



During the period 1912-1978, it was the Old Supreme Court Building; and during the Japanese occupation between 1941-1945, it was used as the Japanese military headquarters; and was later converted into the Legislative Council Building (1985-2011). The Court of Final Appeal has moved to this location since September 2015. The front door is surmounted by a pediment with the inscription "Erected AD MDCCCXX" (Erected AD 1910). On top of the pediment of the Building is a Statue of Justice represented by Themis. She is blindfolded, which represents impartiality. She has a pair of scales in her right hand, which represents fairness and a sword, which is a symbol of power, in her left hand.

1 The Former Legislative Council Building



This was once the Governor's house. In 1917, it was topped by a cupola, and a shrine for statues. The building was also the Victoria District Court (1965) and the Supreme Court (1989). In 1989, the Building was listed as a Declared Monument. After the 1997 handover, the Building was converted to be the Court of Final Appeal until September 2015.

2 The Former Court of Final Appeal Building (Former French Mission Building)



The Victoria Prison, also named the Central Prison, was the first jail in Hong Kong constructed in 1841. During the Japanese Occupation, it served to confine British soldiers and political prisoners. In the 1980s, it was converted to receive Vietnamese boat immigrants and illegal immigrants. It was listed as a Declared Monument in 1995 and stopped functioning as a prison in 2005. Ho Chi Minh from Vietnam was imprisoned there in 1931.

6 Central Police Station Compound: Victoria Prison



The HSBC was established in 1865 and has conducted its business in this area since 1885. 4 different buildings have occupied this location since then. The 2 lions guarding the front door are marked by bullet holes, which are remnants of the Japanese Occupation in WWII. On the side facing Queen's Road, a board with the list of directors hangs with the British Hong Kong emblem.

3 The HSBC Main Building



5 Central Police Station Compound: Former Central Magistracy

The Magistracy was constructed in 1913; it was listed as a Declared Monument in 1995. The upper and lower part of the Building was furnished with granite blocks and red bricks respectively. A special small entrance was provided for judges. A sign with 1914, the year of completion, was hung on the front door with the British Royal sign. When the accused person was brought to court, the police would escort them through the basement from the Police Station or the Prison to the Magistracy. The death penalty was executed publicly on the nearby Arbuthnot Road.



The Central Police Station was built in response to the influx of refugees from Mainland China in the 1850s due to the uprising of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom. The earliest block was constructed in 1864 with 3 stories. A storey was later added in 1905. The Victorian style building embraces both oriental and western architectural design. In 1995, it was listed as a Declared Monument. The main building, which faces Hollywood Road, was constructed in 1919. The front door is marked with 'Hong Kong Police', the 'G' and 'R' ornaments represent King George V (in power between 1910 and 1936).



4 Central Police Station Compound: Former Central Police Station

Reference:

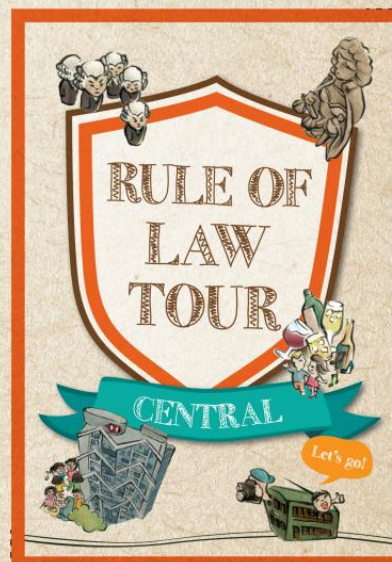
- The Architectural Services Department. Website: "Central Police Station Compound /1914". (Accessed on 22 August 2014)
- The Legislative Council Secretariat. *Information Note: The Legislative Council Building*. 2003.
- Hong Kong: Government Information Services. *Commemorative booklet for the opening of the Legislative Council Building*. 1985.
- Ting Sun Pao Joseph. *Historical Wandering in Hong Kong* (New Edition). Hong Kong: The Commercial Press. 2009.
- The Central and Western District Council. *Heritage of the Central and Western District, Hong Kong*. 2011.
- Ye Ling-feng's book on Hong Kong history. (《香港浮沉錄》及《香港滄桑錄》) Hong Kong: Chung Hwa Book. July 2011.
- Hong Kong Memory Website

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
國際特赦組織香港分會



Publishing date: November, 2015
www.amnesty.org.hk
www.facebook.com/AmnestyHK

Illustration and design: Chan Maydoy www.chanmaydoy.com



RULE OF LAW TOUR - CENTRAL

Hong Kong is renowned for being a society where the Rule of Law applies, but its fair legal system could not be upheld without the accumulation of experience and endeavour of members of its society. Today, let us trace Hong Kong's legal history by walking through the architecture and streets in Central, and grasping the road to the Rule of Law.

Recommended route: (1 hour and 30 minutes)

The Former Legislative Council Building → The HSBC Main Building → The Former Court of Final Appeal → The Central Police Station Compound

Site where Yang Qiyun was assassinated
(Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail 7th station)

Furen Wenshe Original Site
(Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail 8th station)

China Daily Office Original Site
(Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail 14th station)

Hong Kong Headquarters of Revive China Society Original Site
(Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail 12th station)



- 1 The Former Legislative Council Building
- 2 The Former Court of Final Appeal Building (Former French Mission Building)
- 3 The HSBC Main Building
- 4 Central Police Station Compound: Former Central Police Station
- 5 Central Police Station Compound: Former Central Magistracy
- 6 Central Police Station Compound: Victoria Prison