

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
No. 69B Wing On Street, Peng Chau

Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) in Wing On Street (永安街) of Peng Chau (坪洲) island was built in the 57th year of the Qianlong (乾隆, 1792) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty with the donation of two local Tankas (蛋家人) named Chau Hop-lei (周合利) and Lok Kwong-yan (駱廣仁). Peng Chau was mainly a fishing village which fishermen worshipped Tin Hau as their protector against all dangers and natural disasters. It is said that Tin Hau once protected the inhabitants from a looting from the pirate Cheung Po-tsai (張保仔) by raising strong wind destroying his ships. Hung Shing (洪聖) and Choi Pak Shing Kun (財帛星君) are also worshipped in the temple. The temple has been managed by the Chinese Temple Committee (華人廟宇委員會) since 1929. *Historical Interest*

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The courtyard between the entrance and main halls was covered. A side chamber to its left was built for use as the keeper's quarters and storage. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its internal walls have been with false brick lines. Its roofs have been covered with green ceramic tiles. Its gables are in 'Three Peaks Paying Tribute to Heaven' (三岳朝天式) style. Its main ridge is with geometric pattern, auspicious treasures and figures mouldings topped with two ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a firing pearl in the middle. Its name board is engraved on stone above the doorway flanked by a pair of couplets. *Architectural Merit*

It is the only Tin Hau temple on the island to witness the fishing settlement. *Rarity*

It has some heritage value. Its gable style is rare. *Built Heritage Value*

The temple was renovated in 1798, 1877 and 1998. The authenticity is kept. *Authenticity*

Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd of the third lunar month would be celebrated at the temple. Opera performances and Fa Pow (花炮) activities would be organized by the Peng Chau Rural Committee (坪洲鄉事委員會). During the Yu Lan Festival (盂蘭節) on the 7th of the seventh lunar month, a parade of the Tin Hau deity touring the streets on the island called 'Ma Hang Heung' (禡行鄉) is organized by carrying its statue on scaffold with lion and dragon dances. *Social Value, & Local Interest*