

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Man Mo Temple**  
**Pak Ngan Heung, Mui Wo, Lantau**

Man Mo Temple (文武廟) of Pak Ngan Heung (白銀鄉) village is in the north-east of Mui Wo (梅窩), Lantau. It was probably built before the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1901) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The temple for the worship of Man Cheong (文昌, a civil deity) and Kwan Tai (關帝, a martial deity) was erected by the villagers to settle disputes amongst the villagers. The former deity is also worshipped for the academic achievements especially expecting success in the Imperial Civil Service Examination of the Qing government and the latter deity for the protection of those in the forces, police, martial arts and traders. *Historical Interest*

The temple is a Qing vernacular design building having a two-hall plan. A flat-roof chamber was added on its left for service use. It was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs. The statues of the two deities are on the altar at the end wall of the main hall. The building is with cat-crawling (貓拱背式) gable walls. A major renovation in 1960 has modernized the temple. The roofs are strengthened with reinforced concrete. The walls are plastered and painted. The roofs are with green ceramic glazed tiles. The main ridge is with a set of ceramic 'Two Dragons Competing a Pearl' (二龍爭珠) for decoration. The granite doorframe at the recessed entrance is with a couplet. The name of the temple is engraved on the lintel. Wall paintings of landscape and historic themes are on the front façade. Wall paintings of landscape motif are on the gables. *Architectural Merit*

It is a Man Mo temple to remind the settlement and history of Mui Wo. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

It was renovated in 1960 and rebuilt in 2001. Its authenticity has diminished. *Authenticity*

Festivals of the Man Cheong (文昌誕) and Kwan Tai (關帝誕) are celebrated on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of the fifth and sixth lunar months respectively. Worshippers would worship the deities with offerings seeking their blessing at the temple. Cantonese opera performances (神功戲) were held at the open ground in front of the temple but have been discontinued. The temple is administrated by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會). *Social Value, & Local Interest*