

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Fan Lau Miu Wan, Fan Lau, Lantau

Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Fan Lau Miu Wan (分流廟灣) of Fan Lau (分流), Lantau, was probably erected before the 25th year of the Jiaqing (嘉慶, 1820) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as a stone tablet of the temple has the year inscribed on it. The bay where it is located is named as the temple bay (Miu Wan) which is not inhabited. The bay to its north, Fan Lau Sai Wan (分流西灣), was inhabited by some 200 villagers who erected the temple. The village is now with only a few numbers of villagers. It is said that the temple might be built by the pirate Cheung Po-tsai (張保仔) for worship of the Tin Hau and as a watch-post.

***Historical
Interest***

Located on an elevated platform, the temple is built on the seashore facing the sea in the north-west direction. It is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall plan of three bays. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its timber rafters, purlins and ceramic tiles. One side chamber is on the left and right of the central halls. The symmetrical building has the altar at the end wall of the main hall housing a statue of the deity for worship. A deity's bed is on the left chamber whilst the right chamber is used as a storeroom. The walls of the temple have been plastered and painted in white colour. The wall friezes on the front façade are with colourful mouldings of landscape, figures, birds and others. The main ridge is with mouldings of a rolling dragon, two *aoyus* (鰲魚), and a pearl. The descending ridges are with red mouldings of *ruilongs* (夔龍).

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a Tin Hau temple to remind the history and settlement of Fan Lau.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value. The building has been unsympathetically renovated with its authenticity diminished.

***Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

Due to the remote location of the temple and the number of worshippers in Sai Wan is very limited, no big scale celebration would be held for the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕). At the Festival, the statue of the temple would be invited to the Tin Hau Temple in Tai O to attend the celebration including the Cantonese opera performances (神功戲) and others. Festivals of other deities in Tai O, the deity would also be invited to participate in the events organized.

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