

Historic Building Appraisal
Hung Shing Temple
Tung Lung Chau, Sai Kung

Tung Lung Chau (東龍洲) is a barren island east of Hong Kong Island. The island served as a marine guard post to protect the waters as a Tung Lung Fort (東龍炮台) was built in the Qing (清) dynasty on its north-east. Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮) on the north-west coast of the island is built on a terrace close to the sea facing west. The place where the temple is located is called Nam Tong (南堂) inhabited by a Hakka (客家) family Lam (林) who offered shipping services subsisted with pig and poultry rearing and grass-cutting. The temple was built before 1931 as a stone tablet of its renovation has the dating inscribed on it. It is not clear whether this temple is the Tai Wong Temple (大王廟) mentioned in the *Gazetteer of Guangdong* (廣東通志) published in 1864 nor it is the temple built in 1890s by Li Zhun (李準), the Naval Viceroy of Guangdong (廣東水師提督) province, mentioned by Professor Yiu Chung-yi (饒宗頤教授).

Historical Interest

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan of three bays. A side chamber is on the left and right of the hall. It is constructed of granite blocks with its walls to support its flush gable pitched roofs. The Hung Shing deity is housed at the altar of the end wall whilst the Kwun Yam (觀音) and Tin Hau (天后) deities at the altar of the left and right chambers respectively. A huge rock is protruding from the rear wall of the right chamber which is called Holy Rock (聖石) by the worshippers. The walls are plastered and its floors cement screeded. The temple is with little decoration. Its ridges are partially painted with red colour. The name of the temple is engraved on the stone lintel flanked by a pair of couplets.

Architectural Merit

It is a Hung Shing temple to remind the history of the island

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The temple was renovated in 1970, 1980s, and 1997. The authenticity is barely kept.

Authenticity

Hung Shing Festival (洪聖誕) on the 12th of the second lunar month would be celebrated but not that much as in the past. Land worshippers travelled with boats along the bay burning paper offerings to the deity. Tanka (疍家) people invited Nam Mo (喃嘸) priests to perform rituals at the temple and had vegetarian and other dishes.

Social Value, & Local Interest