

Historic Building Appraisal

Entrance Gate, Tin Sam, Sha Tin

Tin Sam (田心) in Tai Wai (大圍) of Sha Tin was founded in the late Ming (明, 1368-1644) dynasty inhabited by the Chois (蔡), the Wais (韋), the Leungs (梁), the Tsangs (曾) and the Lius (廖). The Wais are said to be the earliest settlers. It was a Punti (本地) walled village and a moat built surrounding the village for its protection. The moat was later filled up and used as a fish pond. The entrance gate is at the southern boundary of the village erected in the Qing (清, 1644-1911) dynasty. It has been renovated numerous times and is still used as an in and out gate house of the village.

**Historical
Interest**

The entrance gate is connected to a house on either side, both are three-storey modern buildings. The gate is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall rectangular plan. It is constructed of green bricks and concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof of concrete. Its front doorway is in rectangular shape whilst its rear doorway in arched shape. Two rectangular holes are above the front doorways for *fung shui* benefit and for security watching. Inside the gate entrance on the left rear wall by the door is an Earth God (土地) niche with a red ceramic tiled offering table in its front. The front façade is with imitation green brick lines. Above the two holes is the name of the village engraved on a brown marble. Two rows of rhombus holes are at the internal door frames of the entrance showing that a wooden *tanglung* (趟籠) was installed at the entrance. It is internally plastered and covered with ceramic tiles on the walls and the floor. Its roof is covered with green glazed ceramic tiles and dippers. An Eight Diagrams (八卦) is placed at the opposite wall facing the rear entrance. It can be seen when approaching the gate.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an entrance gate to remind the settlement of Tin Sam of Tai Wai.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The building was modernized with the use of new building materials in a 1995 renovation. This has seriously undermined its authenticity.

Authenticity

The Che Kung Temple (車公廟) in Tai Wai was built and managed by the Tin Sam village. It however lost its entire managerial rights in the late 19th century. The temple has since then jointly managed by villages of the Kau Yeuk (九約), but the Tin Sam village still continued to enjoy some privileges in the

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

worship of the Che Kung. The Da Chiu (打醮) Festival of the village, organized every 10 years, was celebrated in December 2006.