

Historic Building Appraisal

Heep Yunn School – Main Building and Chapel of St. Clare of Assisi No. 1 Farm Road, Kowloon

Heep Yunn School (協恩中學) started as a vernacular boarding school for Chinese girls in 1936 at No.1 Farm Road (農圃道) in Kowloon. It is a Grant-In-Aid Christian Middle School formed by the amalgamation of Fairlea Girls' School (founded in 1886) and the Victoria Home and Orphanage (founded in 1887). The Main Building was built in 1936-1937, with the foundation stone laid by Governor Sir Andrew Caldecott on 23 October 1936. It was officially opened by Bishop Mok Sau Tseng (莫壽增會督), the first Chinese Bishop in Hong Kong, on 19 May 1937. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the classrooms became stables and the school premises became in succession the quarters of Japanese army, navy and air force. It was later converted into a Japanese internment camp and an Indian camp soon after the War. The school re-opened in February 1946 after repairs. A new gymnasium was opened in 1948. The Chapel of St. Clare of Assisi was built in 1957.

***Historical
Interest***

The Main Building of Heep Yunn School has a front entrance facade with Art Deco influence, and side wings which looks modern in design. The entrance facade is an interesting composition with vertical and horizontal features and stylised classical columns. The elevations of the side wings are emphasised with horizontal bands of windows. Internally Art Deco features and decorations can be seen in the main entrance lobby and the assembly hall.

***Architectural
Merit***

The Chapel of St. Clare of Assisi is a simple pitched roofed white walled building in modern design. The plan is traditional with an entrance porch, nave and semi-circular apse. There is vertical emphasis in the use of tall narrow windows on each side of the nave and the tall recessed window over the entrance porch. Internally, the chapel is plain and simple in the modern minimalist style.

Heep Yunn School is a good example of modern architecture with Art Deco features. With its own free-standing chapel it is quite unique. It is considered to be a valuable piece of Hong Kong's built heritage and a piece of history. Although alterations and additions have taken place over the years, the school retains much of its authenticity.

***Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

The social value of Heep Yunn School lies in the historical role it has played in the field of education especially female education. Its Chinese name Heep Yunn, meaning “united grace”, was adopted after the amalgamation of Fairlea and Victoria Home to signify the unification of the two schools who would thereafter work together for the education and enlightenment of Chinese girls under Christian influence and direction. It is one of a group of schools in the Tin Kwong Road-Farm Road area.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

Heep Yunn School is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as King George V School (英皇佐治五世學校, Grade 2), Tang King Po School (鄧鏡波學校, Grade 3) and Kowloon Hospital (九龍醫院, Grade 2 or 3).

Group Value