

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Kowloon Hospital, Block R**  
**No. 147A Argyle Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon**

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Kowloon Hospital (九龍醫院) is the first government hospital in Kowloon comprising a group of buildings constructed between 1925 and 1938. Its establishment was in response to the boom in population in Kowloon which set in since the 1920s. The buildings were designed by the Architectural Office of the Public Works Department. This new institution was of high importance from the view of the Government. After the new Governor, Cecil Clementi, had just arrived in Hong Kong on 1 November 1925, he visited and inspected the premises before its opening on 24 December 1925. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), it was used as a military hospital.

*Historical  
Interest*

Block R was built in 1925 as a ward block and converted into Nurses' Quarters in 1965. It is a two-storey building built to a long rectangular plan with a central corridor and rooms on either side. There is an enclosed yard at one end and open colonnaded and arcaded verandahs on the north and south elevations. The external appearance is very similar to the other ward blocks, with rendered and painted walls and a Chinese tiled hipped and pitched roof. Grey gauged brickwork is used for the ground floor verandah columns and to trim the windows openings and first floor verandah parapet copings. Windows are steel framed units painted black divided into small glazing squares. The projecting eaves of the roof are supported by ornamental brackets and the gutters drained by exposed rainwater downpipes. The "cow's horn" curling ends to the ridge and corners give the roof an Oriental appearance. Two chimney stacks project above the roof line at one end. The design of Block R is the same as the other blocks, basically Classical Revival with Arts and Crafts and Chinese influences.

*Architectural  
Merit*

The design of the building is quite rare in Hong Kong. As one of the earlier blocks to be built in the hospital complex, Block R has historical built heritage value as well as group value. The authenticity of the interior has obviously been affected by the 1965 conversion into Nurses' Quarters. The extension however appears to retain its original appearance apart from a modern covered walkway along the south elevation.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

The social value of Block R lies in the role it has played in providing medical services to the community and latterly as Nurses Quarters. Its unusual design and especially the Oriental appearance of the roof give it local interest.

*Social Value  
& Local  
Interest*

The hospital is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as **Group Value** CLP Power Hong Kong Limited Administrative Building (alias China Light and Power Company Limited Head Office (中華電力有限公司行政辦事處(別稱中華電力有限公司總部), Grade 1), 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, Grade 3).