

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Sam Shing Temple

#### Tuen Tsz Wai, Tuen Mun

Sam Shing Temple (三聖宮) in Tuen Tsz Wai (屯子圍) of Tuen Mun was built by the To (陶) clan of the area whose ancestral hall is on its left. The temple was constructed of *fung shui* reason in the Yongzheng (雍正, 1723-1736) and Qianlong (乾隆, 1736-1795) reigns of the Qing (清) dynasty housing the Marshal Yuen Tan Fuk Fu (玄壇伏虎元帥), Hung Shing (洪聖) and Yeung Hau (楊侯). The Tos moved to Tuen Mun in the Ming (明, 1368-1644) dynasty and later established five villages. The ancestral hall was built in the 57<sup>th</sup> year of the Kangxi (康熙, 1718) reign of the Qing dynasty. When the temple was built, the deity Fuk Fu General (Tiger Suppressing General) was first invited to suppress the tiger vein of the nearby mountain. Hung Shing, an emperor deity, and Hau Wong were later invited to the temple as well. Since the ranking different, the statue of the Hung Shing was placed in the middle with those of the General and Hau Wong (侯王) on his left and right.

**Historical  
Interest**

The temple is a Qing design vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The narrow courtyard is between the two halls. The temple was rebuilt in 1993 with the use of modern materials including concrete and steel bars but still maintaining the shape of the old building having pitched roofs. The internal and external walls are with imitation brick lines and its lower courses of its external walls are with granite tiles. Its roofs are covered with green ceramic tiles. Its ridges are with flowers and birds and geometric pattern mouldings. Wall friezes at its recessed entrance are with mouldings of curtains, bats and flowers. Its gable walls are with mouldings of plums and chrysanthemum. The altars at the end walls of the main hall house the statues of the three deities with others including Lady Ka Fa (金花娘娘), Kam Fa Tai Sui (金花太歲), the Earth God (土地) and others.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a temple to witness the settlement of the Tos.

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The temple was rebuilt in 1993 very much diminished its authenticity.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the To Ancestral Hall next door.

**Group Value**

Dim Dang (點燈) rituals would be held at the temple (and also at the Hau Kok Tin Hau Temple 口角天后廟 and the Ching Wan Koon 青雲觀 of the Tsing Shan Monastery 青山禪院) for the Tos starting from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the twelfth lunar month until the 16<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month with lanterns lit up for the new born baby boys of the previous year. Da Chiu (打醮) held once every ten years would be organized by the Tos. The deities of the temples would be invited to attend all the celebrations of the festival. The temple was a temporary hostel of a number of ironsmiths from Yuen Long for the repair of iron utensils such as woks (鑊), farming and cooking tools. They had quilt cotton softening (棉胎) business in the winter.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*