

Historic Building Appraisal

Yi Shing Temple

Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long

Yi Shing Temple (二聖宮) is situated between Wong Uk Tsuen (黃屋村) and Tsoi Uk Tsuen (蔡屋村) of Yuen Long. The temple is mainly for the worship of Hung Shing (洪聖) and Yeung Hau (楊侯) deities. The temple was probably built before 1924 as a renovation donation plaque has the dating. It is a temple of the Tung Tau alliance (東頭約) composing of seven villages next to the Yuen Long Kau Hui (元朗舊墟, Yuen Long Old Market). It is believed that the villagers worshipped the two deities, the Tai Wongs (大王, the Great Kings), since the early Guangxu (光緒, 1875-1909) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The temple is then also called Tai Wong Temple (大王廟). Other deities are also worshipped at the temple including the Earth God (土地) and the Shing Wong (城隍, deity of the city). The temple had much contribution from the villagers and shops in both the old and new markets of Yuen Long. It also had charges of ferries between the Old Market and the Yuen Long district until the 1950s. Patrol service charges called *xunding* (巡丁) among the Tung Tau Alliance villages was also made by the temple before the 1970s.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a two-hall Qing vernacular building of three-bay design. It is constructed on a high level which rear portion (the main hall) is higher than its front portion (the entrance hall). An open courtyard is between the entrance hall and the main hall. The three bays of the main hall are with altars for the deities. A walled front courtyard was added in front of its entrance in the later stage with its entrance switched to its left side wall. It was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs. The entire temple however was completely 'newly dressed' in a renovation in 2002. The walls were plastered and painted with false brick lines. The roofs were turned reinforced concrete. Its floors were finished with concrete screeding. Its ridges are with geometric and auspicious treasures pattern mouldings. Its wall friezes are with flowers, birds and grass mouldings.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a temple to remind the history of the Alliance villages.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value as the temple has been unsympathetically 'renewed'.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Its authenticity has been removed by the renovation.

Authenticity

The 1924 renovation was sponsored by many donors, including Jun Yuen Pawn House (晉源押) and Tung Yick Store (同益棧) of Yuen Long Kau Hui (元朗舊墟), as well as Hop Yick Company (合益公司) and Chai Chong Tong (濟眾堂) (a pharmacy owned by the elder brother of Chiu Lut-sau (趙聿修)) of Yuen Long San Hui (元朗新墟). *Social Value, & Local Interest*

The trust of the temple had sponsorship of education with donation of the construction cost of a classroom of the Ng Wo Public Primary School (五和公立學校) south-west of the temple in 1958. The trust of the temple had a credit society providing loans and saving for the Alliance's villagers. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year of the villages would be held between the 7th and 11th days of the first lunar month. At the Da Chiu (打醮) held once every ten years in Yuen Long, the two deities of the temple would be invited to take part in the celebrations and ceremonies.