* Waitanyuan has two nearly identical dark brown buildings designed by László Hudec.
* These buildings were among the first to use his signature brown color scheme.
* Hudec varied brick patterns to avoid monotony in the facades.
* László Hudec, born in 1893 in Austria-Hungary, came from a wealthy Slovak family and was trained in architecture.
* Drafted into the army in WWI, he was captured by the Russians but escaped near the Russo-Chinese border in 1918,
* He became stateless and decided to remain in Shanghai, founding his own company in 1925 and starting a renowned career.
* Between 1930 and 1932, Hudec designed the China Baptist Publication Building and the Christian Literature Society Building.
* The Publication Building, completed in 1931, has a red and dark brown masonry pattern and bright yellow antefixes and finials on the roofline.
* Inspired by the Anzeiger-Hochhaus in Hanover, it features Gothic pointed arches within an Art Deco design.
* In 1932, Hudec moved his studio to the eighth floor of the Publication Building, where he developed his modernist style.
* This studio produced many of Hudec's landmark designs in Shanghai, such as the Park Hotel and the Grand Theatre.
* The China Baptist Publication Building was owned by the China Baptist Publication Society, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, which remains a highly influential Protestant denomination in the United States.
* During the Publication Building's construction, Yuanmingyuan Road was widened, leading to land appropriation by the Shanghai Municipal Council.
* Dr. J. T. Williams, General Manager of the Publication Society, had disputes with the Council over compensation, eventually involving the Real Estate Committee.
* This incident highlights Shanghai's ongoing fierce debates over land rights.
* Dr. Williams was praised for his persuasive arguments and was honored in 1936 with a Chinese verse published in True Light to celebrate his homecoming.

You journeyed to our land of Nine Regions  
With the gospels and preached the holy books and scrolls;  
Though success depended on the grace of the Lord,  
No one but you, the sage, were the one who could bear such trials.  
You have toiled and labored for the edification of the True Light;  
Weathering the storms and tempests, you are sheltered in the hand of the merciful Mother.  
May your return to your homeland of prosperity be blessed,  
And may we pray for all your good deeds in the future

* The School of Commerce of the University of Shanghai moved into the Publication Building on March 1, 1932.
* This relocation was due to the main campus in Yangpu being too far from the city center.
* The move aimed to provide students with better access and internship opportunities in the financial district.