

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
No. 9 Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley, Wan Chai, H.K.

Tam Kung Temple (譚公廟) on Blue Pool Road (藍塘道) of Happy Valley was constructed on a small hill accessible through a flight of staircases. It was built in the 27th year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1901) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty by the Hakkas (客家人) of the Wong Nai Chung Village (黃泥涌村) as a bell in the temple has the dating inscribed on it. The temple was originally at the hill slope of the present Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital (養和醫院) site. Wong Nai Chung Village was settled by the Ngs (吳) and Yips (葉), both Hakkas from the mainland. The Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) is on the left of the Tam Kung Temple erected for the worship of Tin Hau with Tai Sui (太歲), Wong Tai Sin (黃大仙) and other deities.

*Historical
Interest*

The Tin Hau Temple is a small Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its flat roofs. The walls are with imitation brick lines. The altar is at the end wall of the building housing the statue of the Tin Hau deity in the middle. Its roof edges are with geometric mouldings. The name board of the temple is above the doorway. Two rectangular windows are on both side of the doorway.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is a Tin Hau temple erected by the Hakkas of the perished Wong Nai Chung Village.

Rarity

It has considerable built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The temple was renovated in 1928 with many unknown ones. The last one has modernized the temple with its authenticity diminished.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Tam Kung Temple to its left.

Group Value

Due to urban development the Wong Nai Chung Village was replaced with residential buildings in the 1920s. The temple has been managed by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會) since 1929 which is taken care of by a keeper. The Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd of the third lunar month would be celebrated with special offerings. The Tam Kung Festival (譚公誕) would be celebrated in every even year and the Pak Tai Festival (北帝誕) on the 3rd of the third lunar month in the odd year. Lion dance would be organized during the celebration with the statues of the two deities carried on a sedan chair to tour round Happy valley.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*