

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Cha Kwo Ling Road, Cha Kwo Ling, Kowloon

The Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) now situated in Cha Kwo Ling Road (茶果嶺道) was built in **1948**. It is managed by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會). Built of masonry structure, Tin Hau Temple is located next to Cha Kwo Ling Village to worship Tin Hau, the Goddess of Sea. The Temple was officially opened by the then Secretary of Home Affairs in 1948 and has been managed by the Chinese Temples Committee (CTC) since then. *Historical Interest*

The old Tin Hau Temple in Cha Kwo Ling, which was situated near the coast, was believed to have been completed in the 25th year of Daoguang reign (道光廿五年, 1845) of Qing Dynasty. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by typhoon in 1912. It was not until 1941 that the local villagers of Si Shan (四山, literally “four hills” composing four villages in the area, namely, Lei Yue Mun 鯉魚門, Ngau Tau Kok 牛頭角, Sai Cho Wan 西草灣 and Cha Kwo Ling 茶果嶺) collected sufficient subscriptions to build a new temple. Later on, in 1947, the temple gave way for construction of an oil tank of Asiatic Petroleum Company (South China) Limited. At the request of the locals, the Government erected the present temple.

The temple is a Qing vernacular design building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard between the entrance and main halls has been covered. A side chamber on the right for service facilities is connected to the building. The building is constructed of granite blocks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its floors are also of granite blocks. Its roofs have been covered with brown ceramic tiles in a 1999 renovation. The main altar at the end wall of the middle bay in the main hall houses the statue of the Tin Hau for worship. A Tin Hau’s bed-chamber and the keeper’s quarters are respectively on the right and left of the entrance hall. The main ridge is with a set of ceramic ‘Two Dragons Competing for a Pearl’ (二龍爭珠) for decoration. At the recessed entrance the name of the temple is engraved in the lintel of the stone doorframe. *Architectural Merit*

The temple is of masonry structure which is rarely found in Hong Kong. *Rarity* (another stone temple is the Tin Hau Temple in Wong Lung Hang of Lantau).

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

It was renovated in 1987 and 1999 with some unknown ones. The temple has been modernized in its last renovation. This would diminish its authenticity.

Authenticity

The temple would be celebrated for the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd of the third lunar month with Cantonese opera performance (神功戲) at the spacious foreground in front of the temple. Kwun Yam (觀音) and Lo Pan (魯班) are also worshipped at the temple where craftsmen of the building industry would come to seek the blessing of the latter deity. Hakka (客家) people would come to sing folksongs at the Kwun Yam Festival (觀音誕) and boat people would hold dragon boat races at the Dragon Boat Festival (端午節).

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

The Temple is located next to Cha Kwo Ling Village, one of the four villages called collectively as Si Shan (四山). It is close to an attraction spot, the Stone of Fertility which is often visited by tourists as well as women who would seek its blessing for higher chance of pregnancy.

Group Value

The question of adaptive re-use does not arise at present.

***Adaptive
Re-use***