

**Progress in the Building and Furnishing of S. Thomas' College
Gurotalawa from the time of its Foundation.**

- 1942 Gift of Gurotalawa farm to the College. Adaptation of rooms to act as a Science Laboratory, and a staircase to act as a lecture hall. Servants' quarters built, and lavatories constructed. A bakery was built.
- 1943 Construction of the small swimming bath.
- 1944 Levelling of the site of the present quadrangle and the survey of all the building sites by the boys and staff. Work started on the Junior dormitory block. Classroom site levelled partly by the boys.
- 1945 Erection of temporary cadjan dining hall. Junior dormitory block completed. Senior dormitory block started and built. Chapel built. Extensions completed to provide the present dining hall. Classroom plinth completed and a mana grass roof erected on props.
- 1946 The flower garden was laid out anew, and especially the part below the senior dormitories, under the guidance of Mrs. C.H. Davidson.
- 1947 The classrooms were provided with walls.
- 1948 Three thousand rupees worth of furniture was purchased at a sale in the Naval Camp at Diyatalawa. The sickroom was extended and a separate surgery provided. The kitchen, pantry and store room were entirely rebuilt. An Esse Cooker was purchased for the kitchen. A dining hall was built for the servants. The old isolation rooms and office block were converted as the servants' quarters. The old kitchen and store rooms were partly demolished and the rest converted into a science laboratory.

A new lighting engine was purchased and fitted. The buildings were extensively re-wired and an electric pump was purchased to provide a water supply. A start was made on the provision of water borne sanitation for the senior dormitories. A new bungalow was provided for the married staff. New poultry houses were constructed for the farm. Temporary classrooms were arranged. The walls of several dormitories were pulled down, and rebuilt with larger windows to provide adequate light and air.

- 1949 The classrooms were rebuilt and re-roofed. Fresh furniture was provided in the dining hall and the dining hall furniture moved to the

classrooms. The benches in the chapel were replaced by chairs. The choir were provided with stalls. The mana thatched roofs were replaced by asbestos ones over the junior dormitory block and the chapel. Work was resumed on the levelling of the playing field, for the library. A further electric pump was bought. For the senior dormitories a new water storage tank and a wash house were built. In the senior dormitory block one maters room and some dark storage rooms were pulled down, and the building divided into three dormitories. Night lavatories were also equipped for the senior dormitories. A petrol gas machine was bought and a building to house it was erected near the science laboratory. The laboratory was fitted with gas connections. Work on a larger swimming bath was begun.

- 1950 A combined desk and cupboard was designed for the Junior dormitories and the provision of desks was begun. A new staff bungalow was built. The walls in Winchester house were plastered for the first time.
- 1951 Garnier and de Saram Junior dormitories were plastered. More dormitory furniture was provided. The new library was built. A section of the guest house was enlarged to provide accommodation for married staff. A one meter spring board was fixed in the Swimming bath. A dairy room was built for the farm. The boys levelled the drill ground and volleyball court. A telephone connection was obtained. Mr. E. Scott started on the erection of the swimming bath filtration plant. A high diving stage and a three meter sprint board were erected. A ceiling was constructed for Winchester house. The nine acre pasture was leased and cleared of weeds and nine tith polangas which resided there! The Chapel roof was decorated.
- 1952 The old firewood shed was enlarged and provided with a cement floor for use as a woodwork classroom. The necessary benches and tools were purchased for the use of the classes. A temporary sheep shed was erected near the pastures. The work on the swimming bath filtration plant was finished.
- 1953 The substitution of bunks for beds in some of the junior dormitories was begun. The object of this was not so much to increase the accommodation as to provide room for table tennis and carrom. The Matron's room was rebuilt, as it seemed in danger of collapse. The assault course was made.
- 1954 Mr. E. Scott carved the statue of St. Francis and erected it above the door of the chapel. The old tuck-shop was modified and furnished for use as a Cooperative store. On the playing field the Pavilion was built. The first half of the Headmaster's bungalow was completed. A new

sick room was constructed over the former Headmaster's quarters and provision made for a surgery, matron's room and an isolation ward. The woodwork shed was extended to make room for a puppet stage. The boys started work on the levelling of a site for a squash rackets court.

- 1955 This year we concentrated on the provision of more furniture, especially for the library, the office and the dormitories. The office itself was enlarged and provided with a verandah. Another electric pump was bought and fixed. A new garage and a set of stables were erected. The bus garage was rebuilt and enlarged. A bungalow adjoining the compound was taken over and modernized for the Farm Manager. Another dormitory received its cement floor. The senior night lavatories were re-roofed. The water system was overhauled and defective pipes were replaced, specially those serving the senior dormitories. Another married quarters was extended for Mr. & Mrs. Scott. A new bathroom was provided for one of the staff bungalows. A room in the filter house was improved for the use of a member of the staff and was given a ceiling. The cooperative stores were extended to provide space for the customers to sit in comfort, and the new room was furnished. The boys began work on the foundations of the squash rackets court. Work was done to improve the rain water drains. A new soakage pit was provided for the senior dormitory septic tank. Work on the second half of the Headmaster's bungalow was begun. The carpenters' workshop was reconstructed. The woodwork of the college was repainted. The entrance drive was improved and so were the garden paths.
- 1956 The remaining senior dormitories were equipped with ceilings. New quarters for the staff were added, and existing quarters were enlarged. A cottage was built for one of the senior servants. The Headmaster's bungalow was completed except for the provision of ceilings. The Electrical Department completed our connection with the generators at Laxapana, and considerable re-wiring was required in consequence. The fitting of low pressure fluorescent lamps in the dormitories were completed. Work on the levelling of the playing fields was begun.
- 1957 The task of levelling the playing fields was completed. The boys gave up the rammed earth method of construction for building the squash court and started making building blocks instead.
- 1958 The turfing of part of the playing field was undertaken and finished. However, the resulting surface was so rough that it was only suitable for football. The last dormitories with rough floors and without ceilings were given the necessary provision. The work on the squash court was completed, and its use begun. Very considerable improvements were

effected in the gardens under the supervision of Mr. P.Y. Ambrose. The Winchester house washing place was rebuilt and furnished with new wash basins. Running water was laid on for one of the staff rooms. Extra dormitory furniture was provided. Some of the rooms in the Headmaster's bungalow were given ceilings. Some of the staff rooms were improved and given red cement floors.

- 1964 Re-building of Old Class Room Block.
- 1970 Opening of the New Hayman Laboratory - By Dr.R L Hayman
- 1974 Foster Memorial Hall opened by Ms.Joan Foster (Sister of Rev.Canon A J Foster) and blessed by Rt.Rev.Lakshman Wickremasinghe Lord Bishop of Kurunegala
- 1976 Opening of Staff Club House - By Mr.P S Duleepkumar
- 1978 Lower School Class Room Block opened by Mr.S K Wickremasinghe
- 1983 Opening of Keble Dormitory by Dr.R L Hayman
- 1983 Opening of Simon Perera Block of Class Rooms - by Mrs.Mary Hayman
- 1986 Opening of Davidson Block of Classrooms -by Mr.Navaz Caffoor
- 1990 Renovation of Keble by Old Boys of UK
- 2001 Opening of New Administration Block and New Dining Hall.
- 2004 Opening of Dr.R L Hayman and Rev.Canon A J Foster Memorabilia Museum- By Mr.S K Wickremasinghe