

Historic Building Appraisal
Shing Wong Temple
Kam Wa Street, Shau Kei Wan, H.K.

Shing Wong Temple (城隍廟) in Kam Wa Street (金華街) of Shau Kei Wan was originally a Fook Tak Tsz (福德祠) built in the 3rd year of Guangxu (光緒, 1877) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty where the Earth God (土地) and God of Five Lucks (五通神) were worshipped. The temple has been under the management of the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會) since 1928 which suggested in 1973 to repair the dilapidated temple and expanded it to one for the worship of Shing Wong (城隍) deity which had not been a principal one on Hong Kong Island. A new hall was added in front of the old structure. The building completed in 1974 costing \$200,000 was a two-hall one with Shing Wong as the main deity having the other two as secondary. Shing Wong is a deity to maintain justice and peace in both the nether and living worlds. The Earth God and God of Five Lucks respectively deal with all affairs of the people residing in his locality and people's distress.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall plan of three bays. Its symmetrical design has the main altar housing the Shing Wong deity in the middle of the end wall of the main hall facing the entrance. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The recent renovation however has modernized the building with grey imitation brick lines on its external and internal walls and its roofs with green ceramic tiles. Its name board is on the wall frieze of the recessed entrance flanked with patterns of red flowers and plants. Its main ridge is with geometric pattern mouldings topped with a pair of ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl in the middle. Statues of Earth God and God of Five Lucks are on the altar of the left bay and right bay of the main hall. A Ten Kings (十王) deity has its two tablets on the left and right of the Shing Wong altar. The original stone name board of the Fook Tak Tsz (福德祠) is still above the entrance of the main hall with a finely carved gold-colour *caimen* (彩門) hanging in front of it.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Shing Wong cum Earth God and God of Five Lucks temple to reflect the city development of Hong Kong.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The temple was renovated in 1895, 1905 and 1974. The recent one has unsympathetically modernized the building which would diminish the authenticity of the temple.

Authenticity

The temple has been less popular than the Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) and the Tam Kung Temple (譚公廟) in Shau Kei Wan as it was a fishing village and still occupied many fishermen. Many inhabitants also have an Earth God shrine at the own residence for worship. Celebrations are made on the festivals of the deities, on the first and fifteen days of each lunar month and at the Excited Insects Festival (驚蟄).

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*