

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Tin Hau Temple**  
**Sha Lo Wan, Tung Chung, Lantau**

Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) in Sha Lo Wan (沙螺灣) of Lantau is a separate *Historical Interest* building on the left of the Ba Kong Temple (把港古廟) with a wall connecting the two temples at the front façade. It was believed that the temple was built in 1919 as “己未年” was inscribed on the name plaque above the entrance door. A plaque at the Ba Kong Temple records a renovation in 1980. It is said that at a Da Chiu (打醮) held at Sha Lo Wan, the statue of the Tin Hau from the Chek Wan Tin Hau Temple (赤灣天后廟) in Nantou (南頭), west of Shenzhen (深圳), was invited to the celebration. The statue could not be shipped back after the festival as the weather was very bad. It is believed that the Tin Hau wished to stay in the bay. After throwing the oracular blocks with positive answer, the villagers decided to enshrine the deity in their village. It was stationed at the Chan Ancestral Hall (陳氏家祠) and then a temple for the deity was built at the present site. The temple is administrated by the Chinese Temples Committee (華人廟宇委員會) and managed by the Sha Lo Wan Rural Office (沙螺灣鄉公所).

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall plan of one bay. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof covered with green ceramic glazed tiles. The walls are plastered and painted red externally. Its front walls are with grey ceramic tiles. Its internal walls are painted grey colour with its floors with light brown ceramic tiles. The altar is at the end wall houses the statue of Tin Hau for worship. Above the doorway of the recessed entrance is a stone board engraved with the name of the temple. The fascia board under the eave is with a dragon and phoenix carving. The ridge is with glazed ceramic decoration of two *aoyus* (鰲魚) and a pearl and a *longwen* (龍吻) at each of its two ends. *Architectural Merit*

It is a Tin Hau temple to witness the settlement of Sha Lo Wan Tsuen. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The temple was last renovated with the sponsorship of the Chinese Temples Committee at a sum of \$200,000. The authenticity is diminished due to the last renovation. *Authenticity*

It has group value with the Ba Kong Temple next door. *Group Value*

No large scale celebration is held for the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the third lunar month. At the Hung Shing Festival (洪聖誕) on the a day of the seventh lunar month, the deity would be invited to join all activities held during the period including a touring round of the village with a small statue of Hung Shing and that of Tin Hau on a sedan chair giving blessing to the villagers. The two deities would be stationed at the temporary scaffold to watch the Cantonese opera performances (神功戲).

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