

Historic Building Appraisal
St. Stephen's College
No. 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong

Initially, St. Stephen's College (聖士提反書院) was located at the junction of Bonham Road and Western Street. It was established in 1903 by Rev. Bishop Banisser of the Anglican Church and a number of prominent Chinese leaders including Dr. Kai Ho Kai (何啓) and Dr. Sin-wan Tso (曹善允), etc., who wanted to save China by means of education. The construction of the present school premises in Stanley started in 1928. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Cecil Clementi (金文泰), the 17th Governor of Hong Kong, on April 1928. *Historical Interest*

Construction of the school premises in Stanley was completed in **1930**, followed by the Old Laboratory building and the Martin Hostel in **1931**. Shortly before Governor Sir Mark Young announced the surrender on Christmas Day 1941, the **School House** was a temporary hospital and the scene of an infamous massacre committed by the Japanese military. During the Japanese Occupation (194-1945) the College site was an internment camp. The College reopened in 1947 and became a co-educational school in 1968.

St. Stephen's College consists of a group of two and three storey blocks and single storey bungalows on a hill-site surrounded by trees and vegetation. The architectural style is **Arts and Crafts** with **Modernist** influence. The **School House**, **Martin Hostel** and **Old Laboratory** are built in a similar style with the ground floor storey external walls of granite and the upper storey plain rendered and painted finish. Arched windows and doorways and arcaded verandahs are much in evidence. The School House has an interesting **Art Deco** style balconied second floor feature over the main entrance. *Architectural Merit*

The **Bungalows** (Nos. 1-5) are squat white-walled square buildings with exaggerated hipped pan-tiled roofs with projecting chimney stacks. The **Arts and Crafts** style fits in well with the natural surroundings.

The **St. Stephen's Chapel** (1950) is a one-storey pitched roof building built to a cruciform plan. The foundation stone was laid on 10 December 1949 and the Chapel itself was opened in **1950** to commemorate those who suffered and died in the internment camp. The walls are rendered and painted which contrast with the red painted Chinese tiled roof. The walls are raised off a granite plinth. Architectural features include arched doors and arched windows of colourful stained glass. A **Modernist** rectangular annex building has been built at one side.

The **Main Building** was built in **1964**. It is U-shaped in plan, three stories high. The architectural style is **Modernist**. The structure appears to be concrete framed. The facades are composed of rectangular windows divided by white

painted vertical columns and horizontal slabs. Red painted panels under the windows give the building a distinctive appearance.

The **Ng Wah Hall** (伍華紀念堂) was built in **1970**. This building is in the **Post-modern** style and almost defies description in the complexity of the design of the elevations. It is T-shaped in plan and stepped to follow the slope on which it is built. It appears to be concrete framed with brick infill panels. Internally it is rather brutal and utilitarian in appearance.

For so many buildings of similar style to be grouped together is quite rare in Hong Kong, and they have group value as well as built heritage value. New blocks have been built in the college grounds, and inevitably some alterations have been made to the old blocks, but generally they have retained much of their original authentic appearance.

The social value of St. Stephen's College lies in its historical role in the field of education. The College is very proud of its long history. Sir Shiu-kin Tang (鄧肇堅), Sir Shek-lin Chou (周錫年), Sir Chun-lin Chou (周峻年) are some of the well-known graduates from the College. The pre-war buildings are of high architectural value and important reminders of the sufferings endured by the internees during the Japanese Occupation.

As St. Stephen's College is not likely to cease its activities in the foreseeable future, the question of adaptive re-use does not really arise.

*Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

*Social Value
& Local
Interest*

*Adaptive
Re-use*