

Historic Building Appraisal
Cheung Chau Government Secondary School - Old Block & Caretaker's Residence
No. 5B School Road, Cheung Chau

Cheung Chau Government Secondary School (長洲官立中學) evolved from Cheung Chau Anglo-Chinese School (長洲中英文學校) which was established elsewhere in Cheung Chau in 1908. A permanent school building was constructed at the present site in **1928** under the supervision of the Public Works Department. Since the 1920s, people on the island called it the “English School” to distinguish it from those ancestral halls teaching in accordance with Confucian beliefs. ***Historical Interest***

During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong in 1941-1945, the school was occupied by the Japanese and used as their military headquarters (軍部). The school reopened in 1945 and separated into morning and afternoon classes. In 1951, it started the junior secondary class and in 1961, the senior secondary class was added. Cheung Chau Government Secondary School gained its official name in the same year. Construction of new wings took place in 1968 and later in 1998 in the vicinity of the old building.

The **Old Block** (舊座) of the school is an elegant two-storey red-brick building laid out in an L-shaped plan, with a **caretaker's residence** (管理員宿舍) in similar style next to it. The **School** is **Neo-Classical** in style with colonnaded verandahs and rusticated quoins at the corners. With its Chinese pan-and-roll tiled roof, projecting eaves and shuttered windows, it has overtones of the **Italianate** style, but the use of red bricks and sombre known painted wooden doors and windows give it an **Edwardian** appearance which is echoed internally by the glazing bar patterns to windows and fanlights and a red-brick fireplace in the Headmaster's Office. ***Architectural Merit***

This style of architecture is quite rare in Hong Kong, and the School which is one of the most important buildings on Cheung Chau, is a valuable piece of built heritage and part of Hong Kong's history. Two annexes were added to the School in 1968 and 1998 respectively and the old school building itself underwent renovation about ten years ago, which included replacement of the roof and external pipework. A sanitary block beside the caretaker's house was also demolished. Nevertheless, despite all these alterations, the old school building has retained much of its authenticity. ***Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity***

The social value of the School lies in the historical role it has played in providing high quality education to the island's children. With its long tradition, the School is fondly remembered by past students and staff. The School is ***Social Value & Local Interest***

highly regarded by Cheung Chau residents who refer to it as the “English School”.

Other historic items in Cheung Chau graded by the Antiquities and Monuments Board include Cheung Chau Fong Pin Hospital (長洲方便醫院), Cheung Chau Police Station (長洲警署), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖廟) and Yuk Hui Temple (玉虛宮). **Group Value**

It is unlikely that the School will be closed down unless there is a drastic reduction in the number of students. The question of adaptive re-use therefore dose not arise at present. **Adaptive Re-use**