

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chung Koon – Ching Wah Tong
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***

Ching Wah Tong (清華堂) is a two-hall building having a rectangular plan of five bays. The Tong is constructed of concrete and steel with its walls, columns and beams to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The Tong is for the worship of ancestral soul tablets. The front hall was first constructed in 1963 and the rear hall in 1971. A light well is between the two halls. The two pitched roofs are with green glazed ceramic tiles. The ends of the main ridges are with geometric mouldings. A pair of unicorns is at the end of the hip-end ridges. Five bays of red wooden folding doors are on the ground floor for entry. Convex and painted geometric, floral and interlocking patterns are on its external walls for decoration. Ancestral soul tablets are placed in rows on shelves of the walls for worship. The name board with the name of the Tong painted gold colour on red ground is hanged above the middle bay entrance.

***Architectural
Merit***

The Tong building is a hall for ancestral worship of the monastery.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The building is in good 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*