

Historic Building Appraisal

Shui Yuet Temple

Kwun Yam Wan, Cheung Chau

Shui Yuet Temple (水月宮) in Kwun Yam Wan (觀音灣) of Cheung Chau is also known as Kwun Yam Temple (觀音廟) or Lin Fa Kung (蓮花宮) as the deity is Kwun Sai Yam (觀世音). The Wan (灣, bay) is named after the temple as its existence was recorded at least before the 20th year of the Daoguang (道光, 1840) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The temple had two major renovations in 1847 and 1958. The temple is managed by the Cheung Chau Kwun Yam Wan Shui Yuet Temple Management Committee (長洲觀音灣水月宮管理委員會) since 1997.

**Historical
Interest**

A short distance from the beach of the Wan facing north to the sea, the temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan. A side quarters of the keeper around half of the length of the building is built connected to its right. The building is probably constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof. The gables are in an axe-head wood style of the Five Elements (五行之木形). The altar is against the end wall of the temple houses the Kwun Yam deity for worship with an offering table in front of it. The temple is covered with glazed ceramic tiles internally and externally made in a renovation in 1996. The external walls are in red and internal walls in white. The roof is with green glazed ceramic tiles with a pair of *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl in the middle. Above the doorway is a stone board with the name of the temple engraved on it flanked by a pair of couplets. Its front façade is with wall relief of auspicious birds, flowers, rocks and the Sun God (日神) and the Moon God (月神).

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Kwun Yam temple having at least 166 years of history to witness the development of the Wan.

Rarity

It is of little built heritage value due to its recent unsympathetic renovations.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Recent renovations in 1958 and 1996 have greatly impaired its authenticity.

Authenticity

Tai Sui (太歲) deity is also worshipped at the altar on the left whilst Choi Pak Sing Kwan (財帛星君) and Civil Wealth of God (文財神) are on the right. Other than the celebration of the Kwun Yam Festival (觀音誕) on the 19th of the second lunar month, three more are also on the 19th of the sixth, ninth and eleventh lunar months. Burning paper offerings are made on the 19th of the sixth lunar month or the 15th of the seventh lunar month (Ghost Festival, 盂蘭節). On

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

the 26th of the first lunar month, worshippers would also have the Kwun Yam's Treasury Opening Day of the Je Fu (借庫, Borrowing money from the Kwun Yam's Treasure Box) at the temple. At the Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) on a day of the first 10 days of the fourth lunar month, the Kwun Yam deity would be invited among other deities to attend the activities of the festival.