

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chung Koon – Yi Yi Yat Yuen
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***

Yi Yi Tat Yuen (頤怡逸園) behind Yik Fa Kung (翊化宮) comprises two dining rooms for the visitors and worshippers of the monastery was built probably between 1960 and 1979. A kitchen in irregular plan to its left is connected to the building. Access through a flight of staircases, its entrance is an arched opening with floral mouldings on the arch and a couplet on the columns. The name of the dining halls is engraved on the parapet above the arch. The building is constructed of concrete with its walls and beams to support its flat roofs. Internally it has false ceilings with air conditioning. Its walls and floors are with ceramic tiles and wall papers. The external walls are plastered and painted with earth yellow colour.

***Architectural
Merit***

The Yi Yi Yat Yuen and the kitchen are the service blocks of the monastery.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The buildings are in upkeep condition having its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The buildings have related group value with others in the Ching Chung Koon *Group Value* compound.

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. *Social Value, & Local Interest* 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 11-14th days of the seventh lunar month. The vegetarian meals and bonsai exhibition have attracted many locals and tourists to visit the monastery.