

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Man Ming Temple

#### Fu Tei Au Tsuen, Sheung Shui

Man Ming Temple (文明廟) in Fu Tei Au Tsuen (虎地坳村) of Sheung Shui (上水) was built by the Liu (廖) clan of Sheung Shui not later than 1924 as a photograph has shown its existence in the year. It is also called Man Temple (文廟) and Man Mo Temple (文武廟) as three deities were worshipped at the temple. They include the Man God (文帝, Civil God), Mo God (武帝, Martial God) and Fui Shing (魁星, the God for the Imperial Civil Service Examination). The temple was erected by the Lius expecting the deities would give patronage to their members for success in the Examination. They would then become civil officials and thus gaining position and wealth for the prosperity of the clan. Together with the temple, a hexagonal pagoda was also built to complement the temple in the north-west of Sheung Shui. The pagoda has been demolished and the temple is in ruin.

**Historical  
Interest**

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular building of a three-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is between the middle hall and the entrance hall. The three-bay main hall houses the three deities for worship. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Granite blocks are for the door frame, wall bases and wall corners. The gables of the main hall are of the Fire style of the Five Elements (五行之火型) with three pointed sharp wings. At its recessed entrance above the doorway is a name board engraved with two Chinese characters '文明'. Wall friezes on its front façade are with plastered mouldings of flowers and *ruilong* (夔龍) patterns. At its entrance hall, wall paintings are with flowers and birds motifs.

**Architectural  
Merit**

A temple for the worship of the three deities is rare in Hong Kong.

**Rarity**

The gable style of the building has high built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The building is in ruin having its authenticity diminished.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the demolished pagoda.

**Group Value**

The temple was under the management of the Lius who employed a temple keeper to take care of the building. It had the worship of the Lius regularly and at festivals especially during the Chinese New Year.

**Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest**