

Historic Building Appraisal

Tin Hau Temple

Hang Hau, Sai Kung

The Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Hang Hau (坑口) was erected in the 20th year of Daoguang reign (道光, 1840), Qing (清) dynasty by the local Tanka (蛋家) fishermen as an old bell in the temple has the dating. The temple was reconstructed in the 9th year of Tongzhi reign (同治, 1870) recorded in a stone tablet kept in the building. Hang Hau was founded by the Yus (俞) from Mang Kung Uk (孟公屋) and the Wongs (黃), Hakkas (客家) from Nanhai (南海), serving as a fishing village until the early 20th century prospered as a trade post in Sai Kung. The temple was managed by the elders of the village with funds contributed from boats of different sizes, tugboats, fishing junks and sampans at 20, 10, and 5 cents respectively. The temple was managed by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會) since 1954 after a repair with funds defrayed by the then Governor Sir Alexander Grantham (葛量洪). After 1978 the village elders took over the management of the temple again. With the development of the Junk Bay (將軍澳) in the last decades, a large scale of reclamation took place leaving the temple a long distance away from the seashore.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a one-hall Qing vernacular structure constructed of green bricks. The granite columns and walls support the roofs which are composed of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. At the entrance is a raised platform supported by a system of granite columns and wooden brackets. The door frames and lintel are also of granite with a pair of couplets for the former and the temple's name for the latter engraved on them. Its ridge is decorated with a pair of modern ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl with a set of geometric pattern plastered moulding. Fascia boards and wall friezes are with flowers-and-plants, figures, phoenixes motif decorations.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a temple of over 135 years of history to witness the development of Hang Hau.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value of the type of Tin Hau temples built by sea-faring people. Recent renovations have minimized its authenticity such as its external walls awkwardly dressed up with red glazed ceramic tiles.

**Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity**

Though Junk Bay is very much urbanized, Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) is still highly celebrated by people in Hang Hau and neighbouring villages in Sai Kung with Shen Gong opera performances (神功戲), lion dances and meals.

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