

Historic Building Appraisal
Kuen Yuen Tung Monastery – Kwan Tong & the Dormitory
No. 138 Lo Wai, Tsuen Wan

Kuen Yuen Tung Monastery (乾元洞) in Lo Wai (老圍), Tsuen Wan, is a **Historical Interest** Taoist temple erected in 1958 by Yip Chak-lam (葉澤霖), a Taoist priest of the Tung Sin Se Sect (同善社) which advocates the harmonization of the Three Teachings of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism (三教合一). Yip was a follower of Huilonglaoren (迴龍老人) who was a worshipper of Xin Tin Dao (先天道) and established the Tung Sin Se Sect. Yip became a priest at 24 in Guangdong (廣東), came to Hong Kong in the 1950s and started his preaching business. Two separate smaller buildings to its left, Kwan Tong (坤堂) and a dormitory, both for female worshippers, were added in 1977. Kwan Tong was originally located at Lun Cheung Street (麟祥街) of To Kwa Wan (土瓜灣) and is managed by a worshipper called Tong Siu-kwan (湯兆群). The monastery is open only to worshippers of the sect and should be applied in advance. It is regarded as a memorial hall of its founder, Yip Chak-lam.

Kwan Tong is a one-storey building in rectangular plan. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its roof. The external walls are plastered and painted in cream colour. The name of the building is engraved on the façade of the building. The building is mainly for worship by female worshippers. It has no partition with the altar at the end wall in the middle facing the entrance. A portrait of Huilonglaoren, the chief master (師尊) of the monastery, and the names of other deities written on a piece of paper are at the altar for worship with an offering table in its front. The internal walls and the floors are with ceramic tiles. The dormitory houses two worshippers only who have been residing there for more than ten years. It housed some 10 worshippers in the old days. **Architectural Merit**

The monastery is a Taoist temple to witness the development of Taoism in Hong Kong. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

It is in good condition. Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the main building.

Group Value

Most of the important ceremonies and rituals of the sect are held in the headquarters of the monastery on Hong Kong Island. Worshippers from Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand made visits to the headquarters. The monastery has participated a number of community services including donations to the Project Hope (希望工程) for the building of three schools in Guangdong province including one called Kuen Yuen Tung Hope Primary School (乾元洞希望小學) in Meihuazhen (梅鎮花) of Lechangshi (樂昌市).

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