

Historic Building Appraisal

Shing Miu

Sam Shing Hui, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun, N.T.

Shing Miu (聖廟) in Kylin Hill (麒麟崗) of Castle Peak Bay (青山灣) in Tuen Mun was erected by a religious association, Po Chai Hui (普濟會), in 1921 for the worship of the deities of the three most important religions in China, namely, Confucianism (儒家), Buddhism (佛教) and Taoism (道教). The Association was founded by an abbot Li Fat-man (李法文法師). The statues of the three religions including Confucius (孔子), Sakyamuni Buddha (釋迦牟尼佛) and Yuen Mun Gao Tai Sheung To Cho (玄門關教太上道祖) are in the main altar for worship. Other than the deities, some others including Kwun Yam (觀音), God of Wealth (財帛星君), Wu Fat (護法) and some 100 statues of Buddha are worshipped in the temple. An Earth God (土地) shrine at the middle level of the hill and a Hau Shi Tong (孝思堂) to the left of the temple were also built in 1921. The latter houses the soul tablets of the deceased for worship.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a sizable building of Qing (清) vernacular design having a three-hall plan of three bays. It is mainly constructed of granite blocks with red bricks. It has its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A platform is on either side of the recessed entrance supported by two granite columns and a bracket system. Altars are at the three halls housing different deities. The granite blocks on the facades are with coarse and fine finishes. The name of the temple is engraved on the lintel above the doorframe flanked with a pair of couplets. Above the lintel are calligraphy and paintings of landscape. Under the eave is a fascia board of auspicious flowers and plants. The main ridge is decorated with geometric mouldings topped with ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚), a pearl and unicorns. An office block to its right and a building of Tai Sui Din (太歲殿) to its left were constructed in recent years.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a rare temple of the three religions witnesses the settlement and changes of Tuen Mun.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

As many fishing boats berthed at the Castle Peak Bay for shelter and the fishermen and boat people gathered at the hillside of Kylin Hill for trading with merchants and villages in the area, a market town, or *hui* (墟), was formed in the

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

1920-30s. The *hui* was named Sam Shing Hui (三聖墟), Market Town of Sam Shing, after the temple up the hill. The temple has a number of celebrations of festivals including the Buddha Festival (佛誕) on the 8th of the fourth lunar month and the Jade Emperor Festival (玉帝誕) on the 9th of the first lunar month. The temple serves vegetarian meals to the public occasionally.