

Historic Building Appraisal
Tin Hau Temple
Tai Lam Kok, Tai Lam Chung, Tuen Mun, N.T.

Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Tai Lam Kok (大欖角, also known as Brothers Point) of Tuen Mun was built in **1924** as a stone incense burner of the temple has the year inscribed on it. Tai Lam Chung (大欖涌) is a multi-clan Hakka (客家) area inhabited by the Wus (胡氏) in Wu Uk Tsuen (胡屋村), the Wongs (黃氏) in Wong Uk Tsuen (黃屋村) and the Lees (李氏) branching out from Lee Uk Tsuen of So Kwun Wat (掃管笏李屋村). *Historical Interest*

The temple is believed to be built by the Wus in the area. It is said that once upon a time a group of fishermen lost their way in the sea. Suddenly they saw a streak of light which indicated the way to the land. Finally, they landed on the shore of Tai Lam Chung and believed they had been saved by Tin Hai (Goddess of the Sea). In addition to Tin Hau, Kwun Yam (觀音) is also worshipped in the temple. The temple was demolished and reconstructed on the same site in **2006-07**.

The present temple is built of concrete. It is a small Qing (清) vernacular design two-hall building. It was originally constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The roofs' purlins were later replaced with rectangular ones and reinforced with concrete beams. The external walls have been plastered. The altar is at the end wall of the building with the statues of the deities facing the entrance. Its front ridge is with a set of geometric mouldings which left one is partially damaged. The name of the temple is plastered above the doorway flanked by two landscape paintings. A fascia board under the eave is with fruits, flowers and leaf carvings. *Architectural Merit*

It is a Tin Hau temple to witness the settlement of the Tai Lam Chung villages. *Rarity*

It has intangible heritage value. *Built Heritage Value,*

A major renovation was held in 1955 with some other unknown ones. The temple was reconstructed in **2006-07**. *Authenticity*

Tin Hau would be given special offerings at festivals and at the Chinese New Year. The 1955 renovation of the temple was carried out with donation by **Mr Chiu Lut-sau** (趙聿修, 1905-1974) who was a prominent merchant and philanthropist. *Social Value, & Local Interest*

Mr Chiu was the founder of a number of schools in Yuen Long and served in many associations such as the Pok Oi Hospital (博愛醫院), the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (東華醫院) and the Po Leung Kuk (保良局). He was honourably

appointed as Unofficial Justice of Peace in 1958 and awarded the titles of M.B.E. in 1965 and O.B.E. in 1968.