

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Wong Lung Hang Road, Tung Chung, Lantau

This Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) in Wong Lung Hang of Tung Chung was originally built in Chek Lap Kok island in the 3rd year of Daoguang reign (道光, 1823) of the Qing dynasty by Cheung Gau-yuen (張九元) and Cheung Gau-sang (張九省) who were said to be having the luck to get the treasure of the renowned pirate Cheung Po-tsai (張保仔). The tiny granite temple on the island off Tung Chung on the northern shore of Lantau was dismantled and re-erected in Wong Lung Hang in 1994 leaving the entire island for the construction of the new international airport. The villagers of Chap Lap Kok have also been moved to the area setting up the new Chek Lap Kok New Village with the provision of village houses built by the government.

*Historical
Interest*

Chek Lap Kok was sparsely populated with a small number of farmers and fishermen. Quartz was found on the barren island which once flourished it but two quarries fell into ruin due to a strike in 1925. Other than a patron temple for the fishermen, it is also believed to be one for the quarry workers who built it making use of local granite. The temple is now under the care of the villagers of the new village.

It is a small granite temple entirely built up of granite including its roof, doors, walls, incense burners, offering table and altar. The one-hall building has six irregular pillars standing in its front yard.

*Architectural
Merit*

This rare temple is the only sample of one entirely made of granite in Hong Kong. Though it is relocated from its original site to a new location, the temple building structure is kept intact. From keeping historic building in-situ point of view, this is however not a successful case.

*Rarity & Built
Heritage Value*

A renovation is said to have been carried out in the 1960s. No others can be traced. The dismantling in 1991 and re-erection of the temple in 1994 had the every care without losing its authenticity.

Authenticity

The temple was not that celebrated at the Tin Hau Festival on the 23rd day of the third lunar month when it was on the remote island before moved away making way for the construction of the new airport. Still it is not catching any attention of outsiders except the villagers of the new village which is quite a distance from the new Tung Chung New Town and the airport. Cantonese opera performances were held at Tin Hau Festival for some years after the relocation but now ceased due to insufficient funding. However the deity's statue will be carried out of the temple to "watch" opera shows of the Hau Wong Festival at the Hau Wong Temple of Tung Chung.

*Social Value &
Local Interest*