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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

# Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) (No. 2) Notice 2011

#### INTRODUCTION

After consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB)<sup>1</sup> and with the approval of the Chief Executive, the Secretary for Development (SDEV), in her capacity as the Antiquities Authority under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 53), has decided to declare the following to be historical buildings (which is a type of "monument" as defined under the Ordinance) under section 3(1) of the Ordinance:

- (a) the School House of St. Stephen's College at the Remaining Portion of Rural Building Lot No. 432 and the Extensions thereto, 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong; and
- (b) the east, south and north wings of the school building together with parts of the retaining walls and boundary walls of King's College at 63A Bonham Road, Hong Kong.

The declaration is made by the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) (No. 2) Notice 2011 (the Notice) (**Annex A**), which will be published in the Gazette on 2 December 2011.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AAB is an independent statutory body established under section 17 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance to advise the Antiquities Authority on any matters relating to antiquities, proposed monuments or monuments or referred to it for consultation under section 2A(1), section 3(1) or section 6(4) of the Ordinance.

#### **JUSTIFICATIONS**

#### **Heritage Significance**

2. The Antiquities and Monuments Office  $(AMO)^2$  of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has researched into and assessed the heritage significance of the two buildings set out in paragraph 1 above. AMO recommends to the Antiquities Authority that the two buildings have high heritage value that meets the threshold required for declaration as historical buildings under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. The heritage value of the buildings is summarised in paragraphs 3-14 below and elaborated in **Annex B**.

#### (a) School House of St. Stephen's College

- 3. Prior to the 1840s, school education in Hong Kong had long catered to locals in villages and taught in accordance with Confucian classics. The development of Western style education in Hong Kong started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the religious missions started playing an active role in the development of local education and the relatively well-off Chinese started to yearn for the establishment of schools providing modern education.
- 4. St. Stephen's College was established by Rev. Bishop Banister of the Anglican Church and a number of prominent Chinese such as Sir Ho Kai (1859–1914) and Dr. Tso Seen-wan (1865–1953), who wished to save China by means of education. It was first opened on Western Street in 1903 as a Christian boys' school modelled on English public schools. Expansion of the school led to its re-location to Bonham Road in 1924 and to the present Stanley campus in 1930.
- 5. Construction of the existing school premises of St. Stephen's College started in 1928. The foundation stone was laid by the then Governor Sir Cecil Clementi on 27 April 1928. School House was the first building completed under the project and was opened by the then Acting Governor Mr. W. T. Southorn on 25 March 1930.

<sup>2</sup> AMO is the executive arm of the Antiquities Authority dealing with matters, among others, relating to research, examination and preservation of any place, building, site or structure which is of historical, archaeological or palaeontological value.

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- 6. Around 15 December 1941, shortly before the Japanese attack on Hong Kong on 18 December 1941, the British Military took over School House of St. Stephen's College and converted the school building into an emergency military hospital. Early on Christmas Day, the Japanese captured St. Stelphen's College, broke into the school building and initiated the "St. Stephen's College Massacre". During the Japanese Occupation (1941–1945), St. Stephen's College, together with the nearby Stanley Prison Warders' Quarters, were used as the Stanley Internment Camp, which is the only remaining internment camp in Hong Kong.
- 7. At present, there are eight pre-war buildings in the secondary section of St. Stephen's College, including the School House as the oldest one, Martin Hostel, the Old Laboratory and five bungalows (staff quarters). The H-shaped School House comprises an east wing and a west wing connected by a central block. It is in late transitional Arts and Crafts style bearing Modernist influence, with external walls of granite on the ground floor and plain rendered and painted finish on the upper storey. Rough-cast rendering, wide overhanging eaves, arched windows and doorways and arcaded verandahs are typical features of the Arts and Crafts style.
- 8. School House of St. Stephen's College is not only the oldest surviving school building which still provides boarding service in Hong Kong, but is also one of the very few remaining sites of the Stanley Internment Camp. Thus, it is an important reminder of the history of development of local education and bears testimony to the sufferings endured by the internees in the wartime period.
- (b) East, south and north wings of the school building together with parts of the retaining walls and boundary walls of King's College
- 9. King's College, built in 1923-1926, is one of the six surviving pre-war government school buildings in Hong Kong. The college was formerly known as Saiyingpun School, which was established by the Government on Third Street in 1879 and later moved to Pokfulam Road in 1891.
- 10. To cope with the growing demand, Saiyingpun School decided to move to a new premises on Bonham Road. The construction of the Bonham campus commenced in 1923 and was completed in 1926. In September 1926, Saiyingpun School moved to the new campus and was renamed as King's

College. The Hongkong Administrative Report of 1926 described King's College as "one of the finest and most modern of school buildings".

- 11. It was not until 1928 that King's College announced its official opening because the school building was requisitioned by the Military Authorities as the quarters and hospital for the British Shanghai Defence Force in 1927. King's College was officially opened by the then Governor Sir Cecil Clementi on 5 March 1928.
- 12. With the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941, King's College was used as a first aid station. During the Japanese Occupation, the school was used as a military mule and horse stable for the Japanese Army. The school building was badly damaged during the Japanese Occupation. After refurbishment, the school was re-opened in 1950 as a bi-sessional primary school and was restored as a morning secondary school in the next year.
- 13. The school building was originally built around the three sides of a square in 1926 and the whole building comprised a north wing, a south wing and an east wing with a bell tower (now removed) above the colonnaded curved entrance porch at the junction of Bonham Road and Western Street. Notable Neo-classical style features such as arched colonnades, colonnaded verandahs, rusticated quoins, moulded cornices and classical stone surrounds to the windows are found in King's College and make it an interesting piece of built heritage. The red-brick school building in Neo-classical style is a rare piece of school architecture of its kind in Hong Kong.
- 14. At the time of the establishment of King's College in 1926, there were 19 Government schools in Hong Kong providing primary and secondary education for more than 3 500 pupils in Hong Kong. Queen's College and King's College for Chinese boys, Belilios Public School for Chinese girls, Kowloon Junior School, Victoria School and Quarry Bay School for children of British parentage are some examples of the Government schools at that time. With the rapid development of the city, most of the premier government school buildings were either demolished or ceased to operate. At present, only six pre-war Government school buildings survive, namely the Former Kowloon British School (built in 1900-1902), the Former Peak School (built in 1915), the Former Quarry Bay School (built in 1926), King's College (built in 1926), Cheung Chau Government Secondary School (built in 1928) and King George

V School (built in 1936). King's College is now the oldest surviving pre-war Government school building which still serves its original usage.

#### **Declaration as Monuments**

- 15. The two historic buildings mentioned in paragraph 1 above have been accorded with a Grade one status by AAB having regard to the recommendations of an independent expert panel <sup>3</sup> under the existing administrative grading mechanism<sup>4</sup>. AAB advised in November 2008 that all Grade one historic buildings should, given their outstanding heritage value, form a pool of potential candidates for the Antiquities Authority to consider declaration as historical buildings under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. With the recommendation of AMO as set out in paragraph 2 above, the approval of the Chief Executive and in consultation with AAB, SDEV, as the Antiquities Authority under the Ordinance, has decided to declare the two buildings as historical buildings. In addition to reflecting the outstanding heritage value of the two buildings, the declaration will provide these buildings with statutory protection<sup>5</sup> under the Ordinance.
- 16. Since School House of St. Stephen's College is located on private land, the procedure of serving a notice to the owner and any lawful occupiers of School House, as required under section 4 of the Ordinance, was completed on 10 August 2011. No objection was received during the one-month notice

"6(1) Subject to subsection (4), no person shall –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The expert panel comprises experts from the fields of town planning, architecture and engineering as well as historians.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The grading system is an administrative arrangement to provide an objective basis for determining the heritage value, and hence the preservation need, of historic buildings in Hong Kong. Under the grading system,

<sup>-</sup> Grade one status refers to buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.

<sup>-</sup> Grade two status refers to buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve.

<sup>-</sup> Grade three status refers to buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Section 6(1) of th Ordinance provides –

<sup>(</sup>a) Excavate, carry on building or other works, plant or fell trees or deposit earth or refuse on or in a proposed monument or monument; or

<sup>(</sup>b) Demolish, remove, obstruct, deface or interfere with a proposed monument or monument, except in accordance with a permit granted by the Authority."

period from 10 August to 9 September 2011. Explicit agreement of the owner of School House to the declaration proposal has also been obtained.

17. The declaration of the buildings will be made by the Notice published in the Gazette on 2 December 2011. A copy of the plans showing the locations of the buildings declared by the Antiquities Authority as historical buildings and deposited in the Land Registry is at Annex C. The Notice will take immediate effect and will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 7 December 2011. The Government does not prefer to defer the effective date of the declaration until the completion of the normal full negative vetting period (i.e. 4 January 2012 or, if extended by the Legislative Council, 1 February 2012) as we would like to render statutory protection to the buildings concerned as early as possible.

#### IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

18. The declaration is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It does not have any economic, productivity, environmental or civil service implications. As far as sustainability implications are concerned, the declaration is conducive to the sustainability principle of protecting Hong Kong's heritage assets. Government will provide financial and technical assistance for the maintenance of historical buildings declared under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. The relevant departments will absorb the maintenance costs concerned from within their existing resources as far as possible. Where necessary, they will seek additional resources in accordance with the established resource allocation mechanism.

#### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

19. AAB was consulted on the proposed declaration as required under section 3(1) of the Ordinance on 15 June 2011 and rendered its support.

#### **PUBLICITY**

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20. A press release on the declaration will be issued on the date of declaration (i.e. 2 December 2011). A spokesman will be available to answer media and public enquiries.

### **ENQUIRIES**

21. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Miss Vivian Ko, Commissioner for Heritage of the Development Bureau, at 2848 2104.

Development Bureau 30 November 2011

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## Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) (No. 2) Notice 2011

(Made by the Secretary for Development under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive)

#### 1. Declaration of historical buildings

The following places are declared to be historical buildings-

- (a) the School House of St. Stephen's College at the Remaining Portion of Rural Building Lot No. 432 and the Extensions thereto, 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM9166a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development; and
- (b) the east, south and north wings of the school building together with parts of the retaining walls and boundary walls of King's College at 63A Bonham Road, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red (other than the parts coloured green and marked with the letter "G") on the plan marked Plan No. HKM7124 signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development.

#### Annex A

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) (No. 2) Notice 2011

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Secretary for Development

21 November 2011

#### **Explanatory Note**

#### This Notice declares—

- (a) the School House of St. Stephen's College at 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong; and
- (b) the east, south and north wings of the school building together with parts of the retaining walls and boundary walls of King's College at 63A Bonham Road, Hong Kong,

to be historical buildings for the purposes of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53).

#### School House of St. Stephen's College

School House of St. Stephen's College at No. 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, was built in 1930. It is not only the oldest building of St Stephen's College, but also the oldest surviving school building still providing boarding services in Hong Kong. Besides, it is one of the very few remaining sites of the Stanley Internment Camp. Thus, it is an important reminder of the history of development of local education and the sufferings endured by the internees in the wartime period.

Historical Interest

The religious missions played an active role in the development of local education. For example, St. Joseph's College was founded in 1875 by six La Salle Brothers for the education of Portuguese; St. Paul's College (founded in 1851) for the education of Chinese was revived in 1876 under the Church Missionary Society; and Diocesan Native Female Training School (founded in 1860) for Chinese girls which later became the Diocesan Home and Orphanage in 1869 to receive children for both sexes (eventually split into Diocesan Girls' School and Diocesan Boys' School in 1899 and 1913 respectively). These schools, with Queen's College (formerly known as Central School, the first government secondary school established in 1862) and Belilios Public School (established in 1890), were the chief English teaching schools in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

St. Stephen's College was established in 1903 by Rev. Bishop Banister of the Anglican Church and a number of prominent Chinese such as Sir Ho Kai (1859–1914) and Dr. Tso Seen-wan (1865–1953), who wished to save China by means of education. Indeed, with the rise of status of the Chinese community during the late 19th century, the relatively well-off Chinese desired to have a school providing English education solely for their children. In 1901, eight Chinese community leaders petitioned to the then Governor Sir Henry Blake for the establishment of a private Anglo-Chinese school.

St. Stephen's College was opened on Western Street in 1903 as a Christian boys' school modelled on English public schools<sup>1</sup>. The Church Missionary Society of England took charge of the school. Soon it also attracted overseas students from Southeast Asia. Expansion of the school led to the move to Bonham Road in 1924

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term "English public schools" refers to private schools (usually boarding schools) independent of the state educational system. They were endowed for the use or benefit of the public and carried on under some kind of public management.

and then to the present site in Stanley in 1930.

Construction of the existing school premises started in 1928. School House was the first building completed under this construction project in 1930. Martin Hostel and the Old Laboratory were completed in the following year.

School House was built as the main school building of St. Stephen's College, comprising a school hall, a school house (dormitory) and classrooms. It was built by Mr. Lam Woo (1871 – 1933), with Mr. L.G. Bird as the architect. The foundation stone was laid by the then Governor Sir Cecil Clementi (1875–1947) (service from 1925–30) on 27 April 1928. It was completed and opened by the then Acting Governor Mr. W. T. Southorn on 25 March 1930.

The primary section of St. Stephen's College was set up in 1936-38 at Nos. 30-32 Wong Ma Kok Road, Stanley. Both the primary and secondary sections provided boarding service for students.

Around 15 December 1941, shortly before the Japanese attack on Hong Kong on 18 December, School House of St. Stephen's College was taken over by the British Army, which converted the building into an emergency military hospital. Staff and students of St. Stephen's College helped out in the hospital. Early on Christmas Day in 1941, the Japanese captured St. Stephen's College and broke into School House. The troops initiated the "St. Stephen's College Massacre" and bayoneted 56 British and Canadian wounded who were still in their beds. Two doctors and seven nurses were also killed.

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45), St. Stephen's College together with the nearby Stanley Prison Warders' Quarters were used as the Stanley Internment Camp. The Camp housed about 3 000 internees, including 1 000 in St. Stephen's College among whom some 370 internees were accommodated in School House. Classes were organised for the interned children in the classrooms on the ground floor of the East and the West Wings. Church services and concerts were held at the main hall of the central block. The upper floor was used as students' dormitories.

The school building of St. Stephen's College was seriously damaged in the war years. All the school equipment was destroyed. All the desks were used for fuel. Therefore, after the surrender of the Japanese, the school building was temporarily handed over to the Government for use as a Police Training School and for repairs. St.

Stephen's College was re-opened in 1947. It started to be co-educational in 1968 and became an aided school receiving Government subsidy in 1970. It joined the Direct Subsidy Scheme in 2008.

At present, there are still 8 pre-war buildings in the secondary section of St. Stephen's College, including School House as the oldest one, Martin Hall, the Old Laboratory and five bungalows (staff quarters). St. Stephen's College, both its primary and secondary sections, still provides boarding service for its students.

School House is an H-shaped building consisting of an east *Architectural* wing and a west wing connected by a central block (originally the Merit main hall). On the ground floor of the two wings are classrooms and on the second floor are students' dormitories.

School House is in late transitional Arts and Crafts style bearing Modernist influence, with external walls of granite on the ground floor and plain rendered and painted finish on the upper Rough-cast rendering, wide overhanging eaves, arched windows and doorways and arcaded verandahs are typical features of the Arts and Crafts style. The pitched roofs reflect an adaptation to the sub-tropical climatic conditions in Hong Kong.

Internally, the main entrance hall of the East Wing is decorated with several architectural features including an arched doorway to the Vestibule and glazed panelled double doors to the library entrance. One of the notable features of the entrance hall is the double-entry grand staircase leading up to the first floor. The staircase features ornamental ironwork balustrading and newels, a moulded hardwood handrail and *terrazzo* (polished granolithic) treads and risers.

The first floor landing and the upper part of the staircase are supported by four fluted neo-classical columns with octagonal bases. At the first floor level, the staircase changes to a double-return staircase with a quarter-turn staircase leading up to the second floor female dormitory. There is a recessed ceiling panel over the staircase area from which ornamental light fittings are suspended.

Architectural features are minimal on the upper floors, but there is an ornamental balcony at the second floor level featuring an ornamental parapet, a stepped terrazzo plinth, cross-braced pierced panels, concave corners and shaped brackets. There is one small corner fireplace in one of the upper floor rooms. Floor finishes are a mixture of timber boarding in the library and the upper floor and

terrazzo at verandahs, the balcony on the upper floor and the ground floor of the West Wing dormitories.

The library, which was originally the school assembly hall, is very impressive featuring rows of octagonal columns forming aisles on either side, and balustraded galleries at the first floor level connecting the East and the West Wings. The main feature of the library is the roof which is exposed to view. It is a pitched roof supported by reinforced concrete horizontal purlins and arched portal frames which bear Modernist influence. The floor finishes comprise timber boarding.

In 1980, in order to convert the assembly hall into a library, a *Authenticity* new floor slab was constructed at the first floor level over the study area for bookcases accessed by a new reinforced concrete staircase. The original roofs, which were built of tiles, have been replaced with reinforced concrete in the renovations over the years. Four original chimney stacks (although now redundant) have survived.

In the East and the West Wings, most of the windows in the dormitory on the first floor have been replaced with modern aluminium windows and the terrazzo treads and risers of the old staircases are also carpeted. Although internal refurbishment and alterations have been made over the years, they generally have retained much of their original authentic appearance and do not affect the overall architectural significance of School House.

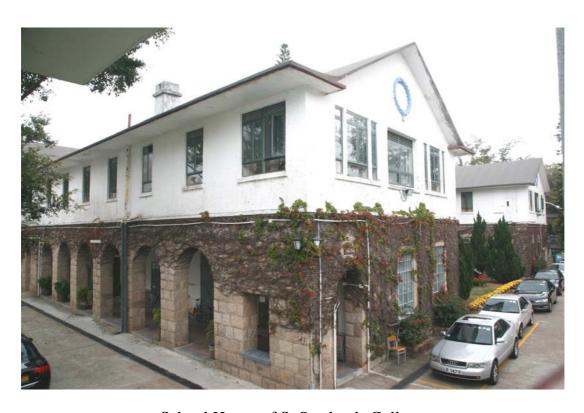
School House is the oldest surviving school building still *Rarity* providing boarding service in Hong Kong. It is also one of the very few remaining sites of Stanley Internment Camp. The Japanese set up a total of six internment camps in Hong Kong. Internment Camp is the only surviving internment camp with School House as the oldest reminder of the sufferings endured by the internees during the Japanese Occupation.

St. Stephen's College is a prestigious school in Hong Kong. Social Value Prominent public figures, including the late Sir Chau Tsun-nin & Local (1893-1971), Mr. Ip Man (1893-1972), Sir Tang Shiu-kin *Interest* (1901-1986), Sir Chau Sik-nin (1903-1985), and contemporarily the Honourable Timothy Fok Tsun-ting and Mr. Raymond Chien Kuo-fung, are alumni of the College.

In 2008, St. Stephen's College established the "St. Stephen's College Heritage Trail" to promote public appreciation of the history of the site by providing free guided tours for educational and non-profit-making organizations. Free guided tours to the heritage trail are also arranged for the public on the College's Open Day every

The last open day on 8 May 2011 attracted about 700 visitors. year.

School House has high group value with other buildings on Group Value campus, such as Martin Hostel (1931) (Grade 2), the Old Laboratory (1931) (Grade 2), Bungalows Nos. 1 – 5 (1931) (Grade 2) and St. Stephen's Chapel (1950) (Grade 3). St. Stephen's College as a whole also has group value with other historic buildings in Stanley, such as the Old Stanley Police Station (1859) (declared monument), Stanley Mosque (c. 1936 – 37) (Grade 1), Stanley Post Office (c. 1937) (Grade 2) and St. Stephen's Preparatory School (1938) (Grade 3).



School House of St Stephen's Collage



Entrance hall of School House



Roof of the library in the central block

#### **King's College**

King's College, built in 1923-26, is one of the six surviving *Historical* pre-war government school buildings in Hong Kong. It was formerly known as Saiyingpun School, which was established by Government on Third Street in 1879. As more pupils enrolled in Saiyingpun School, it was later moved to a larger site on Pokfulam Road in 1891. However, the capacity of the new premises still could not cope with the growing The school management therefore decided to move the premises once again. The name of King's College was first adopted in 1922, when the present Bonham campus was chosen for the construction of a secondary school.

Interest

The foundation stone of King's College was laid in 1923. formation, the foundation works and the construction of retaining walls were undertaken by Messrs. Foo Loong & Co. in the same year, and the superstructure was erected by Messrs. Kin Lee & Co. in 1924. works were completed in 1926. In September 1926, Saiyingpun School moved to the Bonham campus and was renamed as King's College. Hongkong Administrative Report of 1926 described King's College as "one of the finest and most modern of school buildings" with "29 classrooms, staff and common rooms, the latest sanitary arrangements, hat and cloak rooms, a museum and library, an art room, physics and chemistry laboratories, a workshop, swimming pool and dressing rooms, gymnasium, covered playground, fire fighting appliances and the usual complement of store-rooms and offices".

The school building was, however, requisitioned by the Military Authorities as the quarters and hospital for the British Shanghai Defence Force from February to December 1927. The Force was deployed to protect British nationals in Shanghai during the Northern Expedition. On 5 March 1928, the school was officially opened by the then Governor Sir Cecil Clementi.

With the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941, King's College was used as a first aid station in view of its St. John Ambulance equipment set up by the first Principal, Mr. Alfred Morris. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the school was used as a military mule and horse stable for the Japanese Army.

The school building was badly damaged during the Japanese The roof was destroyed. All timber window frames, Occupation. banisters and floorboards were looted for firewood. After refurbishment, the school was re-opened in 1950 as a bi-sessional primary school, which only operated in the afternoon and shared the school premises with the Northcote Training College Attached School and the Government Vernacular Middle School. It was restored as a morning secondary school in 1951. The total enrolment of King's College reached 640 pupils in 1951.

In 1953, the school underwent its first extension by adding two laboratories, a preparation room, a lecture room, an art room and five classrooms. The need for further expansion of the school resulted in the addition of an extra floor to the south and east wings, and two more floors above the gymnasium of the north wing. With the completion of the next stage of extension in 1960, King's College became a full-time secondary school with a total of 26 classrooms, 10 special rooms and 7 In 2000, a new wing, namely the west wing, with well-equipped classrooms and laboratories was added to the school building.

The red-brick school building in Neo-classical style was Architectural originally built around the three sides of a square in 1926. The building *Merit* comprised a north wing, a south wing and an east wing, with a bell tower (now removed) above the colonnaded curved entrance porch at the junction of Bonham Road and Western Street. The three wings of the school building are arranged in collegiate style around a central courtyard, which serves as the school playground, to form a quadrangle. The dainty school garden at the lower ground level facing Bonham Road with a small fountain and an arched colonnaded curvilinear side wall further enhanced the beauty of the school building.

Red-brick Roman arched colonnades are applied along the façade and the corridor on the ground floor of the south wing, and coupled columns form loggias on the first and second floors. Roman arched colonnades are also found on the front elevations of the east and north wings.

Clerestory windows are found on the upper part of the bricked-up arches of the north Wing. Some doorways have Roman arches or flattened arches with fanlight glazing. The red-brick wall angles are emphasised with quoins.

The most impressive part of the school building is its circular entrance porch at the junction of Bonham Road and Western Street. porch is supported by granite coupled columns with Ionic Order capitals, featuring volute brackets and Italian Renaissance style side openings. A groin vault can be seen on the top floor of the entrance block, which is rarely found in other school buildings. This gives the school building a distinctive Classical feature which requires high quality workmanship.

extensive Authenticity

The school building has undergone several refurbishment and alterations over the years. During the Japanese Occupation, most part of the swimming pool, including its filter-system, was damaged. Repair and reconstruction works to the school building were carried out after the Japanese Occupation. The bell tower and the chimneys at the entrance block were removed in 1950 to make way for the erection of an extra floor to the south and east wings. swimming pool was reconstructed from 1971 to 1972, with funding from the Old Boys' Association. The school garden was also refurbished, and the fountain was reconstructed and upgraded around 2004. authenticity of the school building has been compromised to some extent, but its main architectural characters still remain without affecting its high architectural value.

According to the Hongkong Administrative Report of 1926, at the *Rarity* time of the establishment of King's College in 1926, there were 19 Government schools in Hong Kong providing primary and secondary education for more than 3 500 pupils in Hong Kong. Queen's College and King's College for Chinese boys, Belilios Public School for Chinese girls, Kowloon Junior School, Victoria School and Quarry Bay School for children of British parentage are some examples of the Government schools at that time. With the rapid development of the city, most of the pre-war government school buildings were either demolished or no longer serve their original purpose. At present, only six pre-war Government school buildings survive, namely the Former Kowloon

British School (built in 1900-1902), the Former Peak School (built in 1915), the Former Quarry Bay School (built in 1926), King's College (built in 1926), Cheung Chau Government Secondary School (built in 1928) and King George V School (built in 1936). King's College is now the oldest surviving pre-war Government school building which still serves its original usage.

In addition, the use of red bricks in school architecture decorated with relatively rich Neo-classical style features is rare in Hong Kong. The notable Neo-classical style features such as arched colonnades, colonnaded verandahs, rusticated quoins, moulded cornices and classical stone surrounds to the windows are found in King's College, making it an interesting piece of built heritage.

The school's social value lies in its contribution to the community Social Value and education as well as the historical/famous figures associated with it. & Local With its long history, many community leaders, such as Jin Yingxi Interest (1919-1991), Lau Din-cheuk (1921-2010), Sir Harry Fang Sin-yang (1923–2009), Dr. Simon Li Fook-sean, the Hon Dr. Leung Chun-ying, are alumni of the College. The school building served as a community venue due to the lack of meeting places in Hong Kong in the 1960s. It was frequently reserved for activities by various organisations, such as the Government Clerical Service, the Auxiliary Medical Services, the Police Reserve, the Civil Aid Services and St. John Ambulance Division of the Old Boys' Association.

Due to its prominent location and high reputation, King's College *Group Value* is a focal point in the area. There are many old purpose-built educational buildings in the vicinity, and some of them such as St. Stephen's Girls' College (built in 1923); and the Main Building (built in 1910-12), Hung Hing Ying Building (built in 1919) and Tang Chi Ngong Building (built in 1929) of the University of Hong Kong have already been declared as monuments. These educational buildings form a treasured cluster of historic school buildings in the Mid-Levels.



Main entrance of the school building



View of east wing of the school building from the school playground



View of north wing from the school playground



View of south wing from Bonham Road

