

Historic Building Appraisal
Tung Shan Temple
Wing Ping Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long

Tung Shan Temple (東山古廟) in Wing Ping Tsuen (永平村) of San Tin (新田), Yuen Long, was built before the 20th year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1894) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as a stone tablet in the temple records its first renovation with the dating. It is the village alliance temple of all the Mans (文) in San Tin. They are the descendents Man Tin-shui (文天瑞), a blood brother of Man Tin-cheung (文天祥) who was a renowned patriot fighting with the Mongols to protect the Song Emperors in the late Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. Man Sai-gor (文世歌) was the first settler who moved from Tuen Mun (屯門) to San Tin in the Hongwu (洪武, 1368-1398) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. The main deity of the temple is Tin Hau (天后) and two others are Yeung Hau (楊侯) and Lung Mo (龍母, Dragon Mother) on either side of the main hall. The left cockloft of its front hall accommodates a Fui Sing Kok (魁星閣) for candidates to seek blessings so as to be successful in the Civil Service Examination. It has a round opening on the front wall. The right chamber of the front hall houses the Kwun Yam (觀音) and the Buddha. The Earth God (土地) deity is housed in the left chamber of the front hall.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. It has a symmetrical design which courtyard is between the entrance and the main hall. The altar of the Tin Hau is on the central axis of the building in the middle of the main hall facing the entrance at the opposite end. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The gables of the courtyard are with Ma Tau (馬頭, horse head) design. Its ridges are with plastered geometric mouldings. Its main ridge is also with a dragon head moulding. Wall friezes on the front façade are with mouldings of flowers, landscape and plants. Wall paintings above the name board at the entrance are with flowers and plants and landscape motifs.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a village alliance temple of the entire Man clan in San Tin having a noted significance.

Rarity

It is of great built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The roof purlins of the main hall have been replaced with other materials instead of timber. This would slightly diminish its authenticity.

Authenticity

It has distant group value with Tai Fu Tai (大夫第) in the same village.

Group Value

Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd day of the third lunar month would be celebrated. Fa Pow (花炮) competition was held at the festival but has been discontinued. Je Fu (借庫, borrowing money from the Kwun Yam deity) would be held on the 26th day of the first lunar month when worshippers make their wishes expecting to have luck in gaining more money in the coming year.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*