

Historic Building Appraisal
Earth God Shrine
Wang Long, Lamma Island

Wang Long (橫壟) village is in the southeast of Yung Shue Wan (榕樹灣), Lamma Island. It is said that the village has a history of 300 years first inhabited by the Chau (周) coming from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province. Chau Wai-hon (周維翰) settled in the village and so were two of his brothers in other two villages, Tung O (東澳) and Ko Long (高壟), on the island. Another brother settled in Wong Chuk Hang San Wai (黃竹坑新圍, or Hong Kong Wai (香港圍)) of the Hong Kong Island. Two shrines were constructed in the village, one at the mouth of the village called Tai Wong (大王), and the other the Earth God (土地) shrine. The former is bigger than the latter. They were built when the village was established.

Historical Interest

The Earth God shrine is in the central part of the village. It is a Qing (清) vernacular structure in the form of an armchair facing southwest. It is constructed of stone and rendered with cement. Its back is in a rough triangular form with a stone in its front for worship. In front of the stone is an incense trough for holding incenses and on its left at the side arm is a small hole for paper burning. The spacious raised offering portion of the shrine provides abundant space for displaying offerings such as papers, fruits, roasted pork, chickens and vegetables for the deity.

Architectural Merit

It is an Earth God shrine to witness the history of the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The shrine is rendered with cement becoming a recent renovated structure. It does not have its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The Earth God shrine is also commonly known as To Dei Kung (土地公) or Bak Gong (伯公). The Earth God and Tai Wong deities served as to protect the villagers from natural disasters and safeguard them to have agricultural fertility and fruitful harvests. The Earth God deity is in the form of a stone, not an uncommon form in the territory. The shrine had the worshipped of the villagers on the 1st and 15th days of each lunar month, at festivals and at celebrations of the villagers' weddings, birthdays, birth of new born babies and death of villagers with special offerings. As most of the indigenous villagers have moved out of the island, the shrine has minimal worships and offerings.

Social Value, & Local Interest