

Historic Building Appraisal
Wing Shing Tong – Main Block & Kitchen Block
Sai Wan, Cheung Chau

Wing Shing Tong (永勝堂) in Sai Wan (西灣) of Cheung Chau (長洲) is a **Historical Interest** Taoist temple **built in 1925** by Law Cheong-hong (羅昌康), a female Taoist priest of Sin Tin Dao (先天道). Law studied Taoist doctrines at a Taoist temple in Hong Kong and in Cangxiadong (藏霞洞) in Qingyuan (清遠) of Guangdong (廣東) province. She returned to Hong Kong and purchased a land lot in 1922 on which she established the Tong with another female priest in Cheung Chau, namely, Tao Cheong-hing (杜昌興). The Tong was also used as a dormitory for spinsters. A small-sized Tei Mo Temple (地母廟) was built to the right of the Tong for the worship of Tei Mo Liang Liang (地母娘娘), a Taoist deity in charge of all things on earth. The statue of the deity was from Sichuan (四川) province.

The Tong is a detached building on a slope a short distance from the seashore facing the sea to the north. It is a two-storey Qing (清) vernacular building. The building was probably constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The external walls have been plastered with cement and painted in white. An altar on the ground floor houses the Kwun Yam (觀音) deity for worship. Another altar is with rows of soul tablets (some with photographs) for Fu Jian (附薦) worship. The bedrooms are left vacated and used for storage. The upper storey used as dormitory has left vacated. The recessed entrance has a *tanglung* (趟籠), a sliding wooden fence. A name board of the Tong is above the doorway and flanked with a pair of couplets. The ridge is without any decoration. A detached kitchen is at the back of the Tong. **Architectural Merit**

It is a Taoist temple to remind a part of the religious set up in Cheung Chau. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value. **Built Heritage Value**

Modern fixtures are made to the buildings. The building has been renovated with modern building materials diminishing its authenticity. **Authenticity**

Law had Taoist service at the Tong including Fu Jian, praying for the dead, until her death in 1937 at the age of 97. The Tong had up to 30 believers in the 1940-50s. It had its own land for the cultivation of its farming produce sufficient **Social Value, & Local Interest**

enough for their consumption. Like many Taoist temples, the Tong celebrates Yuen Siu Festival (元宵節), Chung Yuen Festival (中元節), Ha Yuen Festival (下元節), Thanksgiving Day (還神日) and Kwun Yam Festival (觀音誕).

Besides its neighbouring Sai Wan Tin Hau Temple (西灣天后廟), Wing Shing Tong is also close to other historic buildings in Cheung Chau graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board. Some of them include Yuk Hui Temple (玉虛宮), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖廟), Shui Yuet Temple (水月宮), Cheung Chau Police Station (長洲警署), Cheung Chau Government Secondary School (長洲官立中學), Cheung Chau Fong Pin Hospital (長洲方便醫院). All these buildings have good value from a heritage point of view. **Group Value**

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time. **Adaptive Re-use**