

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chung Koon – Man Ching Lau
Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun

Ching Chung Koon (青松觀) is a Taoist monastery in Tuen Mun. It was established in 1960 in a site at Kei Lun Wai (麒麟圍) of Tuen Mun bought from a Catholic mission. The monastery developed from the Longmen Sub-sect (龍門派) of Quanzhen Sect (全真教) of the Taoism. A monastery of the Sub-sect called Chi Bao Tai (至寶台) was set up in Guangzhou (廣州) in 1941 by a Ho Kai-chi (何啓志) which had free Chinese medical service for the public. The monastery was closed in 1949 and Ho and many of his Taoist fellow believers fled to Hong Kong. A temple named Ching Chung Sin Koon (青松仙觀) was set up in Yau Ma Tei in 1951. His work was handed over to his fellow disciple Ip Sing-nam (葉星南) and the temple was moved to Nathan Road. Hau Bao-yuan (侯寶垣), a retired merchant devoted himself entirely to the service of the temple raised fund for the establishment of the monastery in Tuen Mun. A two-storey building of western style existed in the site was occupied by a nun. The building was constructed in the 1940s and became the Yee Wo Chai (怡和齋) of the monastery. Shun Yeung Din (純陽殿) was the first building completed by the monastery in December 1960. Other than buildings constructed for the worship of Taoism and with its services extended to the elderly, the poor and for ancestral worship, many buildings have been built in the compound.

***Historical
Interest***

Man Ching Lau (晚晴樓) building is the largest building of the Ching Chung Home for the Aged (青松安老院) and the tallest building in the compound. It is an L-shaped building of three storeys of western style with Chinese features constructed of concrete with its walls, columns and beams to support its flat roofs. It was built between 1964 and 1973. One staircase tower is on either side of the long wing of the building for access to each storey. The ground floor of the long wing has rooms for the male elderly whilst those on the first and second floors are for females. A kitchen, toilets, washrooms, rooms for the staff and storerooms are provided. The short wing has dining room on the first and second floors. Chinese eaves of green tiles and supporting brackets are on front and side elevations of the building for decoration. Convex decorative Chinese geometric, leafy, cloud and interlocking patterns are on facades of the building in traditional colours of red, green, yellow and brown. The walls of the long wing are painted in maroon whilst the rest are in white.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is one of the buildings of the Ching Chung Home for the Aged.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The building is in upkeep condition having its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The building has related group value with others in the Ching Chung Koon compound.

Group Value

The Koon began the social service of dispensing clothes and blankets to the poor followed by accommodating the aged with a home in the compound. Western medical service was launched in 1977 at the Wun Shui Tong (雲水堂) with minimal charges. The birthdays of the Taoist masters including Qiu Changchun (邱長春) and Wang Zhongyang (王重陽) are celebrated with Cantonese opera performances (神功戲), lion and dragon dances and vegetarian meals. Ritual ceremonies are also held at the Ching Ming Festival (清明節) and at the Feast of All Saints (中元法會) on 11-14th days of the seventh lunar month. The vegetarian meals and bonsai exhibition have attracted many locals and tourists to visit the monastery.

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