

Historic Building Appraisal
Sin Hing Tung - Main Building
Tuen Fat Road, Tuen Mun

Sin Hing Tung (善慶洞) is a hostel for monasticism established by the Hong Kong Society for the Promotion of Virtue (香港道德會) in 1931. It was originally called the Tuen Mun Branch of Hong Kong Society for Promoting of Virtue (香港道德會屯門支會) and later renamed as such. The Society was developed from the Li Xian Tang (禮賢堂), a southeast division of Sin Tin Dao (先天道). The anti-superstition movement in the early 1920s in China had many Buddhist and Taoist monks and nuns fled to Hong Kong, Macau and the Southeast Asia. Law Wai-nam (羅煒南), chairman of the Li Xian Tang, and Au Lim-chuen (區廉泉) established the Society at Nos. 8 – 9 Tai Pak Terrace (太白臺), Sai Wan (西環). Due to further expansion of the Society and lack of a quiet place for monasticism, they bought a villa called Hoi Yuen (海園) in Wong Ka Wai (黃家圍) of Tuen Mun. It is not known when the villa was built. It was built by Weng Shiliang (翁釋亮), a subordinate officer of Li Fulin (李福林, 1873-1952) who was the Commander of the Fifth National Revolution Army of the Republic Government since 1926. The villa was later sold to a Tong Hoi-on (唐海安) and then to the Society. Other than the villa building of the Society, a Miu Kut Cheung (妙吉祥) building and a Ka Lok Tong building (嘉樂堂), columbaria, are on its left. The former was built in 1963 and the construction time of the latter is not known. A pavilion Sin Hing Pavilion (善慶亭) built in 1932 is in the northwest corner of the compound.

*Historical
Interest*

The Sin Hing Tung main building has been renovated many times since 1931. It was originally a pitched-roof building but turned into a concrete reinforced flat-roof one in 1995. An annex is connected to its right in 1964. The building has been strengthened structurally and dressed with modern building materials. It is a two-storey building blending of Chinese and western styles constructed of bricks and dressed stones. Its entrance bay is projected out of the flanking semi-hexagonal side bays on its left and right. The most outstanding feature of the building is the four layers of Chinese eave of green glazed tiles and red concrete rafter brackets at the entrance bay. Its top eave is decorated with a set of two ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl. Its external walls are with Shanghai plaster marked with imitation masonry courses. The annex to its right and a gateway to its left are both each having a roof similar to the entrance bay. Their doorways are arched and flanked by a couplet. The altar of the main hall on the ground floor houses the statues of Lui Cho (呂祖), Kwun Yam (觀音), Kwan Tai (關帝) and Buddha for worship. A dining room, rooms for services including

*Architectural
Merit*

kitchens, a storeroom and others at the back. Statues of Jade Emperor (玉皇大帝) and Wong Ling Kwun (王靈官) are on the main hall of the first floor. Halls for worshipping soul tablets, an office and bedrooms are at the back.

It is a Taoist hostel for monasticism to remind the development of the religion in Hong Kong. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

Expansion and renovation works were carried out in 1952, 1961, 1964, 1971, 1995 and 2001. Alteration work was carried out in the 1980s due to the resumption of two-third of its land by the government for the widening of the Castle Peak Road (青山公路). Its authenticity is affected due to its past alterations. **Authenticity**
Group Value

The Sin Hing Tung main building, Miu Kut Cheung building and the Ka Lok Tong building are having their related group value.

The Society adheres to the doctrines of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. The deities of the three religions are worshipped in the buildings. Four religious rituals are held for the Jade Emperor, the Ching Ming Festival (清明節), the Yun Lan Festival (盂蘭節) and for the God of Measure (斗神). Before the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) the Society provided free school education for the area. It was discontinued after the war. Social and charitable services are provided for the public including free coffins, funeral charges, catering of vegetarian meals, religious rituals and others. **Social Value, & Local Interest**