

Historic Building Appraisal

Tin Hau Temple

Nim Shue Wan, Lantau

Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) in Nim Shue Wan (稔樹灣), north-east of Lantau Island, was erected by villagers of Nim Shue Wan Tsuen (稔樹灣村) in its north. It is a small temple for the worship of Tin Hau built a short distance from the seashore facing north-east. Peng Chau (坪洲) island is in its east. Nim Shue Wan Tsuen was a small Hakka (客家) village in the 19th century but became deserted in the later years of the century because it was destroyed by a typhoon followed by a disease. Two families from Peng Chau settled in the village in 1946 and later with 21 families in 1955 most of them surnamed Tse (謝). They depended on fishing and agricultural farming. The population rose to some 200 people of 52 families in 1961 and later of about 500 people. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) the statue of Tin Hau was moved to Peng Chau by the villagers. Other than the deity, the Fook Tak Kung (福德公) and Shui Sin Ye (水仙爺, God of the Sea) are also worshipped at the temple.

***Historical
Interest***

Located on a terrace, the temple is accessed through a flight of concrete staircases on its left. The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a one-hall plan. It is constructed of granite blocks, red bricks and cement with its walls to support its pitched roofs. The walls are plastered and painted. Its recessed entrance has the name of the temple above the doorway. The altar at the end wall houses the statue of the Tin Hau deity in the middle with that of Fook Tak Kung on the left and that of Shui Sin Ye on the right. The altar is facing the entrance.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a Tin Hau temple to witness the settlement of the Nim Shue Wan Tsuen.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value

***Built Heritage
Value***

The temple was rebuilt twice, one in 1972 and the other one in 2003.

Authenticity

Sir Horace Kadoorie donated a sum of money for the construction of a pier at Nim Shue Wan Tsuen in 1955. The pier was named Kadoorie Pier to commemorate his contribution. The seawall of the village was seriously damaged by a typhoon in 1957. Sir Kadoorie again donated 780 bags of cement to the village for its renovation. Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) would be celebrated by the villagers on the 23rd of the third lunar month.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***