

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Leung Fat Yuen – Ching Yan Siu Chok
21.5 Milestone, Fu Tei, Tuen Mun

Ching Leung Fat Yuen (清涼法苑) in Fu Tei (虎地) of Tuen Mun is a Buddhist monastery constructed around 1911 by a nun Kin Sau (見修大師) for the worship of Buddhism by the nuns. Kin Sau was believed to be a companion of Lin Zexui (林則徐), the Viceroy of the Daoguang (道光, 1821-1850) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty who fought with the British in the Opium War. Among some other buildings, a Ching Yan Siu Chok (淨恩小築) building for residential use of the nuns was constructed around 1913. The building was managed by four nuns, namely, Wai Sau (偉修), Ming Sau (明修), Wing Sau (穎修) and Man Sau (敏修). To accommodate three statues of Buddhas for worship, a Fat Din (佛殿, Buddhas' Hall) was built in 1928. *Historical Interest*

Ching Yan Siu Chok is composed of two adjoining structures of two storeys. It is mixing of Western and Chinese styles. It is constructed of concrete with its walls, beams and columns to support its pitched roofs. Some temporary structures of corrugated sheets and steel frames are erected connected to the building for serving vegetarian meals. The design of the two structures is roughly the same but the one on the right is less decorative. The first floor of the left structure has a balcony on its first floor with ceramic vase-shaped balustrades. Internally the roofs are with timber rafters and purlins, some of the rooms are with false ceilings. The walls are plastered and painted. Its floors are with Canton or ceramic tiles. Dining room and living room are on the right and kitchen on the left of the ground floor. Living rooms and bedrooms for the nuns are on the first floor. *Architectural Merit*

It is a Buddhist structure to witness the development of Buddhism in Tuen Mun. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The building is renovated in 1996 with some unknown ones. The authenticity is kept. *Authenticity*

The Ching Yan Siu Chok and the Fat Din have related group value. *Group Value*

Since 1982, the monastery has been providing Buddhism preaching services and educational, social and welfare services for the public. It organizes Buddhist *Social Value, & Local*

seminars, welfare services for the poor and aged locally and in mainland China. A *Interest* centre for the aged was built close to the monastery providing free vegetarian meals, clothes and daily necessities for the elderly. The monastery is now open to the public during weekends, on Sundays and at Buddhist festivals when vegetarian meals are provided for the worshippers and visitors.