

Historic Building Appraisal

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

Boys' Dormitory

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 **Boys' Dormitory** is one of the oldest surviving buildings of the present complex.

The **Boys' Dormitory** is a two-storey building with a lower ground floor or semi-basement. Its walls are partly rendered and partly red-brick. There is reason to believe that originally all the walls were exposed red brickwork to match the other buildings on the campus. The building, like the others, is rectangular and symmetrical with projecting end bays and a projecting central bay on the rear elevation. Windows are tall and narrow and regularly spaced. Horizontal grooves or "streamlining" is featured at parapet level. The basement wall externally is grooved and jointed to imitate stonework. The architectural style is a stripped down neo-classical **Art Deco** style popular in the 1930s. Verandahs at both floor levels on the front elevation give the building a colonial appearance. *Architectural Merit*

The building's original appearance has been changed so that it does not now relate or blend in with the other buildings on the campus. It is difficult to reverse the damage done but painting the elevations a red brick colour might be one solution. As an important building on the campus it has some historical value and built heritage value. Its authenticity has however been undermined. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of the building lies in the historical support role it played as a dormitory for live-in students. Its role has now much diminished and from its appearance appears to have suffered from lack of maintenance and neglect. It remains however one of the original campus buildings and it is therefore of *Social Value & Local Interest*

local interest and has group value

The rooms in the building seem to be fairly large and it should be possible to come up with a suitable adaptive re-use if need be. *Adaptive Re-use*