

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Ba Kong Temple**  
**Sha Lo Wan, Tung Chung, Lantau**

Ba Kong Temple (把港古廟) in Sha Lo Wan (沙螺灣), on the northern coast of Tung Chung (東涌), Lantau, was built in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the Qianlong (乾隆, 1774) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty for the worship of the Hung Shing (洪聖) deity who is the second most popular protector of fishermen and sea-farers. It was erected by villagers and fishermen of Sha Lo Wan Tsuen (沙螺灣村) to its southeast. It is said that the village was frequently caught by the wind causing much flooding disasters to the cultivated land due to the exposed coast. A priest suggested the villagers to build a temple of Hung Shing and gave them a portrait of the deity. They went to Xinan county (新安) and bought back a statue of the deity. The statue was in fact from Huangpu (黃埔). A temple was then erected for the villagers. It is called Ba Kong (literally meaning guarding the bay) as it was built for the protection of the Sha Lo Wan bay.

**Historical  
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall plan of a three-bay layout. It is constructed of green bricks with its wall to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The front façade is plastered and painted with imitation brick lines in a recent renovation. The statue of Hung Shing is at the altar of the middle bay guarded by two standing statues of a general and a judge of the under world in its front. The altars on the left and right bays respectively house the statues of God of Wealth (財帛星君) and Yue Tau Tai Wong (魚頭大王, King of Fish Head) for worship. The main ridge is decorated with mouldings of dragons with geometric patterns at its two ends. The right geometric pattern is topped with a ceramic Moon God (月神) whilst the left one with a Sun God (日神). A pearl is in the middle of the ridge flanked by a dragon and an *aoyu* (鰲魚) on its left and right. A pair of ceramic lions is standing on the left and right edge of the descending eave of the front façade. The stone lintel above the doorway at the recessed entrance is engraved with the name of the temple.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a Hung Shing temple to witness the settlement of Sha Lo Wan Tsuen.

**Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The temple was renovated in 1852 and rebuilt in 1968. It was again renovated in 1977, 1980 and 1998 with some unknown ones. The temple was expanded from a one-bay temple into a three-bay one in 1980. Its authenticity is kept.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the Tin Hau Temple to its left.

*Group Value*

The temple is managed by the Sha Lo Wan Rural Office (沙螺灣鄉公所) and the villagers. The villagers do not have celebration for the Hung Shing Festival (洪聖誕) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the second lunar month. They would have it on a day in the 7<sup>th</sup> lunar month by throwing the oracles (擲聖杯) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month. A small statue of the deity would be put on a sedan chair together with the parade touring round the village giving blessing to the villagers. Cantonese opera performances (神功戲) are also held during the celebration period. The statues of the deities of the Sam San Kwok Wong Temple (三山國王廟) in Sham Shek Tsuen (深石村), west of the village, are also invited to the celebration.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*