

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Sha Kong Tsuen, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long

Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) in Sha Kong Tsuen (沙江村) of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long, was erected in the 45th year of the Kangxi (康熙, 1706) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty by villagers and fishermen of the area for the worship of the Tin Hau (天后) deity. The deity is the sole protector of fishermen especially those who worked in the Deep Bay (后海灣), a short distance north of the village where many had their cultural fields of oysters. The temple has had the sponsorship of the Tang (鄧) clan in Ha Tsuen and other villagers in its construction and other later renovations, the most important one being that in the 6th year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1880).

***Historical
Interest***

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard between the entrance and main halls is covered. On its left and right of the two halls is an annex with an open courtyard in between. The central bay of the main hall houses the Tin Hau deity whereas the other two bays are for other deities. It was constructed of green bricks and granite with its walls and granite columns to support its roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Roofs of the main building have been turned into reinforced concrete ones. Its ridges are decorated with a pair of ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and plastered geometric mouldings. Wall friezes of the building are with mouldings of auspicious treasures, landscape, flowers and plants motifs. The fascia boards are with carvings of leaves, flowers, bamboo and others.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a rare Tin Hau Temple for villagers and oyster fishermen in Ha Tsuen.

Rarity

It has considerable built heritage.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The temple was extensively renovated in 1972. Most of the internal walls of the temple have been plastered. Parts of its roofs have been made concrete. Some of its columns have been covered with ceramic tiles. This would diminish its authenticity.

Authenticity

Some other deities are also worshipped in the temple including the Earth God (土地) with its statue on display. Qianliyan (千里眼) and Shunfenger (順風), two supporting deities for the Tin Hau, are displayed on either side of the main hall. The Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd day of the third lunar month will be highly celebrated by the villagers with Fa Pow (花炮) activities, lion dance

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***

and others. The deity would be invited at the xing-seng (行神) ritual of the Da Chiu (打醮) festival and other functions to give blessings to all the participants.