

Historic Building Appraisal

Cheung Fei Temple

No. 8 Shau Kei Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong

Six temples were built between 1969 and 1993 on a flattened hilltop of Shau Kei Wan Road (筲箕灣道) by the Shau Kei Wan Kaifong Advancement Association (筲箕灣街坊福利促進會). They include a Fuk Tak Temple (福德祠), a Kwan Tai Temple (關帝廟), a Kwun Yam Temple (觀音廟), a Hung Shing Temple (洪聖古廟), a Cheung Fei Temple (張飛廟) and a Lau Bei Temple (劉備廟). The first one (i.e. Fuk Tak Temple) having a history of over 100 years was originally at the eastern end of Shau Kei Wan Road. It was moved to Chai Wan Road in the 1930s. After the Second World War, it was moved to the present site due to development by the government.

*Historical
Interest*

Cheung Fei Temple was built in 1981. The three temples of Kwan Tai (also called Kwan Yu, 關羽), Cheung Fei (張飛) and Lau Bei (劉備) signify the traditional belief of their brotherhood, both are legendary heroes in the Three Kingdoms (三國, 220-280) Period. The Association has the thinking that the kaifongs' relationship is just like the three heroes that the three temples were built subsequently on the site.

Cheung Fei Temple is on the northern end of the site. It is a Chinese vernacular building with a one-hall plan. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof. The roof is covered with end-tiles having a fascia board of cloud motif. A flight of staircases is in front of its entrance for access. Its external walls are covered with yellow ceramic tiles whilst its internal walls with light grey ones. Its altar is at the end wall with the deity's statue in the middle for worship. An offering table is in front of the altar. The name board of the temple is engraved on a piece of white marble above the doorway flanked by a pair of couplets. Wall friezes on both side of the name board are landscape paintings. Two models of sitting tiger are guarding the doorway at the entrance.

*Architectural
Merit*

The temple bears witness to the historical development of Shau Kei Wan, which was the second largest village in Hong Kong Island in 1841, then having a population of 1,200. Most of the fishing folks were Hakkas (客家) and Tankas (蛋家).

Rarity

The temple probably has some heritage value. The authenticity of the temples is affected by the recent modernized renovation.

*Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

The temples are managed by the Shau Kei Wan Kaifong Advancement Association (筲箕灣街坊福利促進會) established in 1950. It has the function to solve the problems for local residents. The Nan On Fong Association (南安坊坊眾會) under its administration handles daily affairs to assist the locals. The Association erected the temples for the unification of the kaifongs like the brotherhood of Lau Bei, Kwan Yu and Cheung Fei.

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

The six temples are having related group value. Other temples such as Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟), Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) and Tam Kung Sin Shing Temple (譚公仙聖廟) can be found the area. In addition to the six temples situated on the site, the temples have a significant place in Shau Kei Wan.

Group Value

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

***Adaptive
Re-use***