

Historic Building Appraisal

Tin Hau Temple

Muk Wu Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling

Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) in Muk Wu Tsuen (木湖村) is in the closed area of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺). It was built by villagers of the village where each family carried four thousand pieces of bricks from the nearby Muk Wu Nga Yiu (木湖瓦窯) village which produced the bricks. The temple was built around 1912-13. Mu Wu Tsuen was founded by the Tos (杜) some one hundred years ago. They were originated from Baoan (寶安) of Guangdong (廣東) province. It was a walled village with an entrance gate and four watch towers at its four corners. The temple is a short distance to its north-west.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular building of an unbalanced and asymmetrical layout. It has an entrance hall and a main hall with an open courtyard in between. To their left are three rooms and to the right is a kitchen. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are with a ratio of nine courses of stretchers to one course of header brick bonding (九順一丁). The statue of the Tin Hau deity is at the altar in the middle of the main hall. Wall paintings of bats, landscape and plants are above the altar. Above the doorway of the recessed entrance are wall friezes of dragons and landscape paintings. A fascia board in front of the paintings is with carvings of flowers and plants.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Tin Hau temple to witness the settlement of the villagers in Mu Wu Tsuen.

Rarity

The asymmetrical temple has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Minor cracks are found on its walls but with no immediate dangers. The temple has got no proper care and maintenance. Its authenticity is in general kept.

Authenticity

Muk Wu Tsuen was one of the villages of the Luk Yeuk (六約, Alliance of Six) of Ta Kwu Ling which was established in the Qing dynasty. The temple had the patronage of the villagers in the past but not that much recently. No large scale celebration of the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) has been held on the 23rd day of the third lunar month. Villagers rather go to the Tin Hau Temple in Ping Che (坪輦) for celebration.

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**