

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Leung Fat Yuen – Fat Din
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 **Historical Interest** 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 Chuk (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. They are called the Three Generations Buddhas (三世佛), namely, the Sakyamuni Buddha (釋迦牟尼佛), the Healing Buddha (藥師佛) and the Amitabha (阿彌陀佛).

Fat Din is a two-hall tall building mixing of Western and Chinese styles on the right of Ching Yan Siu Chuk. It is constructed of concrete with its walls, beams and columns to support its pitched roofs. A spacious tall verandah is in its front supported by six columns. The statues of the three Buddhas are in the middle of the altar of the main hall with paintings of Buddhas hanging on its walls. Its roofs are with timber rafters and battens. Ancestral shrines are at the rear hall. The walls are plastered and painted. The external walls of the two halls are painted red whilst those of the verandah white. The floors are with ceramic tiles. The parapet above the verandah is decorated with lotus and leafy pattern mouldings. **Architectural Merit**

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

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

The building was renovated in 1963 with some other unknown ones. Its authenticity is kept. **Authenticity**

The Ching Yan Siu Chuk 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 seminars, welfare services for the poor and aged locally and in mainland China. A 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.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*