

Historic Building Appraisal
Kowloon Hospital – Outpatient Block
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. The Outpatient Block (now known as Central Kowloon Health Centre) was built in 1935.

*Historical
Interest*

The original single-storey Outpatient Block was a simple rectangular building built to a symmetrical plan consisting of a large central main waiting hall surrounded by consulting rooms and other rooms for supporting services. This building was built with a Chinese tiled hipped and pitched roof with “cow’s horn” curling ends to ridge and corners. A flat-roofed extension was added in 1951 and further rehabilitation works carried out in 1964/65. The 1965 extension was built with a modern design to provide further waiting areas and a dispensary. Walls are rendered and painted, the roof is flat with a wide projecting canopy over the large rectangular steel framed windows. The design of the building therefore may be classified as local Arts and Crafts with a modern extension.

*Architectural
Merit*

There are two small detached utility buildings on the south and west sides of the outpatient block which from their style might date them as 1930s period buildings. They were probably built after World War II.

Neither style of architecture found in this outpatient block is particularly rare in Hong Kong. The building does however have built heritage value and group value as part of the hospital complex. The authenticity of the original block has been compromised by the extension and also by the addition of covered walkways and what appear to be car ports.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The social value of the outpatient block lies in the role it has played in providing medical health care to the community. It has a prominent position on the corner of Waterloo Road and Argyle Street and is well known locally.

*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).