

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
near Ha Kwai Chung Tsuen, Kwai Chung, N.T.

The present Tin Hau Temple (天后宮) near Ha Kwai Chung Tsuen (下葵涌村), Kwai Chung, was a rebuilt one relocated from an old Tin Hau temple close to the seashore. A bell in the temple has the 8th year of the reign of Emperor Daoguang (道光, 1828) inscribed on it. It is said that the original temple was erected in the Jiaqing (嘉慶, 1796-1800) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. It was called Kwai Chung Mong Shue Ha Tin Hau Temple (葵涌芒樹下天后古廟). Mong Shue Ha is a multi-lineage village of the Tangs (鄧氏), Chans (陳氏), Tsangs(曾氏), Lams (藍氏), Sins (冼氏) and others. *Historical Interest*

Up to the 1960s, Ha Kwai Chung Tsuen faced Gin Drinker's Bay. Since most of the villagers were fishing folks and farmers, the temple was built there for the blessing of Tin Hau, the goddess of the sea. The altar at the end wall of the middle bay houses a statue of Tin Hau. The statues of Hung Shing (洪聖) and Pak Tai (北帝) are placed on the left of Tin Hau. Earth God (土地) and Chai Tin Tai Shing (齊天大聖, The Monkey King) are enshrined on the right of Tin Hau. Due to reclamation and development of the area, the temple was demolished and a new one built in the present site in **1966**.

The temple is a Qing vernacular design building having a one-hall plan of three bays. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls have been plastered and painted in yellow colour. The main ridge is decorated with a pair of dragons, a pearl and two *aoyus* (鰲魚) in ceramics. The two descending ridges of the central bay are with geometric mouldings and two lions. The roofs are covered with corrugated sheets. The name of the temple is engraved in a stone tablet above the doorway of the recessed entrance. The entrance is decorated with three pairs of couplets. *Architectural Merit*

It is a Tin Hau temple to remind the settlement and history of Ha Kwai Chung Tsuen and the area. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. The temple is a rebuilt one relocated to the present site in 1966 with relics of the old temple displayed at the present temple. *Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

An incense burner, with the year 1930 inscribed on it, was donated to the temple by Fuk Wo Lan (福和欄) and Chung Tai-shing (鍾泰盛). The former was a vegetable grocery at the Government Vegetable Market of Yau Ma Tei whilst the latter was a villager of Ha Kwai Chung Tsuen who was an agent of the farmers selling vegetables to the grocery. A tablet dated 1941 also has the two names on it. Celebrations of the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) would be held but not that much as a traffic interchange was built in front of the temple in 1976-77 which reduced the size of the open ground in front of the temple. Basin meals and Fa Pow (花炮) activities would be held.

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

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

***Adaptive
Re-use***