

Historic Building Appraisal
Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong
– Staff Quarters Block A and Block B

The Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam was once an extensive complex of farm buildings erected by the Dairy Farm Company. The Dairy Farm was founded in 1886 when Dr Patrick Manson (a Scottish surgeon and a pioneer in the fields of hygiene and tropical medicine) persuaded five influential businessmen in the city, including Paul Chater, to invest in a local dairy farm. While in Hong Kong, Manson also spearheaded the founding of the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which in turn evolved into Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong. He was also a distinguished parasitologist and the first to state the hypothesis that the mosquito is the host of the malarial parasite and thus an active agent in diffusing the disease. The Dairy Farm Company's declared purposes were threefold: (i) to provide a regular supply of hygienic fresh milk for Hong Kong people; (ii) to reduce the price of cow's milk so as to make it affordable by the city's growing population; and (iii) to realize a profit for the company shareholders.

*Historical
Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm occupied a 120-hecture hilly site in Pok Fu Lam, with an initial capital of \$30,000 and a herd of 80 dairy cows imported from America (and later from Australia, Scotland and Holland).¹ In spite of the hilly nature of the land, Pok Fu Lam was selected as the site for dairy farming for a number of reasons. First of all, Pok Fu Lam was isolated from the disease-ridden slums in Sheung Wan, but was only four miles away from the central district of Hong Kong Island. It was sloping seaward on a piece of land rising to 500 feet above sea level, making the site receive cool breezes which were especially important for dairy farming during the sub-tropical summer in Hong Kong.

The cows had to be kept as cool as possible if they were to stay healthy and produce the maximum quantity of milk. Heat, together with humidity, described by a farm manager of the Old Dairy Farm as "discomfort index", could adversely affect milk yield and breeding cycle. Furthermore, the location had a reliable water supply and good drainage. The site condition

¹ Native buffaloes were poor milk providers. Their milk was very rich in fats and thus difficult to be digested. Ayrshires from Scotland and Holsteins (or Holstein-Friesians) from Holland, however, could produce a large yield of milk with a high percentage of butter fat. The milk from Holsteins was most easily digested and Holsteins was also a good butcher's animal.

was good for the cows because cows consumed a lot of water every day; water was also required, for cleaning the cowsheds and the related buildings as well as dairy utensils.

In 1899, to prevent the spread of disease from one part of the herd to another, Granville Sharp, who had served on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Farm Company since 1886, initiated the idea of dividing the herd, instead of having it all in one group. By 1899, four octagonal cowsheds were in operation, and it was proposed to erect more. Following Sharp's initiative, the construction of segregated cowsheds in Sassoon Road commenced. In addition, each cowshed had its own separate team of workers, in order to reduce the risk of carrying diseases from one shed to another, and to facilitate isolation during any outbreak of disease. The farm was mainly composed of cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, living quarters for cowboys, etc. Silos were used to store surplus fodder during the summer and supplied as silage in the winter to the herd; whereas manure pits were for collecting cow manure for use as fertilizer. Manure was kept in the pits until it was ready to spread on the surrounding grassland as fertilizer. By 1910, there were 35 cowsheds on the Pok Fu Lam farm; and by 1955, the number had risen to 47. According to a study of the farm in 1957, about 50 cowsheds at the time were separated from each other by at least 100 yards. The business of the Dairy Farm was so prosperous that in 1936 it was reported to be the fifth or the sixth in the size of the herd in the world.

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 paralyzed the Dairy Farm Company along with the rest of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), the farm was taken over by the Japanese troops; only several key staff members, including the farm manager and his assistant, the company's veterinary surgeon and an engineer remained on the farm. Milk was reserved for Japanese consumption, mainly for the military hospital; also to internment camps. 1,312 out of the 1,900 animals of the farm were shipped to various parts of Mainland China, including 200 cows to Guangzhou between 29 December 1944 and 12 July 1945, for providing fresh milk to the Japanese troops. By the end of the Japanese Occupation, the herd at Pok Fu Lam had only about 300 cows; many of them were in very poor condition as a result of malnutrition. After the war, farm buildings were repaired and dairy farming at Pok Fu Lam was revived.

By the 1950s, Europeans and Indians were still the main consumers of fresh milk, although the number of Chinese customers was gradually increasing, among the wealthier and middle-class families. Schools, particularly army schools, The University of Hong Kong and hotels, all ordered for fresh milk.

It is noteworthy that the cost of living increased due to the rapid increase of population after the Second World War. It became popular to form labour unions to protect the interest of working classes. In 1946, the Dairy Farm Workers Union (the “Union”) was established by the farm workers. In 1950, the Union sought assistance from the Labour Department and negotiated with the Dairy Farm Company for an increase of allowances and other benefits, including the provision of accommodation for workers and their families. The farm workers, if living in the premises provided by the Company, could save their expenditure on rent; by the year 1950, however, only about 10 percent of the farm workers were allocated in staff quarters. The tribunal resulted in the increase of allowances and the Company’s commitment to construct staff quarters blocks, providing free accommodation for the farm workers. In 1956, the Company surrendered some of its farm lots to the government in exchange for a Rural Building Lot No. 758 (R.B.L. No. 758) for a lease term of 75 years (1956 – 2031), with a special condition that only staff quarters can be constructed on this piece of land. Subsequently, Staff Quarters Block A (Serial No. N298) and Block B (Serial No. N299) were constructed on R.B.L. No. 758.

In the post-war years, the government needed land for vast new housing projects in order to meet the drastic and huge increase in population. By the early 1960s, a large amount of farmland had been resumed by the government, and residential developments began. Vast new housing estates, such as Baguio Villa, Wah Fu Estate, and Chi Fu Fa Yuen, were built on the original farmlands of some 300 acres. As a result, many Dairy Farm premises were abandoned or demolished. To meet the demand for milk, the supply was supplemented with the milk delivered by Dairy Farm’s tankers from Kwong Ming Farm in Shenzhen every day. In 1981, a new business policy was established: core businesses were defined as retailing, wholesaling, food and ice manufacturing, and catering. It was for the first time in the company’s history that dairy farming was excluded from mainstream business. In 1983, the Dairy Farm Company sold off the

herd and more farmland was redeveloped for residential use.² The Old Dairy Farm buildings which still exist include a Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1), the Main Office Building (Grade 2), a Cowshed (Grade 2) and other structures such as silos, manure pits, piggeries and paddocks.

Today, the existing structures of the Old Dairy Farm, which include structures, buildings, together with those graded historic buildings, are located near the Bethanie, Vocational Training Council (VTC), Pok Fu Lam Village, Baguio Villa, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Wah Fu Estate, Queen Mary Hospital and Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校).

Staff Quarters Block A was completed in 1965, as evidenced by an occupation permit issued by the Buildings Department (BD) in May that year. Staff Quarters Block B was completed in 1961, with an occupation permit issued by BD in October that year. The two blocks were constructed to house junior employees of the Dairy Farm Company and to replace the unsatisfactory dormitory sheds on the old farm, that were particularly liable to severe damage during typhoons. *Architectural Merit*

The architects for both Blocks A and B were Chau Iu-nin (周耀年) and Richard Lee (李禮之), who were very prominent in Hong Kong at the time and were at the forefront of the local modernist movement.³ Modernist design was very prevalent in Hong Kong in the late 1950s and was recognised by a strong horizontal emphasis in the treatment of the facades. It is known for its precepts of: a radical simplification of form, a rejection of ornament, and adoption of glass, steel and concrete as preferred materials. Further, the transparency of buildings, construction (called the honest expression of structure), and acceptance of industrialized mass-production techniques contributed to the international style's design philosophy.

² The old farm lots roughly cover the present land bounded by Bisney Road and Sassoon Road as well as its adjoining piece of land bounded by Sassoon Road and Victoria Road, both below Queen Mary Hospital (Lot D.F.L. No. 1); Baguio Villa and the land near Ebenezer School (Lot D.F.L. No. 2); the slope near the Vocational Training Council Pokfulam Complex and the land where Wah Fu Estate, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pokfulam Gardens and Bel-Air on the Peak (Lot D.F.L. No. 3) are now located, and the slopes near Pok Fu Lam Village (Lot D.F.L. No. 4).

³ Chau & Lee Architects & Engineers also designed S.K.H. St. Mary's Church in Causeway Bay (Grade 1), Nos. 86 & 88 Stanley Main Street in Stanley (Grade 3) and University Lodge of The University of Hong Kong. Please also see 吳啟聰、朱卓雄: 《建聞築蹟》, 香港: 經濟日報出版社, 2007。

Block A, completed in 1965, was a rectangular-shaped block composed of dormitory rooms with communal bathrooms and kitchens at the end of the block (similar to the earlier government resettlement blocks in Hong Kong). Alteration works to the interior (including the upgrade of plumbing and drainage to convert rooms to 14 self-contained flats per floor – mostly of 154 square feet each) was carried out in 1981.

Block B, completed in 1961, was a rectangular-shaped dormitory block. In 1981, rooms were converted into self-contained flats. The canopies and balconies, which have been identified as dangerous structures by BD, are to be demolished.

In the mid-1950s, there were 19 dairy farms, mostly run by Chinese and one by Indian, mainly in Kowloon and two in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. They were much smaller in scale than the Dairy Farm. Among them, The Kowloon Dairy Farm (九龍維記牛奶有限公司), established on Boundary Street in 1904 and relocated to Clear Water Bay in 1930, was the only dairy farm operated on a scientific basis comparable to the Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam.⁴ In 1972, The Kowloon Dairy Farm was relocated to Yuen Long; and in 1984 it further moved to Guangzhou.

*Rarity and
Authenticity*

Trappist Dairy (十字牌鮮奶) is another well-known brand of fresh milk in Hong Kong but is much shorter in history than the Old Dairy Farm. It was firstly a small dairy farm operating under Trappist Monastery (神樂院) on Lantau Island in the early 1960s. It expanded and moved to Yuen Long in the early 1980s and has then been running by Trappist Dairy Limited (神樂院牛奶有限公司).

These two housing blocks are a good surviving example of an employees' housing programme in Hong Kong, provided by a major commercial company (although there are surviving examples of Hong Kong Government constructed housing at Mei Ho House and Hollywood Road Police Married Quarters). They are considered to represent an important point in the development of a comprehensive package for the farm employees. They also represent an important contribution to the dairy farming industry in Hong Kong.

⁴ Most of these farms were located in Diamond Hill and two in Tsuen Wan. Each of the farms at Diamond Hill owned only one or two cowsheds and kept an average of 40 cows. The two farms in Tsuen Wan had only one and two cowsheds respectively.

Dairy Farm was an important part of Hong Kong's history. It is a tale of men who developed a company not with the sole intent of making money, but with a commitment to help establish a thriving community in this part of the world. Today, more than 130 years since 1886, "Dairy Farm" is still a well-known brand of fresh milk for Hong Kong.

*Social Value
& Local Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm provided jobs for villagers from nearby, like Pok Fu Lam Village.⁵ Villagers worked as cowboys, watchmen and so on. These housing blocks represent a large-scale social commitment on the part of a local Hong Kong company to provide a full employment package to ensure workers' loyalty, which was essential in the case of Dairy Farm, due to their requirement for experienced and knowledgeable expert staff members. They also provide lasting memories for many local staff members, such as the cowboys and their families, who lived in these blocks for many years.

The surviving structures of the Old Dairy Farm at Pok Fu Lam include cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, piggeries, stream crossings, staff quarters and ancillary structures, although some of them are in poor condition. The farm site provides an example of the dairy farming industry in Hong Kong.

Group Value

Other heritage buildings near the Old Dairy Farm include the Bethanie (Declared Monument), University Hall of The University of Hong Kong (the exterior is a Declared Monument), Jessville at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road (Grade 3), waterworks structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir (Declared Monument/ Grade 2/ Grade 3) and No. 97 Pok Fu Lam Village (Grade 3).

⁵ The growth of the population of the village had led to the scarcity of cultivated land by the 1950s and subsistence farming could no longer be relied on as a means of living.

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– Piggeries

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The Dairy Farm started to rear pigs in 1893 to provide fresh pork for the European population in Hong Kong; these pigs were imported from Australia.² Fifty farrowing pens for 400 pigs were erected, coupled with 60 paddocks where most of the feeding was done. In 1934, the farm kept a herd of 1,072 pigs and around 1,129 cows. The pigs were originally cared for in small walled paddocks and fed on skimmed milk and buttermilk. When they had been fattened, they were shifted to pens near the slaughterhouse. But later, large purpose-built piggeries were constructed for the care of the piglets and mothers. As compared with cattle, pigs were more vulnerable to disease, and occasionally entire herds were attacked by swine fever. Pig raising was supervised by the assistant farm manager until 1963, when the work was terminated due to the massive importation of pigs from the Mainland.

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 paralyzed the Dairy Farm Company along with the rest of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), the farm was taken over by the Japanese troops; only several key staff members, including the farm manager and his assistant, the company's

² The breed preferred was the English 'Mid-Yorkshire' for its tolerance of tropical conditions.

veterinary surgeon and an engineer remained on the farm. Milk was reserved for Japanese consumption, mainly for the military hospital; also to internment camps. 1,312 out of the 1,900 animals of the farm were shipped to various parts of Mainland China, including 200 cows to Guangzhou between 29 December 1944 and 12 July 1945, for providing fresh milk to the Japanese troops. By the end of the Japanese Occupation, the herd at Pok Fu Lam had only about 300 cows; many of them were in very poor condition as a result of malnutrition. After the war, farm buildings were repaired and dairy farming at Pok Fu Lam was revived. By the 1950s, Europeans and Indians were still the main consumers of fresh milk, although the number of Chinese customers was gradually increasing, among the wealthier and middle-class families. Schools, particularly army schools, The University of Hong Kong and hotels, all ordered for fresh milk.

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Piggeries near Chi Fu Fa Yuen*Architectural*Piggeries (Serial No. N300)*Merit*

Probably built between 1931 and 1941, this is the largest set of piggeries identified on the old farm site and still has the most complete remains. One range of pig pens were built against a substantial cut hill slope. Individual pig pens remain in place on either side of the access corridor, but no roofs now survive (although remains of corrugated asbestos roofing sheets can be seen on site). Different types of walls to the pig pens were seen on site: the older exterior wall of volcanic rock and at right angles is a more recent internal partition of grey brick (with ventilation apertures), together with an attached brick pier. Remains of a concrete water trough and concrete floor were found inside the large walled enclosure. Remnants of concrete floor to the pig pens, with non-slip grooves cut into the surface, also provide traces of the piggery. This area also contains the remains of a later design pig pen, constructed of concrete panels, with some of the wire netting still in place above.

Piggeries (Serial No. N301)

The piggeries were built before 1931. The perimeter wall was built of volcanic rock laid in a “random rubble” style, with various degrees of mortar at different sections of the wall. Openings had been made in the wall for drainage. Access steps into the enclosure for the farm workers are still in place, although the gate at top is missing. All the dividing walls of the pig pens have gone.

Piggeries near VTCPiggery (Serial No. N302)

A cowshed with paddock (C8) was once erected on this plot of land, as shown by a map printed during the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945). However, a piggery was marked at the same location on a map of the year 1958. It is, therefore, believed that this piggery was built between 1945 and 1958. Only a few remains still exist, including the remnants of a concrete water trough for the pigs, walls of red bricks with a cement coping, stone perimeter wall of volcanic rock, and the remnants of concrete floor to the pig pens, with a section of concrete track comprising non-slip grooves cut into the surface.

Piggery (Serial No. N303)

This piggery was built before 1931. Some remains still exist, mainly comprising two brick walls, with a perforated brick wall connecting to a solid brick retaining wall. The apertures appear to have been cut out from the brickwork after construction; the wall height also appears to have been raised at

a later date. It is likely that this structure had undergone many adaptations during its life.

Piggeries near Ebenezer New Hope School Area

Piggeries (Serial No. N304)

In this area, seven piggeries and four cowsheds were marked on a map printed during the Japanese Occupation. One of the piggeries was destroyed to make way for the construction of the “Pokfulam Training Centre” (薄扶林訓練中心) (renamed “Ebenezer New Hope School” (心光恩望學校) in 2006) of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校), which was opened in 1978. Today, only the remains of three piggeries can be identified on site.

The perimeter wall of the piggeries, built before 1941, was constructed of volcanic rock laid in “random rubble” style, with a rounded top of cement mortar. There is narrow vertical opening in the wall, probably for ventilation or to allow for easy erection of a temporary timber fence when the pigs need to be segregated (e.g. for examination, vaccination, etc.). A pair of masonry entrance gate piers and the remains of iron hinges for fastening the gate are still visible. Another pair of masonry gate piers can be identified at a corner on the outer face of the perimeter wall. They, with the remains of iron hinges for fastening the gate, were the entrance gate piers of the adjoining cowsheds C10 (Serial No. N285) and C11 (Serial No. N286).

Piggery (Serial No. N305)

This piggery was built before 1941. Only the remains of the foundation built of volcanic rock laid in “random rubble” style still remain. The manure pit and silo situated near the piggery no longer exist.

Piggeries (Serial No. N306)

Built before 1941, most of the piggeries, including the perimeter wall, had collapsed. Only some remains of the perimeter wall, including a small section with an entrance gate post, still exist.

In the mid-1950s, there were 19 dairy farms, mostly run by Chinese and one by Indian, mainly in Kowloon and two in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. They were much smaller in scale than the Dairy Farm. Among them, The Kowloon Dairy Farm (九龍維記牛奶有限公司), established on Boundary Street in 1904 and relocated to Clear Water Bay in 1930, was the only dairy farm operated on a scientific basis comparable to the Dairy Farm in Pok Fu

**Rarity and
Authenticity**

Lam.⁴ In 1972, The Kowloon Dairy Farm was relocated to Yuen Long; and in 1984 it further moved to Guangzhou.

Trappist Dairy (十字牌鮮奶) is another well-known brand of fresh milk in Hong Kong but much shorter in history than the Old Dairy Farm. It was firstly a small dairy farm operating under Trappist Monastery (神樂院) on Lantau Island in the early 1960s. It expanded and moved to Yuen Long in the early 1980s and has then been running by Trappist Dairy Limited (神樂院牛奶有限公司).

The remains of the piggeries at the Old Dairy Farm complex are examples of these specialized structures to tell the development of dairy farming history, although they are in derelict states.

Dairy Farm was an important part of Hong Kong's history. It is a tale of men who developed a company not with the sole intent of making money, but with a commitment to help establish a thriving community in this part of the world. Today, more than 130 years since 1886, "Dairy Farm" is still a well-known brand of fresh milk for Hong Kong.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The Old Dairy Farm provided jobs for villagers from nearby, like Pok Fu Lam Village.⁵ The piggeries show the development of the farm from a solely dairy farming operation to meat production, emphasizing the improvement in the residents' livelihood over the period.

The surviving structures of the Old Dairy Farm at Pok Fu Lam include cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, piggeries, stream crossings, staff quarters and ancillary structures, although some of them are in poor condition.

Group Value

Other heritage buildings near the Old Dairy Farm include the Bethanie (Declared Monument), University Hall of The University of Hong Kong (the exterior is a Declared Monument), Jessville at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road (Grade 3), waterworks structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir (Declared Monument/ Grade 2/ Grade 3) and No. 97 Pok Fu Lam Village (Grade 3).

⁴ Most of these farms were located in Diamond Hill and two in Tsuen Wan. Each of the farms at Diamond Hill owned only one or two cowsheds and kept an average of 40 cows. The two farms in Tsuen Wan had only one and two cowsheds respectively.

⁵ The growth of the population of the village had led to the scarcity of cultivated land by the 1950s and subsistence farming could no longer be relied on as a means of living.

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Historic Building Appraisal
Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong
– Stream Crossings

The Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam was once an extensive complex of *Historical Interest* farm buildings erected by the Dairy Farm Company. The Dairy Farm was founded in 1886 when Dr Patrick Manson (a Scottish surgeon and a pioneer in the fields of hygiene and tropical medicine) persuaded five influential businessmen in the city, including Paul Chater, to invest in a local dairy farm. While in Hong Kong, Manson also spearheaded the founding of the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which in turn evolved into Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong. He was also a distinguished parasitologist and the first to state the hypothesis that the mosquito is the host of the malarial parasite and thus an active agent in diffusing the disease. The Dairy Farm Company's declared purposes were threefold: (i) to provide a regular supply of hygienic fresh milk for Hong Kong people; (ii) to reduce the price of cow's milk so as to make it affordable by the city's growing population; and (iii) to realize a profit for the company shareholders.

The Old Dairy Farm occupied a 120-hecture hilly site in Pok Fu Lam, with an initial capital of \$30,000 and a herd of 80 dairy cows imported from America (and later from Australia, Scotland and Holland).¹ In spite of the hilly nature of the land, Pok Fu Lam was selected as the site for dairy farming for a number of reasons. First of all, Pok Fu Lam was isolated from the disease-ridden slums in Sheung Wan, but was only four miles away from the central district of Hong Kong Island. It was sloping seaward on a piece of land rising to 500 feet above sea level, making the site receive cool breezes which were especially important for dairy farming during the sub-tropical summer in Hong Kong.

The cows had to be kept as cool as possible if they were to stay healthy and produce the maximum quantity of milk. Heat, together with humidity, described by a farm manager of the Old Dairy Farm as "discomfort index", could adversely affect milk yield and breeding cycle. Furthermore, the location had a reliable water supply and good drainage. The site condition was

¹ Native buffaloes were poor milk providers. Their milk was very rich in fats and thus difficult to be digested. Ayrshires from Scotland and Holsteins (or Holstein-Friesians) from Holland, however, could produce a large yield of milk with a high percentage of butter fat. The milk from Holsteins was most easily digested and Holsteins was also a good butcher's animal.

good for the cows because cows consumed a lot of water every day; water was also required, for cleaning the cowsheds and the related buildings as well as dairy utensils.

In 1899, to prevent the spread of disease from one part of the herd to another, Granville Sharp, who had served on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Farm Company since 1886, initiated the idea of dividing the herd, instead of having it all in one group. By 1899, four octagonal cowsheds were in operation, and it was proposed to erect more. Following Sharp's initiative, the construction of segregated cowsheds in Sassoon Road commenced. In addition, each cowshed had its own separate team of workers, in order to reduce the risk of carrying diseases from one shed to another, and to facilitate isolation during any outbreak of disease. The farm was mainly composed of cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, living quarters for cowboys, etc. Silos were used to store surplus fodder during the summer and supplied as silage in the winter to the herd; whereas manure pits were for collecting cow manure for use as fertilizer. Manure was kept in the pits until it was ready to spread on the surrounding grassland as fertilizer. By 1910, there were 35 cowsheds on the Pok Fu Lam farm; and by 1955, the number had risen to 47. According to a study of the farm in 1957, about 50 cowsheds at the time were separated from each other by at least 100 yards. The business of the Dairy Farm was so prosperous that in 1936 it was reported to be the fifth or the sixth in the size of the herd in the world.

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 paralyzed the Dairy Farm Company along with the rest of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), the farm was taken over by the Japanese troops; only several key staff members, including the farm manager and his assistant, the company's veterinary surgeon and an engineer remained on the farm. Milk was reserved for Japanese consumption, mainly for the military hospital; also to internment camps. 1,312 out of the 1,900 animals of the farm were shipped to various parts of Mainland China, including 200 cows to Guangzhou between 29 December 1944 and 12 July 1945, for providing fresh milk to the Japanese troops. By the end of the Japanese Occupation, the herd at Pok Fu Lam had only about 300 cows; many of them were in very poor condition as a result of malnutrition. After the war, farm buildings were repaired and dairy farming at Pok Fu Lam was revived. By the 1950s, Europeans and Indians were still the main consumers of fresh milk, although the number of Chinese customers was

gradually increasing, among the wealthier and middle-class families. Schools, particularly army schools, The University of Hong Kong and hotels, all ordered for fresh milk.

In the post-war years, the government needed land for vast new housing projects in order to meet the drastic and huge increase in population. By the early 1960s, a large amount of farmland had been resumed by the government, and residential developments began. Vast new housing estates, such as Baguio Villa, Wah Fu Estate, and Chi Fu Fa Yuen, were built on the original farmlands of some 300 acres. As a result, many Dairy Farm premises were abandoned or demolished. To meet the demand for milk, the supply was supplemented with the milk delivered by Dairy Farm's tankers from Kwong Ming Farm in Shenzhen every day. In 1981, a new business policy was established: core businesses were defined as retailing, wholesaling, food and ice manufacturing, and catering. It was for the first time in the company's history that dairy farming was excluded from mainstream business. In 1983, the Dairy Farm Company sold off the herd and more farmland was redeveloped for residential use.² The Old Dairy Farm buildings which still exist include a Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1), the Main Office Building (Grade 2), a Cowshed (Grade 2) and other structures such as silos, manure pits, piggeries and paddocks.

Today, the existing structures of the Old Dairy Farm, which include structures, buildings, together with those graded historic buildings, are located near the Bethanie, Vocational Training Council (VTC), Pok Fu Lam Village, Baguio Villa, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Wah Fu Estate, Queen Mary Hospital and Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校).

Many ancillary structures were required as an essential provision necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the farm and its staff members. Such structures identified on the old farm site include a water tank, water filters, a dairy, stream crossings and masonry parapet walls. The stream crossings in the Dairy Farm were built mainly for the animals to cross small streams and ravines in the hilly parts of the complex.

Architectural

Merit

² The old farm lots roughly cover the present land bounded by Bisney Road and Sassoon Road as well as its adjoining piece of land bounded by Sassoon Road and Victoria Road, both below Queen Mary Hospital (Lot D.F.L. No. 1); Baguio Villa and the land near Ebenezer School (Lot D.F.L. No. 2); the slope near the Vocational Training Council Pokfulam Complex and the land where Wah Fu Estate, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pokfulam Gardens and Bel-Air on the Peak (Lot D.F.L. No. 3) are now located, and the slopes near Pok Fu Lam Village (Lot D.F.L. No. 4).

Stream Crossings near Pok Fu Lam Village

Stream Crossings (Serial Numbers N307 & N308)

Three stream crossings span over a stream at different levels. Built before 1941, the one in the middle (N307) has a small span and is similar to a “boxed culvert”, as the small stream which it crosses is closely “boxed-in” by stone blocks and the ground above is then built up with stone boulders, until it reaches the required ground level, when it is smoothed to make suitable for the passage of the animals.

The stream crossing (N308) below the middle one is another small span stream crossing, with roughly cut stone supporting walls and a low parapet wall with a rounded cement top. The year of construction of this stream crossing is not known, but it is believed that the two Stream Crossings (N307 & N308) were built in the same period of time, as they are situated along the same track and in very close proximity to each other.

Stream Crossing (Serial Number N309)

Built before 1958, it is situated at the highest level among these three stream crossings. The parapets (or upstands) on one side of the stream crossing, constructed of blocks of volcanic rock with a rounded cement top, are still in place. The base in volcanic rock was cut into roughly squared blocks and laid as “coursed rubble”. The stream crossing is in good condition and one of the largest stream crossings still existing.

Stream Crossings near Chi Fu Fa Yuen

Stream Crossing (Serial Numbers N310, N311 & N312)

The three stream crossings near Chi Fu Fa Yuen were probably built between 1931 and 1941. Parapets (or upstands) (N310 & N311) and stone safety blocks (N312), constructed of blocks of volcanic rock to prevent animals from falling into the stream, are still in place. The stone used for the bases of the stream crossings was mainly local volcanic rock, which was cut into roughly squared blocks and laid as “coursed rubble”.

The stream crossing (N311), one of the largest stream crossings still existing, has a reinforced concrete slab floor, in addition to the low parapet walls in volcanic rock on both sides and a supporting pier in cut rock. This stream crossing remains in good condition.

Stream Crossing near Ebenezer New Hope School

Stream Crossing (Serial Number N313)

Built before 1941, it connected a piggery on one side of a stream to the opposite surroundings, until the piggery was destructed to make way for the construction of the “Pokfulam Training Centre” (薄扶林訓練中心) (opened in 1978 and renamed as “Ebenezer New Hope School” (心光恩望學校) in 2006) of Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校). The stream crossing has a reinforced concrete slab floor. The modern metal fencing on both sides of the stream crossing is a later addition.

In the mid-1950s, there were 19 dairy farms, mostly run by Chinese and one by Indian, mainly in Kowloon and two in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. They were much smaller than the Dairy Farm. Among them, The Kowloon Dairy Farm (九龍維記牛奶有限公司), established on Boundary Street in 1904 and relocated to Clear Water Bay in 1930, was the only dairy farm operated on a scientific basis comparable to the Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam.³ In 1972, The Kowloon Dairy Farm was relocated to Yuen Long; and in 1984 it further moved to Guangzhou.

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These stream crossings, altogether represent a wide range of typical basic agricultural structures to be found in a single location in Hong Kong and they are good working examples of the development of rural stream crossing construction from the simplest “box culvert” design to a substantial “stone pier” design. They represent an important element of the Old Dairy Farm, and show how animals moved around the various compounds. Each of these remaining stream crossings appears to have been little altered and although in need of repair, they seem to be basically in their original condition.

The Old Dairy Farm was an important part of Hong Kong’s history. It is a *Social Value*

³ Most of the farms were located in Diamond Hill and two in Tsuen Wan. The farms Diamond Hill, each owned only one or two cowsheds and kept an average of 40 cows. The two farms in Tsuen Wan only had one and two cowsheds respectively.

tale of men who developed a company not with the sole intent of making money, but with a commitment to help establish a thriving community in this part of the world. Today, more than 130 years since 1886, “Dairy Farm” is still a well-known brand of fresh milk for Hong Kong. *& Local Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm provided jobs for villagers from nearby, like Pok Fu Lam Village.⁴ Villagers worked as cowboys, watchmen and so on. The structures of Old Dairy Farm provide examples of important work places for local village cowboys who were employed there in the past.

The surviving structures of the Old Dairy Farm at Pok Fu Lam include cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, piggeries, stream crossings, staff quarters and ancillary structures, although some of them are in poor condition. The farm site provides an example of the dairy farming industry in Hong Kong. *Group Value*

Other heritage buildings near the Old Dairy Farm include the Bethanie (Declared Monument), University Hall of The University of Hong Kong (the exterior is a Declared Monument), Jessville at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road (Grade 3), waterworks structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir (Declared Monument / Grade 2 / Grade 3) and No. 97 Pok Fu Lam Village (Grade 3).

⁴ The growth of the population of the village had led to the scarcity of cultivated land by the 1950s and subsistence farming could no longer be relied on as a means of living.

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Historic Building Appraisal
Old Dairy Farm –
Old Wall between the Bethanie and Old Dairy Farm
No. 139 and No. 141 Pok Fu Lam Road, H.K.

The Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam was once an extensive complex of farm buildings erected by the Dairy Farm Company. The Dairy Farm was founded in 1886 when Dr Patrick Manson (a Scottish surgeon and a pioneer in the fields of hygiene and tropical medicine) persuaded five influential businessmen in the city, including Paul Chater, to invest in a local dairy farm. While in Hong Kong, Manson also spearheaded the founding of the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which in turn evolved into Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong. He was also a distinguished parasitologist and the first to state the hypothesis that the mosquito is the host of the malarial parasite and thus an active agent in diffusing the disease. The Dairy Farm Company's declared purposes were threefold: (i) to provide a regular supply of hygienic fresh milk for Hong Kong people; (ii) to reduce the price of cow's milk so as to make it affordable by the city's growing population; and (iii) to realize a profit for the company shareholders.

*Historical
Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm occupied a 120-hectare hilly site in Pok Fu Lam, with an initial capital of \$30,000 and a herd of 80 dairy cows imported from America (and later from Australia, Scotland and Holland).¹ In spite of the hilly nature of the land, Pok Fu Lam was selected as the site for dairy farming for a number of reasons. First of all, Pok Fu Lam was isolated from the disease-ridden slums in Sheung Wan, but was only four miles away from the central district of Hong Kong Island. It was sloping seaward on a piece of land rising to 500 feet above sea level, making the site receive cool breezes which were especially important for dairy farming during the sub-tropical summer in Hong Kong.

The cows had to be kept as cool as possible if they were to stay healthy and produce the maximum quantity of milk. Heat, together with humidity, described by a farm manager of the Old Dairy Farm as “discomfort index”, could adversely affect milk yield and breeding cycle. Furthermore, the location had a reliable water supply and good drainage. The site condition was good for the cows because cows consumed a lot of water every day; water was also required, for cleaning the cowsheds and the related buildings as well as

¹ Native buffaloes were poor milk providers. Their milk was very rich in fats and thus difficult to be digested. Ayrshires from Scotland and Holsteins (or Holstein-Friesians) from Holland, however, could produce a large yield of milk with a high percentage of butter fat. The milk from Holsteins was most easily digested and Holsteins was also a good butcher's animal.

dairy utensils.

In 1899, to prevent the spread of disease from one part of the herd to another, Granville Sharp, who had served on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Farm Company since 1886, initiated the idea of dividing the herd, instead of having it all in one group. By 1899, four octagonal cowsheds were in operation, and it was proposed to erect more. Following Sharp's initiative, the construction of segregated cowsheds in Sassoon Road commenced. In addition, each cowshed had its own separate team of workers, in order to reduce the risk of carrying diseases from one shed to another, and to facilitate isolation during any outbreak of disease. The farm was mainly composed of cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, living quarters for cowboys, etc. Silos were used to store surplus fodder during the summer and supplied as silage in the winter to the herd; whereas manure pits were for collecting cow manure for use as fertilizer. Manure was kept in the pits until it was ready to spread on the surrounding grassland as fertilizer. By 1910, there were 35 cowsheds on the Pok Fu Lam farm; and by 1955, the number had risen to 47. According to a study of the farm in 1957, about 50 cowsheds at the time were separated from each other by at least 100 yards. The business of the Dairy Farm was so prosperous that in 1936 it was reported to be the fifth or the sixth in the size of the herd in the world.

The outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941 paralyzed the Dairy Farm Company along with the rest of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), the farm was taken over by the Japanese troops; only several key staff members, including the farm manager and his assistant, the company's veterinary surgeon and an engineer remained on the farm. Milk was reserved for Japanese consumption, mainly for the military hospital; also to internment camps. 1,312 out of the 1,900 animals of the farm were shipped to various parts of Mainland China, including 200 cows to Guangzhou between 29 December 1944 and 12 July 1945, for providing fresh milk to the Japanese troops. By the end of the Japanese Occupation, the herd at Pok Fu Lam had only about 300 cows; many of them were in very poor condition as a result of malnutrition. After the war, farm buildings were repaired and dairy farming at Pok Fu Lam was revived. By the 1950s, Europeans and Indians were still the main consumers of fresh milk, although the number of Chinese customers was gradually increasing, among the wealthier and middle-class families. Schools, particularly army schools, The University of Hong Kong and hotels, all ordered for fresh milk.

In the post-war years, the government needed land for vast new housing projects in order to meet the drastic and huge increase in population. By the early 1960s, a large amount of farmland had been resumed by the government, and residential developments began. Vast new housing estates, such as Baguio Villa, Wah Fu Estate, and Chi Fu Fa Yuen, were built on the original farmlands of some 300 acres. As a result, many Dairy Farm premises were abandoned or demolished. To meet the demand for milk, the supply was supplemented with the milk delivered by Dairy Farm's tankers from Kwong Ming Farm in Shenzhen every day. In 1981, a new business policy was established: core businesses were defined as retailing, wholesaling, food and ice manufacturing, and catering. It was for the first time in the company's history that dairy farming was excluded from mainstream business. In 1983, the Dairy Farm Company sold off the herd and more farmland was redeveloped for residential use.² The Old Dairy Farm buildings which still exist include a Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1), the Main Office Building (Grade 2), a Cowshed (Grade 2) and other structures such as silos, manure pits, piggeries and paddocks.

Today, the existing structures of the Old Dairy Farm, which include structures, buildings, together with those graded historic buildings, are located near the Bethanie, Vocational Training Council (VTC), Pok Fu Lam Village, Baguio Villa, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Wah Fu Estate, Queen Mary Hospital and Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校).

The Old Wall (Serial No. N314), situated between the Bethanie and a former octagonal cowshed (now the Wellcome Theatre), is a perimeter wall and was erected probably in an early stage of the farm development, say around the late 1880s to separate the Bethanie and the farm site. The wall was constructed of old red bricks topped with rounded cement coping, to an average height of approximately 2m. At a later period, a fence was added to the top of the wall for additional security, and although the fence had gone, the concrete fence posts still remain in place. Each fence post was built on top of a brick pier. The red brick wall sits on a retaining wall; most of the latter is modern construction.

***Architectural
Merit***

In the mid-1950s, there were 19 dairy farms, mostly run by Chinese and one by Indian, mainly in Kowloon and two in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. They were much smaller in scale than the Dairy Farm. Among them, The

***Rarity and
Authenticity***

² The old farm lots roughly cover the present land bounded by Bisney Road and Sassoon Road as well as its adjoining piece of land bounded by Sassoon Road and Victoria Road, both below Queen Mary Hospital (Lot D.F.L. No. 1); Baguio Villa and the land near Ebenezer School (Lot D.F.L. No. 2); the slope near the Vocational Training Council Pokfulam Complex and the land where Wah Fu Estate, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pokfulam Gardens and Bel-Air on the Peak (Lot D.F.L. No. 3) are now located, and the slopes near Pok Fu Lam Village (Lot D.F.L. No. 4).

Kowloon Dairy Farm (九龍維記牛奶有限公司), established on Boundary Street in 1904 and relocated to Clear Water Bay in 1930, was the only dairy farm operated on a scientific basis comparable to the Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam.³ In 1972, The Kowloon Dairy Farm was relocated to Yuen Long; and in 1984 it further moved to Guangzhou.

Trappist Dairy (十字牌鮮奶) is another famous brand of fresh milk in Hong Kong but much shorter in history than the Old Dairy Farm. It was firstly a small dairy farm operating under the Trappist Monastery (神樂院) on Lantau Island in the early 1960s. It expanded and moved to Yuen Long in the early 1980s and has then been running by the Trappist Dairy Limited (神樂院牛奶有限公司).

Part of the Old Wall was removed to make way for the provision of road access to the Bethanie in 2006 when the building was converted into the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) campus. The wall is still in good condition.

Dairy Farm was an important part of Hong Kong's history. It is a tale of men who developed a company not with the sole intent of making money, but with a commitment to help establish a thriving community in this part of the world. Today, more than 130 years since 1886, "Dairy Farm" is still a well-known brand of fresh milk for Hong Kong. The cowsheds, together with their adjoining paddocks, were important structures on the estate, because they housed and supported the company's greatest asset for milk production, which was the dairy herd and these animals relied upon the availability of large areas for healthy exercise.

*Social Value
& Local Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm provided jobs for the villagers from nearby, like Pok Fu Lam Village.⁴ Villagers worked as cowboys, watchmen and so on.

The surviving structures of the Old Dairy Farm at Pok Fu Lam include cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, piggeries, stream crossings, staff quarters and ancillary structures, although some of them are in poor condition. The farm site provides an example of dairy farming industry in Hong Kong.

Group Value

³ Most of these farms were located in Diamond Hill and two in Tsuen Wan. Each of the farms at Diamond Hill owned only one or two cowsheds and kept an average of 40 cows. The two farms in Tsuen Wan had only one and two cowsheds respectively.

⁴ The growth of the population of the village had led to the scarcity of cultivated land by the 1950s and subsistence farming could no longer be relied on as a means of living.

Other heritage buildings near the Old Dairy Farm include the Bethanie (Declared Monument), University Hall of The University of Hong Kong (the exterior is a Declared Monument), Jessville at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road (Grade 3), waterworks structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir (Declared Monument/ Grade 2/ Grade 3) and No. 97 Pok Fu Lam Village (Grade 3).

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Historic Building Appraisal
Old Dairy Farm – Other Site Structures
Pok Fu Lam, H.K.

The Old Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam was once an extensive complex of farm buildings erected by the Dairy Farm Company. The Dairy Farm was founded in 1886 when Dr Patrick Manson (a Scottish surgeon and a pioneer in the fields of hygiene and tropical medicine) persuaded five influential businessmen in the city, including Paul Chater, to invest in a local dairy farm. While in Hong Kong, Manson also spearheaded the founding of the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which in turn evolved into Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong. He was also a distinguished parasitologist and the first to state the hypothesis that the mosquito is the host of the malarial parasite and thus an active agent in diffusing the disease. The Dairy Farm Company's declared purposes were threefold: (i) to provide a regular supply of hygienic fresh milk for Hong Kong people; (ii) to reduce the price of cow's milk so as to make it affordable by the city's growing population; and (iii) to realize a profit for the company shareholders.

*Historical
Interest*

The Old Dairy Farm occupied a 120-hecture hilly site in Pok Fu Lam, with an initial capital of \$30,000 and a herd of 80 dairy cows imported from America (and later from Australia, Scotland and Holland).¹ In spite of the hilly nature of the land, Pok Fu Lam was selected as the site for dairy farming for a number of reasons. First of all, Pok Fu Lam was isolated from the disease-ridden slums in Sheung Wan, but was only four miles away from the central district of Hong Kong Island. It was sloping seaward on a piece of land rising to 500 feet above sea level, making the site receive cool breezes which were especially important for dairy farming during the sub-tropical summer in Hong Kong.

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¹ Native buffaloes were poor milk providers. Their milk was very rich in fats and thus difficult to be digested. Ayrshires from Scotland and Holsteins (or Holstein-Friesians) from Holland, however, could produce a large yield of milk with a high percentage of butter fat. The milk from Holsteins was most easily digested and Holsteins was also a good butcher's animal.

also required, for cleaning the cowsheds and the related buildings as well as dairy utensils.

In 1899, to prevent the spread of disease from one part of the herd to another, Granville Sharp, who had served on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Farm Company since 1886, initiated the idea of dividing the herd, instead of having it all in one group. By 1899, four octagonal cowsheds were in operation, and it was proposed to erect more. Following Sharp's initiative, the construction of segregated cowsheds in Sassoon Road commenced. In addition, each cowshed had its own separate team of workers, in order to reduce the risk of carrying diseases from one shed to another, and to facilitate isolation during any outbreak of disease. The farm was mainly composed of cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, living quarters for cowboys, etc. Silos were used to store surplus fodder during the summer and supplied as silage in the winter to the herd; whereas manure pits were for collecting cow manure for use as fertilizer. Manure was kept in the pits until it was ready to spread on the surrounding grassland as fertilizer. By 1910, there were 35 cowsheds on the Pok Fu Lam farm; and by 1955, the number had risen to 47. According to a study of the farm in 1957, about 50 cowsheds at the time were separated from each other by at least 100 yards. The business of the Dairy Farm was so prosperous that in 1936 it was reported to be the fifth or the sixth in the size of the herd in the world.

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particularly army schools, The University of Hong Kong and hotels, all ordered for fresh milk.

In the post-war years, the government needed land for vast new housing projects in order to meet the drastic and huge increase in population. By the early 1960s, a large amount of farmland had been resumed by the government, and residential developments began. Vast new housing estates, such as Baguio Villa, Wah Fu Estate, and Chi Fu Fa Yuen, were built on the original farmlands of some 300 acres. As a result, many Dairy Farm premises were abandoned or demolished. To meet the demand for milk, the supply was supplemented with the milk delivered by Dairy Farm's tankers from Kwong Ming Farm in Shenzhen every day. In 1981, a new business policy was established: core businesses were defined as retailing, wholesaling, food and ice manufacturing, and catering. It was for the first time in the company's history that dairy farming was excluded from mainstream business. In 1983, the Dairy Farm Company sold off the herd and more farmland was redeveloped for residential use.² The Old Dairy Farm buildings which still exist include a Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1), the Main Office Building (Grade 2), a Cowshed (Grade 2) and other structures such as silos, manure pits, piggeries and paddocks.

Today, the existing structures of the Old Dairy Farm, which include structures, buildings, together with those graded historic buildings, are located near the Bethanie, Vocational Training Council (VTC), Pok Fu Lam Village, Baguio Villa, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Wah Fu Estate, Queen Mary Hospital and Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired (心光盲人院暨學校).

Many ancillary structures, e.g. entrance gate pillar, water tank, water filters, a dairy, stream crossings, masonry parapet walls etc. were required as essential provisions necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the farm. *Architectural Merit*

Ancillary Structures near Pok Fu Lam Village

Water Filter (Serial No. N315)³

This brick-built water filter, also known as a sand trap, was probably constructed between 1931 and 1941. It was used for removing sand and mud

² The old farm lots roughly cover the present land bounded by Bisney Road and Sassoon Road as well as its adjoining piece of land bounded by Sassoon Road and Victoria Road, both below Queen Mary Hospital (Lot D.F.L. No. 1); Baguio Villa and the land near Ebenezer School (Lot D.F.L. No. 2); the slope near the Vocational Training Council Pokfulam Complex and the land where Wah Fu Estate, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pokfulam Gardens and Bel-Air on the Peak (Lot D.F.L. No. 3) are now located, and the slopes near Pok Fu Lam Village (Lot D.F.L. No. 4).

³ Some villagers of Pok Fu Lam Village recalled that the structure was a manure pit.

from collected rainwater before it was channeled down the hill into the animals' water troughs. The water filter, covered by a curved reinforced concrete roof, consists of a rainwater inlet hole, a brick chamber (with its interior rendered in cement, which holds the filter material, usually fine sand) and an outlet channel of smoothed cement to distribute the filtered water. There is also a small attached building constructed of volcanic rock (laid "random rubble" style), probably used to store materials and tools for the filter operations.

Pond (Serial No. N316)

Probably built between 1958 and 1968, it was an open water tank. Two flights of concrete steps leading down to the bottom for clearing debris and collecting water still exist.

Water Tank (Serial No. N317)

Built before 1941, the water tank had heavy buttresses of coursed granite blocks to support its granite walls. Overspill rainwater channel of concrete, which leads down the slope, still exists.

Masonry Parapet Wall (Serial No. N318)

It is believed that the parapet wall was built before 1958. It was constructed of blocks of volcanic rock laid in "random rubble" style, with a rounded cement top, and built along a path linking up cowsheds.

Cowboys' Quarters near Chi Fu Fa Yuen

Cowboys' Quarters (Serial No. N319)

Cowboys' quarters were usually located close to cowsheds to facilitate easy access at all times of day and night, and were often on the storey above the cook-house and store.

Unfortunately, there are no longer any complete cowboys' quarters of the Old Dairy Farm still surviving. Only the remains of the lower section of the structure of a cowboys' quarters which was built before 1931 have been identified near Chi Fu Fa Yuen so far. All that remains are ground floor slabs and lower sections of the wall.

Ancillary Structures near Chi Fu Fa Yuen

Dairy (Serial No. N320)

Probably built between 1931 and 1941, it has very little surviving, except for an external retaining wall which also formed a wall of the dairy, the base, cement floor with white mosaic tiling and concrete steps leading up to the entrance. Its base was constructed of volcanic rock laid in “coursed rubble” style.

Ancillary Structures near VTC

Entrance Gate Pillar (Serial No. N321)

The remaining single entrance gate pillar was probably erected in an early stage of the Farm development, say around the 1890s. It was constructed of granite and displays basic Doric decoration and is now the only remaining pier which formed the entrance way to the Old Dairy Farm main buildings. A hinge at the upper section provides evidence of the gate.

Retaining Wall and Water Tank (Serial No. N322)

Probably constructed between 1958 and 1968, the retaining wall is a good example of heavy engineering using the local volcanic rock cut and laid in “coursed rubble” style, and it is approximately 6m high. Part of the retaining wall, at the top, was formed into a small brick water tank, with its interior rendered in cement. An old piping for the distribution of water is still visible at a corner of the water tank.

Water Filter (Serial No. N323)

Probably built between 1945 and 1958, the water filter was constructed of red brick and located at the foot of a slope. The outlet and inlet ends of filter, the brick division to separate the deposited mud / sand from the clear water, the chamber and outlet hole for clear water, as well as the chamber for incoming muddy water to collect the mud and sand still exist.

Latrine (Serial No. N324)

Probably built between 1945 and 1958, it was constructed of rendered red brickwork with a flat reinforced concrete roof. A cement fascia adds a little decoration to this otherwise plain structure. There are a window in the end wall and ventilation openings in the long side of red brick wall.

Incinerator (Serial No. N325)

Probably built between 1945 and 1958, it was constructed in brickwork and

rendered externally with cement. There are steps up to the loading opening at top of the structure. Openings at ground level for clearing out the burnt ash remain.

Pond (Serial No. N326)

The exact year of construction of the pond, located in between two manure pits (N296 and N297), is not known. It was probably built between 1945 and 1968. It was recalled by some villagers of Pok Fu Lam Village that it was a pond (or an open water tank) (水池). There are two big stones at the bottom of the pond, with a flight of steps leading down to the bottom for clearing debris and collecting water, although the steps are in a derelict state.

Masonry Parapet Walls & Ramp (Serial No. N327)

Constructed of volcanic rock laid in “random rubble” style, the parapet walls are remains of the paddock of the cowshed built in 1887 (Grade 2), whereas the walls laid in “coursed rubble” on both sides of a ramp formed a passageway leading from the 1887 cowshed to poultry houses, as indicated on a map printed during the Japanese Occupation.

Ancillary Structures near Ebenezer New Hope School

Masonry Parapet Wall (Serial No. N328)

The parapet wall was built before 1941 along a path to prevent animals from falling down the hill. The path led from Pok Fu Lam Road down to a staff quarters (demolished) at the foot of a slope. The wall is constructed of volcanic rock laid in “random rubble” style, with a rounded cement top.

In the mid-1950s, there were 19 dairy farms, mostly run by Chinese and one by Indian, mainly in Kowloon and two in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. They were much smaller in scale than the Dairy Farm. Among them, The Kowloon Dairy Farm (九龍維記牛奶有限公司), established on Boundary Street in 1904 and relocated to Clear Water Bay in 1930, was the only dairy farm operated on a scientific basis comparable to the Dairy Farm in Pok Fu Lam.⁴ In 1972, The Kowloon Dairy Farm was relocated to Yuen Long; and in 1984 it further moved to Guangzhou.

***Rarity and
Authenticity***

Trappist Dairy (十字牌鮮奶) is another well-known brand of fresh milk in

⁴ Most of the farms were located in Diamond Hill and two in Tsuen Wan. Each of the farms at Diamond Hill only owned one or two cowsheds and kept an average of 40 cows. The two farms in Tsuen Wan had only one and two cowsheds respectively.

Hong Kong but has a much shorter in history than the Old Dairy Farm. It was firstly a small dairy farm operating under the Trappist Monastery (神樂院) on Lantau Island in the early 1960s. It later expanded and moved to Yuen Long in the early 1980s and has then been running by Trappist Dairy Limited (神樂院牛奶有限公司).

The remains of these various old structures at the Old Dairy Farm complex provide examples of specialized stone structures, of which few similar constructions have so far been identified in Hong Kong. They, therefore, tell the development of dairy farming history in Hong Kong.

Dairy Farm was an important part of Hong Kong's history. It is a tale of men who developed a company not with the sole intent of making money, but with a commitment to help establish a thriving community in this part of the world. Today, more than 130 years since 1886, "Dairy Farm" is still a well-known brand of fresh milk for Hong Kong.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The Old Dairy Farm provided jobs for villagers from nearby, like Pok Fu Lam Village.⁵ Villagers worked as cowboys, watchmen and so on. These structures provide examples of the important work places for local village cowboys who were employed there in the past.

The surviving structures of the Old Dairy Farm at Pok Fu Lam include cowsheds, paddocks, silos, manure pits, piggeries, stream crossings, staff quarters and ancillary structures, although some of them are in poor condition. The farm site provides an example of dairy farming industry in Hong Kong.

Group Value

Other heritage buildings near the Old Dairy Farm include the Bethanie (Declared Monument), University Hall of The University of Hong Kong (the exterior is a Declared Monument), Jessville at No. 128 Pok Fu Lam Road (Grade 3), waterworks structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir (Declared Monument / Grade 2 / Grade 3) and No. 97 Pok Fu Lam Village (Grade 3).

⁵ The growth of the population of the village had led to the scarcity of cultivated land by the 1950s and subsistence farming could no longer be relied on as a means of living.

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