

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chung Koon – Shun Yeung Din
Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun

Ching Chung Koon (青松觀) is a Taoist monastery in Tuen Mun. It was established in 1960 in a site at Kei Lun Wai (麒麟圍) of Tuen Mun bought from a Catholic mission. The monastery developed from the Longmen Sub-sect (龍門派) of Quanzhen Sect (全真教) of the Taoism. A monastery of the Sub-sect called Chi Bao Tai (至寶台) was set up in Guangzhou (廣州) in 1941 by a Ho Kai-chi (何啓志) which had free Chinese medical service for the public. The monastery was closed in 1949 and Ho and many of his Taoist fellow believers fled to Hong Kong. A temple named Ching Chung Sin Koon (青松仙觀) was set up in Yau Ma Tei in 1951. His work was handed over to his fellow disciple Ip Sing-nam (葉星南) and the temple was moved to Nathan Road. Hau Bao-yuan (侯寶垣), a retired merchant devoted himself entirely to the service of the temple raised fund for the establishment of the monastery in Tuen Mun. A two-storey building of western style existed in the site was occupied by a nun. The building was constructed in the 1940s and became the Yee Wo Chai (怡和齋) of the monastery. Shun Yeung Din (純陽殿) was the first building completed by the monastery in December 1960. Other than buildings constructed for the worship of Taoism and with its services extended to the elderly, the poor and for ancestral worship, many buildings have been built in the compound.

***Historical
Interest***

The present Shun Yeung Din was rebuilt in 1969. It is the temple building of the monastery for the worship of Lui Cho (呂祖) and other Taoist deities. The building is in the form of a Chinese palace constructed of concrete and steel with its walls, circular columns and beams to support its pitched roofs. It is a one-storey building with a cockloft. The building is on a podium with a bell tower and a drum tower on its left and right. In front of the temple building is a pond with lotus, rocks and a small fountain. The temple building is in symmetrical design of five bays. The central bay is bigger than the other four. The worshipping hall occupies the inner three bays whilst a U-shaped verandah of five bays is in front of the hall. An inverted-U-shaped storeroom is at the back and on two sides of the hall. The cockloft is another storeroom of the same shape accessed through staircases on either side of the verandah. The main altar houses the statue of Lu Zu whilst the altars on his right and left respectively house Wang Zhongyang (王重陽), his disciple, and Qiu Changchun (邱長春), Wang's disciple. Its interior is decorated with wall paintings, mouldings and wood carvings. The end walls of the altars are with paintings of plums, pine and lotus. The side walls are with two paintings of Hong Lung (降龍, Dragon Tamer) and

***Architectural
Merit***

Fuk Fu (伏虎, Tiger Tamer). The double-roof building has a hip-and-gable roof (歇山式) on its upper level and a hipped roof (廡殿式) on its lower level both covered with yellow and green glazed tiles with double flying eaves. The main ridges are decorated with ceramics including dragons and pearls. The hip-end ridges are with ceramics of auspicious animals. The entire building has its walls, brackets and beams decorated with auspicious patterns of geometric, clouds, leafy and interlocking patterns similar to the Chinese palace buildings.

It is the temple building of the monastery to witness the development of Taoism in Hong Kong. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

The building has related group value with others in the Ching Chung Koon compound.

Group Value

The Koon began the social service of dispensing clothes and blankets to the poor followed by accommodating the aged with a home in the compound. Western medical service was launched in 1977 at the Wun Shui Tong (雲水堂) with minimal charges. The birthdays of the Taoist masters including Qiu Changchun and Wang Zhongyang are celebrated with Cantonese opera performances (神功戲), lion and dragon dances and vegetarian meals. Ritual ceremonies are also held at the Ching Ming Festival (清明節) and at the Feast of All Saints (中元法會) on 11-14th days of the seventh lunar month. The vegetarian meals and bonsai exhibition have attracted many locals and tourists to visit the monastery.

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**