

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Ching Chung Koon – Yee Wo Chai**  
**Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun**

Ching Chung Koon (青松觀) is a Taoist monastery in Tuen Mun. It was established in 1960 in a site at Kei Lun Wai (麒麟圍) of Tuen Mun bought from a Catholic mission. The monastery developed from the Longmen Sub-sect (龍門派) of Quanzhen Sect (全真教) of the Taoism. A monastery of the Sub-sect called Chi Bao Tai (至寶台) was set up in Guangzhou (廣州) in 1941 by a Ho Kai-chi (何啓志) which had free Chinese medical service for the public. The monastery was closed in 1949 and Ho and many of his Taoist fellow believers fled to Hong Kong. A temple named Ching Chung Sin Koon (青松仙觀) was set up in Yau Ma Tei in 1951. His work was handed over to his fellow disciple Ip Sing-nam (葉星南) and the temple was moved to Nathan Road. Hau Bao-yuan (侯寶垣), a retired merchant devoted himself entirely to the service of the temple raised fund for the establishment of the monastery in Tuen Mun. A two-storey building of western style existed in the site was occupied by a nun. The building was constructed in the 1940s and became the Yee Wo Chai (怡和齋) of the monastery. Shun Yeung Din (純陽殿) was the first building completed by the monastery in December 1960. Other than buildings constructed for the worship of Taoism and with its services extended to the elderly, the poor and for ancestral worship, many buildings have been built in the compound.

***Historical  
Interest***

Yee Wo Chai building is a two-storey western building, the oldest in the compound. It was constructed of concrete with its walls to support its flat roof. The original building was probably a two-storey structure with a verandah on the ground floor and a balcony on the upper floor. Its entrance is on the west elevation. The verandah and the balcony were blocked and a similar-sized block of two storeys was added connecting to its north. An entry porch was added to its east elevation for the present-day entrance topped with an open balcony on the upper floor. The ground floor has the monastery's offices and dining rooms with toilets. Its upper floor is with rooms for visiting monks. The external walls are plastered and painted with cream colour. Its entrance is with the building's name above the doorway flanked by a couplet. The porch is with a board engraved with '知客' (Visitors' Room) characters in yellow on green background.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a building of western style reminisced the era before the site occupied by the monastery.

***Rarity***

It has considerable built heritage value.

***Built Heritage  
Value***

The authenticity is kept despite its alteration.

***Authenticity***

The building has related group value with others in the Ching Chung Koon compound.

***Group Value***

The Koon began the social service of dispensing clothes and blankets to the poor followed by accommodating the aged with a home in the compound. Western medical service was launched in 1977 at the Wun Shui Tong (雲水堂) with minimal charges. The birthdays of the Taoist masters including Qiu Changchun (邱長春) and Wang Zhongyang (王重陽) are celebrated with Cantonese opera performances (神功戲), lion and dragon dances and vegetarian meals. Ritual ceremonies are also held at the Ching Ming Festival (清明節) and at the Feast of All Saints (中元法會) on 11-14<sup>th</sup> days of the seventh lunar month. The vegetarian meals and bonsai exhibition have attracted many locals and tourists to visit the monastery.

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