

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Kwan Tai Temple

#### Ha Tsuen Shi, Yuen Long

Kwan Tai Temple (關帝廟) in Ha Tsuen Shi (廈村市, Ha Tsuen Market) of Ha Tsuen was erected in the 1760s of the Qianlong reign (乾隆, 1736-1795), the Qing (清) dynasty, at the same time the small market was established. The exact time when the temple was built is unknown. It was constructed at the rear end of a south-east running lane of the market. The temple was for the worship of Kwan Tai, a mythical general known for his bravery, loyalty and righteousness. The deity was mostly worshipped by the villagers and traders of all walks. He served as the guardian god of the village other than the earth god of the village which shrine is at the east corner of the market.

*Historical  
Interest*

The tiny temple is a one-hall structure measured around three by four metres. Its porch sitting on a lane has two arched openings built to two ends giving access to the south-west and north-east running of another lane. The building is a green brick structure with load-bearing walls and timber purlins supporting the roof. Part of its external and internal walls are plastered or concreted. The ridge mouldings of geometric and rock patterns have been made concrete. The fascia board with floral engraving is unsightly painted. The mouldings with curling grass, vase and birds patterns on the arches of the porch are painted in chrome yellow.

*Architectural  
Merit*

The small Kwan Tai Temple of over 200 years is rare.

*Rarity*

The tiny temple has some considerable built heritage value though it has not been properly maintained.

*Built  
Heritage  
Value*

The temple was renovated in 1858, 1892, 1904, 1914 and in some others not recorded.

*Authenticity*

*Group value*

It is a part of the market and a remaining part of the existing structures (gateways, gate tower, village houses and others).

Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) held every 10 years in Ha Tsuen is organized by the 16 villages of the village. The Kwan Tai deity together with others will be invited to 'watch' various activities including rituals to console souls of the dead, to exorcise evil spirits, to beg for peace and others. The birthday of the deity on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth lunar month will be celebrated but not so popular as before.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*