

Historic Building Appraisal
Kwun Yam Temple
Tung Tau Tsuen, Yuen Long

The Kwun Yam Temple (觀音古廟) in Tung Tau Tsuen (東頭村), east of the Yuen Long Kau Hui (元朗舊墟, Old Market), Yuen Long, was erected in the 51st year of the Kangxi (康熙, 1712) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. It was also a Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) starting from the very beginning as its front hall houses the Tin Hau deity for worship. Tung Tau Tsuen was a village established in the 17th century by a number of clans, the Chans (陳) being the major one. It is said that the temple is not very much worshipped by the villagers as they consider that it has undermined their *fung shui* after the Tangs (鄧) left the village. Kwun Yam is the main deity of the temple and her statue is displayed in the middle bay of the main hall for worship. In front of the altar are two standing statue of Heng and Ha Generals (哼哈二將) as her guards. On the left bay is a statue of the God of Wealth (財帛星君) for worship.

***Historical
Interest***

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall-one-courtyard plan having three bays in its main hall. Its entrance is at the right of the walled courtyard. The Tin Hau altar is facing the entrance at the far end wall of the courtyard. The temple was constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The temple has not been properly maintained. Half of the roof of the main hall has been replaced with metal corrugated sheets. Parts of its roofs have been turned into concrete ones. Its internal walls have been plastered or painted. Its ridges are with geometric plastered mouldings. Fascia boards are with carvings of floral patterns.

***Architectural
Merit***

A temple housing both the Tin Hau and Kwun Yam deities in equal status is rare.

Rarity

The temple has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The temple is not kept properly as it has not been patronized by the villagers.

Authenticity

It is said that the villagers have not paid tribute to the temple even on the Tin Hau (天后誕) and Kwun Yam Festivals (觀音誕).

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