

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Hung Shing Temple

#### Chung Hing Street, Cheung Chau Wan, Cheung Chau

Hung Shing Temple (洪聖廟) in Chung Hing Street (中興街) of Cheung Chau was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Jiaqing (嘉慶, 1813) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. It was built by the fishermen for the worship of Hung Shing, the second most popular deity of sea farers in Guangdong (廣東) and Fujian (福建) provinces. Hung Shing was a governor of the Tang (唐, 618-907) dynasty who was reputed for his accurate prediction of weather and expertise in geography and astronomy. He became a sea patron of the fishermen and sea-traders. Other deities including the Kwun Yam (觀音), Lung Mo (龍母) and Wah Tor (華陀) are also worshipped in the temple. The temple has been under the management of the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會) since 1930 which provides funds for its renovations.

**Historical  
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard between the entrance and main halls has been covered. It is in symmetrical design with its altar in the middle of the end wall of the main hall facing the entrance. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its entrance has a platform on its left and right supported by a system of granite columns and brackets. Granite is with the door frame, entrance floor and wall bases. A keeper's quarters was added to its right. The main ridge is with sets of Shiwan (石灣) opera figurines with two datings made in the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> year of the Tongzhi (同治, 1871-1874) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty (as a Chinese character in 同治拾年 was missing) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1897) reign of the same dynasty. The ridge-ends are each with a very special ornament having a tree with peacock feathers and flowers. On top of the figurines are a pair of *aoyus* (鰲魚) with a pearl in the middle. Above the doorway is the name board of the temple engraved on stone flanked by a pair of couplets. The front façade of the temple is also decorated with a fascia board of flowers and birds carvings.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a Hung Shing temple to remind the fishing settlement of Cheung Chau. The Shiwan ceramics are of good quality.

**Rarity**

It has high built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

Its authenticity is basically kept.

**Authenticity**

Hung Shing Festival (洪聖誕) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the second lunar month will be celebrated at the temple with offerings from the worshippers. At the Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) in the fourth lunar month, Hung Shing would be invited among other deities to attend celebrations of the festivals including a procession carrying the deities on armchairs to tour around the island.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*