Historic Building Appraisal

I Tze

Shan Tang Tsuen, Peng Chau

Peng Chau (坪洲) is a small island in the southeastern coast of Lantau with a small population. It had some 600 residents in the early 20th century most of whom were sea-faring people and fishing folks of Tankas (蛋家人) and Hoklos (鶴佬人). Family workshops of salted fish and shrimp paste were along the west coast. Small and light industrial factories of matches, leather and lime were set up on the island. The **I Tze** (義祠) in Shan Tang Tsuen (山頂村) was built in the 1870s for the caring of the destitute with poor health and the storage of corpses. As the deaths had to be moved to the hospitals after the Second World War, it was for some other uses of the Hospital.

Historical Interest

The I Tze was a Qing (清) vernacular building constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The building is near collapsed with a part of the gable wall standing on the site. A new structure constructed of corrugated sheets is attached to the gable wall. The wall is with a frieze moulding of black-and-white grass curling pattern.

Architectural Merit

It is a structure to remind the past daily life of the Peng Chau people.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

As far as can be seen it retains part of its original design and appearance.

Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

The building had three rooms, one for the sick persons, one for the dying and one for the caretaker. A number of deities were worshipped at the building. Kshitigarbha Buddha (地藏王) is the major deity who is known to bestow blessings on the deceased for their spirits to rest in peace.

Social Value & Local Interest

The factory contributed to the development of the local (Hong Kong) lime-making industry. From the heritage point of view, the Office and Mess of Sing Lei Hap Gei Lime Kiln Factory is situated nearby the historic item of Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) and a number of items recorded by the Antiquities and Monuments Office including the Stone House at Peng Chau Wing On Street (坪洲永安街), Peng Chau Chi Yan Public School (坪洲公立志仁學校) at Peng Chau Lane (坪洲里), Leather Factory Site (牛皮廠) at Chi Yan Lane (志仁里), Ruins of Great Match Factory (大中國火柴廠址) at Peng Lei Road (坪利道) and I-Tsz at Wing On Toi (永安台). All the buildings form the cultural cluster of Peng

Group Value

Chau area.