

Historic Building Appraisal

Hong Kong Adventist College (香港三育書院) & Sam Yuk Middle School (三育中學)

Staff and Teaching Building of Sam Yuk Middle School

No. 1111 Clear Water Bay Road, Sheung Yeung, Sai Kung, New Territories

The College and the School were established by Seventh-Day Adventists Church (基督復臨安息日會) in **1939**. Now the College is managed by China Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists (基督復臨安息日會華安聯合會), and the School is managed by Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists (基督復臨安息日會港澳區會). The architect of the first eight of the sixteen buildings on the campus was **Elder Chu Yue-tat** (朱如達長老), who was a civil engineering graduate of Lingnan University. *Historical Interest*

The College and the School were built because of the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War when the South Union Training Institute (華南三育研究院) in Guangzhou moved to Hong Kong and a permanent campus was needed. The Institute temporarily settled in Sha Tin in 1937. Later on, they purchased the present site for building a permanent campus. The **Staff and Teaching Building** is one of the oldest surviving buildings of the present complex.

The **Staff and Teaching Building** is a simple one-storey high-red-brick building with a central entrance bay in **Art Deco** style. The building is rectangular and symmetrical in plan with slightly projecting bays at each end. A U-shaped corridor internally serves the classrooms and offices. Originally the corridor was open on the front elevation forming an open verandah but it was enclosed with metal windows some years ago. The existing flat roof is not original. According to some old photos, the building had a pitched roof in the past. The roof parapet consists of a continuous projecting band of concrete or Shanghai plaster grooved to imitate stonework. This particular type of feature is known as “streamlining” and was popular in 1930s **Art Deco** buildings. Windows are tall and narrow and regularly spaced. There are two unusual blank or blind windows in the front facades of the end projecting bays. *Architectural Merit*

Architecturally the building compliments the College and Administration Block and therefore has built heritage value and group value. Apart from the elevation to the roof and the enclosure of the verandah the building appears to have been little altered and therefore remains largely authentic. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The Staff and Teaching Building appears to have been the Sam Yuk Middle School originally. Sam Yuk has a long history going back to 1915. Many subordinate “Sam Yuk” schools have originated from this school. The building therefore has historical value as well as social value and local interest. *Social Value & Local Interest*

At the time of the survey (2003) the building seemed to have been left vacant for several years and appeared to be somewhat dilapidated internally. Its simple one-room-and-a-corridor deep plan could easily be adapted for a number of uses.

Adaptive***Re-use***