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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) Notice 2013

INTRODUCTION

After consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB)¹ and with the approval of the Chief Executive, the Secretary for Development (SDEV), in his 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 Cenotaph and its adjoining land in Central, Hong Kong; and
- (b) the Bethanie at 139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong.
- 2. The declaration is made by the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) Notice 2013 (the Notice) (Annex A), which will be published in the Gazette on 22 November 2013.

JUSTIFICATIONS

Α

Heritage Significance

3. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO)² of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has researched into and assessed the heritage

¹ 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.

² 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.

significance of the two buildings set out in paragraph 1 above (the Buildings). 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 3-16 below and elaborated in **Annex B**.

(a) The Cenotaph and its adjoining land

В

- 4. The Cenotaph at Statue Square, Central is the earliest and the only memorial formally constructed to commemorate the dead of the First World War. The Cenotaph was unveiled by the then Governor Sir Edward Stubbs on 25 May 1923. It is an exact replica of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London,³ which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled in 1920, two years after the end of the First World War. Sir Edwin Lutyens's design was used in the construction of many other war memorials in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Bermuda.
- 5. The Cenotaph at Statue Square, Central was originally built to commemorate the victims of the First World War. Initially, it was simply inscribed with the words "The Glorious Dead" and the years of the First World War, i.e. "1914-1918". The years "1939-1945" were subsequently added to honour victims of the Second World War. In the 1980s, eight Chinese characters "英魂不朽 浩氣長存", meaning "May their martyred souls be immortal, and their noble spirits endure", were carved on one side of the Cenotaph corresponding to the inscription "The Glorious Dead" to make it clear that the Cenotaph commemorates all who fell, especially those who fell in the defense of Hong Kong.
- 6. The Cenotaph is a landmark in Central, being a component of an architectural and historical complex in the old City of Victoria, where a number of declared monuments such as the Old Supreme Court, Flagstaff House, Former French Mission Building, Government House and St. John's Cathedral are located.

The Cenotaph in Whitehall was initially built of wood and plaster for the first anniversary of the Armistice in 1919. It was soon decided that a permanent and lasting memorial should be

Armistice in 1919. It was soon decided that a permanent and lasting memorial should be constructed in response to the devotion of the people to this national shrine. Thus a cenotaph built with Portland stone in the same site was unveiled in 1920.

(b) The Bethanie

- 7. The Bethanie was completed in 1875 by the Société des Missions Étrangères (Society of Foreign Mission) ("the Society") as their first sanatorium in the East Asia for sick missionaries. Since its opening in 1875, the Bethanie received some 6 000 missionaries working in the East Asia and served as an important base of the French Catholic missionary work in the East Asia until its closure in 1974.
- 8. On the opposite side of the Bethanie on Pok Fu Lam Road, there was another building called the House of Nazareth ("the Nazareth")⁴, which was originally known as "Douglas Castle". The Nazareth was originally a retreat to restore the spiritual health of missionaries who needed to rekindle the flame of their missionary zeal, while the Bethanie was a sanatorium to restore sick or tired missionaries to physical health. The Bethanie and the Nazareth were regarded as the twin foundation of the Society in the East Asia to take care of the health of souls and bodies of the French missionaries.
- 9. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), both the Bethanie and the Nazareth were requisitioned by the Japanese. After the war, the Bethanie, similar to many other surviving European buildings in Hong Kong, was left an empty shell without furniture. The Bethanie was reopened as a sanatorium in February 1949 after refurbishment.
- 10. Following the closure of Mainland China and some Asian countries in Asia to Catholic missions in the 1950s, the Society turned their focus from servicing the missionary work in the neighbouring countries to local pastoral work in Hong Kong.
- 11. The Bethanie was finally closed in 1974. The premises was sold to Hongkong Land and was later taken over by the Government. It was then leased to the University of Hong Kong from 1978 to 1997. In 2002, the Government decided to restore and lease the Bethanie together with the adjacent Old Dairy Farm Cowshed Building (Grade 2) to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA") for conversion into their second campus. The conversion was completed in 2006 and the Bethanie has served

The Nazareth has been used as the University Hall, which is a student residence of the University of Hong Kong, since 1956 and was declared as a monument in 1995.

as the School of Film and Television of the HKAPA since then.

- 12. The restoration and conversion project of the Bethanie carried out by the HKAPA was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards Programme.
- 13. The Bethanie is one of three surviving pre-war buildings of the Society in Hong Kong. The other two pre-war historic buildings connected with the Society have been declared as monuments, namely the Former French Mission Building at Battery Path, Central and the Nazareth (now housed the University Hall) in Pokfulam. These buildings form a unique ecclesiastical building cluster depicting the history of the Society in Hong Kong and their missionary efforts in East Asia.

Declaration as Monuments

14. The Buildings have been accorded with a Grade 1 status by AAB having regard to the recommendations of an independent assessment panel⁵ under the existing administrative grading mechanism⁶. AAB advised in November 2008 that all Grade 1 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 3 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 Buildings as historical buildings. In addition to reflecting the outstanding heritage value of the Buildings, the declaration will provide the

The assessment panel comprises experts from the fields of town planning, architecture and engineering as well as historians.

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,

⁻ Grade 1 status refers to buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.

⁻ Grade 2 status refers to buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve.

⁻ Grade 3 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.

- 15. Since the Bethanie is located on government land which is leased to the HKAPA, the procedure of serving a notice to any lawful occupier of the Bethanie, as required under section 4 of the Ordinance, was completed on 19 January 2013. No objection was received by the AMO during the one-month notice period from 19 January 2013 to 18 February 2013. The HKAPA had also indicated that it was agreeable to the proposed monument declaration.
- 16. The declaration of the Buildings will be made by the Notice published in the Gazette on 22 November 2013. A copy of the plans show the locations of the Buildings declared by the Antiquities Authority as historical buildings and deposited in the Land Registry is at <u>Annex C</u>. The Notice will take immediate effect and will be tabled in the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 27 November 2013.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

17. 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. The Government will provide financial and technical assistance for the maintenance of the Buildings, with the relevant bureaux/departments meeting the maintenance costs concerned.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

18. AAB was consulted on the proposed declaration as required under section 3(1) of the Ordinance on 17 December 2012 and rendered its support.

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

⁷ Section 6(1) of the Ordinance provides –

⁽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

⁽b) Demolish, remove, obstruct, deface or interfere with a proposed monument or monument.

except in accordance with a permit granted by the Authority."

PUBLICITY

19. A press release on the declaration will be issued on the date of declaration (i.e. 22 November 2013). A spokesman will be available to answer media and public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

20. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Ms Vivian Ko, Commissioner for Heritage of the Development Bureau, at 3509 8270.

Development Bureau 22 November 2013

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) Notice 2013

(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 Cenotaph and its adjoining land in Central, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM9524a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development; and
- (b) the Bethanie at 139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM9387a signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development.

Secretary for Development

22 October 2013

Annex A

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Historical Buildings) Notice 2013 Explanatory Note

Paragraph 1

2

Explanatory Note

This Notice declares—

- (a) the Cenotaph and its adjoining land in Central, Hong Kong; and
- (b) the Bethanie at 139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong, to be historical buildings for the purposes of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53).

The Cenotaph

The Cenotaph is located at Statue Square in Central. It is the earliest *Historical* memorial constructed to commemorate the dead of the First World War in Hong *Interest* Kong.

The Cenotaph at Statue Square, Central was unveiled on 25 May 1923 by the then Governor Sir Edward Stubbs. It is an exact replica of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled in 1920, two years after the end of the First World War. The Cenotaph in Whitehall was initially built of wood and plaster for the first anniversary of the Armistice in 1919. It was soon decided that a permanent and lasting memorial should be constructed in response to the devotion of the people to this national shrine. Thus a cenotaph built with Portland stone was unveiled in 1920. The design of the Cenotaph in Whitehall was used in the construction of many other war memorials in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Bermuda.

The Cenotaph in Central was originally built to commemorate the dead of the First World War. Initially, it was simply inscribed with the words "The Glorious Dead" and the years of the First World War, i.e. "1914-1918". The years "1939-1945" were subsequently added to honour victims of the Second World War. In the 1980s, eight Chinese characters "英魂不朽 浩氣長存", meaning "May their martyred souls be immortal, and their noble spirits endure", were carved on one side of The Cenotaph corresponding to the inscription "The Glorious Dead" to make it clear that The Cenotaph commemorates all who fell, especially those who fell in the defense of Hong Kong.

There used to be three Remembrance Day ceremonies held on the Sunday nearest to 11 November each year (Remembrance Sunday) in the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Statue Square and St. John's Cathedral. Since 1981, the three ceremonies were combined into one which was then held annually at The Cenotaph to commemorate all who died in the two World Wars.

Since 1998, the official ceremonies have been held annually on Chung Yeung Festival at the Memorial Shrine of the City Hall, attended by the Chief Executive and senior officials. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association continue to hold commemorative activities on the Remembrance Sunday at The Cenotaph.

The architectural style of The Cenotaph is Classic Revival, based on Architectural formal symmetry and principles of pure Roman and Greek forms, founded on archaeological studies and scholarship. The memorial is built of dressed ashlar blocks situated in the centre of a stepped rectangular granite platform approached by cruciform paths and surrounded by neatly mown lawns and a dwarf granite wall, posts and railings. The memorial is designed with a stepped plinth and the upper part diminishes by offsets to culminate at the top in a rectangular sarcophagus upon which rests a stone wreath. Ornamentation is confined to stone mouldings to the plinth and sarcophagus, carved wreaths on the top and two sides, and six permanently attached bronze flagpoles. apparent simplicity of The Cenotaph is based on exquisite refinement of classical principles. The sides of The Cenotaph are not parallel, and if projected upwards, it would meet at a point 1,000 feet above ground. The horizontals surfaces are sections of a sphere whose centre would be 900 feet underground. The Greek technique of entasis, in which curved surfaces create the illusion of linearity, was applied.

The Cenotaph is one of the several war memorials in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, The Cenotaph is the only memorial formally constructed to commemorate the dead of the First World War. Other than the years "1939-1945" and the Chinese inscriptions, which were later additions, the memorial retains its original authentic appearance.

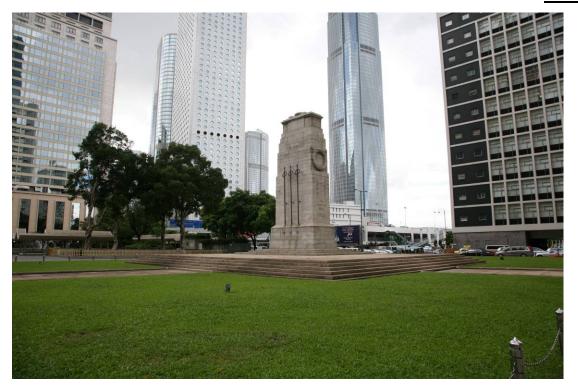
Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

The social value of The Cenotaph is obviously as a memorial and reminder of those who gave their lives in two world wars. It is a well known landmark in Central being next to the Old Supreme Court and the City Hall.

Social Value & Local Interest

The Cenotaph is a component of an architectural and historical complex in Group Value the old City of Victoria, where a number of declared monuments such as the Old Supreme Court, Flagstaff House, Former French Mission Building, Government House and St. John's Cathedral are located.

Annex B



Present view of The Cenotaph



Eight Chinese characters "英魂不朽 浩氣長存", meaning "May their martyred souls be immortal, and their noble spirits endure", corresponding to the inscription "The Glorious Dead" were carved on the side of The Cenotaph in the 1980s

The Bethanie

The Bethanie (伯大尼修院) was completed in 1875 by the Société des Missions Étrangères (法國外方傳道會) (the Society), which is also known as the Missions Étrangères de Paris (巴黎外方傳教會), as their first sanatorium in the East Asia for sick missionaries. Since its opening in 1875, the Bethanie received some 6 000 missionaries working in the East Asia and served as an important base of the French Catholic missionary work in the East Asia until its closure in 1974.

Historical Interest

The idea of building a sanatorium somewhere in the East Asia had been raised by the French priests since 1856. However, the idea was not turned into reality until the 1870s by Father Pierre-Marie Osouf (奧塞神父) (1829-1906), who was the Procurator 1 (司帳) of Hong Kong (1862-1875) responsible for the administration of the Society in China.

Following the success of the French missionary work in the East Asia in the early 1870s², the time of building a sanatorium for use by members of the Society became mature. Father Osouf recommended in his letter to the Directors of the Society in Paris in January 1873 that Hong Kong was a proper place for building a sanatorium in the East Asia after having compared Hong Kong with other potential places like Saigon, Malaya or Yokohama in terms of climate, construction and operation costs, as well as medical knowledge and skills for handling common illnesses in tropical countries. The Pokfulam area, which is located in the southern part of the Hong Kong Island, was also regarded as an ideal place for the proposed sanatorium in consideration of its good geographical

[&]quot;Procurator" literally means "provider". The main duty of Father Osouf was to provide for the practical needs of front-line missionary workers in China and served as a crucial communication link between the local missions and the directors of the Paris Seminary where all the French missionaries spent some time on training before joining their Eastern missions. At that time, the Procure (司帳處) of Hong Kong was located in Staunton Street, Central.

In the early 1870s, the Society had no fewer than 7 bishops and 200 priests working in China. In 1873, the year when the construction of the Bethanie commenced, the French priests had already established parishes in Manchuria and the southern provinces of China such as Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Yunnan and Tibet. Similar missionary work was being carried out in most of the East Asia including Japan, Korea, India, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Burma, and etc.

location³.

The Directors of the Society in Paris were delighted at Father Osouf's Pokfulam sanatorium proposal and gave him carte blanche to go ahead with the proposal in April of the same year. Two months later, Father Osouf purchased the Pokfulam site, which was of 1,057,155 square feet (approximately 24 acres) for \$3,000 for the erection of the House of Bethanie⁴.

According to the design drawing of Father Osouf and under the supervision of Father Charles Edmond Patriat (白德禮神父) (1828 - 1887), who was later appointed as the first Superior of Bethanie⁵, the construction commenced in late 1873 and was completed in 1875.

On the opposite side of the Bethanie on Pok Fu Lam Road, there was another building called the House of Nazareth (the Nazareth) (納匝肋修院)⁶, which was originally known as "Douglas Castle" (杜格拉斯堡). The Nazareth was a retreat to restore the spiritual health of missionaries who needed to rekindle the flame of their missionary zeal, while the Bethanie was a sanatorium to restore sick or tired missionaries to physical health. The Bethanie and the Nazareth were regarded as the twin foundation of the Society in the

The site was high up in the hills and had excellent exposure to the sea breeze (fresh air). The area was also safe and only an hour by palanquin from the stores and doctors of the Victoria City.

The sanatorium was called "Bethanie" in French (or "Bethany" in English) in memory of the village in the Gospel which Jesus made a point of revisiting just before his Passion. This was where Jesus's three special friends used to live, i.e. Lazarus whom Jesus miraculously brought back to life after he had been dead for a few days, and his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Over the front door lintel of the sanatorium, a Latin inscription was carved in granite stone. It is a quotation from St. John's Gospel and reads: "Domine, ecce, quem amas infirmatur (English translation: Lord, the one whom you love is sick)". The quotation was a message sent by Martha to Jesus, who was away from the Bethanie at the time, about Lazarus. As the motto for the sanatorium, Martha's words were regarded as an encouragement for the ailing missionaries to remain strong in their faith in Christ.

Father Patriat was Superior of Bethanie from 1875 to 1887. In view of his contribution to the House of Bethanie, the French priests expressed their gratitude to him after his death in 1887 in France by installing a stone memorial in the west wall of the chapel in the Bethanie. The memorial is still visible today.

The Nazareth was originally accommodated in a house named "Santa Sancha" (聖珊澤宮) in Macau from 1884, moved to Pokfulam, Hong Kong in 1885 and then relocated to Richmond Terrace (列治文台) six years later. In 1894, the Society purchased the Douglas Castle as the permanent home for the Nazareth. Douglas Castle was rebuilt and additions were made in the form of new accommodation, a chapel and the Nazareth Printing Press (納匝 肋印書館), which turned out to be an active operation publishing religious items in 28 languages. The Nazareth in Pokfulam, Hong Kong has been used as the University Hall, which is a student residence of the University of Hong Kong, since 1956 and was declared as a monument in 1995.

East Asia to take care of the health of souls and bodies of the French missionaries.

It is also interesting to note that the floral emblem of Hong Kong, the *Bauhinia blakeana*⁷, was firstly discovered near Mount Davis by the French priests who followed the 18th century tradition of collecting unusual plants and trees found in their mission territories and growing them in their gardens. The priests took cuttings of that rare specimen and planted the cuttings in the garden of the Bethanie. Subsequently, further cuttings were given to the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens and to the Canton Catholic Cathedral. Nowadays, the Bauhinia trees grow everywhere in the region and the beautiful purple flower has become the emblem of the city of Hong Kong since 1965.

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), both the Bethanie and the Nazareth were requisitioned by the Japanese. After the war, the Bethanie, similar to many other surviving European buildings in Hong Kong, was left an empty shell without furniture. Even the bathtubs were removed, and the electric system was ripped for its copper. The garden of the Bethanie was also seriously damaged and most of the trees were withered. The sanatorium was reopened in February 1949 after refurbishment. Following the closure of Mainland China and some Asian countries to Catholic missions in the 1950s, many missionaries were driven away and lodged in the Bethanie⁸.

With the rapid grow of population in Hong Kong in the 1950s⁹, the Society turned their attention from servicing the missionary work in the neighbouring countries to local pastoral work in Hong Kong. Despite the downsize of the Procure of Hong Kong¹⁰ and the closure of the Nazareth in 1954, many priests were

In the early 20th century, the Superintendent of the Afforestation Department, Stephen T. Dunn, named the tree after the then Governor, Sir Henry Blake (1898 – 1903), hence Bauhinia blakeana.

⁸ In 1951 alone, the Bethanie received the visits of 70 missionaries among which 63 came from Mainland China.

⁹ In the ten years from 1945 to 1955, the Hong Kong population grew from 600 000 to 2.5 million. The number of Catholics in Hong Kong also jumped from 20 000 in 1941 to 200 000 in 1961.

In 1954, the French priests moved out of their grand building in Battery Path (i.e. the Former French Mission Building, which currently housed the Hong Kong Final Court of Appeal) to a more modest Procure in May Road.

still living in Hong Kong and were reassigned to parish work. The Bethanie continued to serve as the community centre for the Society. However, local pastoral work of the Society now took pride of place whilst the Bethanie and even the Procure seemed no longer performing the core role in the overall missionary effort in the East Asia.

The Bethanie was finally closed in 1974. The premises was sold to Hongkong Land and was later taken over by the Government. It was then leased to the University of Hong Kong from 1978 to 1997. In 2002, the Government decided to restore and lease the Bethanie together with the adjacent Old Dairy Farm Cowshed Building to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA") for conversion into their second campus for the School of Film and Television. The HKAPA held the ground breaking ceremony at the Bethanie on 12 December 2003 and completed the conversion works in 2006.

The Bethanie consists of three parts: the chapel, the sanatorium and the service wing. The predominant architectural style is Neo-Gothic featuring pointed lancet windows, pointed arched colonnades to verandahs, flying buttresses, pinnacles, crockets and trefoil ornamentation to parapets.

Architectural Merit

According to the design of Father Osouf in 1873, the Bethanie was originally a two-storey building with a basement, a chapel and an H-shape service wing. The most impressive part of the building is its beautiful Neo-Gothic chapel with a semi-circular apse to house the high altar at the end of the nave. Extending around the apse is an aisle or passageway sometimes called an ambulatory with a doorway leading onto the terrace outside. The nave is flanked on either side by nave arcades and side aisles. Oratories and a gallery are provided at first floor level. Original floor tiles can still be found in the Chapel.

The building's architecture is of Neo-Gothic style and the plan is in symmetrical form with verandahs on all four sides. Rubble and ashlar plinth wall at the basement level, ornamental balustrade and arched colonnades to verandahs form the elevations of the building. There are other special features, for example, an arched portico with an in-situ table and built-in corner shelves on the roof patio, and a stone grotto and a well were set into the semi-circular bullnose wall at the north end of the building. The materials used in construction were bricks for the upper walls and columns, with dressed masonry for the lower walls.

Authenticity

The Bethanie remains fairly authentic despite the additions and alterations it has undergone in the past 140 years. The first enlargement of the Bethanie was undertaken in 1896 to cope with the growing number of sick missionaries requesting permission to stay in the Bethanie¹¹. The works were completed in the following year. New bedrooms were created in the attic of the sanatorium. A new refectory building was built to the north-east of the sanatorium (parallel to the east of the chapel). Other addition and alteration works were carried out in the sanatorium throughout the 20th century. For example, the impressive Gothic porch with Art Deco features was added in front of the main entrance in the 1920s. An extension on the east side is of Bauhaus style with typical 1930s architectural features. In 1961, an extra floor was added to its structure capped with a flat roof.

From 2003 to 2006, the Bethanie underwent alteration and addition works during the change-of-use process to enable its present use as the second campus of the HKAPA. However, the heritage significance of the Bethanie has not been diminished through the efforts of the devoted project team and the sensitive and sympathetic design of the conversion project. The additional flat roof of 1961 has been removed to reveal the original pitched roof design, which was rebuilt with double-glazed panels of glass and is currently reused as a multi-purpose function room (presently known as Sir Y K Pao Studio 包玉剛禮堂). Some heritage features have been kept and restored (such as fireplaces and logos associated with the Missions Étrangères) and some have been salvaged for reuse and display in the BNP (Banque Nationale de Paris) Paribas Museum of Bethanie (法國

In the earlier years of the Bethanie, there were 15 to 20 annual visitors. In the later period between 1887 and 1890, the figure increased to an average of 42, and to well over 50 in the following years. The Bethanie was not large enough to accommodate the increasing need.

巴黎銀行伯大尼博物館) at the basement of the building.

In the chapel, all the original nineteen stained glass windows and twelve apostle statues mounted on corbels surround the altar had disappeared after the sale of the Bethanie in 1975. With the efforts of the project team, nine original stained glass windows were successfully traced after the three-year search and finally reinstated back to the chapel. The remaining ones were reproduced in the Philippines with reference to the old photos of the chapel. Besides, four of the twelve apostle statues (i.e. St. Matthew, St. Thomas, St. Paul and St. Peter) were found and replicated by using a silicone moulding technique. The replicated statues were reinstated at the original place in the chapel. Other original features of the chapel were also found by the project team like the altar and the massive The restoration and conversion project of the chapel doors. Bethanie carried out by the HKAPA was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards Programme.

The Bethanie is one of three surviving pre-war buildings of the Society in Hong Kong. The other two pre-war historic buildings in connection with the Society have been declared as monuments, namely the Former French Mission Building in Battery Path, Central and the Nazareth (now housed the University Hall). Rarity

In nearly one hundred years from 1875 to 1974, the Bethanie received and provided treatment for some 6 000 missionaries from all parts of Asia. Most of those who arrived sick or exhausted returned to their missions with their health restored and their energies refreshed¹². The Bethanie was not only the first sanatorium of the Society in the East Asia taking care of the physical health of their members, but, together with the Procure of Hong Kong and the Nazareth, formed an important base of the Society for their missionary work in China as well as other countries in the East Asia.

Social Value & Local Interest

The Bethanie has high group value with other historic

Group Value

Inevitably, some sick missionaries died (a total of 101). Those missionaries who died at the Bethanie had been originally buried in the grounds of the sanatorium, and their bones were eventually transferred to the Chai Wan Catholic Cemetery after the sale of the Bethanie in 1975.

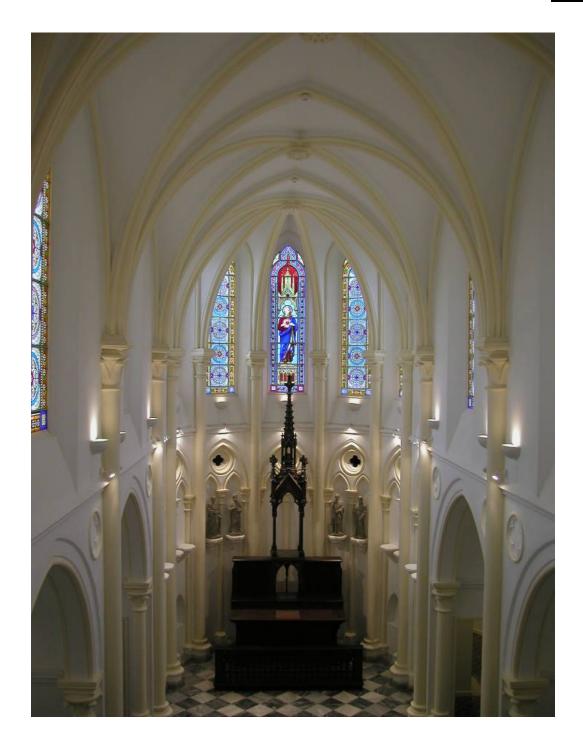
Annex B

buildings in the area. On the opposite site of Pok Fu Lam Road, there is a declared monument, i.e. the University Hall (once housed the Nazareth). In addition, a farm heritage, namely the Old Dairy Farm Cowshed Compound, is located to the south of the Bethanie. It comprises a number of old buildings, including a senior staff quarters (Grade 1), a main office building (Grade 2) and a cowshed in dumb-bell shape (Grade 2).



Exterior of the Neo-gotic chapel with flying buttresses on the exterior and sanatorium block behind

Annex B



The ribbed and vaulted dome of the chapel supported on slender Gothic style columns

