

Historic Building Appraisal
Stone Doorframe of the Old Sheung Tai Temple
Lomond Road, Kowloon City, KLN

The stone doorframe of the demolished Sheung Tai Temple (上帝古廟) in the Lomond Road Rest Garden (露明道休憩公園), Kowloon City, is a remaining structure of a temple erected by the late nineteenth century in the Qing (清) dynasty by local villagers of Kwu Kan Wai (古瑾圍, walled village of Kwu Kan, later known as Ma Tau Wai (馬頭圍)) for the worship of Pak Tai (北帝), also called Sheung Tai (上帝), simple form of Pak Fong Chun Mo Yuen Tin Sheung Tai (北方真武玄天上帝), literally Supreme Emperor of the Dark Heaven in the North. The lintel is engraved with ‘上帝古廟’, the Temple of Sheung Tai, whilst its horizontal columns of the doorframe are with a pair of couplets reading ‘真義著千秋煌煌氣象, 武功昭萬古赫赫聲靈’ to praise its divine powers of thousands of years.

***Historical
Interest***

It is believed that a Pak Tai Temple originally in Kwu Kan Wai was relocated to the present site in 1921 when Kwu Kan Wai was redeveloped in the 1920s. Unfortunately, the temple was found dilapidated after the Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1945), with only the stone doorframe remaining intact. The lot on which the temple used to be situated was surrendered to the government in 1959. With the agreement of the government, the doorframe was preserved *in situ* with the building of a rest garden then called the Lomond Road Rest Garden opened in 1962.

The stone doorframe of the demolished Sheung Tai Temple is made of granite. The temple should be a Qing vernacular building. It is common for such a temple building to have a stone doorframe of such type. The two vertical supporting columns of the doorframe with a pair of couplets is decorated with each a carved bat on top of the Chinese characters and at the bottom a carved auspicious basket-and-cloud-shaped pattern. The doorframe is supported with a layer of concrete at its back. Stone door hinges are at the back of the lintel and at the ground level. The stone base of the temple’s screen door (*dong chung*, 擋中) is a short distance further behind the doorframe.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a doorframe of the demolished Sheung Tai Temple relocated from a former Pak Tai Temple in Kwu Kan Wai. It bore witness to the development of Ma Tau Wai and Kowloon City.

Rarity

The stone doorframe has high built heritage value. The doorframe is preserved *in situ* and in good condition.

***Built Heritage
Value
Authenticity***

It is said that a Kwu Kan Wai was established in an area of the present Kowloon City around Prince Edward Road, Lomond Road, Argyle Street (亞皆老街) and Forfar Road (科發道) where the descendants of the Song royalty inhabited. They lived in the Kwu Kan Wai until the late Qing dynasty and moved to Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東) province.

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

The stone doorframe has no group value with other graded historic buildings.

Group Value

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