

Historic Building Appraisal

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

College & Administration Block

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 **College and Administration Block** (行政樓) is one of the oldest surviving buildings of the present complex.

The **College and Administration Block** is an imposing two-storied **Art Deco** style building built of red bricks in Flemish bond with horizontal bands of brick-on-end or soldier courses. The base of the walls or plinth is formed by several courses of granite painted white. The building is rectangular and symmetrical in plan with projecting bays at the two ends and at the centre. The most important architectural feature is the front entrance porch incorporating a number of **Art Deco** features. The linearity of the building is juxtaposed by vertical piers and columns rising up through and uniting the two stories. Internally, the main architectural feature is the double-return staircase at the rear of the building illuminated by three tall arched windows. Walls and ceilings are fairly plain in the minimalist style of the 1930s with simple paneling and coving to the ceiling. *Architectural Merit*

Art Deco buildings are quite rare in Hong Kong and the choice of bricks for the walls unusual. Other **Art Deco** buildings in brickwork that come to mind are the Maryknoll Convent School in Waterloo Road (1937) and the China Light and Power Headquarters in Argyle Street (1940). The College and Administration Block is therefore a valuable piece of built heritage. Although most of the windows have been replaced by modern aluminum windows, original wooden casement windows and doors are still to be seen in some places. The building does not appear to have been altered structurally and still remains fairly authentic. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of this institution lies in the contributions made in the fields of education, religion, medical research, health, catering and various social services and activities such as retreats, camping, conferences and even wedding facilities. A number of well-known and historical local figures are associated with the College and School.

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

The building appears to be well adapted for its present administrative role, but could fairly easily be adapted for other uses if need be.

*Adaptive
Re-use*