

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Shui Yuet Temple**  
**No. 90 Shan Tung Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon**

Shui Yuet Temple (水月宮), in Shan Tung Street (山東街), Mong Kok, is dedicated to Kwun Yam (觀音), the Goddess of Mercy. It was originally located at a knoll called Tai Shek Koo (大石鼓) at the junction of Waterloo Road and Argyle Street. Due to road construction work in 1926, the knoll was flattened and the temple was relocated to the present site in 1927. The cost was met by nearby shops, the Tung Wah Hospital (renamed the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in 1931) and the government. The original temple was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1884) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as the temple bell has the dating inscribed on it. Two side chambers, college (書院) and *kung so* (公所, community office), are respectively on the right and left of the temple. They are now used as the temple keeper's quarters and for the worship of the soul tablets of locals' ancestors. The temple is managed by the Tung Wah.

***Historical  
Interest***

The temple is a Qing vernacular design building of a two-hall plan of three bays. A small forecourt is in front of the temple with a sizable three-arched doorway in the form of a *pailau* (牌樓). Its wall is painted red with three green ceramic tiled roofs. The two side arched doorways have been blocked leaving the central one for entry. The temple building is probably constructed of bricks with its walls and columns to support its roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The entrance is supported by two granite columns with a bracket system. The name of the temple and those of the college and *kung so* are engraved respectively on the lintels of the entrances. The walls have been plastered and painted. The main altar in the middle bay of the end wall house the statue of the Kwun Yam with Lung Mo (龍母) and Pau Kung (包公) on her right and left. A pair of dragon fish locally known as *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl in ceramic are on the roof ridge of the entrance hall. Its roofs are laid with green ceramic tiles.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a Kwun Yam Temple to remind the development of the Mong Kok area. It has some built heritage value. The temple was renovated in 1954 and 2001 with some unknown ones, which has, to some extent, diminished its authenticity.

***Rarity, Built  
Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

The biggest event of recent years being the Treasury Open Day of Kwun Yam (觀音借庫) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month when worshippers would “borrow treasure (money)” from the deity in the beginning of the year. Four

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

festivals respectively of the deity's birth, ordination, deification and assumption as a sea-goddess on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the second, sixth, ninth and eleventh lunar months also attract a number of worshippers.

The temple is within walking distance of other historic buildings, including the All Saints' Cathedral (諸聖座堂, Grade 3) and the Tung Wah Museum (東華三院文物館, Declared Monument) ***Group Value***