

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**The Fortified Structure**  
**at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, New Territories**

The fortified structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai (下白泥) of *Historical Interest* Yuen Long, built around 1910, is the only remaining historic building in Hong Kong with solid evidence of having direct connection with the revolutionary movement under the leadership of Dr. SUN Yat-sen (SUN Yixian, 孫逸仙) (1866-1925) and his compatriots. The movement led to the rise of modern China and marked a turning point in Chinese history. As a testimony to Hong Kong's role in the revolutionary movement, the fortified structure has high historical significance.

With the good transportation connections of Hong Kong with other places in the world, during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the revolutionaries made use of Hong Kong as a place to form political partnerships, recruit members and raise funds, and as a haven for disbanded revolutionary members escaping from Manchu vengeance.

The previous address of the fortified structure was No. 39 Long Chok Tsuen (浪濯村). Formerly known as Leung Tseuk Hang Hau (良雀坑口), Long Chok Tsuen was a village facing Deep Bay (后海灣) and Shenzhen (深圳).

With its advantageous location overlooking Deep Bay and Shenzhen, the site became another base of operation of the revolutionary movement in Hong Kong, in addition to Castle Peak Farm (青山農場) in Tuen Mun. A place of refuge for the revolutionaries under the cover of a rice mill and sugar refinery was set up around 1910 at the site after the Mutiny of the New Army in Guangzhou (廣州新軍之役). A fortified structure was also built at the site to keep watch on the area across Deep Bay, which was then under the administration of the Qing authority. With the intelligence obtained from the surveillance at the fortified structure, the revolutionaries could swiftly flee to the other revolutionary

bases if the base in Ha Pak Nai was in danger of being raided.

The base in Ha Pak Nai was set up by TANG Yam-nam (DENG Yinnan, 鄧蔭南) (1846-1923), who was a core member of Hsing Chung Hui (Xing Zhong Hui, 興中會, literally, “Revive China Society”). Land was owned by LI Ki-tong (LI Jitang, 李紀堂) (1873-1943), who was a son of the wealthy businessman LI Sing (LI Sheng, 李陞) (?-1896) and who joined Hsing Chung Hui in 1900. TANG originated from Kaiping of Guangdong Province (廣東開平) and once operated farms and sugar plantations in Hawaii. He was a friend of SUN Mei (孫眉) (1845-1915), the elder brother of Dr. SUN Yat-sen. He joined Hsing Chung Hui in Hawaii in 1894 upon its establishment. TANG came to Hong Kong in 1895 to pursue revolutionary activities.

The fortified structure is a two-storey rectangular structure built of grey bricks with a mezzanine floor between the first floor and the roof. A staircase bulkhead is also found on the flat roof. Gun loops at various levels on the elevations can still be found. Internally, the plain rooms have screeded floors. To serve defence purposes, tapered and recessed window openings allowed a greater viewing angle from the inside of the building. Architecturally, the fortified structure in Ha Pak Nai is essentially a functional structure for surveillance.

***Architectural  
Merit***

Alterations appear to have been made to the fortified structure, particularly the insertion of windows and the erection of the attached temporary structures. A building once attached to the fortified structure, but was subsequently demolished. Traces of the demolished building are still visible.

***Authenticity***

The fortified structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai is now the only remaining building which bears witness to the revolutionary activities in the area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The fortified structure in Ha Pak Nai is a unique and rare example with its exceptional historical value.

***Rarity &  
Built Heritage  
Value***

The revolutionary base in Ha Pak Nai set up by TANG Yam-nam formed another important base of operation of the revolutionary movement in Hong Kong, in addition to Castle Peak Farm in Tuen Mun. The fortified structure has high social value as the Hong Kong community shows an increasing interest in local history and the role of Hong Kong in Chinese history, which could be symbolised by this valuable piece of built heritage.

***Social Value & Local Interest***

The fortified structure has some group value as it is situated close to the Tin Hau Temple in Sha Kong Tsuen, Ha Tsuen (厦村沙江村天后古廟), a Grade 3 historic building.

***Group Value***

**References**

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