

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chung Koon – Yik Fa Kung
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***

Yik Fa Kung (翊化宮) is in front of Yi Yi Yat Yuen (頤怡逸園) and on the right of Ching Wah Tong (清華堂) accessed through a flight of wide staircases. It is the same as the Shun Yeung Din of a Chinese palace look constructed of concrete and steel with its walls, columns and beams to support its flat roof. It is a two-storey building of three bays constructed in 1964 for the worship of ancestral soul tablets. Eaves of yellow and green glazed tiles on the four elevations are at the roof level and between the ground and first floors. Red wooden folding doors are on the ground floors for entry. The windows are of the same design. The ridge of upper eave on the front façade is decorated with a set of ceramics including two dragons, a pearl and two *aoyus* (鰲魚). The hip-end ridges are with auspicious ceramic animals. Convex and painted geometric, floral, dragon and interlocking patterns are on the walls for decoration. Ancestral tablets are placed in rows on shelves of the walls for worship. The name board of the building painted in gold colour on red background is hanged under the upper eave.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a building of the monastery for ancestral worship.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The building is in good condition having its authenticity 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 (邱長春) and Wang Zhongyang (王重陽) 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***