

Historic Building Appraisal

Sam Shan Kwok Wong Temple

No. 2 Ping Shek Estate, Kwun Tong Road, Ngau Chi Wan, Kowloon

Sam Shan Kwok Wong Temple (三山國王廟) at No.2 Ping Shek Estate (坪石邨), Ngau Chi Wan, is for the worship of Sam Shan Kwok Wong, literally meaning Kings of Three Mountains. The mountains are Du Shan (獨山), Ming Shan (明山) and Jin Shan (巾山) in Jieyang (揭陽縣) county of Chaozhou (潮州), Guangdong (廣東) province. The mountain deities (山神) were first worshipped by Chaozhou people in the Sui (隋, 581-618) dynasty and granted the king title in the Northern Song (北宋, 960-1127) dynasty. The temple is believed to be built 200 years ago worshipped by local Hakka (客家) and Chaozhou people. The temple was first managed by the Ngau Chi Wan Village (牛池灣村) but later joined by other 12 villages as an alliance. It is now managed by the Village again due to the dispersal of the alliance.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard between the two halls has been covered. The building is probably constructed of bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls have been plastered and painted. Its external walls are painted red and the wall of the recessed entrance is with imitation brick lines. The altar at the end wall of the middle bay houses the deity with Tai Sui (太歲) and Yuen Tan (玄壇) on the left and right. Its ridges are with geometric mouldings. A pair of ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl are on the two ridges. The gables and internal walls are with painted floral patterns. Wall friezes and a fascia board at the entrance are with landscape, dragon and floral paintings and carving.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is one of the Sam Shan Kwok Wong temples of the Hakka and Chaozhou people to witness the settlement and history of the area.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Renovations were made in 1946, 1956, 1970 and 1992 with some other unknown ones. The recent renovations are not properly made that would diminish the authenticity of the temple.

Authenticity

The two side halls of the temple housed a Lung Chi Primary School (龍池小學) which started in the 1860s teaching children in Hakka dialect. Cantonese was used starting from the 1920s. The school was closed in the early 1960s. The

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

birthday of the deity is on the 25th of the second lunar month when the villagers would come to give special offerings. On that day a *dit shing bui* ritual (跌聖杯), throwing of two wooden pieces, would be held to decide the new manager of the managing committee. Opera performances would also be held during the festival.