

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Luk Chau Village, Lamma Island

Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Luk Chau Village (鹿洲村), Lamma Island (南丫島), was constructed in the 7th year of the Tongzhi (同治, 1868) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as a bell in the temple has the dating inscribed on it. The village was established by fishermen of the village whose patron has been Tin Hau (天后), the most popular deity of fishermen and boat people in Guangdong (廣東) and Fujian (福建) provinces. Other deities including Pak Tai (北帝), Lung Mo (龍母), Kwan Tai (關帝) and the Earth God (土地) are also worshipped in the temple. The temple is managed by the local rural committee and indigenous villagers in Luk Chau Village. *Historical Interest*

The temple was a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan with an additional front hall and a covered courtyard added to its front in 1970. The new added structures are complementary to the old building. The old structure was built of stone with lime and mud bond them together having its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The present front façade is with a red wall having false brick lines. Its door frame is with granite slabs. The name of the temple is engraved on its lintel flanked by a pair of couplets. The fascia board and the wall friezes are in dragon motif. The main ridge is with geometric pattern moulding topped with ceramic 'Two Dragons Chasing a Pearl' (雙龍戲珠). In front of the temple is a pair of western style stone lions. Inside the temple, the altar is at the end wall with the Tin Hau statue displayed in the middle for worship. An incense burner offering table with the Eight Immortals (八仙) carving is in front of the altar having the dating the 28th year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1902) of the Qing dynasty engraved on it. *Architectural Merit*

It is one of the three Tin Hau temples on Lamma Island to remind the settlement of Luk Chau Village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The temple was extended in 1970 with minor repairs in 1989 and 1998. The authenticity had been undermined. *Authenticity*

Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd of the third lunar month is not celebrated by the villagers but on the 1st of the fifth lunar month instead. They have dragon boat competition rather than opera performance as the location is difficult to hold such performance. Fa Pow (花炮) activities are also held in the village for the celebration of the festival. *Social Value, & Local Interest*