

Historic Building Appraisal
Hing Po Study Hall
No. 162 Shan Ha Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Hing Po Study Hall (興寶書室) in Shan Ha Tsuen (山下村) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, was erected in 1913 by the descendents of Cheung Kwan-chuen (張君存). His ancestor Chuk-ping (祝平) moved from Huangchuen (篁村) of Dongguan (東莞) to Wang Chau (橫洲) in the late 15th century. Chuk-ping's grandson settled in Tsat Sing Kong (七星崗) and then moved to Shan Ha Tsuen in the Shunzhi reign (順治, 1644-1661) of the Qing (清) dynasty. The hall was also called Tat Kau Tong (達教堂) as to commemorate Kwan-chuen's third son Tat-kau (達教). It is now called Yee Hing Tong (義慶堂).

**Historical
Interest**

The study hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall plan of three bays. A courtyard is at its entrance hall and side rooms are on the left and right of the halls. Cocklofts are at the side rooms of the main hall. A concrete flat-roofed storey was added to the right side room of the entrance hall. It is in symmetrical design with the altar at the far end of the central axis in the middle of the main hall. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting the flush gable pitched roofs of rafters, beams and clay tiles. The recessed entrance is with granite door frame, lintel and wall corners. Above the lintel is the name board of the study hall. The main ridge having curling ends is decorated with geometric mouldings. Its gable friezes, wall friezes and fascia boards are with auspicious patterns of treasures, floral and plants motifs.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is one of the historic buildings to witness the settlement of the Cheungs in Shan Ha Tsuen.

Rarity

The study hall is of considerable built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Parts of the internal walls are plastered. The adding of a story at the right chamber of the front hall would highly diminish its authenticity.

**Authenticity
Group Value**

The Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠), the Daak Yan Study Hall (達仁書室), Kwan Yuet Study Hall (君悅書室) and this one have co-related group value.

The hall was used to teach village children and for ancestral worship. Soul tablets of Tat-kau's lineage were displayed at the altar for worship. After a renovation in 1963 the tablets were removed and Kwan Tai's (關帝) image was displayed at the altar instead. The main hall has been occupied for residential use

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

and the right chamber of the entrance hall used as a grocery.