

Historic Building Appraisal
Sin Hing Tung – Ka Lok Tong
Tuen Fat Road, Tuen Mun

Sin Hing Tung (善慶洞) is a hostel for monasticism established by the Hong Kong Society for the Promotion of Virtue (香港道德會) in 1931. It was originally called the Tuen Mun Branch of Hong Kong Society for Promoting of Virtue (香港道德會屯門支會) and later renamed as such. The Society was developed from the Li Xian Tang (禮賢堂), a southeast division of Sin Tin Dao (先天道). The anti-superstition movement in the early 1920s in China had many Buddhist and Taoist monks and nuns fled to Hong Kong, Macau and the Southeast Asia. Law Wai-nam (羅煒南), chairman of the Li Xian Tang, and Au Lim-chuen (區廉泉) established the Society at Nos. 8 – 9 Tai Pak Terrace (太白臺), Sai Wan (西環). Due to further expansion of the Society and lack of a quiet place for monasticism, they bought a villa called Hoi Yuen (海園) in Wong Ka Wai (黃家圍) of Tuen Mun. It is not known when the villa was built. It was built by Weng Shiliang (翁釋亮), a subordinate officer of Li Fulin (李福林, 1873-1952) who was the Commander of the Fifth National Revolution Army of the Republic Government since 1926. The villa was later sold to a Tong Hoi-on (唐海安) and then to the Society. Other than the villa building of the Society, a Miu Kut Cheung (妙吉祥) building and a Ka Lok Tong building (嘉樂堂), columbaria, are on its left. The former was built in 1963 and the construction time of the latter is not known. A pavilion Sin Hing Pavilion (善慶亭) built in 1932 is in the northwest corner of the compound.

***Historical
Interest***

Ka Lok Tong building is at the back of Miu Kut Cheung. It is a one-storey flat-roof building of modern western style. It was built after 1964 and a renovation was carried out in 1980. It is constructed of concrete with ceramic tiles on its external walls. A plaque inscribed with the name of the building is above its doorway. Two red columns are embedded at the rear corners of the building. The building is for the worship of ancestral soul tablets.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a part of the Sin Hing Tong having a less significant historic value.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

Expansion and renovation works were carried out in 1952, 1961, 1971, 1980, 1995 and 2001. Alteration work was carried out in the 1980s due to the resumption of two-third of its land by the government for the widening of the Castle Peak Road (青山公路).

Authenticity

The Sin Hing Tung main building, Miu Kut Cheung building and the Ka Lok Tong building are having their related group value. *Group Value*

The Society adheres to the doctrines of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. The deities of the three religions are worshipped in the buildings. Four religious rituals are held for the Jade Emperor, the Ching Ming Festival (清明節), the Yun Lan Festival (盂蘭節) and for the God of Measure (斗神). Before the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) the Society provided free school education for the area. It was discontinued after the war. Social and charitable services are provided for the public including free coffins, funeral charges, catering of vegetarian meals, religious rituals and others. *Social Value, & Local Interest*