

Historic Building Appraisal
Pui Ching Primary School, Gateway
No. 80 Waterloo Road, Kowloon

1003

The existing Pui Ching Primary School (培正小學) was built in 1933 to provide education for local children. The school was originally a branch of the Chinese Baptist Academy of Canton, which was established on 28 November 1889 by a group of Baptists in Canton. They erected several schools in Canton since its establishment. In the late 1920s, they started planning to come to Hong Kong.

*Historical
Interest*

Pui Ching Primary School is run by the United Hong Kong Christian Baptist Churches Association (香港浸信會聯會). The construction works of the school started after the Foundation Ceremony held on 12 April in 1933 and was completed in September 1933. This school named as Hong Kong Pui Ching Branch School (香港培正分校) provided primary school education for the children. In 1935, it expanded its education level to junior high school.

In 1949 Pui Ching Branch School expanded its education level to senior high school. The government also agreed to grant a piece of land where next to the school for its expansion. Thus, the original site was then designated for the primary section while the new land granted by the government was designated for the secondary school section. One year later, Pui Ching Branch School was separated from the Chinese Baptist Academy of Canton.

The gateway (牌坊), built in the 1950s, is situated at the corner of Waterloo Road and Pui Ching Road. It is constructed in concrete in imitation of wood construction. There are three openings: a central opening flanked by smaller openings on either side. All are fitted with ornamental iron gates. Two giant columns support a large crossbeam inscribed on the front with the names of the primary school (香港培正小學) and the secondary school (香港培正中學) on the same site in Chinese characters, and with a moral principle (至善至正) on the back. The design and construction of the gateway embody a mix of Chinese and Western architecture.

*Architectural
Merit*

The gateway whilst not unique is quite rare for schools. There are few alterations, if any, to the structure which appears to be authentic.

*Rarity, Built
Heritage Value &
Authenticity*

The design of the gateway is an imitation of traditional Chinese gateway and with its prominent corner position is quite a local landmark in its way.

*Social Value &
Local Interest*

The gateway is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as **Group Value** the Main Building of Diocesan Boys' School (拔萃男書院主樓, Grade 2), King George V School (英皇佐治五世學校, Grade 2), and the Main Building and Chapel of St. Clare of Assisi of Heep Yunn School (協恩中學主樓及小禮拜堂, both Grade 3).