

Historic Building Appraisal
To Tei Temple
No. 38 Stanley Main Street, Stanley

To Tei Temple (土地廟) in Stanley Main Street (赤柱大街) of Stanley was originally a matshed for the worship of the Earth God (土地) which has been in existence for a lengthy period. The temple was erected with funds raised by a Ma (馬) family and some kaifongs which construction was completed in 1981. The deity is in the form of a stone painted red which appearance image is common throughout the territory. Stanley was a sizable village with a population of 2,000 in 1841. It was a fishing village which inhabitants came from Guangdong (廣東) and Fujian (福建) provinces. The fishing folks built for themselves the Tin Hau (天后), Kwun Yam (觀音) and Pak Tai (北帝) temples of their patron deities. The Earth God is a low ranking deity and most of the inhabitants have their shrines in their residence. A separate temple erected purely for the Earth God is rare, most of them are in the form of shrines or sheds.

*Historical
Interest*

The temple is a small Qing (清) vernacular one-hall structure built of concrete. It has a pitched roof of timber rafters, round fir purlins and corrugated sheets. At the end wall of red ceramic tiles is the altar which houses a stone painted red and also a statue of the Earth God with an incense burner and offerings in their front. Its external and internal walls are plastered and painted white colour. Its floor is cement screeded. Its ridge and roof are painted green and with green corrugated sheets.

*Architectural
Merit*

To Tei temple is rare in Hong Kong though its age is young.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value as of its humble structure.

*Built Heritage
Value &*

It is in good condition.

Authenticity

The Earth God birthday is on the 2nd of the second lunar month. It however is not celebrated at the temple. The inhabitants worship normally on the first and fifteen of each lunar month and at festivals especially during the Chinese New Year.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*