

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Hindu Temple

**No. 1B Wong Nai Chung Road, Happy Valley, Wan Chai, H.K.**

The Hindu Temple (印度廟) was built in 1953. It was founded by the Hindu Association of Hong Kong (香港印度教協會). The foundation stone was laid on 15 February 1953 by Mrs. Varanbai Hiranand. Seven months later the temple was completed and it was officially opened by the President of the Hindu Association of Hong Kong.

***Historical  
Interest***

Indians have fanned out around the world as independent businessmen, professionals, military personnel, watchmen, and labourers, and Hong Kong has long been one of their destinations. In the early colonial days, some Indians have served in the military and the police. The Partition of India after World War II resulted in a large influx in the 1950s and 1960s.

The main elevation of the Temple faces northeast. It is three stories high divided into six bays separated by columns. The columns to the two lower stories are plain, but the columns to the upper storey have decorative bases and capitals. Moulded columns run across the façade unifying the design. The roof is flat and features a dome at the southeast end. A staircase with a stepped decorative wall and a modern canopy is situated at the northwest end of the building. Internally, the focus of the complex is the worship hall. There is a spacious internal courtyard in front of the worship hall. An elongated two-storey block at the southwest provides office accommodation and activity rooms. There is abundant use of multi-foil ogee arches, which are a common feature of Indian architecture. The architectural style can be classified as **Indian** with influence from Western architecture and Hindu tradition.

***Architectural  
Merit***

This building is quite a rare form of architecture in Hong Kong and has built heritage value. Past renovations have introduced modern materials but generally the Temple retains much of its authenticity.

***Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

The Temple is considered to be the centre for all aspects of everyday life in the Hindu community in religious, cultural, educational and social fields. Apart from worshipping the deities, some ceremonies would be held in the Hindu Temple, such as wedding ceremonies, engagements and the making of specific vows. It is a well known local landmark on Wong Nai Chung Road in Happy Valley.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

The Hindu Temple and the adjacent cemetery of the Hindus form a significant complex in representing their identity and long settlement in Hong Kong. The Temple is closely related to the Sikh Temple (錫克教廟) in the neighbourhood, where Hindus used to worship with the Sikhs before the erection of their own Temple.

***Group Value***

As far as is known there are no plans to demolish, redevelop or convert the Temple. The question of adaptive re-use therefore does not arise at present.

***Adaptive  
Re-use***