

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Lau Bei 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*

**Lau Bei Temple** was built in 1993. 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.

**Lau Bei Temple** is a small modern structure with a hexagonal roof constructed of concrete with glass blocks and green ceramic window grilles for parts of its side walls. It has no door which altar housing the statue of the deity is facing the entrance. Its external walls are with red ceramic tiles and the name board of the temple is engraved on a piece of black marble above 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

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*

brotherhood of Lau Bei, Kwan Yu and Cheung Fei.

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***