groups
- Group cloakroom and toilets
- A school lunch area

- Possibly an F&B outlet specifically catering to large groups
- A retail shop specific to the heritage site
- Some form of interpretation centre
- Some form of exhibition, possibly as a standalone experience that is easily accessible from Hollywood Road
- A multipurpose meeting or function room
- Rest room/offices for curators and guides

This list of functional requirements will be further expanded after considering interpretive requirements for the site.



3. SITE INTERPRETATION

3.1 THE INTERPRETIVE CONTEXT

In order to devise an effective interpretive and messaging strategy, we need to plan with an awareness of what is already available to the public. This is not to say that content from another cultural venue or facility should not be repeated, but that, if we do so, we do it with good reason.

If we are to provide “something new, different, inviting and exciting to encourage repeat visits”, as stated on the CPSC website, we certainly need to know what other offers we are differentiating ourselves against.

In interpretive terms, we see these offers primarily breaking down into:

- Local heritage trails
- Relevant museums
- Other local cultural offers

3.2 LOCAL HERITAGE TRAILS

LCSD has established three heritage trails which form the Central and Western Heritage Trail. These are:

- The Central Route
- The Sheung Wan Route
- The Western District & Peak Route

The Central Route

This route runs from the old Star Ferry Pier to St John’s Cathedral and covers a total of 42 historical buildings and sites. Significant historical buildings which have been demolished and memorial stones are also included in the route to enable visitors to recapture past landmarks of the Central District.

The Sheung Wan Route

This route runs from the site of the Old Central Fire Station at Queen Victoria Street to the Western Market and covers 35 historic buildings and sites, including the historic sites of the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail set up by the Central and Western District Council, buildings of different religions, and also traditional Chinese buildings.

The Western District & Peak Route

This route begins at the Peak Tram terminus and ends at the Lo Pan Temple at Li Po Lung Path and covers 25 historic buildings and sites.

Interpretation on these trails takes the form of graphic panels at points along the route carrying maps, photographs and text.

The CPSC is already an element on the Central Route and its revitalisation will undoubtedly be of mutual benefit. How this might alter or augment the route should be explored further in subsequent papers.

3.3 RELEVANT MUSEUMS

We have selected a number of museums that have content with some links to the CPSC in that:

- They tell the story of Hong Kong’s history
- They tell the story of Hong Kong’s physical development
- They express aspects of Hong Kong’s heritage
- They have a direct connection in terms of content
- They are museums housed in heritage buildings
- They give a sense of time and place



With these guidelines in mind, we briefly outline the themes covered for the following major museums:

- Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences
- Dr Sun Yat Sen Museum
- Hong Kong History Museum
- Heritage Discovery Centre
- Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence
- Hong Kong Heritage Museum
- Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Gallery
- Police Museum
- Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum
- Maritime Museum

All of these museums are run by the LCSD, except the Maritime Museum which is privately run.

Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences

The Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, established in 1996, charts the historical development of medical sciences in Hong Kong. It occupies 10,000 square feet, and comprises 11 exhibition galleries, 1 gallery for the Tai Ping Shan View, a library and a lecture room. Many school groups visit the museum as part of their learning about historical buildings in and around Central.

Themes: health and diseases, including past discoveries, current developments and future challenges of special relevance to Hong Kong, the interface between Chinese and Western medicine, conserving medical objects of historical value, the history of dentistry in Hong Kong, herbalism, the Old Laboratory.

Programmes: temporary exhibitions, such as Sport and Health, guided tours, lectures, outreach exhibitions

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum is located in the extensively restored Kom Tong Hall, originally the residence of Ho Kom-tong built in 1914. The exhibition aims to explain how Dr Sun was transformed from an aspiring medical student into a renowned revolutionary leader. Supplemented by scene setting and an array of historical photographs, artifacts help reconstruct the life of this Chinese statesman.

Themes: Dr Sun Yat-sen and Modern China, Hong Kong in Dr Sun Yat-sen's time

Programmes: special exhibitions, lectures, workshops, film shows, a reading room, audio tour, guided tours

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History was established in July 1975 and moved to its present premises on Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui in 1998. It has a gross floor area of 17,500 square metres and houses The Hong Kong Story which comprises 8 galleries. This outlines the natural, folk culture and historical development of Hong Kong from the Devonian period 400 million years ago to the reunification of Hong Kong with China in 1997.

Themes: Landform and Climate, Flora and Fauna, Prehistoric Hong Kong, Han to Qing Dynasties, Folk Culture in Hong Kong, The Opium Wars and Cessation of Hong Kong, Birth and Early Growth of the City, The Japanese Occupation, Modern Metropolis and Return to China



Programmes: special exhibitions, lectures, model-making workshops, demonstrations, video shows, resource centre, teaching kits, loan services, guided tours

Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre

Opened in October 2005, the Centre occupies the historic former Whitfield Barracks at Kowloon Park. It comprises a thematic exhibition gallery, lecture hall, educational activity room and reference library. Recent thematic exhibitions have included 'Building Together: 160 years of Hong Kong-French common heritage & perspectives', 'Remaking Hong Kong: Architecture as Culture', and an 'Exhibition of Selected Projects of "Revitalizing Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme"'. A permanent exhibition on Hong Kong's cultural heritage will be open some time in 2009.

Themes: to be confirmed

Programmes: thematic exhibitions, lecture series, public workshops, family events, school workshops, public forums, guided tours

Hong Museum of Coastal Defence

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, located at Shau Kei Wan is converted from the hundred years' old Lei Yue Mun Fort. As well as the central Redoubt, there are eighteen casemates connected by passageways, originally used as barrack rooms, magazines, shell and cartridge stores, and preparation rooms.

Themes: history of Hong Kong's coastal defence, orientation, Ming Period (1368-1644), Qing Period (1644-1911), First Opium War (1839-1842), The British Period (1841-1860), Battle for Hong Kong (1941), The

Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), The Volunteers (1854-1995), Hong Kong Garrison of the PLA (1997), Coastal Defence Weapons Theatre, The Cost of War

Programmes: community workshops, tours, lectures, family events, film shows

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Opened in December 2000, the museum covers 32,000 square metres and is divided into 12 exhibition galleries, providing comprehensive exhibitions on history, art and culture to express the rich heritage created by Hong Kong people, their ancestors and descendents to promote Hong Kong as a cultural metropolis.

Theme: orientation, New Territories Heritage, Children's Discovery Gallery, Cantonese Opera, Chinese Art, Performing Art, Folk Culture

Programmes: community programmes, teaching kits, resource centre, lending service, arts and cultural workshops, guided tours

Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Gallery (under renovation)

Located at the City Hall Annex and soon to be expanded from its current single ground floor to four floors, this interactive gallery currently features the Infrastructure Walk, an 18.5-metre-long 3D model of planned developments and infrastructure around the harbour displayed on video screens with theatrical effects.

Themes: the growth and development of Hong Kong as a city, urban planning, the harbour, sustainable development, transport, infrastructure development, urban lifestyles, green living

Programmes: tours, worksheets, others to be confirmed



Police Museum

The Museum is divided into four galleries – Orientation Gallery, Triad Societies and Narcotics Gallery, 'Police Then & Now' Gallery and Current Exhibition Gallery. It has a total floor area of 570 square metres in which over 600 exhibits are displayed.

Themes: the history of the Hong Kong police, history of anti-triad societies enforcement, history of anti-drugs enforcement

Programmes: recruitment events

PLEASE NOTE: The Police Museum is closed for refurbishment and due to re-open in May 2010 at which time a re-evaluation of its exhibits should be undertaken.

Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum

The museum showcases the evolution of the Hong Kong penal system from one that originally focused on punishment as a deterrent to the present system that promotes the rehabilitation of prisoners. Situated inside the Correctional Services' Staff Training Institute, it features a mock gallows, two imitation cells and a stylised guard tower. Nine galleries feature some 600 artifacts and exhibits covering the history and development of the prison system, punishment and imprisonment, staff uniforms and insignia, Vietnamese boat people, homemade weapons and more.

Themes: Punishment and Imprisonment, Prisons History and Development, Inside Prisons, Staff Uniform, Insignia and Accoutrement, Vietnamese Boat People, Homemade Weapons and Unauthorised Articles, Staff, Overseas Cooperation and Experience Sharing

Programmes: N/A

Hong Kong Maritime Museum

This museum pays tribute to the history and development of Hong Kong and China's colourful maritime past dating back 2,000 years. The museum, located on the ground floor of Murray House, Stanley contains precious models of ancient ships, artistic works and interactive displays of modern ships and ports.

Themes: ancient maritime history, the evolution of South-East Asian maritime routes, craft design developments, China Coast contact with foreign countries, Western maritime incursions, the Age of Steam, a ship's bridge and radio room, tanker evolution, modern ship anchorage, how a container port works, the future shape of shipping

Programmes: special exhibitions, family days

3.4 OTHER LOCAL CULTURAL OFFERS

The Fringe Club

A performing arts venue in nearby Lower Albert Road, the Fringe has a studio, theatre, gallery, workshop, rehearsal space, and rooftop restaurant. According to their website they:

- Provide an open art platform to provide rent-free services
- Provides overseas networking
- Care about heritage and city development
- Mount an annual city festival
- Provide special privileges for members

They also regularly collaborate with overseas arts organizations to



showcase and promote Hong Kong and its artists.

3.5 STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a starting point for beginning to devise a messaging strategy, we must begin with the significance of the site itself. PMT's Conservation Management Plan devotes a chapter to defining the significance of the site from a conservation point of view. Its conclusions for the CPSC are worth summarizing here as they relate to possible themes and sub-themes for interpretation.

Local and regional significance

Its representation of colonial history, its historic ties with many of the local population (as inmates, employees, visitors etc.), and its sheer survival as an historic building.

Historical significance

It is a clear physical representation of the history of law and order in Hong Kong from 1841-2006. The building fabric of Victoria Prison represents the development of the prison and treatment of prisoners. The Central Police Station shows the development and growth of the police force, and the accommodation thought necessary to house the different ranks and separate ethnic groups.

Townscape significance

The combination of low-rise development and open spaces is a significant reminder of the appearance of Hong Kong pre-1960. The site physically represented the power of the police force and the security of the Gaol. They are also some of the earliest fabric on the site, and some of the earliest colonial structure within

Hong Kong. The Parade Ground is an important aspect of the CPS and the prison yard representative of the life of prisoners.

Architectural significance

The Magistracy, Police Headquarters, the Barrack and domestic accommodation all have some architectural significance.

Archaeological significance

Findings from any archaeological research or excavation may be explained through the interpretive storyline and significant archaeological remains incorporated into the interpretive displays.

Technological significance

There is some modest significance in the use of unfamiliar materials and construction techniques in the buildings.

Associative

There are many important people, such as William Caine and Charles St George Cleverly, who were involved with the construction and management of the prison and police force, with each official leaving their mark in some way. These associations are of some significance to the colonial and later history of Hong Kong and the site. The site was also use as a headquarters during the Japanese occupation and there is the possibility that the surrender of Japanese forces occurred here. The Magistracy was used for war crime trials.

Archival significance

Whilst the site does not have an archive or collection as such, there is a wealth of archive material from original



sources that adds to the significance of the site.

Cultural significance

Much of the significance of the site lies within the many cultural associations which are visible in the physical fabric of the site, and form an important element in the history and understanding of both the site and Hong Kong.

3.6 INTERPRETIVE THEMES

It is clear, therefore, that there is no shortage of stories to tell about the site. At this early stage of the interpretive planning process, we do not aim to provide an overarching messaging structure. Rather, we aim to get general agreement on themes and sub-themes that are worth pursuing that might then either operate separately, in parallel or closely linked by interpretive planning on the site. These can then be fleshed out into sub-themes and messages in later papers.

There are already some obvious narratives themes that be picked out from section 3.5:

- The [history of Hong Kong](#) as represented by the site
- The [development of the site](#) itself.
- The [story of law and order](#) in Hong Kong. We believe the buildings around the Parade Ground offer a good opportunity to tell three important aspects of the site's role in law enforcement – its administrative role (HQ), its operational role (the Barrack Block) and its social aspects (Dormitory A & B)

- The [urban development](#) of Central in relation to the site
- The development of [colonial architecture](#) as represented by aspects of the site (including the development of construction technology)
- [Key personalities](#) in the history of Hong Kong associated with the CPSC

These are all legitimate and important stories that should and will be interpreted either as a subject for a whole trail or exhibition, or at key points on the site. Most of these themes and their sub-themes can be directly associated to tangible 'hardware' (or the physical fabric) of the site and, as such, are relatively well-represented in archival material.

However, in order to bring lasting, sustainable interpretive meaning to the site and its revitalised facilities, we believe that we will have to look beyond these themes for the following reasons:

- Many of these themes are already comprehensively dealt with by other cultural or museum venues (see section 3.3)
- They are intrinsic and so, whilst being necessary to interpret, do not in themselves bring new meaning to the site
- They are not a sufficient draw for visitors (the theme of law and order being a case in point)

As stated in the Conservation Management Plan, much of the significance of the site lies in its cultural associations and what they



represent to the people of Hong Kong. In this sense, it is what the site tells us about the **relationship** between the colonial authorities and the ordinary people of Hong Kong, **attitudes** to crime, punishment, asylum and immigration, and the **experience** that local people (as inmates, employees, visitors and local residents) had in relation to the site that may provide some of the most rewarding content for interpretation.

This intangible heritage is what we believe will add greater meaning to the site for local and, by extension, all visitors.

3.7 A WIDER INTERPRETIVE PERSPECTIVE

“Heritage is a powerful mirror. Those who cannot see themselves in it feel excluded.”¹

Professor Stuart Hall

A police station, magistrate’s court and prison see a wide spectrum of society. Over the CPSC’s 165 years, it will have borne witness to every vice and virtue that Hong Kong had to offer over that period, across every social class. Consider this statement about a nineteenth century magistrate’s court (in fact, the original building that was located on the site of the existing magistracy):

“The Magistrate’s Court was one of the very few venues where a handful of expatriates saw the local people as individuals in large numbers and gradually came to gain a little insight into what the Chinese thought and did. This was the

¹ Hall, S ‘Whose Heritage?’ (1999) Manchester Conference Proceedings, The Arts Council

place too where the Chinese had a taste of the Westerner’s concept of justice.”

Sir T.L. Yang²

There is ample evidence of life as told by the ‘official’ channels of the recording of court proceedings, court reports, police and prison archives and personal memoirs of professionals associated with the CPSC.

What we have less of is the voices of ordinary Hong Kong people who may have had contact with the CPSC as inmates, employees, visitors or local residents. Their stories are a rich, relatively untapped resource and are just as much the story of the CPSC and the wider Hong Kong community.

It is also worth noting at this point that, whilst it may not be something that we would wish to overly stress through the interpretation, the CPSC site and particularly the prison are places where some pretty dreadful things happened. Providing authentic voices as witnesses to such events, which in turn would lend credibility to positive stories to be told about the site, would be a much more convincing interpretive approach than providing an official ‘gloss’ over unpleasant facts or events.

Therefore, the themes of ‘official history’ outlined above may act as a foundation on which visitors can, with the help of the right sort of interpretation, construct their own layers of meaning of relevance to them.

3.8 ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

² Quoted in ‘A Magistrate’s Court in Nineteenth Century Hong Kong’ Ed. By Gillian Bickley



“[The challenges of interpretation of the historic environment] relate, perhaps above all, to the kind of stories we choose to acknowledge and to tell, and to the ways in which the significance of each place will change with their retelling.”³

By broadening the scope of the narratives we allow the site to tell, we also broaden the potential for people to engage with those stories. Visitors bring with them their own notions of the past, their own values and their own sense of place. It is a nigh on impossible task to provide a ‘one size fits all’ interpretive approach for such a diverse audience.

If we are to accept Tilden’s first rule (see section 1.1), then interpretation should be rooted in the experience of the present, not in the recreation or reconstruction of the past. Interpretation should, therefore, enable visitors to develop their own appreciation of significance by relating it to themselves, helped by those who have lived through the recent past and can share their perceptions and experiences.

Examples of themes that might be explored in this regard include:

- The **community of uniformed services** and their interaction on the site
- **Conflicts with the community** (such as corruption, abuse, the stigma of prison)
- **Cooperation and contribution** (such as rehabilitation of prisoners, community service performed by staff and the

³ Helms, A and Blockley, M (2006) Heritage Interpretation

- CPSC as a venue for community activities)
- **Ethnic groups and new neighbourhoods** (such as the Chinese recruited from Shandong, White Russians, the restaurants and shops for the Indian and Sikh personnel)
- **Links with current communities** (such as the account by Filipino national hero Jose P. Rizal of his visit in 1892)
- **Portrayals in the media and popular culture** (e.g. cinema, TV dramas, documentaries, comics)
- **Secrets and superstitions** (such as nicknames, secret codes, myths and legends)

For research notes with some initial content on some of these themes, please see the Appendix.

Other stories

We should remember that the process we are engaged in is part of the history of the site and worthy of interpretation in itself. As work progresses to conserve and revitalise the site, it should be recorded with a view to presentation. For instance, there would be real interest in seeing **conservation work** as it happens and as layers of the physical fabric are revealed. As soon as this on-site work begins, a video crew should be assigned to periodically record it.

3.9 SOME INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES OF OUR OWN

We believe that if the interpretation of the CPSC is to represent a genuine step change in heritage interpretation in Hong Kong it has to embody some



principles of its own that have been touched upon in this chapter:

- The site should be presented holistically with an emphasis on concepts of chronology, change and evidence
- The content providers should be seen as community-wide rather than solely expert-driven
- Visitors should be regarded as active participants rather than passive consumers
- The interpretation should mediate rather than dictate the historic environment for the visitor
- Interpretive strategies should aim to encourage discourse. Visitors should be encouraged to inquire and question
- Assessment and evaluation should seek to discover visitor perspectives and help improve interpretation on an ongoing basis

This is not to say that other museums or cultural venues in Hong Kong do not do these things already, but we believe the CPSC should make a bold statement in terms of its interpretive intent. It should lay out a clear interpretive mission and agenda for the future. This interpretive mission statement will be developed and refined in papers during the course of this study.



4. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

4.1 BRINGING LIFE TO THE SITE

There is much talk in heritage circles of 'bringing the past to life'. This can mean many things to many people, ranging from costumed re-enactments to virtual hosts. We would prefer to talk about 'bringing life to the site' which, in terms of interpretation, can mean anything from real stories told by people who experienced them to theatrical performances based around the history of the site. We believe the aspiration of bringing life to the site ties in with the overall objective of revitalisation. Ways to do this are the subject of this chapter.

4.2 A RANGE OF PROVISION

Given the diverse nature of the site and the varied visitor profile in terms of range of interests, background knowledge, time available for the visit, age, mobility and needs, a wide range of interpretative formats will inevitably need to be employed in the operation of the CPSC. These might include:

- Permanent exhibitions (including graphics, audio-visual, interactive computer-based, immersive exhibits)
- Self-guided walks
- Interpreter-led tours
- Portable information devices
- Workshops and demonstrations
- Special programmes for target groups
- Lectures and seminars
- Publications
- Educational kits
- Temporary exhibitions
- Virtual interpretation (e.g. through the website for marketing, virtual visits, post-visit support, etc.)

- Comprehensive outreach programmes (to include the use of a number of the formats above)

All of these elements must be planned holistically to ensure coherence of narration, avoid repetition (unless it is desirable from an educational point of view) and maximize interpretive opportunities.

Public art as a medium for interpretation

Art used in a public place with the purpose of communicating meaning on a particular theme can be a powerful tool for interpretation by:

- Creating a more vibrant visual environment
- Providing a focus for interpretive activities around a theme
- Encouraging and reflecting community involvement
- Creating opportunities for local artists
- Providing an iconic image for the site
- Embodying the spirit of an interpretive project

It can take many forms – from a large, professionally produced sculpture to an A4-size children's drawing. It can be a commissioned piece created by an artist or a community competition produced by amateurs, or a combination of the two. Artists in residence can create a sense of the importance of artistic interpretation on the site. We would certainly recommend exploring how interpretive themes can be worked into opportunities for public art on the site. However, we would also warn that art curatorship should not be confused



with social history curatorship. The interpretation of the social history of the site should be paramount, of which fine art is one medium which can be used to do this.

Theatre as a medium for interpretation

Another important medium of interpretation can be performance art.

Reminiscence Theatre

There has been some very interesting work done in the field of Reminiscence Theatre in the UK and US in recent years. The process revolves around recording (in various ways) the memories of older people, writing a dramatization of these memories in the form of a play and then performing the play back to the community. This in turn creates a virtuous circle that sparks more memories and more dramatic content. This is an extremely rewarding way to involve members of the community in history and interpretation, bring old and young together, and provide an outreach service. The stories could be recorded and dramatized by skilled staff at the CPSC and then outside arts groups used to create performances. If the CPSC is to have an auditorium, this could be an opportunity to hold periodic performances by the various arts groups that have been brought into the process. Themes for Reminiscence Theatre need not be specific to the site but could include such things as Hong Kong in the 1970s, the Japanese Occupation or Memories of the Handover. If this is regarded as an avenue worth exploring we would recommend bringing an expert on Reminiscence Theatre to Hong Kong to run a

workshop on how to establish and run this process.

Experimental Theatre

There is a range of theatre companies (such as Sound & Fury and Punchdrunk in the UK) that experiment with the way in which audiences experience drama. For instance, some companies specialize in 'installation theatre' where audiences are allowed to wander at will across a dispersed site, soaking up the atmosphere, encountering actors at different locations and pursuing stories at their own pace. Immersing the audience in the environment where the drama takes place can enhance a sense of empathy between the observer and the character, and offer a sensory as well as an intellectual experience.

One can well imagine a specially written play taking place at timed intervals across the site at locations such as the Chief Inspector's Office, the Magistrate's Court, a cell block, the exercise yard, perhaps with the last act finishing at the more controllable environment of the newly built theatre space.

Graphic identity

A strong and appropriate graphic identity for the branding of the site is part of the overall heritage interpretation. It would be a shame to put a lot of effort into sensitive interpretation of the site for it to be undermined at every turn by an inappropriate graphic identity. Values that guide the interpretation should feed into the brand identity for the site.



4.3 A MUSEUM ... ?

During the public consultation exercise there was support for the proposal to establish a law and order museum on the site. The joint press release issued on 15th July 2008 stated that there will be "... a law and order museum to reflect the historical significance of the site."

Certainly, we have a site containing a range of buildings of varying significance that could be regarded as some sort of open-air museum. We currently have a loose set of themes (see chapter 3) that will be further explored and structured into an interpretive framework during the course of this study. But, apart from the buildings themselves, we do not have what can be traditionally regarded as a 'collection' of objects or artifacts.

A collection could, of course, be gathered and curated with cooperation from relevant museums in Hong Kong. This would require a major exercise of auditing relevant artifacts across these institutions, deciding which objects are necessary and desirable for display at the CPSC and negotiating inter-museum loan conditions. This would also require the buildings and provisions for display for the CPSC to meet museum conservation standards regarding climate control, air movement and cleanliness, light levels, materials, microclimates, pest management, security, and movement and vibration management.

Before embarking on such an exercise, however, we think it is worth examining further whether, in fact, it is desirable and whether there could be a

greater contribution to the interpretive mission of the site in another way.

4.4 ... OR AN INTERPRETIVE CENTRE?

We have discussed how much of the content is related to the intangible heritage of the site (see section 3.7). This would require a more flexible facility than a traditional museum.

Here are some of the pros and cons of a Museum as against an Interpretive Centre:

Museum/ Visitor Centre	
Pros	Cons
It is a well-understood concept by the public	There may be preconceptions as to what it should be like
It can deliver a high quality, meaningful experience to the public	A world class museum requires a large capital investment with low (if any) returns
It adds intellectual credibility and academic kudos to the site	It must capture the imagination of the public to attract visitors. Will a Museum of Law and Order do this?
It signifies a serious approach to the history and cultural associations of the site	Visitors have high expectations of museum exhibits (especially interactive and audiovisual)
It provides a recognizable and brandable offer to the site	A substantial commitment to ongoing staffing and maintenance would be required
	The visitor experience and fit out would be constrained by available heritage spaces, unless it was to occupy part



	of the new build
	Once fitted out, museum spaces are likely to be inflexible, and difficult and costly to change

Interpretive Centre	
Pros	Cons
The public might be more open-minded about what it has to offer	It is a less well-understood concept by the public
Capital investment for fit out would be relatively small	Public expectation of it being a museum would have to be managed
It would represent a serious and fresh approach to heritage conservation and tourism in Hong Kong	To have academic profile it would have to be run by a credible NGO or associated with a <i>bona fide</i> institution of higher education research
It would be less constrained by available heritage spaces	A substantial commitment to staff and publications would be required
It would have a high chance of making use of spaces within the new build, e.g. for performance, workshops etc.	
It could provide a focus for a significant and ongoing contribution to heritage research and tourism in Hong Kong through its activities	
It would be a much more flexible space which could more easily change its	

function if required in the future	
------------------------------------	--

After much discussion and an ongoing iterative process in terms of the architecture, we believe that a good mix of major interpretive facilities is fulfilled by an allocation of the following:

[Barrack Block G/F West Wing \(Building No. 3\) – Visitor Centre](#)
[A Hall – Education Centre \(Building No. 10\)](#) (benefiting from its proximity to B Hall G/F cells)
[E Hall Basement \(Building No. 15\) – Thematic Exhibitions](#)

4.5 COLLECTION, WHAT COLLECTION?

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has assisted in making a survey of objects (recorded on Artefact Inventory Sheets) on the site and is arranging the storage of a range of artifacts that could potentially be used for display either within the museum or within contextual settings around the site. Another source of objects would be loans from relevant museums such as the Hong Kong History Museum or Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum.

We also believe that there should be a focus on the collection of the intangible heritage element discussed in 3.6-3.7. For all intents and purposes, this would require the establishment of an oral history project in relation to the site. We would go further to say that this oral history project would not simply be for the purposes of having a collection of content to be interpreted in time for the opening of the site to the public, but that it should be ongoing and, indeed, provide a major focus for



the interpretive and cultural activities of the site going forward.

In terms of immediacy for the visitor, it is hard to rival first-hand accounts. For instance:

A third-hand approach: “Prisoners used to live in this cell anything from between one night and many years.”

Better ... “We had a man tell us that he had spent a night in here when he was a teenager and said he was very scared.”

Even better ... “I spent a night in here when I was 15 for stealing a piece of fruit. I cried for my mother all night and thankfully they let me go in the morning with a warning.”

4.6 A BEACON FOR HERITAGE PROJECTS IN HONG KONG AND BEYOND

A growing awareness of the heritage of Hong Kong both as a cultural and tourism asset has brought with it a rising tide of public attention and interest group activity. The combination of this increased awareness, the enormous potential of the site, the requirement to build some sort of collection for interpretation and the HKJC’s desire to make this project “a globally recognized example of an innovative urban regeneration and adaptive re-use of a historical heritage site”, means that we have a unique opportunity to make CPSC a beacon that others look to in the world of heritage.

We believe that a major step forward in this regard would be if the Interpretive Centre for the site could also act as a **Centre for Cultural**

Memory. This would be a focus for memory studies in relation to heritage conservation, interpretation and tourism in Hong Kong. We believe that this would:

- Put Hong Kong at the forefront in the region of this relatively recent field of study
- Take the initiative in the debate about heritage in Hong Kong
- Act as a genuine contribution to global heritage studies
- Give the project enormous credibility in the heritage world
- Designate a use for part of the site commensurate with the site’s importance

There are many issues associated with this idea, not least who would run it, but we believe it is an idea worth considering at this early stage.

4.7 POSSIBLE INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Given the range of knowledge and interest levels, ages and abilities, motivations and expectations that are possible from such a diverse set of target groups, it is essential that a similarly wide range of experiences, facilities and interpretive levels are incorporated at the design and operational stages of this plan.

Facilities: from simple ‘comfort’, such as toilets, to sophisticated ‘experience’; from those for fully able to those for multi-disability; from those for a newborn to those required of seniors, and so on.



Experiences: from quiet and contemplative to collaborative and lively.

Interpretation: creating a hierarchy of information is important. To use a swimming analogy, we need to cater for visitors who enjoy engaging with information at different levels – ranging from ‘paddlers’ and ‘swimmers’ to ‘divers’.

The approach suggested for the CPSC is one of total inclusiveness in terms of facilities, experiences and interpretation.

The most flexible interpretative tools are people – it is therefore recommended that there should be a great emphasis placed on knowledgeable and skilled staff trained to deliver the highest levels of customer service and performance. Such staff should be capable of delivering highly technical information to specialists in one moment, and performing a puppet show to a group of children in the next. Appropriate back-of-house facilities need to be allowed for in this regard.

There follows an initial list of possible facilities that impinge upon interpretive activities. It has been discussed that since the site broadly divides into an upper and lower platform, it would make sense to focus the majority of the interpretive activities, certainly for groups, in the upper platform.

Front of house (estimated minimum square metre suggestions in brackets where applicable)

- Bus drop-off
- Group cloakroom
- Group toilets

- Group orientation area (60 sq m)
- Tour / audio guide pick-up point
- Drop-in visitor orientation area (30 sq m)
- Drop-in visitor self-guided introductory exhibition / Museum (500 sq m)
- Thematic trails
- Various site-specific interpretive areas
- Interpretive Centre (200 sq m)
- Temporary exhibition space (150 sq m)
- Interpretive public art area/s
- Café / lunch area
- Museum shop

Back of house (estimated minimum square metre suggestions in brackets where applicable)

- Loading/unloading area for exhibits and temporary exhibitions (50 sq m)
- Temporary exhibition storage (50 sq m)
- Collections storage
- Dirty workshop (100 sq m)
- Clean workshop (40 sq m)
- Design studio/graphics (50 sq m)
- Multipurpose / workshop / meeting room(s) (150 sq m dividable into three areas of 50 sq m)
- Classrooms and resource centre/digital archive (50-100 sq m)
- Auditorium
- Boardroom (50 sq m)
- Donor/VIP lounge (with associated kitchen or galley prep area?) (50 sq m)



- Curatorial offices (5 – 10 sq m each)
- Tour guide rest area (5 sq m)
- Heritage trust offices (5 – 10 sq m each)
- Resident NGO offices (5 – 10 sq m each)

4.8 E-NAVIGATION

This can be considered in two main ways – fixed (e.g. interactive way-finding kiosks) and portable (e.g. audio “wands”).

Fixed

In terms of fixed interactive touchscreen (or other) technology, I would advise that its use should be carefully controlled. It is all too easy to see a sprinkling of interactive screens around the site as the solution to visitor navigation. There are a number of drawbacks to using such technology outside:

- Robustness and maintenance issues in exterior weather/humidity conditions
- The consequent design compromises to build in robustness
- Viewability in daylight conditions
- Visual distraction from the heritage environment

It is also debatable whether on a hot and humid day visitors would prefer to stand and navigate through layers of information or simply follow a well-signposted way finding system in keeping with the heritage surroundings.

Having said that, there is merit in having an interactive terminal at each key interior interpretive space to

indicate where you are along the visitor trail and allow visitors to investigate what else there is to see on the site (as well as where there are opportunities to be fed and watered!).

Portable

Portable guides come in a number of forms:

- the tried and tested audio wands where you dial in numbers or pick up a bluetooth signal to listen to a narrative in the language of your choice
- mixed media audio devices that incorporate screens allowing an interactive experience for the visitor as they walk round the site
- ways of downloading content in the form of podcasts onto MP3-ready phones etc are being explored by a number of major heritage organizations or mobile dial-in systems

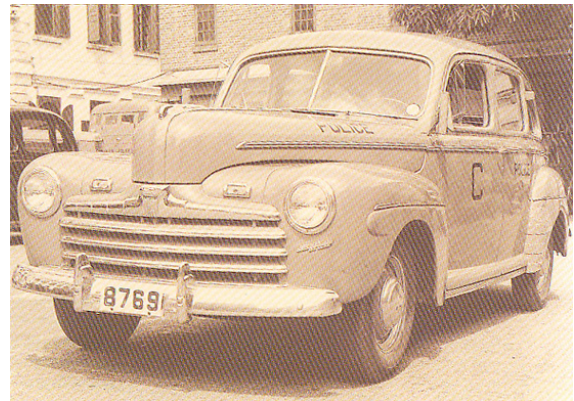
Portable guides have the obvious advantages of being able to provide a wealth of information entertainingly (background sound effects of prison life could add great atmosphere), as well as providing opportunities for revenue generation through hiring them out.

There are, however, a number of issues that must be considered:

- The considerable initial capital investment to purchase a system with enough units required to deal with potential demand on a high visitation day



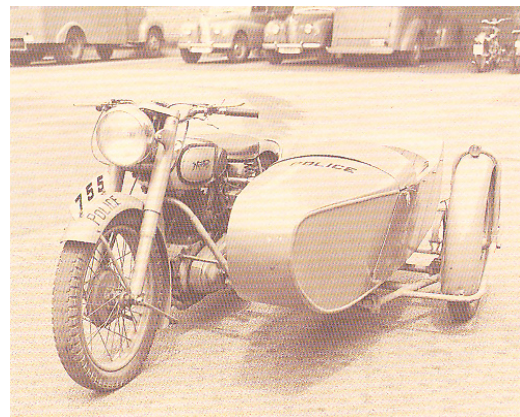
- The staffing implications of administering the hiring of the device and loading of the desired language (do you ask for a deposit? Cash or a passport/ ID card?)
- Possible queues when large groups want to hire devices
- The space required for storing the devices at the administration desk
- The ongoing tie-in to a maintenance contract with the supplier
- The technology barrier for certain visitors
- Sanitisation of ear pieces/coverings



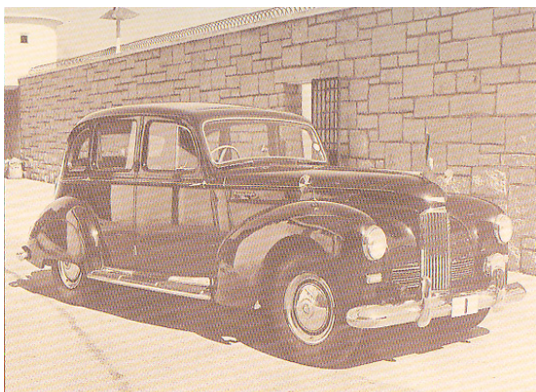
Central Divisional Superintendent's car mid-1950s

4.9 PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

One could say that the entire site is a photo opportunity but there is no doubt that many visitors love a distinctive opportunity to take a photo that says "I was there". An authentic object, such as a vehicle, can act as a fun focus for visitors to snap a souvenir of their day out. It would be interesting, for instance, if vehicles with links to the CPSC could be located, restored and brought to the site. Some examples below:



'Norton' 500CC. police motorcycle with side-car, early 1950s



Commissioner's 'Humber Super-Snipe' No. 1 Car, late 1950s to early 1960s



'Morris Mini' 1960s



5. A RANGE OF VISITS

5.1 RATIONALISING INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS INTO A VISIT

As we have seen from section 4.7, there are a range of facilities and locations which have a high probability of being allocated to interpretive uses. It should be borne in mind that not all areas within the prison need to be utilised for F&B, retail, interpretive or any other use. It is quite acceptable, and perhaps desirable, that some locations just be left in a conserved state (save perhaps for some sympathetic lighting). This also has the added merit of providing restricted areas to which certain interested groups (such as heritage groups) can be given special access.

We would summarise the list of major interpretive locations available of most relevance and use for visitors as follows (please note this is in building order, not indicative an order of visit and does not include general trail interpretive elements):

- **1. Police headquarters** (Chief Inspector's Office)
- **3. Barrack Block including the Armoury** (Visitor Centre)
- **4. Dormitory Block A & B** (Staff quarters)
- **9. Central Magistracy** (Basement cells, stair and courtroom)
- **11. A Hall** (Education Centre)
- **12. B Hall** (G/F Cells)
- **Between 12 & 13** (Ladder Store)
- **13. C Hall** (Prison Kitchen)
- **14. D Hall** (G/F Cells)
- **15. E Hall** (G/F Cells and basement "church")

- **17. F Hall** (Entrance gate and reception guard point)

5.2 POSSIBLE VISIT ITINERARIES BY VISITOR GROUP

In broad terms, the types of visit offered by the site break down into three main categories:

- **Self-guided Trail** (including general interpretation on the exterior of buildings, within open spaces, individual sites or rooms along the trail)
- **Pre-arranged Guided Trail**
- **Site Museum** (containing information specifically aimed at orientating visitors to the geography of the site and telling the story of the development of the site)
- **Interpretive Centre** (with facilities for interpretive activities geared towards pre-arranged groups)
- **Retail and F&B** (which may to varying degrees be influenced by the interpretive context)

5.3 TRAILS WITHIN THE SITE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS

As we can see from section 3.5, there is considerable scope for visitors to pick up on a number of trails as they move through the site. They could either pick up a leaflet to follow at the ground floor Information Centre of Building No. 3 (Barrack Block) or could come upon these serendipitously.

Possible trails include:

- Architectural Trail
- Famous People Trail
- Crime and Punishment
- Hong Kong History Trail



Each of these trails would require durable exterior graphic panels capable of withstanding weathering over a long period. They could be coloured- or material-coded to allow visitors to easily identify and follow them.

Suggested treatments might include:

- Brass engraved panels in keeping with those found on the exterior of the Fringe Club.
- Baked enamel panels which allow for a greater range of colours
- Etch and fill on steel or glass
- Engraving onto stone or wood

5.4 SITE-WIDE VISITOR CIRCULATION BY GROUP

We would suggest the following itineraries as of interest to our various visitor groups (see plans on the following pages).

General tourists

Local: potentially all and repeat

Mainland: most likely Trail, Retail and F&B

Overseas: potentially all

Hong Kong groups (e.g. Primary and Secondary Schools)

Pre-arranged Guided Trail and A Hall Education Centre

Casual visitors

Site Museum, Retail and F&B, Outreach programmes

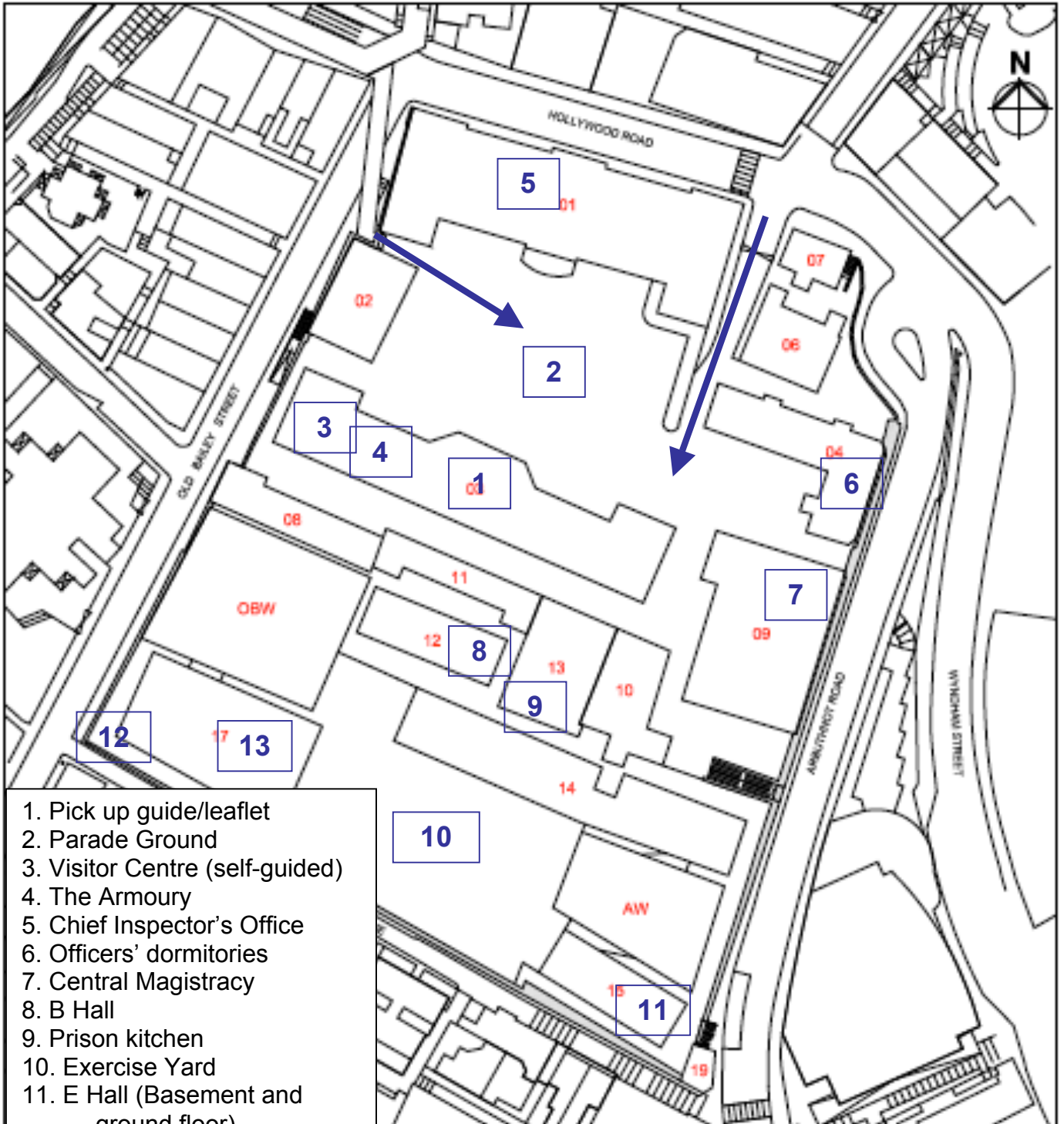
VIPs

Pre-arranged Guided Trail



General tourist visitors:

- Self-guided or guided tour
- Potentially any time of day during interpretive facilities operating hours
- Below is a suggested order of visit



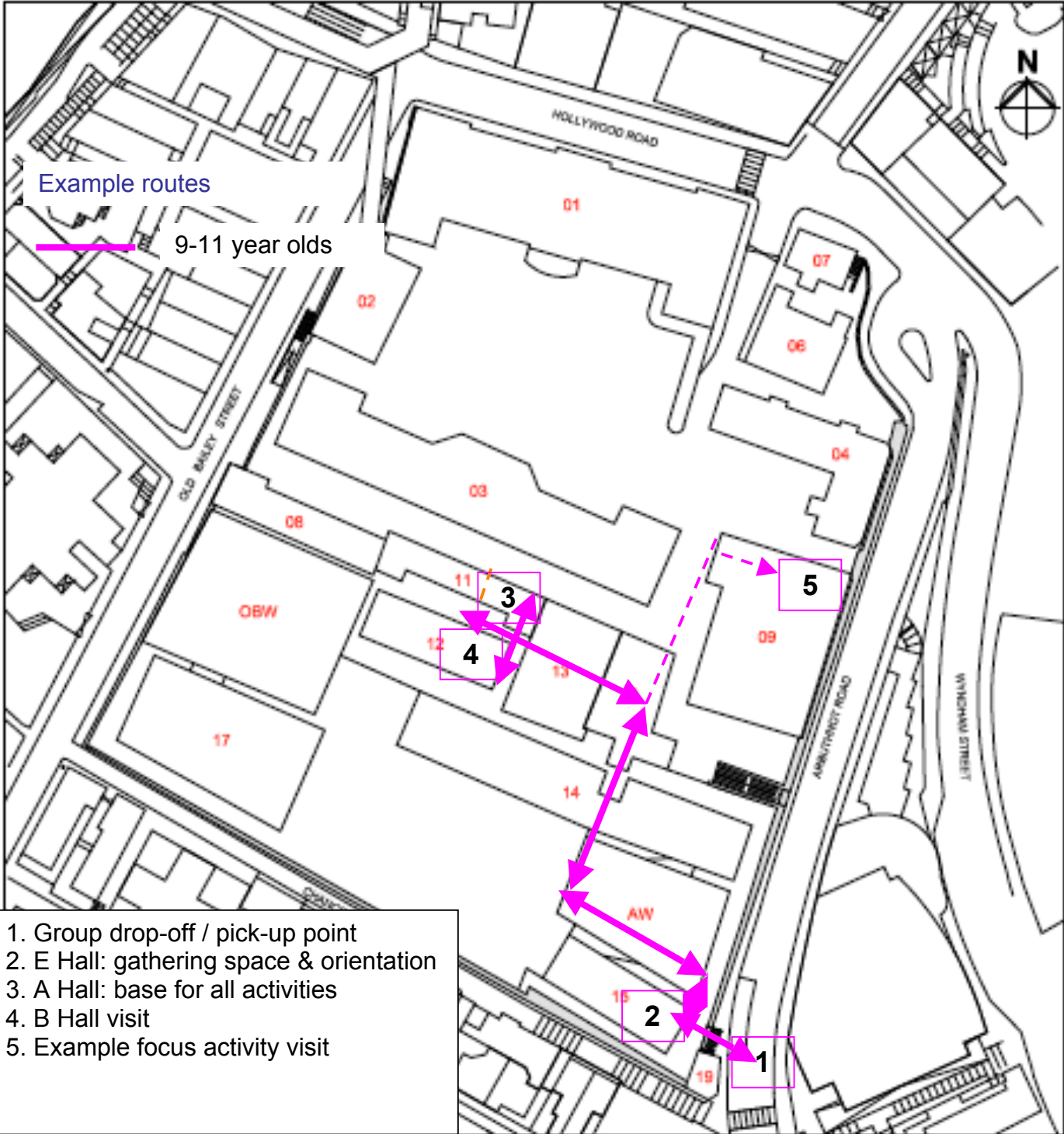
1. Pick up guide/leaflet
2. Parade Ground
3. Visitor Centre (self-guided)
4. The Armoury
5. Chief Inspector's Office
6. Officers' dormitories
7. Central Magistracy
8. B Hall
9. Prison kitchen
10. Exercise Yard
11. E Hall (Basement and ground floor)
12. Blue Gate & visitor booths
13. Introduction of new building facilities & viewing point

PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN



Primary school groups:

- Education Officer or teacher-led activities/ tour
- Morning beginning 10.30 am
- Return school by 2pm

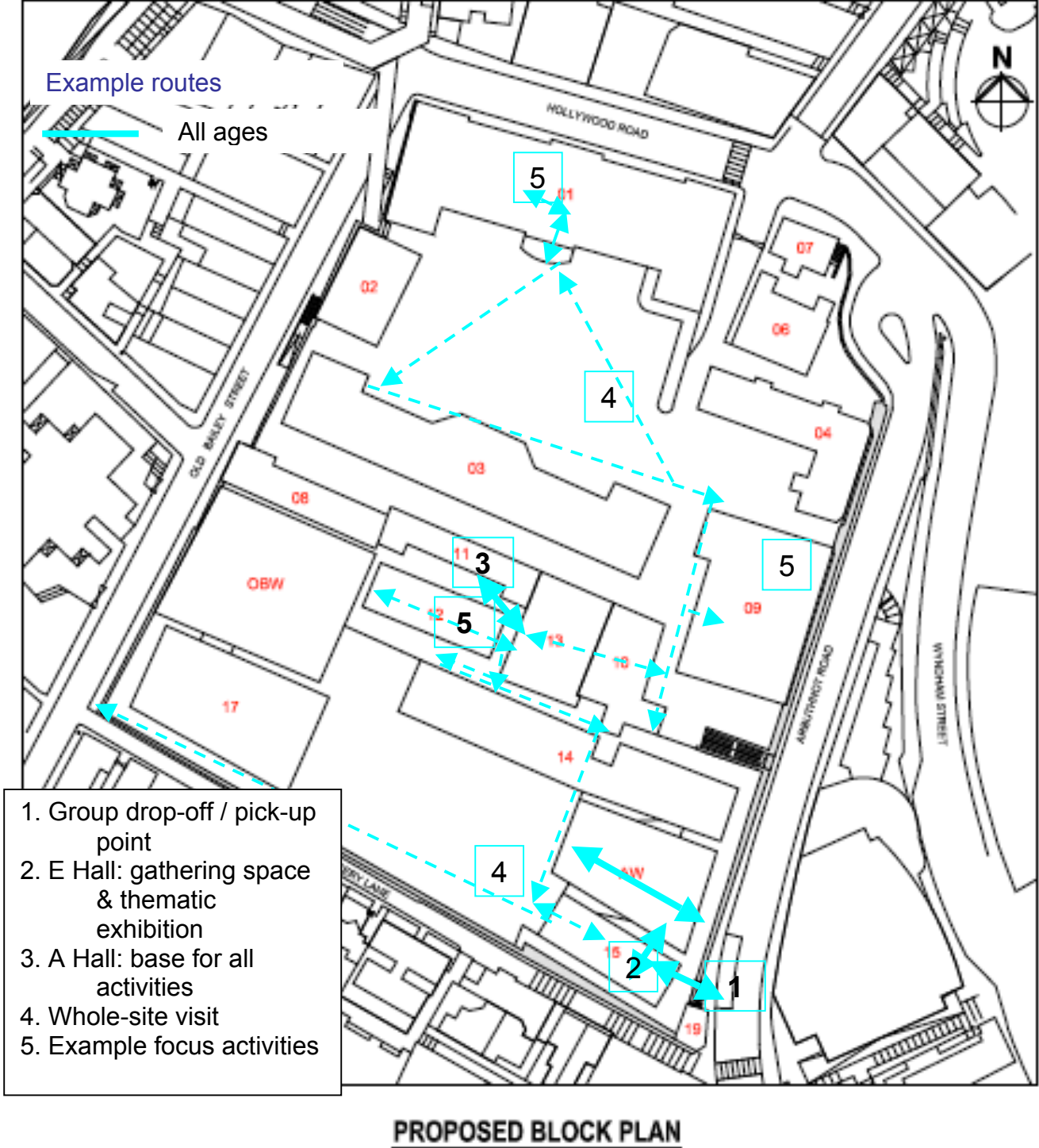


PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN






Secondary school groups:

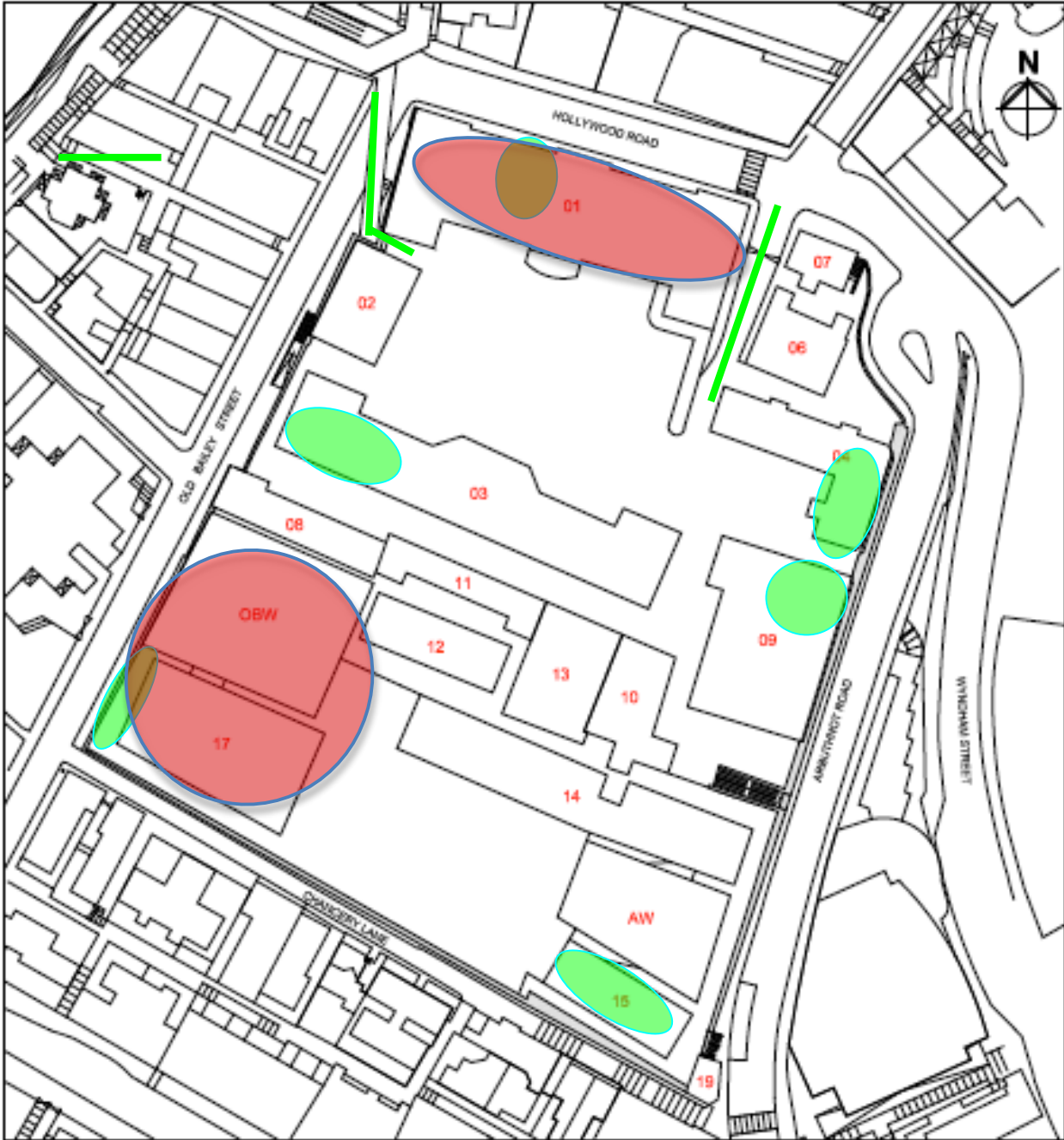
- Education Officer or teacher-led activities/ tour
- Morning beginning 10.30 am
- Return school by 3.45- 4pm





Casual visitors likely usage

-  Likely route
-  Potential point of interest
-  Likely F&B usage

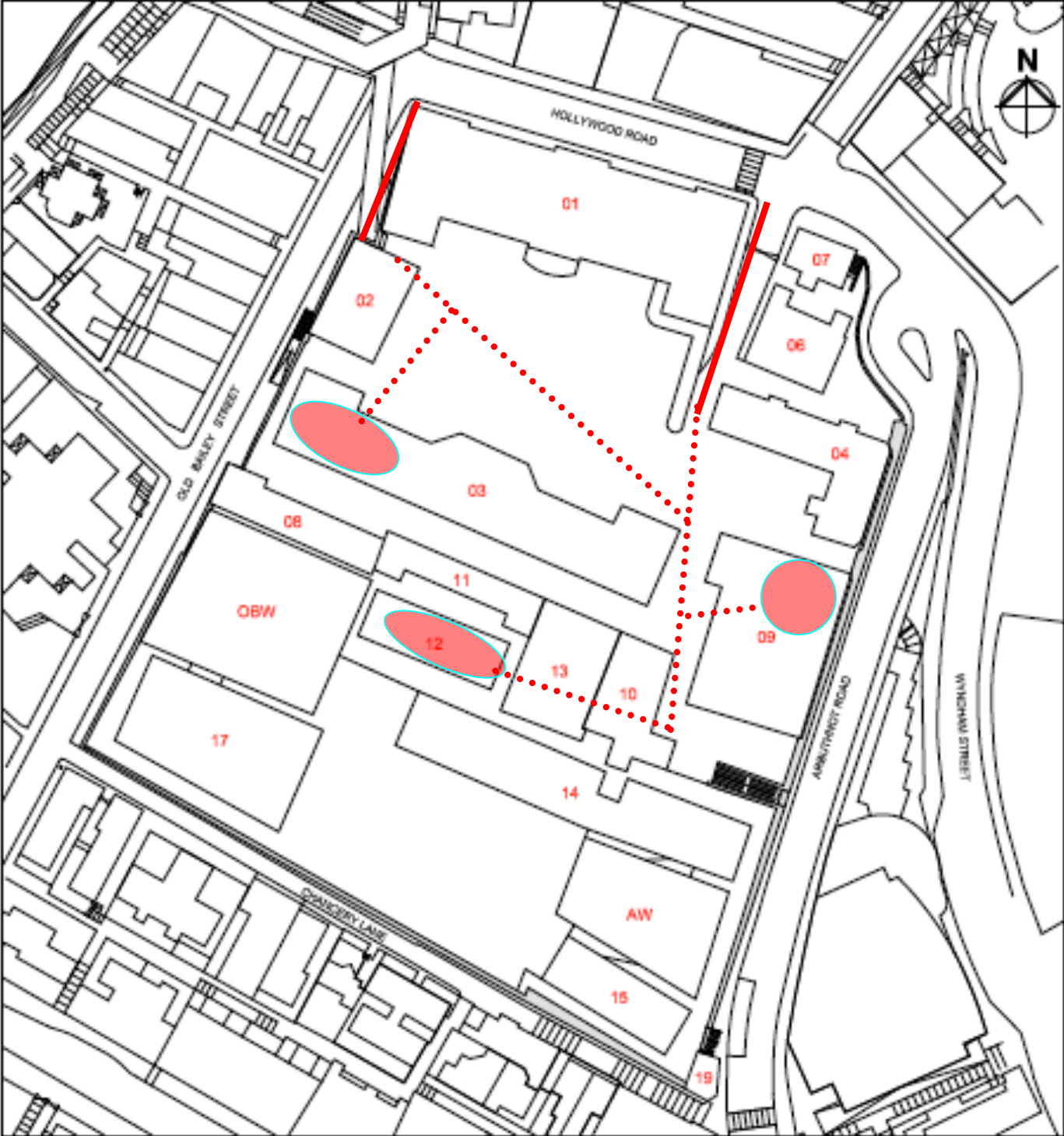


PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN



Potential VIP route

- Possible route
- Possible points of interest



PROPOSED BLOCK PLAN



6. SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION

6.1 LIST OF PRIMARY INTERPRETATION SPACES

No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
1	Police HQ	G/F Chief Inspector's Office	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation of a historical scenario	48
3	Barrack Block	G/F West Armoury	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation of a historical scenario	48.5
		G/F West Wing	Visitor Centre with high quality artefact/graphic-led exhibition including models and audiovisual	182.5 (incl. 40 m ² arcade)
4	Dormitory A and B	G/F Interpretive Space 1	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation	56.5 (inc. 19.4 terrace)
		G/F Interpretive Space 2	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation	46.1 (inc. 17.4 terrace & 3.7 porch)
9	Central Magistracy	LG/F Cells	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation	37
		G/F Smaller Courtroom	Multipurpose lecture/interpretation of courtroom with opportunities for role-playing	81.5
10 & 13	Superintendent's House & C Hall	1/F Prison Kitchen	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual	54.1 + 16.7 entrance



			interpretation	
11	A Hall	G/F	Education Centre: briefing / de-briefing rooms for groups, especially schools	94.9
		1/F	Education Offices: education and outreach staff offices	98.4
12	B Hall	G/F Cells	Education Resource Minimal contextual interpretation with storytelling in some cells.	101.2
	D Hall	G/F Morgue	Restored to original condition but left pristine without fixed interpretation for groups to visit and experience the atmosphere.	tbc
15	E Hall	Basement	Recommended as a Thematic Exhibition space for temporary exhibition on CPSC- related themes changeable on a 6- monthly or annual basis [Currently ear- marked as a holding area for tour groups]	158
		G/F Cells	Minimal contextual interpretation	8
<i>It should be remembered that there will be a requirement for graphic signage throughout the site to interpret individual locations or stories associated with specific people or events (see section 5.4)</i>				
			Total	1031.4

Figures in italics denote space in which the interior fit-out may be shared with budgets other the interpretive fit-out budget.

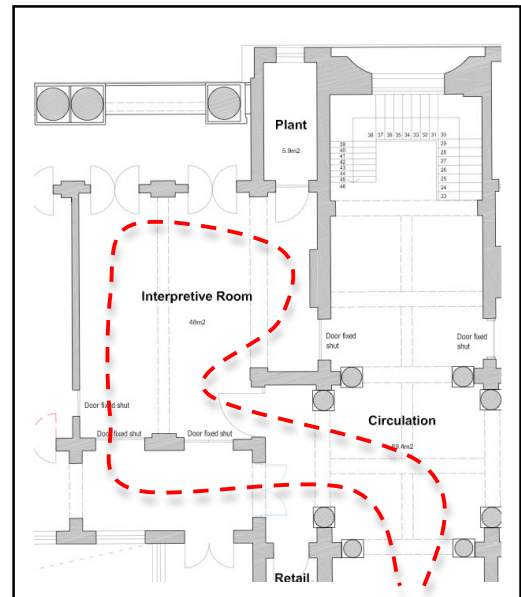


6.2 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERPRETIVE SPACES

No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
1	Police HQ	G/F Chief Inspector's Office	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with interpretation of a historical scenario integrated into the interior environment	48

Location and adjacencies

Located on the ground floor of the Police Headquarters building, this space is accessible from the main entrance lobby at the Parade Ground level. Apart from the entrance lobby, the rest of the surrounding areas will be commercial F&B. This will require any interpretation within this area to be well signposted with a readily identifiable (but appropriate) graphic identity.



Significance and storylines

This is a significant room in the history of the block mainly because we are able to be relatively sure of who occupied this room over a long period. Stories would be delivered here but we currently presume that these would focus on the Police HQ's role as the public face of the Police Department in Central (along with the Magistracy), as well as the Hong Kong Island Regional HQ and the Central District Divisional HQ. The Commissioner's (or Chief Inspector's) Office is particularly well-suited to telling the story of the operational role of the building, having as it does a large-scale map displaying the extent of its divisional responsibilities (with additional pieces of paper rather charmingly added to cater for progressively reclaimed land).

This room also needs to tell the story of the historical developmental of this building as a whole. This might involve featuring some of the following:

- Its role in running a successful training programme
- The progressively upgraded use of technology such as the incorporation of a well-equipped Radio Control Room in 1951 (requiring the insertion of a mezzanine floor in the Gymnasium)
- Its ceremonial role in relation to the parade ground ranging from tea parties to medal ceremonies
- Its damage and focus for pro- and anti-Japanese protests in the Second World War



We would suggest that the more socio-cultural aspects of the site, such as the segregation of ethnic groups within the site, are told elsewhere (in particular in the Visitor Centre Building No. 4).

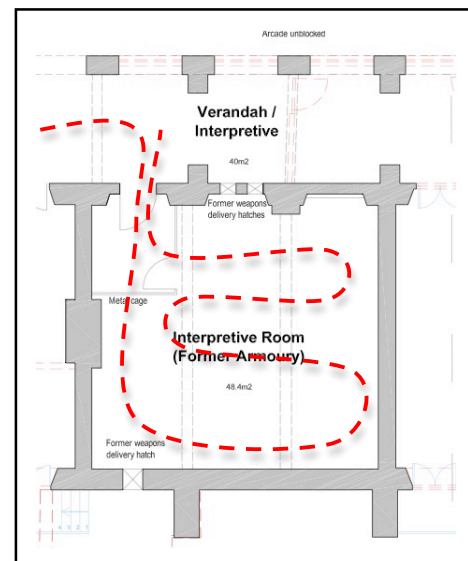
Possible Treatments

We would propose that this space is returned to a period setting within which an operational scenario would be interpreted. This scenario might link to the interpretation in the ground floor Armoury (Building No. 3 Barrack Block), but would need to take into account the likely date of conversion of these rooms in the early 1980s(?). We would suggest that this scenario would focus on a real incident of historical significance for Hong Kong society, to emphasize the change of the site to the District Command and Control Centre. There would be introductory interpretation to explain the historical role of the HQ building as a whole.

No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
3	Barrack Block	G/F Armoury	Restored to period setting with contextual interpretation of a historical scenario	48.5

Location and adjacencies

Located on the ground floor of the Barrack Block building, this space finds itself easily accessible from colonnade at the Parade Ground level. Along with the Visitor Centre, the central information desk and the possible location of the site heritage-branded retail, this presents a heritage-oriented series of spaces and aspects to the parade ground.



Significance and storylines

Whilst this is the only significant interpretive space within this building, it is not representative of the type of accommodation in the rest of the building. We would, therefore, not propose using this space to tell the story of the Barrack Block as whole but leave that to trail interpretation around the building and Visitor Centre.

Possible Treatments

We would propose that this space is returned to a period setting (to be confirmed) within which an operational scenario would be interpreted. It should look like an armoury when the visitor walks in, with the original racks filled with replica firearms. This scenario might link to the interpretation in the

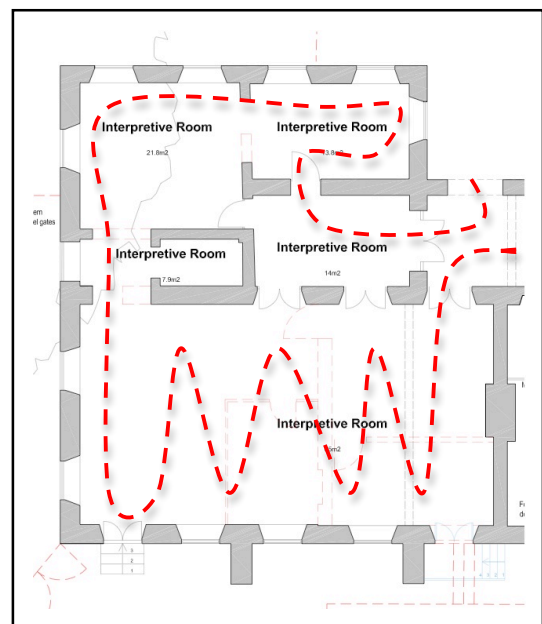


ground floor Chief Inspector's Office (Building No. 1 Police HQ), but this would need to take into account the likely date of conversion of these rooms in the early 1980s(?). We would suggest that this scenario would focus on a real incident of historical significance for Hong Kong society, to emphasize the change of the site to the District Command and Control Centre. This could involve a mixed media presentation of audiovisual, graphics and artefacts all within the setting of the original 'Police Force Blue' gun and munitions racks. There would be introductory interpretation to explain the operational role of the Armoury within the site as a whole.

No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
3	Barrack Block	G/F West Wing	Visitor Centre with high quality artefact/ graphic-led exhibition including models and audiovisual	182.5 (incl. 40 m ² arcade)

Location and adjacencies

Located on the ground floor of the Barrack Block building, this space finds itself easily accessible from colonnade at the Parade Ground level. Along with the Armoury, the central information desk and the possible location of the site heritage-branded retail, this presents a heritage-oriented series of spaces and aspects to the Parade Ground.



Significance and storylines

As one of the earliest buildings on the site and part of a group of buildings that forms the first construction phase of the CPSC, this is an appropriate location for the Visitor Centre explaining the historical development of the site. It is also a building that acts as a boundary between the police and prison functions of the site.

The Visitor Centre will allow visitors to get a complete overview of the site in one location should they not wish (or be able to) tour the whole site. It should put a tour of the site into context (so negating the need to repeat large portions of the site development story at points around the site). The developmental story would cover the following areas of significance:

- Historical
- Architectural
- Functional



- Townscape
- Technological
- Cultural
- Key personalities

There could be two options for approaching the division of content here.

Approach 1 – Example chronological storyline with interspersed themes:

- Early Victoria Gaol Compound (1841-58)
- Early prison life
- Growth of the Central Police Station Compound (1862-1912)
- Life on the beat
- A 19th Century Magistrate's Court
- The New Central Magistracy and Police Station HQ (1910-19)
- Prison reorganization and the Japanese Occupation (1930s-45)
- Post-war changes (1946-75)
- Immigration and "We Care" (1975 to 2006)

Approach 2 – Example chronological storyline and thematic storyline split

- Early Victoria Gaol Compound (1841-58)
- Growth of the Central Police Station Compound (1862-1912)
- Pre-war development and Japanese Occupation (1910-45)
- Post-war changes (1946-74)
- End of the Vietnam War to decommissioning (1975 to 2006)
- Crime and punishment
- Life on the beat
- A magistrate's court
- Migrants' tales

Possible Treatments

These rooms have limitations due to their relatively small size. However, we believe that part of the experience for visitors is to feel like they are exploring a heritage building, and getting a sense of the architectural characteristics of this mid-nineteenth century building (just like so many well-visited, small National Trust and English Heritage properties in the UK). We would expect the design to draw on the best examples of elegant and sophisticated exhibition design with a mix of techniques including graphics, artefact display, interactive models and audiovisual programs. This would be an appropriate place to display a model of the complete site.

All exhibit furniture should be modular and capable of being removed without damage to the interior fabric of the building to allow for a future change of use for these rooms if required. All design elements should complement the surrounding architectural context.



No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
4	Dormitory and B	A G/F Interpretive Space 1	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation	56.5 (inc. 19.4 terrace)
		G/F Interpretive Space 2	Restored to period setting (to be confirmed) with contextual interpretation	46.1 (inc. 17.4 terrace & 3.7 porch)

Location and adjacencies

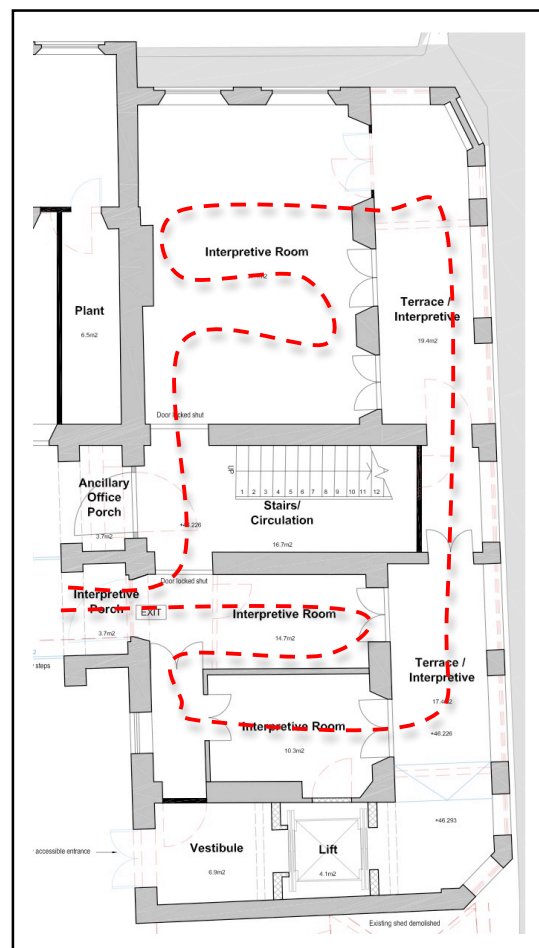
Located on the ground floor of Block A, these two rooms in the former Deputy Superintendent of Police's Quarters are accessible via a few granite steps from the Parade Ground level.

Significance and storylines

As some of the earliest buildings on the site, these buildings represent an important opportunity to tell the story of the social aspect of domestic life at the CPSC. They provide the chance to show a contrast with the Barrack Block and the variance in accommodation between the low and high-ranking officers.

Possible Treatments

We would propose that this space is returned to a period setting (date to be confirmed) to show the domestic living conditions of high-ranking officers within the CPSC at the time. Further research is required to define exactly what these rooms might have been originally used for (sleeping accommodation? Living rooms ?), as well as who might have occupied them.

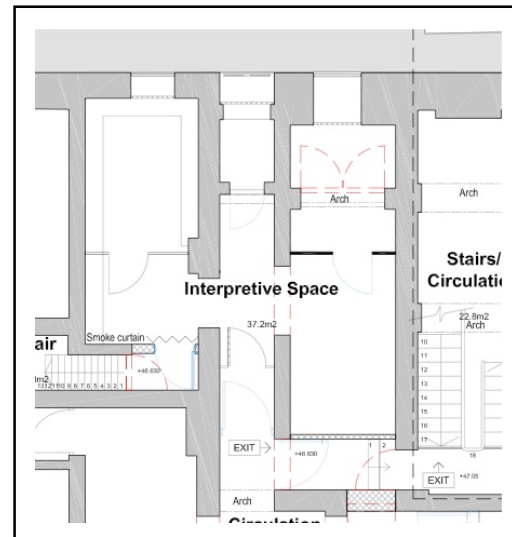




No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
9	Central Magistracy	LG/F Cells	Restored to period setting with contextual interpretation	37

Location and adjacencies

Located in the basement of the Central Magistracy building, the main purpose of these spaces would be to enable storytelling linked to the courtroom above. Given that these spaces are somewhat hard to find, they would primarily be visited as part of a guided group tour. We need to discuss which of these rooms is best suited to carry this storyline connection and how visitor flow would work between this space and the courtroom above.



Significance and storylines

The Central Magistracy is one of the most prominent colonial buildings surviving in Hong Kong. The story of its development would primarily be told in the Visitor Centre (Building No. 4). The role it played in administering law would be the focus of the interpretation in the Central Magistracy Building itself. We see one of these spaces being used to represent a holding cell prior to the prisoner being taken up to court. This would mean that we could focus on an actual historical case to show the process in action. The story of a prisoner could be told to reveal the whole criminal justice system from arrest to investigation and trial. This could also be an opportunity to explore some of the misunderstandings between concepts of justice between the local population and the colonial authorities.

Possible Treatments

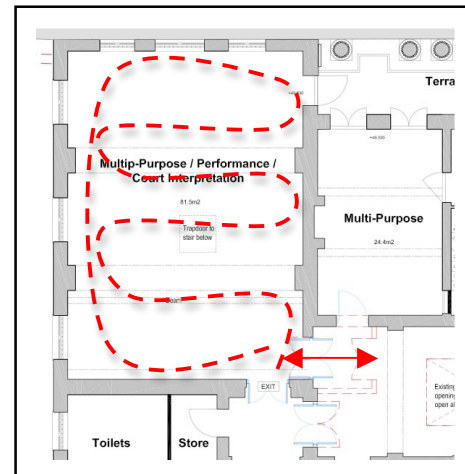
We would see these rooms as requiring a considerable amount of set dressing to give a sense of their original uses. There would also be the need for theatrical audiovisual techniques to allow stories to be told about the feelings of a prisoner just prior to being taken into court, and to introduce the background to a particular case.



No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
9	Central Magistracy	G/F North Courtroom	Multipurpose lecture/ interpretation of courtroom	81.5

Location and adjacencies

A significant space on the ground floor of the Central Magistracy, this will be an important opportunity for visitors (both casual and part of a tour group) to experience the interior of this building. This space is directly accessible from the ground level of the building and so should be a well-visited location.



Significance and storylines

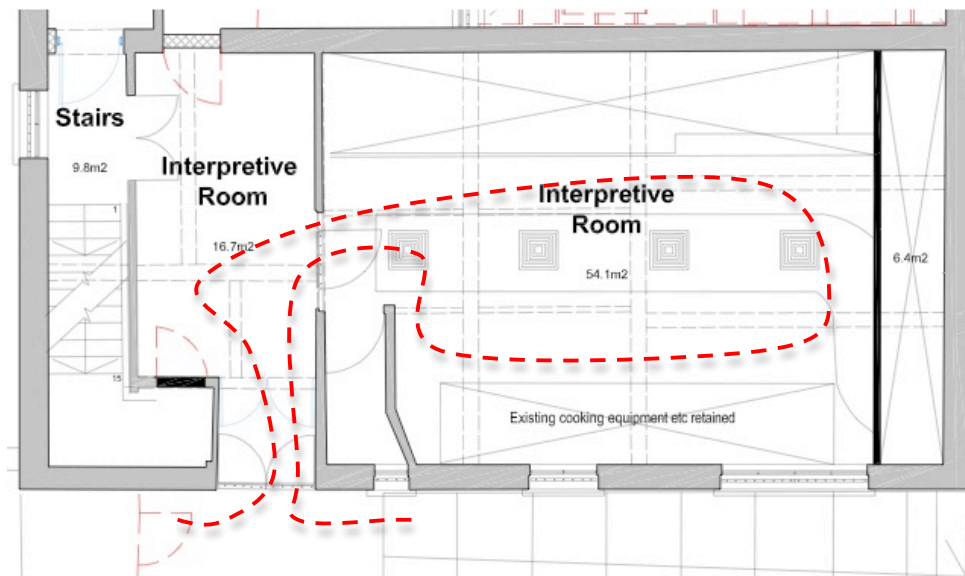
The Central Magistracy is one of the most prominent colonial buildings surviving in Hong Kong. The story of its development would primarily be told in the Visitor Centre (Building No. 4). The role it played in administering law, particularly its role as an instrument and symbol of colonial law, would be the focus of the interpretation in the Central Magistracy Building itself. This room offers us the opportunity to interpret Victorian colonial-style justice in action. It would have significance in allowing us to show how a court case might have proceeded at different times during the building's lifetime, as well as offering school groups the chance to learn about the workings of a modern courtroom.

Possible Treatments

This room will also function as a possible lecture space, so any interpretive exhibits or furniture will need to be modular. We would want to be able to give the sense of a working courtroom to allow a real case to be interpreted through audiovisual techniques, as well as allow role-playing by school groups. This would mean the creation, or sourcing and adaptation, of period courtroom furniture (movable) with in-built interpretive exhibitry to allow the telling of pre-programmed cases, as well as allowing for role-playing mode.



No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
10 & 13	Superintendent's House & C Hall	1/F Prison Kitchen	Restored to period setting with contextual interpretation	54.1 + 16.7 entrance



Location and adjacencies

Accessed from the ramp taking visitors towards the Upper Courtyard, this space should be part of any guided tours (especially for schools) and provides a good opportunity for those visitors on their own tour to feel like they have found discovered a “back-of-house” prison space.

Significance and storylines

As the former prison kitchen this space has the potential to give a sense of the quality of life through food within the prison over the various time periods represented by the site. Hong Kong is a very food-oriented culture and the changing quality of the food available to prisoners will be a very stark illustration of how life inside the walls contrasted with the outside. It is also a subject with which everyone can identify. The nature and quality of the food will also give clues to the changing prison regime and cultural make-up of the prison population.

Possible Treatments

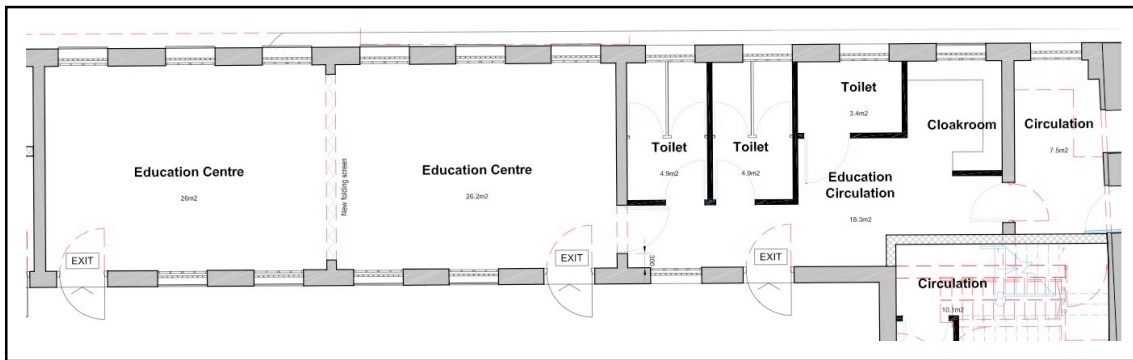
The overall aim would be to restore the kitchen to a working kitchen as currently represented by the existing equipment. However, certain areas would also be used to interpret food through different time periods. There may be the extensive use of audio, graphics and some audiovisual incorporated environmentally and within the renovated kitchen equipment.



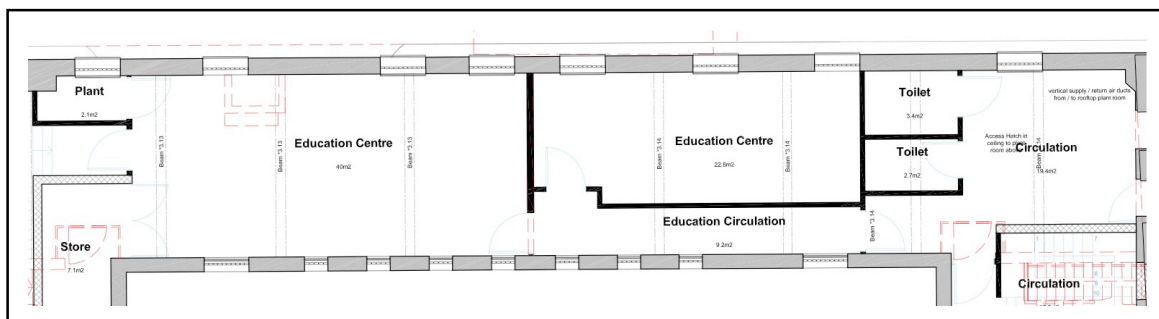
No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
11	A Hall	G/F	Education Centre for briefing / de-briefing rooms for groups, especially schools	94.9

Location and adjacencies

Located at the heart of the site, this provides an excellent location for an Education Centre, especially for school groups to base themselves for briefings and de-briefings before going off to visit specific locations. With the education offices on the first floor, the classrooms on the ground floor and the adjacent interpreted B Hall it provides an excellent cluster of educational facilities.



No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
11	A Hall	1/F	Education and outreach staff offices	98.4





Significance and storylines

As one of the later buildings on the site, A Hall does not have a great deal to recommend it architecturally, being an example of post-WWII practical and functional design. Its uses have always been as offices and ablutions. However, as mentioned, it forms an excellent cluster of educational facilities with adjacent B Hall for interpretive activities for school groups. The space between A and B Halls also has the virtue of creating a sense of claustrophobic incarceration and we would recommend the retention of the existing razor wire to preserve this atmosphere. The storylines and content delivered in A Hall will be determined by the development of education programs by the CPSC curators and educational outreach officers.

Possible Treatments

For the ground floor classrooms, we would expect there to be sufficient cloakroom space to deal with the coats and bags of 30 children plus sufficient toilets to prevent excessive queuing. We would expect there to be movable partitions to divide the space into 2 or 3 with the potential need for a furniture/AV equipment store.

The first floor we would see as a civil service standard open plan office fit-out sufficient for the required number of staff for the CPSC education outreach department.



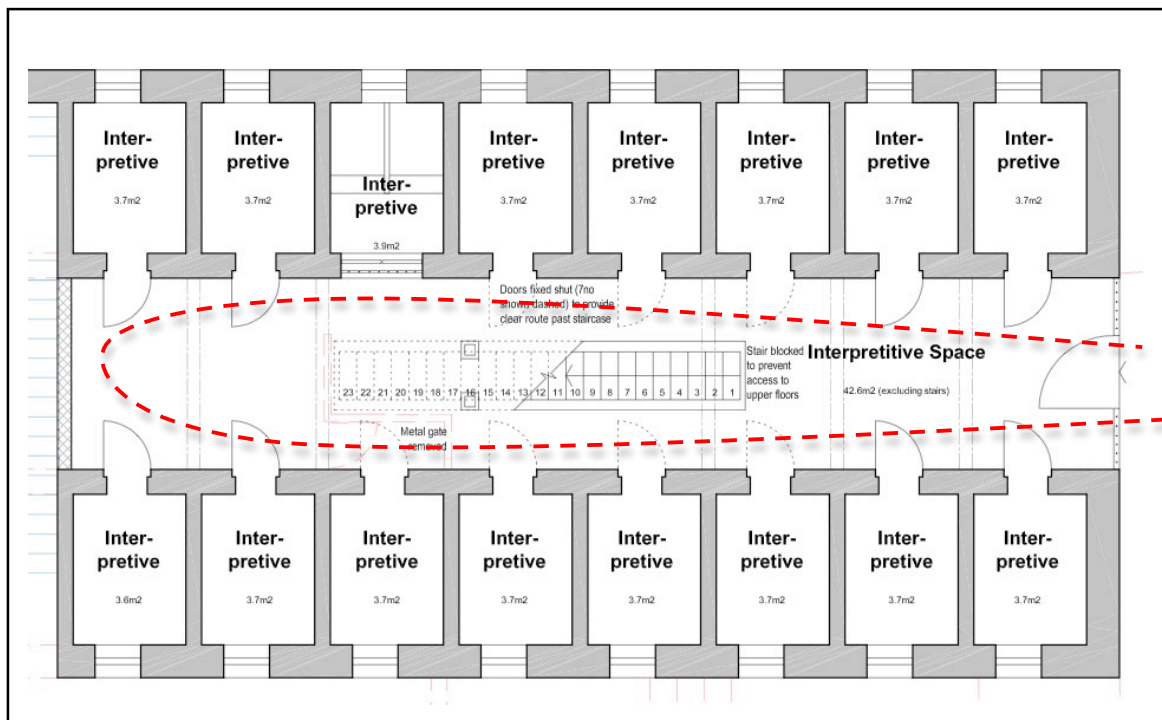
No.	Name	Location	Proposed use	M ²
12	B Hall	G/F Cells	Minimal contextual interpretation with possible audiovisual storytelling in some cells	101.2

Location and adjacencies

Located at the heart of the site near to the education facilities in Building No. 11 A Hall, this provides an opportunity for interpretation of an existing prison cell block at ground floor level.

Significance and storylines

Built in 1910, this is the earliest example of a small-scale prison cell block of its style on the site and provided the blueprint for E Hall built 5 years later. As such, it is an excellent location for the interpretation of prison life and conditions, and associated themes.



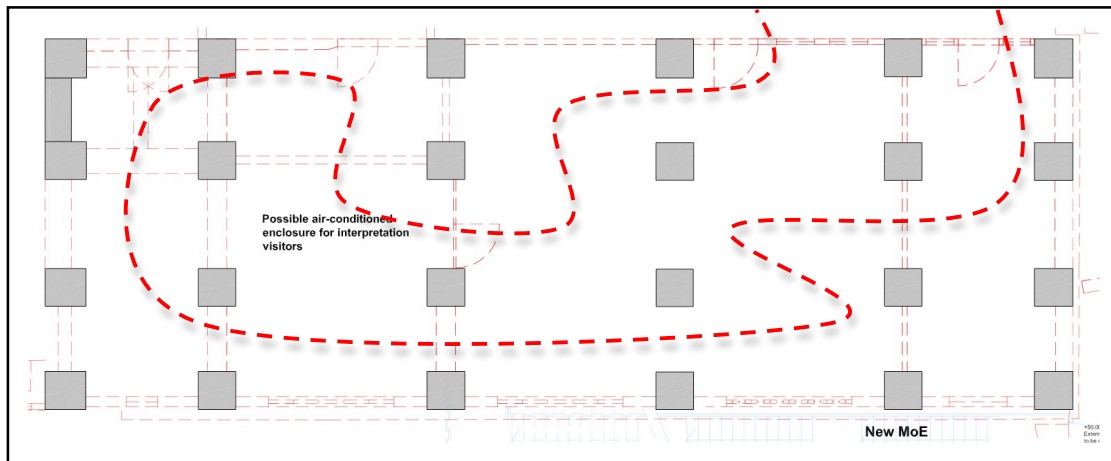
Possible Treatments

We do not see there being much in the way of fixed interpretation in the majority of these cell spaces but rather that they are left pristine in order to give a sense of an authentic atmosphere. There is the opportunity through the use of a mix of audiovisual and theatrical techniques for visitors to trigger an encounter with a virtual “prisoner” in a number of cells – perhaps representing the variety of crimes, punishments and conditions across the historical

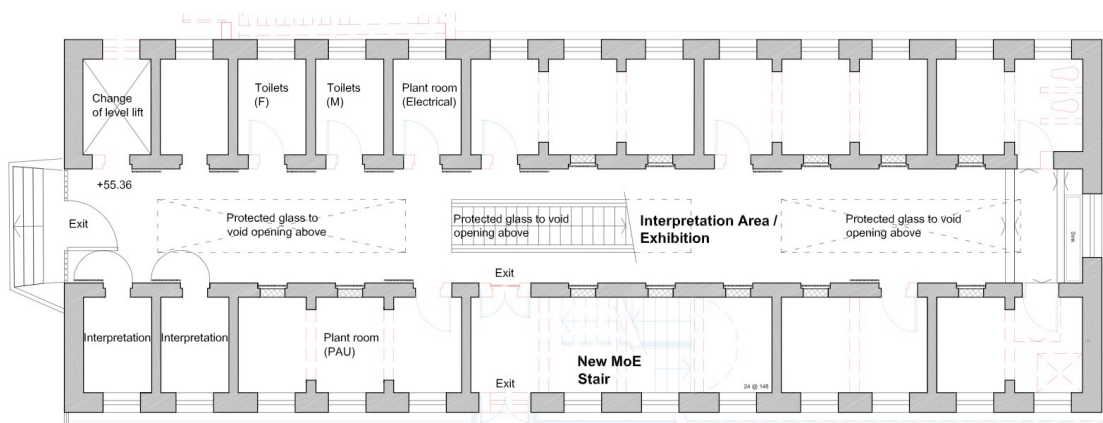


periods. We would also recommend there be an opportunity for school groups to meet an educator dressed as a 19th century jailer here to bring the space alive.

15	E Hall	Basement	Recommended as a Thematic Exhibition space	158
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15	E Hall	G/F Cells	Minimal contextual interpretation. This could be an area of interface between the arts and interpretive programme.	8
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Location and adjacencies

Located at the south-east corner of the site on the upper Exercise Yard, E Hall is relatively easy to access from Arbuthnot Rd but difficult to get visitors (who have entered at the lower Parade Ground entrance) to visit. In terms of location, therefore, it offers both a challenge and an opportunity.

Significance and storylines

Constructed similarly to the earlier B Hall, it formed part of a larger group of central corridor cells blocks on the site. An interesting social aspect to the building is that it was constructed using prison labour and was the location of basement workshops which show how visitors lived in the 20th century. It would also have provided a public face to the prison, visible both from Arbuthnot Rd and Chancery Lane. It is probably the most complete building with regard to its original features, including a king post truss roof with Chinese tiles. It provides a good example of early 20th century prison architecture.

Possible Treatments

As well as a gathering place for groups, we believe that the basement of E Hall provides a suitable place for a Thematic Exhibition Gallery on aspects of prison life. It would act as an attractor to draw visitors (who have entered from Hollywood Rd) through the site, as well as a relatively easy exhibition venue to access from Arbuthnot Rd. It is an attractive space, with its higher ceilings and arched interior features, that would require relatively little adaptation to make it suitable for mainly graphics-based exhibitions. We would recommend the sourcing of an exhibition system that would be stand-alone (negating the need for permanent fixings to the interior fabric) and re-usable to minimize the cost of new exhibitions.

This would fulfill the important need on the site for interpretive content which can be refreshed to provide a reason for local visitors and school groups to visit the site repeatedly. We understand that staging six-monthly or even annual thematic exhibitions has an ongoing budgetary impact on the running costs of the CPSC, but believe that it would be a valuable and meaningful contribution to the local community's engagement and continuing understanding of the important themes and issues the CPSC site represents for the people of Hong Kong.



APPENDIX

CPSC Research Notes

October 2009

PART 1 – LOCATION-BASED INFORMATION

1. The Police Station, Dormitories and associated Support Spaces

Nickname/secret codes

- a. **大館 (the big house)**: interestingly, police stations in the region were numbered (mainly for the radio use), except the CPSC (Hong Kong Police Force (c), 2004).
- b. **Translation issues**: according to an article, there were a lot of discrepancies in translation about the police force in the early days as translators changed quite frequently. For example, Police Force was sometimes translated as 總緝捕署 or 差役 or 香港差頭 (Hong Kong Police Force (b), 2004).
- c. **Sergeant Major/Staff Sergeant (新郎哥 Bridegroom)**: the uniform of Sergeant in the 50s-60s had a red strap, which was similar to the suit of a Chinese bridegroom (Hong Kong Police Force (d), 2006).
- d. **Chinese police officers in early 20th Century (大頭綠衣 Big Head Green Coat)**: it described the uniform (ATV).

Unique culture of CPSC

In an interview with Mr. F.S. Cheung, he mentioned CPSC had a unique culture. Police officers in CPS are generally proud, as only the elite were selected. Since high-rank officers and important persona often visited the CPSC, the self-image was particularly good. Also, as CPS was once the headquarters, police officers usually felt that they had to be better than other district stations, and hence worked particularly hard.

Management was also stricter and police were more disciplined, as in the CPSC there were a lot of high-rank officers. He also mentioned that in CPSC, seniors were often very attentive to their juniors, and hence had a good team spirit (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

Ex-commissioner Li mentioned in another interview that when he was working in CPS, he often looked out from the window to see which high-rank officers were on the parade ground (發展局文物保育專員辦事處). It seemed the high-rank officers in CPS had played a significant role in the unique culture of CPSC.



Community

CPS: In 1841, Captain Caine (Chief Magistrate) recruited the first batch of 32 policemen and set up his first office in a matshed at the location of the present Victoria Gaol (Kevin Sinclair and Nelson Ng Kwok-cheung, 1997). It was said at that time, this area was settled by the European community. The Chinese community centered in Sheung Wan and the Western District.

Hollywood Road: There are a lot of antiques stores, Indian and Pakistani trading businesses. A book (何耀生, 2005) explained that in the past Chinese tended not to live close to police station and prison, as there was a belief that these were places of misfortune (people hated that so much that there was a famous saying of “not getting into the court while alive, not getting into the hell at the time of death”). As a result, the rent in the region was cheap, and hence attracted a lot of Indian and Jews who did not share the belief. Indians, other than working for the Police Force, were also in the trading business. Many Jews in early HK were in the Antique business and set up stores on Hollywood Road for the expatriates living in the Mid-Levels. Therefore, it can be said that the CPSC in a way drove the Chinese away and shaped the community on Hollywood Road (何耀生, 2005).

Important incidents in Central/CPS

26 April 1843: Burglars gained entry to Government House and made off with considerable loot. Two days later, robbers broke into the treasure houses of the leading mercantile Houses, Jardine, Dent and Gillespie. New laws were passed to protect property, including ordering Chinese to carry lighted lanterns after dusk, forbidding ships to leave harbor after 9pm and banning Chinese on the streets after 10pm without pass from the police⁴ (Crisswell, 1982).

1863: The Police Training School was opened in CPS (何耀生, 2005).

1893: Plague. See Francis Henry May.

20-22 May 1967: demonstrations in Central and particularly outside the Government House (許雲程, 2008). A copy of an oral history record of a reporter who was arrested, detained in Victoria Gaol and tried in the Central Magistrates may be found in the HKU library. A special written request is needed to enter the library.

⁴ According to Crisswell 1982, the laws were that all Chinese had to carry a lantern after 8pm, and no one was permitted to be on the street after 10pm without a pass. The laws remained until 1897. P.14



Work of the Police Force in the late 19th Century

a. Regular duties during heavy rain

Cordon off collapsed tenements while the Fire Brigade searched for survivors or bodies (Kevin Sinclair and Nelson Ng Kwok-cheung, 1997).

b. Control of epidemic diseases

This exposed the police to health risks. There is a stone memorial in the Hong Kong Cemetery for the officers who died during the 1893 cholera epidemic (Kevin Sinclair and Nelson Ng Kwok-cheung, 1997).

c. Police and informants

In the late 19th Century, as there were few Chinese in the police force, instead of using officers, the police force paid informants to go into vice dens as paying customers. These informants only received payment if the convicted paid up their fines rather than going to the prison. (Roper, 2005)

d. Few prosecutions for triad gang activity

It was probably a result of intimidation of witnesses and triad infiltration of the police force. Instead, preventive arrests for unlawful possession, being a rogue or vagabond and breaking the Night Pass law were more common (Roper, 2005).

Common Work of the Central District Head Quarters (after 1949):

a. **Traffic control:** in addition to the regular traffic, Central Head Quarters often had to make special traffic arrangements at times of special guests' visits, including the many visits of British royalty in the 1980s and '90s. It also dealt with problems arising with construction works, including that of the MTR in Central in 1976 (Royal Hong Kong Police, 1976).

b. **On the beat:** "The heavy concentration of population in the commercial area of Central during office hours also required the implementation of a special type of policing. Shift duties were staggered covering, in part, high-risk premises" (Royal Hong Kong Police, 1976).

c. **Security of Government House and the Secretariats:** particularly when petitions were being presented.

d. **Crowd control and security:** during processions/demonstrations/public meetings/ elections/guests' visits. For example, the demonstration by the Revolutionary Marxist League at the Star Ferry concourse in May 1977 (Royal Hong Kong Police, 1977).

David Madoc-Jones (Deputy District Commander, Central) "had ample opportunity to watch the changing tide of public protest. Central, with Government House, the Legislative Council Chambers, most important consulates, many leading corporate headquarters and the glittering citadels of commerce, is a focal point for many demonstrations. Places like the Stock Exchange and the Japanese and Israeli consulates are also potential targets for terrorists; policing the financial and political heart of



Hong Kong is a challenge for the 689 police based in the Territory's oldest station" (Kevin Sinclair and Nelson Ng Kwok-cheung, 1997, p. 67).

- e. **Crimes:** common crimes including prostitutes, drug trafficking and street gambling (among coolies and daily-paid workers) (Royal Hong Kong Police, 1977).
- f. **Rescues:** for example, for landslides after rainstorms (Royal Hong Kong Police, 1976)

Myths and superstitions

1. **Kwan Yu:** As was common practice in the Police Force, officers in CPSC worshipped Kwan Yu, a historical Chinese general who was also worshipped by the gangs and triads.
2. **Ghost stories:** more research needed

Police Force

Ethnicity

In the 1920s, police officers' numbers started with a letter (A to E) that represented their ethnicity. Category J was added after WWII:

- A - British / other Europeans
- B - Indians
- C - Local Chinese
- D - Chinese from Shandong
- E - White Russians
- J - Chinese hired during Japanese occupation (Hong Kong Police Force (a), 2004)

Indians

After his appointment as Captain Superintendent of Police in 1862, William Quin, who had served in the Bombay police force, decided to recruit policemen direct from India. However, he was not impressed with the work of the policemen recruited from Bombay, and began recruiting Punjab Sikhs instead. An experiment in recruitment was made in the Punjab where 50 Sikhs and Muslims were signed on in 1865. Giles Creagh of the Punjab Police was appointed Deputy-Superintendent of the Colonial Police Force in 1866. More Sikhs were recruited as well as four experienced Indian cooks to produce the spicy curries which became a feature of mess lunches through the Force. In deference to their customs and religious beliefs, the Hong Kong Police Force allowed them to retain their turbans and exempted them from wearing police caps. In 1868, of the 633 policemen, 113 were European, 328 were Indian, 192 were Chinese (□□□, 2005).

Lu Police (from Wei Hai Wei, Shandong, hired between 1924 and 1949).

Apart from taking in British, Indians or other Europeans to the Police, the Force started recruiting policemen from Weihaiwei in Shandong Province in 1922. The pioneer batch of Weihaiwei recruits subsequently became



members of the Emergency Unit. As Shandong policemen were bigger and taller than the local Chinese and were very well disciplined, the Force continued recruiting Shandong policemen right up to the 1950s. As Shandong Province is also known as "Lu", they were known as Lu policemen. (Hong Kong Police Force (a), 2004) 50 men were hired in the first batch and within 9 months, there were 183 of them on duty (□□□, 2005).

Chen, a Lu policeman hired in 1948, said in an interview that there were 60-70 Lu police in CPSC, ranked from Sergeant to PO. In the '50s, CPSC had hired cooks from Shandong for them. Most Lu Police in CPSC were in the PTU or Traffic Division. (□□□, 2005)

White Russians (Belarusians)

"The problem of piracy had always plagued the waters of Hong Kong for some time when, in 1930, the British armed forces in Hong Kong decided to stop escorting the vessels plying the waters around Hong Kong. This mission naturally fell on the shoulders of the Police Force, which formed an Anti-Piracy Guard by recruiting 25 White Russians." (Hong Kong Police Force (a), 2004)

Others

"Were there any policemen in Hong Kong who belonged to nationalities and ethnic groups other than the five mentioned above? An annual report, submitted in the early 1870s by Captain Superintendent Deane to the Colonial Government, recorded the existence of African and West Indian members in the Police Force. They were likely to be sailors who had landed in Hong Kong and who subsequently joined the Police Force. However, according to Mr. Deane's 1873 report, the West Indians were inept policemen and the Police Force stopped recruiting West Indians in 1870. According to the 1874 Blue Book, there were only three West Indian policemen left in the Hong Kong Police Force." (Hong Kong Police Force (a), 2004)

Ethnic inequalities

"Although the Force was a multi-ethnic contingent, the positions each ethnic group assumed were strictly prescribed under colonial rule. The British and other Europeans could be promoted to management grades, while the promotional ceiling for Indians was usually set at the rank of Inspector, but very few had ever reached that rank. As for the Chinese, the highest rank they could ever hope to achieve was only Sergeant." (Hong Kong Police Force (a), 2004)

Community relations

1. Conflicts

a. Corruption:

Some anecdotal examples:

1. Wong's parent had a store in Central. He mentioned police were corrupt, demanding bribes and often eating/ taking things from stores,



vendors and *tai pai dong* (street restaurants) without paying. (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005)

2. Ex-officer Wong had worked in the police force since the mid-1960s. When he was on the beat in Sheung Wan for the first time, his senior told him to pretend not to see anything and not to take any action no matter what he saw.

Since the police were also responsible for the management of vendors, they were named Gou Wong (King of Dogs). Vendor owners had to pay bribery to the police in order to operate in the location. Moreover, every month the Kou Wong had to arrest a certain number of illegal vendors for their seniors in order to prove their good performance. Police and vendors would co-operate, arranging the illegal vendors to be arrested in rotation, so they could save effort in making arrests, as well as continue to collect bribery without eliminating the vendors from the streets.

Police usually did not collect bribes directly from the vendors and shop-owners. Instead they used drug abusers, who would collect the money from the vendors and give the money to the police at a secret spot. The money would in the end be systematically distributed to different police officers. The bribery money was not given to specific police officers only, instead it belonged to the group. Therefore, even if certain officers did not want to take a bribe, they would be persuaded or even forced to do so by colleague.

However, not all officers were stone-hearted. As an example, he mentioned that when some vendors cannot afford to pay the bribe, some police officers would willingly pay their share and never asked for paybacks (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

b. **Arrest**

1. Mr. Ho, now an umbrella-maker, was a street vendor. He said police in the past were very rude and intimidating. Many were Indian and Shandong Chinese, tall and robust. Sometimes the police also came undercover to arrest him. Every arrest would cost him \$70 for guarantee, which was a huge burden for a vendor. There were often people watching out for police so he could leave before the police arrived. As long as no one was at the stall, no arrest or confiscation would be conducted. However, once he was caught selling tomatoes, and all the tomatoes were confiscated (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

2. Mr. You, whose mother was a vendor, said the police often informed them a day before their action of raiding vendors. Sometimes a newly appointed police officer would like to establish their authority by taking on the street vendors. Other police would give them an advanced notice the previous day so they could be prepared. During those years, vendors would pay “protection fee” to police as well as gangs. Around 1975, police were becoming more systematic and open. Some police officers wanted to grasp the last chance to make money, so they raised the “protection



fee” from \$500 to \$800. His father refused to pay. Next day, there was a police van (豬籠車) circulating the area to find them. In the end, they were found and all goods were confiscated (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

c. **General mistrust in the old days**

A song was written to mock the Hong Kong Police in 1871 (Bard, 2002, p. 37). As mentioned in the song, part of the problem can be contributed to racial differences and corruption. Lyrics include “Drunken European, and the lanky Sikh, who cannot understand a word we speak; lazy Indians too, from various tribes, Chinese detectives who are fond of bribes”

2. **Co-operation and Contribution to the community**

a. **Banking industry**

Mr. Ng of Wing Lung Bank remembered that police officers would not offer help in general when money was transferred among small private banks (銀號). However, sometimes when police were suspicious, they searched and found him carrying more than \$100,000. Police questioned the origin of the money and escorted him to the bank, for safety as well as investigation, since if the money was robbed on the way, the police officer might become a suspect.

As Wing Lung Bank had links with banks in Macau, he often had to commute to and from Macau and Hong Kong by boat. Police often conducted searches around the piers in the security room. He would often be escorted to the bank by police after the search. Banks also needed to apply for a vendor’s license from the police office, so the police could assure all counters in the bank were barred so that customers and staff were separated. When the bank transferred banknotes, it would also inform the police office, which provided escort and maintained order without charges (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

- b. Not only were there police, the Nam Pak Hong Association (trade association) and Secretariat of Chinese Affairs (now the HAB) also hired security guards equipped with guns on certain areas/streets. The security from NPH had uniforms (light-yellow in summer and dark-blue in winter) so they looked different from the police. They wore hats, long pants and carried long guns. As a stronger police force grew, these guards no longer carried guns, but sticks, and disappeared in the 70s (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

Life of Police Officers at CPSC

- a. **Food in CPSC:** famous curry until recent years, as the police force has tenured out the canteen (思旋, 2004)



- b. **Salary:** After the riots in 1967, the government decided to fight corruption. With economic development, the government was able to pay the police officers a higher salary, which jumped from \$300+ to \$600+ (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).
- c. **Dormitory:** foreign police officers would regularly inspect the flat, to check on the hygiene (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).

Other Workers in CPSC

a. **Barbers:** nicknamed Fat Goon (Fat means hair. Goon means government officials. It is a pun as it has a double meaning as the judge in court.). As policemen are required to have certain hairstyles, barbers in the police station were skillful to do haircuts according to the regulation (□□□, 2005).

b. **Laundry-men:** Laundry room in CPSC was situated in a 3-storey building in CPSC (at Hollywood Road and Upper Albert Street) and was relocated to Wan Chai on 17th Dec 2004 (2 weeks before CPSC enclosure). It could process nearly a thousand sets of uniforms a day. As these people stationed in CPSC for a long time (it was said a woman worked there for 60 years), they got to know a lot of officers and witness how they got promoted (□□□, 2005).

c. **“Body-checking Mid-age women”:** In 1949, policewomen were first hired. They carried out mainly clerical duties in office until 1951. Before then, mid-age women were hired in bigger police station for the duty to handle issues related to women, including body-checking, getting finger-prints and assisting in the investigation of women and children (□□□, 2005).

2. Victoria Gaol

Timeline [mainly from (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003) and (Sinclair, 1999), unless mentioned otherwise]

9th August, 1841: Victoria Gaol was instituted in Hong Kong. In the first two years, 482 prisoners were admitted into Victoria Gaol, with a further 134 persons, nearly all Europeans, mainly soldiers and sailors who had been sentenced by Court-martial.

4th November, 1844: the earliest execution in Hong Kong went on records.

1856: Executions began to be carried out in the Central Magistracy compound.

1858: There is a recorded incident of several European prisoners escaping at night only to return the next day. On being confronted, they gave as their explanation for escaping that they had only gone out to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Silver Jubilee (Bard, 2002).

1862: The Royal Saxon Incident

1865: The Victoria Gaol had been reconstructed. It contained 283 cells, 35 of which formed the female prison. Statistics for the next few years



showed an average daily prison population of over 500 prisoners, with European prisoners comprising well over 10% of the total.

1879: The prison system was formally separated from the police with the transfer of gaol guards from the Police to the control of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol (known as Governor of the Gaol between 1858-1863).

28th May, 1879: The first execution inside Victoria Gaol.

5th April, 1894: The last executions witnessed by the public inside the gaol were carried out.

1937: Victoria Gaol was closed after the opening of Stanley Prison, but was recommissioned two years later for remand prisoners because of extreme overcrowding in Stanley Prison.

July 1946: Victoria Gaol reopened after WWII.

10th July, 1961: The first Psychiatric Observation Unit was set up at Victoria Prison. (It was closed in 1972 following the opening of Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre.)

1966: A Chinese tombstone was uncovered during structural alterations in Victoria Prison.

1st December, 1977: Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre became operational and took over the reception function of Victoria Reception Centre, which was then renamed Victoria Prison.

1st February, 1982: The Prison Department was renamed Correctional Services Department to reflect its expanding programme of activities and emphasis on offenders' rehabilitation. The Commissioner of Prisons also became Commissioner of Correctional Services.

Special Use of Victoria Gaol

In the first prison, one portion was the quarters of the Chief Magistrate and downstairs was the courtroom. Later it also served as a residence for the guards (Sinclair, 1999).

Prisoners:

1845: half were debtors.

1853: there were an average of 56 prisoners a day, mostly sailors. Prisoners were divided into 8 classes and locked up separately, ranging from murderers awaiting trial to felons to debtors.

1946: it reopened in July and held 150 prisoners awaiting court appearances and sentencing.

1999: a large percentage of inmates are females, almost all of them detained or imprisoned for immigration breaches. (Sinclair, 1999)

Groups of prisoners by important historical events in HK (何耀生, 2005):

1925 Canton-HK demonstration,

1931 Anti-Japanese demonstrations,

1941-1944 Anti-Japanese movement,

1966-67 riots,



late '70s Anti-corruption movement (ref. Godber and other corrupt police),
1976 refugees from Vietnam,
1988 “undocumented mothers” (illegal residing mainland mothers of HK children)

Work of prisoners (Sinclair, 1999):

Before 1853: picking oakum, breaking stones, making mats or spinning ropes.

1853: 4495 man-days spent working on roads to Government House, and 3794 man-days went into work on the Lower Bazaar. Another 5093 man-days were used to improve 6.75 miles of road while 420 man-days were spent cleaning silt from the drain below the icehouse. More than 355 yards of drains were cleared. The total value of work performed outside the jail by prisoners was valued at £410.

(????) A treadwheel, a purposeless modes of punishment, was ordered (cost £188). The inmate mounted the wheel and had to keep trudging for a specified punishment time. The crank, another pointless, make-work machine, was also used as an exhausting punishment.

1877: toils included carrying shot, lead cannon balls weighing between 18lbs and 32 lbs, cranks, punishment machines, oakum pickings, stone-carrying and stone-breaking. The only work of any meaningful type was washing laundry, cooking and cleaning, and the maintenance of the jail.

Setting of the Cells

Locks: “The first locks used in Victoria Prison were solid iron affairs made in the foundries of the English Midlands. They were stout, sturdy and reliable and remained in use until recent years”... “A heavy key was needed to turn the tumblers that retracted the solid brass bolt from the wall mounting” in order to unlock the cell door in the original Victoria Prison in 1841” (Sinclair, 1999).

Doors: new steel doors were installed to replace the original solid teak doors for better ventilation (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003).

Buckets: one for fresh water and another for waste (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003).

Beds: bunk beds now, but it may be different in the past as shown in the museum of the Correctional Service Department (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003).

Living Conditions at Victoria Gaol

The first building was made with bad materials and poor workmanship. Condition was grim. Dr. Dempster, the Colonial Surgeon, recoiled in horror when he inspected the jail after a prisoner had died. “It is a filthy, disgusting place,” he wrote in anger. “It is a sin of iniquity. A man in a weak state of health kept in such a place 24 hours would receive irremediable



injury to his whole system.” He was horrified at “the dirty stinking hole”. In 1853, the Surveyor-General wrote “few carpenters or blacksmiths were ever imprisoned, so the place could not be well maintained” (Sinclair, 1999).

1890: 549 inmates were packed into 95 association cells. The prisoners had a scant 200 cubic feet of space, only a third of the space the law required lodging house keepers to provide (Sinclair, 1999).

Meals:

1851: the prison cost £628.5 shillings and five pence, with more than 80% spent on provisions (Sinclair, 1999).

1877: in the Jail Committee Report, the committee decided long-term Chinese prisoners were fed so well that the diet must be ‘a positive inducement to return to jail’. Diet was then used as a deterrent. Prisoners sentenced to 14 days or less went on strict bread and water rations if they were Europeans, rice and water if Chinese. For the first six months of any sentence, 10 days a month were on the basic harsh diet. The harsh diet of rice and water as a punishment was scrapped in 1981 (Sinclair, 1999).

In 1877, a prisoner was given 112 ounces of rice, 14 ounces of fish and **32** ounces of vegetables every week. It was said the composition of food given to prisoners in the 1880s was almost identical to that served in institutions a century later, except the modern version of dishes was based on modern medical and dietary advice, so energy intake and cholesterol levels were carefully monitored. Now, four types of meal were provided in the prison, including Asian, Indian, Western and vegetarian. At time of festivals, additional food is given on top of the regular menu (Sinclair, 1999).

Average cost of food per prisoner (from 1949-1970, (Sinclair, 1999, p. 58))

1949:	HK\$385.86
1954:	HK\$505.84
1959:	HK\$369.35
1964:	HK\$481.06
1969:	HK\$706.16
1998:	HK\$13.47 per day

(x365=HK\$4916.55)

Menu for prisoners (Effective from 1st October 1997) (Sinclair, 1999, pp. 159-160)

Workers in Victoria Gaol:

Matron of Victoria Gaol: according to regulation, she was stationed in the prison at all times to take care of the female prisoners. Her duties included management, educating the female prisoners, taking care of the sick prisoners (male and female) and granting and supervising visits to female prisoners. She may be one of the earliest females working in CPSC (□□□, 2005).

Prison Guards



According to the regulations formalized (by William Caine) for running “Her Majesty’s Gaol on the Island of Hong Kong”,

the European policeman on jail duty was forbidden ever to leave his post, unless ordered by the magistrate. He was ordered to keep the key of the prison yard in his possession; that door was never opened unless he was present. A sub-inspector and four “privates” of the Native Police were to be constantly attached to the jail, with a sentry stationed day and night on the veranda. The regulations were detailed. They ordered that every prisoner be searched when locked up, and that all food and clothes sent to him be searched for contraband. Visitors were permitted only on consent of the magistrate. Well-behaved inmates could buy tobacco, fruit and “other harmless luxuries”. No unnecessary conversations were allowed between guards and prisoners....The Senior Non-Commissioned Officer was ordered to visit cells morning and evening, checking hygiene and personal cleanliness and the safety of all inmates. (Sinclair, 1999, p. 6)

There was no official executioners in the early days. In **1852**, six Portuguese were to die for murder and piracy. A black American serving time in Victoria Prison was offered the job in return for remission of his jail term (Sinclair, 1999, p. 9).

By **1853**, staffing costs were £1206. The sheriff got £600 annually and the jailer received £125. The total staff at VG was 21 (with 6 Indian constables and 8 Indian guards). A European turnkey was paid £58, Indian constables got £19 a year, a ‘European headman’ got £36, the sole Chinese guard received £15 and the only woman staff member, a ‘female turnkey’ got £12. Most staff were Europeans and Indians, with only one Chinese guard (who was indeed a clerk whose duties did not place him in charge of prisoners) (Sinclair, 1999, pp. 9, 53).

The chaplain was to be allowed into jail at all times. The jailer was required to attend every religious service and if he could not go, had to record in his official journal what had kept him away. Part of the jailer’s duties was to force staff and, where possible, the prisoners to attend the services. The chaplain had to read prayers with the prisoners, preach to them, and visit them in their cells when he thought fit, especially when they were sick. He was to tender his assistance to all prisoners under sentence of death (Sinclair, 1999).

Myths and Legends

Underground tunnels: As mentioned in the architectural conservation report prepared by PMT, as well as confirmed by an ex-correctional officer, there may have been underground tunnels that connected the court with the prisons, although it is still not found. The informant said it may have been blocked/closed after renovations and restructuring.

Old Bailey Street (□□□Long-Lived Slope): Long-lived slope is a rather common nickname for any long and steep slope in HK; yet on Old Bailey Street there is another story to justify its usage. The slope of Old Bailey Street leads to an entrance of Victoria Gaol, close to where people who had committed minor crimes were imprisoned. People on the death penalty and/or long-term imprisonment were imprisoned on the other side



and hence their visitors used the entrance of the Upper Albert Street instead. Therefore, prisoners using the Old Bailey Street's entrance could usually finish the sentence and be released. Unlike prisoners on the other side, they lived a longer life (□□□, 2005).

3. Central Magistracy (1915-79)

“The higher courts spend days dissecting one incident; but before a busy magistrate, life's rich pageant unrolls continuously” (Coghlan, 2005).

Cases of cultural conflicts:

1. Chinese Rituals (Bickley V. , 2005)
 - a. Burning joss paper at Ching Ming Festival
 - b. Firing crackers (one fined a dollar or four days in prison)
In 1882, special permission to let off fire crackers was given within stated specific period of time to accommodate the Chinese's need.
2. Beliefs (Bickley V. , 2005)
 - a. Suicide vs. possession: a woman claimed being possessed by a devil to explain her attempted suicide
 - b. Sacrilege: someone threw a Koran to his wife, kicked and threatened to kill her
 - c. Puntis (local Chinese) vs. other Chinese (damaging another's garden)
 - d. Sales of boys/girls for adoption (1875: the Protection of Chinese Women and Female Children Ordinance)

Practice of Law in the Central Magistracy in the 19th Century

1. Cases covered then and today are of similar range: minor crimes of dishonesty — theft, handling stolen goods, and similar; minor assaults; a few dangerous drug cases (more frequent now); administrative offences — market offences, non-standard weights and the like (Coghlan, 2005).
2. Type of punishment: imprisonment was more common then, but often for a shorter period of time. Now punishment has a large variety, including probation, community service orders and training centre orders (Tallentire, 2005).
3. There was no juvenile court then. Defendants, irrespective of age, appeared before the Police Magistrate (Tallentire, 2005).
4. Cases against foreigners: mainly offences involving drinking (usually seamen or local garrisons) (Roper, 2005).
5. Little Chinese is used in court: the magistrate had to take down translation in long-hand himself (Bickley V. , 2005).

Offences in the past

Some examples:



1. Servants leaving a job without notice or disobeying instructions (Coghlan, 2005)
2. Giving false report to the departure/arrival of a ship (Coghlan, 2005)
3. Light and Pass Rules (1842-1897): “the only racist legislation enforced”. No Chinese should be out after a certain time at night without a light or a pass, or both. The law was used by police, as requests to see an identity card are in Hong Kong today, to check up on people about whom the police have some suspicion because they were out late. People (probably homeless) were also sentenced to prison under this law as a humane way of providing shelter, food and work (Bickley G. , The Hong Kong "Light and Pass" Rules, 2005)



PART 2 – THEMED-BASED INFORMATION

1. Important Persons

- a. **Ho Chi Ming** (imprisoned in Victoria Gaol, named 宋文初 when imprisoned): founder of Communist Party of Vietnam.
Record on his imprisonment can be found in the Ho Chi Ming Museum in Vietnam. He founded the Communist Party of Vietnam in Hong Kong in 1930, imprisoned from June 1931 to Spring 1933, as requested by the French government. He was later released and went to USSR (rumor has it that he had TB and needed medical treatment), then he moved to China to help the Chinese Communist Party before going back to Vietnam to start the revolution in 1945 (丁新豹, 2008).

- b. **Jose Rizal** (visitor to Victoria Gaol): a national hero of the Philippines.
He visited Hong Kong on his travels to escape from political threats. He had written about his visit to the Victoria Gaol⁵ with a physician in 1892, describing not only the environment of the prison, but also the different treatments between the European and Chinese prisoners, the punishment for prisoners who violated rules, the health issues of the prisoners, etc (Rizal, 1992).

- c. **Dai Wangshu** 戴望舒 (Prisoner of Victoria Gaol): a Chinese writer and poet, arrested by the Japanese military and was imprisoned in Victoria Gaol for seven weeks
He was badly tortured in the prison and released due to health issues. One of his most famous poetry was about his imprisonment. He was an important figure in the anti-Japanese movement in Hong Kong, and his experience during the wartime had changed his writing style and made him a famous and respected writer in China (丁新豹, 2008).

- d. **William Caine** (First Chief Magistrate, Chief of Police and Victoria Gaol)
Before appointment, he was the captain of the 26th Cameronian Regiment of Foot. He was asked to establish an efficient police force with a budget of £1,400 (£600 as his salary and £800 for the 32-man force). However, the recruitment was extremely difficult. The discharged British and Indian soldiers were unable to speak Chinese and the Chinese recruits took with instant enthusiasm to corrupt and were described as “the scum of the community”. His powers of punishment were also limited. He could not fine Chinese more than \$400; the longest term of imprisonment he could impose was 3 months; the maximum punishment of flogging was 100 lashes. Such mild retribution was laughable to Chinese criminals accustomed to the stringent corrective discipline in Guangdong. The crime rate rose fast. A sentence in the new jail was viewed as a holiday during which food and lodging were supplied by a beneficent host. (Sinclair, 1999)

⁵ *Miscellaneous Writings of Dr. Jose Rizal*. Manila : National Historical Institute, 1992. Pp.145-148



- e. **Francis Henry May**: (Captain-Superintendent who later became the Governor)
 Father of modern policing in Hong Kong, also the only Captain-Superintendent who later became the Governor. Appointed in 1893, one of his first challenges was the plague that killed thousands. During the epidemic most of the unpleasant work of burying the dead and evacuating the living was undertaken by the military and the police (Kevin Sinclair and Nelson Ng Kwok-cheung, 1997).
- f. **Frederick Stewart** (Police Magistrate): founder and Head of the Hong Kong Government Central School
 Police Magistrate from 19 May 1881 to April/May 1883 (particularly from 26 July 1881 to 29 March 1882); the period coincided with the period of controversial gentleness with the governorship of Sir John Pope Hennessy, who abolished branding and flogging (Bickley G. , Magistrate Frederick Stewart, 2005).
- g. **Ng Choy** (Defence barrister in the Magistrate's Court): the first Chinese member of the Legislative Council (Roper, 2005)
- h. **Peter Godber** (tried in the magistrate court) corrupt senior policeman whose case led to the founding of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).
- i. **Father Franco Mella** (Protestor outside Victoria Gaol): local activist
 He protested outside the prison to support the imprisoned mothers who entered Hong Kong illegally to be with their Hong Kong husband and children in the 1980s (何耀生, 2005).
- j. **Donald Tsang** (Resident of the dormitory): Chief Executive
 His father was a police officer. He lived in the dormitory on Bailey Street before moving to another dormitory on Hollywood Road. He also played in the CPSC when he was a child (行政長官曾蔭權在香港外國記者會午餐會的致辭摘要, 2009).
- k. **Chen Ying Leung** (Resident of the dormitory) convener of the Executive Council, HKSAR
 His father was a police officer. He lived in the dormitory on Bailey Street before moving to another dormitory on Hollywood Road (梁炳華 (ed.), 2005).
- l. **Ming Kwai Li** (CID in Central Police Station in the mid-70s) Chief of Police
 When he was working in the CPSC, he often stayed over night and slept on the floor. He mentioned that it was necessary for the CPSC to have a full house of services to provide for its need, as to guarantee the operation even at times of riots or typhoons. He also had his haircut by the barbers in CPSC (發展局文物保育專員辦事處).



2. Crime and Punishment

Handling conflicts before the CPSC

Man Mo Temple: some written evidence suggests that during the early days of colonization, magistrates sometimes handled local conflicts not in the court, but in the Man Mo Temple, where the involved parties would swear on their honesty according the traditional Chinese rituals (何耀生, 2005).

Punishment in Victoria Gaol

- a. **Branding and deportation:** one of the most effective measures taken against crime, possibly to relieve congestion in the gaol, was that of publicly branding and deporting prisoners with their consent, and on condition that they were to be flogged and sent back to the gaol to serve their original sentences if they returned. European prisoners were deported to Van Diemen's Island (now Tasmania) and Norfolk Islands, whilst Chinese prisoners were deported to China and Penang. There was one occasion when the ship taking Chinese deportees to Penang was seized by the prisoners on the high seas, killing all the crew. Nothing was heard of these deportees again, although it was thought that many of them had landed in Singapore because the ship was later found in that vicinity (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003).
- b. **Execution:** the daily journal filled in by jailers at Victoria Prison and then by Superintendents at Stanley Prison sometimes had brief and concise notations – “prisoner executed according to law”. For several days before the execution, an irregular heavy thumping sound had come from behind the closed door at the end of the corridor. The man about to die knew this was the executioner dropping well-filled sandbags of approximately the condemned man's weight through the trapdoor. This was to test the equipment and stretch the rope ... “Into the cell would come the hangman, to shackle the condemned prisoner with leather thongs. He would be helped the final steps into the execution chamber, where the knotted noose was placed around his neck, the heavy, rock-hard knot behind his ear. The canvas hood was then slipped over his head, the chaplain murmured a few, hopefully consoling, words. The hangman pulled the lever, the trapdoor clanged open and the criminal dropped 8 to 10 feet to eternity. The knot behind his ear was pulled sharply by the prisoner's weight at the end of the drop, breaking the neck and causing instant death” (Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, 2003).

Meaning of Punishment and Imprisonment

(Time unknown, between 1867-1870) It was argued that British prisons' condition in Hong Kong was so humane compared to those in China that they were hardly a punishment. Inmates in Victoria Jail were better fed



clothed and lodged, and worked less than honest labourers. Governor R.G. MacDonnell ordered that Chinese prisoners be branded on the cheek or ear (Sinclair, 1999).

1877: Snowden's Jail Committee Report concluded jail was meant to deter people from crime. Every other consideration, including reform and rehabilitation, came very much in the second place.⁶ The report also stressed Chinese were "different". Due to language and cultural differences, it was deemed impossible to educate or improve them. The alternative was to make life for Chinese prisoners as harsh and unbearable as possible, within reason and humanity, by strict discipline, less food and hard toil (Sinclair, 1999).

1885: a British Major General, Alex Gordon, took over the job. He reformed the prisons by rewriting the Prison Ordinance, Rules and Regulations, which ended public executions and public flogging, replacing the dreaded cat by the cane (flogging) and abolished branding, banishment and all regulations aimed specifically against Chinese. The new rules banned unnecessary conversations between prisoners and intensified work schedule to rigidly detailed chores of 6-10 hours daily, six days a week (Sinclair, 1999).

1887: it was a strict regime. A commission advised to cut off all prisoners' queues to cause shame, make life tougher in jail, whip more offenders, further cut their diets and cut the one-and-a-half day's holiday a week. All prisoners serving a year or more should wear 3 pounds of iron chains, connected to ankle rings and hanging from a hook on their belt (Sinclair, 1999).

In 1890s: Hong Kong government decided to expand and improve the conditions of the prison, but faced much opposition from the public, including many powerful Chinese. Only until 1914 a large scale expansion was possible. The second prison with better facilities was built much later in 1924 in Lai Chi Kok (□□□, 2005). Victoria Gaol was to remain the main jail up until Stanley Prison opened in 1937 (Sinclair, 1999).

Hall F: It was an important building which showed the changing meaning of imprisonment. It was built in 1913 as a printing factory, allowing the prisoners to learn a skill and work in the prison. In 1931, Hall F was reconstructed into a 2-storey building, with a new textile factory. After WWII, the prisons were badly damaged. Victoria Gaol reopened in July, 1946. Hall F reopened as the government printing factory (which later becomes the Printing Division, Government Logistics Department). In 1956, Hall F converted the lower floors as offices and the prison's reception centre. A yard was also built for the prisoners, showing the increasing care and respect to them (□□□, 2005).

3. Migrant Tales

It was not difficult to find stories on illegal Chinese immigrants, particularly the "**No card mothers**", mainland Chinese women who came to Hong

⁶ Elizabeth Fry, in UK in 1847, suggested to reform prison since "punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal". But the idea was not adopted in HK until much later (Sinclair, 1999).



Kong illegally to be with their Hong Kong husbands and children in the mid-1980s. On 7th January, 1988, the government announced that all these women were to be deported and they had to turn themselves in to the Central Police Station or Victoria Gaol in four days. Their husbands and children gathered outside CPSC to protest. The government later gave them two more weeks in Hong Kong to arrange family issues, but afterwards they had to return to CPSC and waited for deportation. In 2001, requests were made to allow mainland-born Hong Kong children to migrate to Hong Kong. They again protested outside the Victoria Gaol (何耀生, 2005).

Many TV and radio programs in the mid-1980s interviewed mothers and children who illegally came to Hong Kong after the Joint Declaration was signed in 1984, which ruled that Chinese children of Hong Kong residents have the right of abode. Even more stories were recorded in 2000, when another discussion of right of abode arose in Hong Kong. Two RTHK programs that are worth looking into include HK Connection broadcasted on 2000-01-23 (The Gate is Closed) and 1986-06-01 (on illegal children immigrants).

Stories on Vietnamese immigrants, on the other hand, are different. Over 200,000 Vietnamese came to Hong Kong since 1975, among them 140,000 moved elsewhere, 70,000 returned to Vietnam, and only a few stayed in Hong Kong (香港立法會, 1998). Those who stayed in Victoria Prison are mainly those without asylum status, hence they were sent to the prison only for deportation back to Vietnam. Vietnamese may also ask to be held in the Special Unit in Victoria Prison for protective custody because of blood feuds with countrymen in the prison population (Sinclair, 1999).

Around **2000**, every day more than a hundred illegal immigrants were sent to the Victoria Gaol. Most of them came from mainland China or other regions in Asia for illegal work, prostitution or criminal activities. Many of them were **Prostitute Visitors (PVs)**. A young police officer recalled, "Every day a lot of PVs were deported. The corridor outside the canteen on the 2nd Floor of Barrack Block was the best place to look at them. Officers of the Immigration Department would escort them to the car park from the west entrance on Old Bailey Street. They came out one by one, like election of Miss Universe. At the time, once we knew the time of deportation, we would gather at the 2/F corridor for the best location to watch PVs. Some colleagues would wait while eating or smoking. Once the PVs were out, everyone looked at the west entrance. Colleagues at the back would stand on chairs to get a better view" (何耀生, 2005).

More recent immigrant stories may be among the asylum seekers in Hong Kong. Some Africans and South Asians claimed asylum status after their visa expired, and hence were sent to the Victoria prison. Since it took a long time (sometimes over 10 years) for the UNHCR to process their applications of asylum seeking, some of them are still in Hong Kong waiting for the result. However, once the verdict is given, these people will



go to the countries they desire or be deported back to their home countries.

昌品恩典會: a relatively new Christian group formed in 2002 to serve the prisoners, including those in Victoria Gaol. It was formed in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in HK (the main cathedral on Caine Road), so Victoria Gaol was reasonably a target site. In some of the very limited records, it was mentioned that they prayed and sang in Mandarin and the prisoners were female. So it was probably during the time when the Gaol was used for imprisoning illegal immigrants. It could be a group that we can use to get stories of prisoners, particularly illegal immigrants who have already been deported (昌品恩典會).

4. Others

Hong Kong Fire Brigade (HKFB): The Fire Brigade was found in 1868 and the position of Superintendent was appointed to the head of Police and Victoria Gaol, Mr. Charles May (The Hongkong Government Gazette, 1868). It is a legitimate guess that the HKFB also used CPSC as its headquarter, not only because of the appointment of Mr. May, but also the hose cart and other related artifacts found in the site.



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