

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Che Kung Temple

#### Ho Chung Road, Sai Kung

Che Kung (車公), the main deity worshipped at the temple, was legendarily a general in the Song (宋, 960-1279) dynasty famous for his power to suppress plagues and skill in medicine. The temple was erected for his patron on health and wealth. The Che Kung Temple (車公古廟) in Ho Chung (蠔涌), Sai Kung, was built before the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1904) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty . It is said that a plague broke out in Sha Tin in the Qing dynasty and the Sha Tin inhabitants sought the deity to suppress the disease. It was refused by the Ho Chung villagers and only the statue of the deity's grandson was allowed to go to Sha Tin. The plague stopped on his arrival and a temple of Che Kung in Sha Tin was built. The two Che Kung temples, in Sha Tin and Sai Kung, are the only temples of the type in Hong Kong. Other deities worshipped at the temple include Hung Shing (洪聖), Tin Hau (天后) and Choi Pak Shing Kun (財帛星君).

**Historical  
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall plan of three bays. The symmetrical design temple has the altar of the Che Kung at the end wall of the main hall. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Two storerooms are on the left and right of the main hall and the entrance hall. A courtyard is between the store rooms. The external and internal walls have been plastered. Its floors have been with cement screeding. The name of the temple is engraved on the stone lintel of its recessed entrance. Its ridge is decorated with a pair of ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) with a pearl in the middle. Its descending ridges are with a Sun God (日神) and a Moon God (月神). Wall friezes on its front façade are with mouldings of flowers and birds. The gables of the courtyards are in cat-crawling design.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is one of the two Che Kung temples in Hong Kong and is the oldest.

**Rarity**

It has high built heritage value

**Built  
Heritage**

The temple was renovated in 1908, 1994 and 2002 among some others unknown ones. The authenticity is in general kept.

**Value  
Authenticity**

Che Kung Festival (車公誕) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the first lunar month will be highly celebrated with heavy offerings. Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) held once every ten years would be organized by the temple in the open space around the temple with three days and four nights of Chinese opera performance (神巧戲). The deity is invited to the performance shed to enjoy the show.

***Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest***