

Historic Building Appraisal
Entrance Gate
Wing Lung Wai, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Wing Lung Wai (永隆圍) in Kam Tin (錦田), Yuen Long, was founded by *Historical Interest* Tang Siu-kui (鄧紹舉) and his clansmen in the Chenghua (成化, 1465-1487) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. The enclosing wall was built by Tang Sui-cheung (鄧瑞長) and Tang Kwok-yin (鄧國賢) in the Kangxi (康熙, 1662-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty to safeguard the village from bandits, privates and other enemies. Siu-kui was the grandson of Tang Hung-i (鄧洪儀, 1360-1410), the founding ancestor of the Tangs in Kam Tin. Siu-kui's father Ting-ching (廷楨) obtained a *juren* (舉人) degree in 1471 and was a County Magistrate (知縣) of Tengxian (藤縣) in Guangxi province (廣西). Due to the growth of the clan's population, Siu-kui established the village which was called Sha Lan Mei (沙欄尾) or Wing Lung Wai (永龍圍), the latter literally meaning everlasting dragon. The latter was changed into the present name, literally perpetuating prosperity, in 1905. The original walled village was built towards the west with six rows of village houses enclosing by a wall having four watchtowers at its corners. The symmetrical village had an entrance gate at its front wall and a shrine at the back wall on its central axis. The main entrance however was relocated to the south after Tai Hong Wai (泰康圍) to its right was established due to *fung shui* reasons. The old entrance gate is no longer existed and so are the watchtowers (the north-east tower has some base structure left) and most of the wall structure. The moat was reclaimed in the 1960s. The present entrance gate is at the south wall close to the previous south-east corner watchtower.

The entrance gate is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall rectangular *Architectural Merit* plan. Its rectangular entrance doorway is facing south whilst its arched internal doorway is facing the village houses. It is constructed of green and red bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its external doorway is framed with granite blocks and above the lintel is the stone name board of the village. Two circular openings are on either side of the name board. It has a mezzanine floor which was used for storage. The brickwork of the wall is in a eight stretcher courses to one header course (八順一丁) bonding. Its ridge is with curling ends and a pair of small red geometric mouldings. Wall friezes under the eave at the internal doorway are with paintings of birds, trees, flowers and others.

It is an entrance gate of the previous walled village to remind the settlement of the Tangs in Kam Tin. **Rarity**

The structure has high built heritage value

Built Heritage Value

It is in good upkeep condition.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Chung Shing Temple (眾聖宮) in the village.

Group Value

A niche housing the Earth God (土地) is at the internal back wall of the entrance gate. The deity is also called Wai Mun Kung (圍門公, Deity of the Entrance Gate) which the villagers believe it would give protection to them. A number of wooden honourly plaques are hanged on the walls for the Tangs (though none of them are of the Wai) who obtained titles in the Civil Service Examinations. The Tangs have their worship of their deities at the Chung Shing Temple in the village.

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**