

Historic Building Appraisal
Pak Tai Temple
No. 146 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom

Pak Tai Temple (北帝古廟) at the corner of Ma Tau Wai Road (馬頭圍道) and Pak Kung Street (北拱街) of Hung Hom built in 1929 was for the worship of the Pak Tai deity. It is said that the temple was moved from a Pak Tai temple somewhere in Hok Yuen Street (鶴園街) which building materials were salvaged from the dilapidated Sheung Tai Temple (上帝古廟) on Lomond Road (露明道). It is also said that the temple might be one originally located on a hill at the junction of Tsing Chau Street (青州街) and Ma Tau Wai Road which was moved to the present site due to development. It could be that the present temple is the combination of the two Pak Tai temples as land was scarce in the area. The temple is managed by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會).

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan with a side chamber of equal length and a forecourt in its front. The open courtyard has been covered housing an altar for the Kwun Yam (觀音) deity. The side chamber is for the keeper's quarters, kitchen and toilet. An Earth God (土地) shrine is at the forecourt which was moved from Gillies Avenue (機利士街) of Hung Hom. The building is constructed of bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The front roof has been covered with green ceramic tiles. Its lower courses of its front wall are of granite and so is its doorframe. Its external walls are plastered. Its main ridge is decorated with two ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and geometric pattern at ridge ends. The main hall's ridge is with curling ends. At the end wall of the main hall is the altar house the statue of Pak Tai in the middle with Tai Sui (太歲) and Pau Kung (包公) on either side. A bell dated 1893 and an incense burner dated 1901 from other temples are on display at the temple.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Pak Tai temple to remind the history of Hung Hom.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The temple was not renovated in sympathetic condition very much affects its authenticity.

Authenticity

The Pak Tai deity has not been very much patronized by the worshippers recently. Kum Yam has been more popular for the Kwun Yam Treasury Open Day (觀音借庫) on the 26th of the first lunar month when the worshippers would

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

seek her blessing for wealth in the coming year. Some locals also place their ancestors' soul tablets at the corner of the temple and worship them at intervals and at festivals.