

Historic Building Appraisal
Hung Shing Temple
Tung O, Lamma Island

Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮) in Tung O (東澳) of Lamma Island (南丫島) was built by indigenous villagers of the area for the worship of Hung Shing deity in the 4th year of the Daoguang (道光, 1824) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty as its cloud gong (雲板) has the dating inscribed on it. Early settlers of Tung O originated from Baoan (寶安) of Guangdong (廣東) province engaged themselves in fishing and farming. Hung Shing is the second most popular deity worshipped by fishermen and sea-farers. He was a governor of the Tang (唐, 618-907) dynasty reputed for his expertise in geography and astronomy and his accurate predication of weather. The temple is managed by indigenous villagers of Tung O. *Historical Interest*

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan constructed on a levelled terrace a short distance from the beach facing north to the sea. It is located far away from the Tung O village houses. It is accessed through a flight of staircases to its left. The building is constructed of stones with lime and mud to bond them together with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its walls have been strengthened with concrete, plastered and painted in white colour. A portion of its roof has been replaced with corrugated sheets. Its door frame is with granite slabs. The name of the temple is engraved on its lintel flanked with a pair of couplets cut on wood. The altar is at the end wall of the building with the statue of Hung Shing deity facing the entrance. No elaborate decoration is with the temple. Its ridges are painted in red with a green boarding. *Architectural Merit*

It is the only Hung Shing temple on the island to reflect the settlement of Tung O. *Rarity*

It is a simple temple of little built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

During the repairs in the 1990s, the roof was covered by asbestos boards and some of the timber rafters were replaced by iron bars. Another repair was carried out in 2001. The works have undermined the authenticity of the temple. *Authenticity*

No large scale celebration is held at the temple for the Hung Shing Festival (洪聖誕) as most of the villagers have not got the passion as in the past. The deity would be given offerings at the festival. At Ching Ming (清明節) and *Social Value, & Local Interest*

Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節) and in the Chinese New Year, the villagers would make offerings seeking Hung Shing's blessing at the temple.