

Historic Building Appraisal

Tin Hau Temple

Nos. 56-58 Castle Peak Road, Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan

Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) at Pak Sha Wan (白沙灣) of Tsing Lung Tau (青龍頭), Tai Lam Chung (大欖涌), was erected in the 24th year of the Jiaqing (嘉慶, 1819) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as a bell in the temple has the year inscribed on it. The temple was erected by villagers of Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen (青龍頭村) which is in the north-east of the temple. The temple was at the seashore facing the sea in the south-east. It is now blocked by the Castle Peak Road (青山公路) constructed between the temple and the seashore. The right chamber of the temple has a stone tablet to commemorate an unknown chaste woman who drowned herself to death at the sea opposite the temple. The tablet was given by Qing officials in the 9th year of the Tongzhi (同治, 1870) reign.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular design building having a two-hall plan of a three-bay layout. The simple building is probably constructed of granite blocks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, rectangular purlins and clay tiles. The walls are with thick plaster and painted in yellow and red colours. The three bays are partitioned with walls which three entrances are all recessed. All the altars of the three bays are at the end walls of the end halls. The middle one houses a statue of Tin Hau whilst the one on the left houses that of Lady Kam Fa (金花娘娘). The right one houses those of Kwun Yam (觀音), Chai Kung (濟公) and Wah Tor (華佗) deities. The floors are screeded and painted. Name boards '天后宮' (Tin Hau Temple), '貞烈祠' (Temple for the Chaste Woman) and '金花廟' (Temple of Lady Kam Fa) are respectively above the doorways of the middle, right and left bays. The entire temple is covered with a corrugated structure.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Tin Hau temple to witness the settlement of Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen and the area.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The temple was renovated in 1889, 1987 and 2002 with some other unknown ones. Its authenticity is barely kept.

Authenticity

Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) would be celebrated on the 23rd of the third lunar month with lion and unicorn dances. Offerings including roasted pigs, fruits, chickens and others would be made to the deity. Open Treasury of Kwun Yam (觀音借庫) would be held on the 26th of the first lunar month where red papers of different amounts would be put in a box at the temple. The worshippers would pick up one from the box symbolizing their borrowing money from the deity. They would 'return the borrowed money' by burning paper money to the deity.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*