

Historic Building Appraisal

Old House

No. 57 Shui Lau Tin, Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Lau Tin (水流田) is a multi-clan village occupied by the Tangs (鄧), *Historical Interest* the Chois (蔡) and the Fungs (馮) in the south of Shek Kong Airfield (石崗機場) in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. The Chois were the majority who owned most of the houses in the village. The Tangs however had more land than the Chois. The Chois came earlier than the Tangs. The Tangs were Hakkas (客家) moved from Huiyang (惠陽) of Guangdong (廣東) province to Wang Toi Shan (橫台山) in Pat Heung in the 27th year of Kangxi (康熙, 1688) of the Qing (清) dynasty. Some of the Tangs moved to Shing Mun Heung (城門鄉). Tang Kou-kwong (鄧球光), the 18th generation member of the clan, moved from Shing Mun Heung to Shui Lau Tin in the 16th year of the Guangxu (光緒, 1890) reign of the same dynasty. The old house at No.57 of the village was built by Tang King-kwong (鄧琮光), a brother of Kou-kwong, in 1905 after he gained his fortune in Honolulu (檀香山) in Hawaii. He had obtained a *gongsheng* (貢生) title via donation in his young age before he worked in Hawaii. The house was his residence occupied by him until he died. The house was inherited by his son Yuen-sam (元森) and now his grandson Kam-chuen (金泉).

Located in the right end of the village, the building is a two-storey Qing *Architectural Merit* vernacular detached residence of three bays. An open forecourt is in front of the building surrounded by a low wall. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The front portion of the ground floor middle bay is the two-storey high living room backed by a dining room. On either side is a bedroom with a staircase for access to the upper storey. At the back are two kitchens and a bathroom. Up on the upper floor are mainly the bedrooms and a terrace at the back. A tie beam carved with “長命富貴” (Longevity and Prosperity) is at the living room. Wall frieze paintings of flowers and birds are under the eave of the recessed entrance of the middle bay. Wall frieze mouldings of flowers, bamboo and birds, partially weathered, are on the front façade of the side bays. A fascia board of floral carving is under the eave. The entrance is installed with a wooden *tanglung* (趟籠) and its wall corners are of granite blocks.

It is a residence of the Tangs to witness their history and settlement in Shui *Rarity* Lau Tin village.

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

It is in good condition. Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Tang Kwok Mou Ancestral Hall (國茂鄧公祠) erected by the Tangs in the village.

Group Value

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45), the house was occupied by the Japanese for use as a commander's office for some months. The Japanese appointed Yuen-sam and Tang Hon (鄧漢) as translators. The office was later moved to Yuen Long. The Tangs still maintain relationship with the Tangs in Wang Toi Shan where they would make worship to their ancestors at the Chinese New Year.

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