

Historic Building Appraisal

Nos. 212 - 224 Shui Lau Tin,

Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Lau Tin (水流田) is a multi-clan village occupied by the Tangs (鄧), 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 Fungs led by Fung Pin-lap (馮品立), a 10th generation member, came to the village from Lin Fa Tei (蓮花地) village in its south-east on the other side of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路). The Fungs moved from Foshan (佛山) of Guangdong (廣東) province to Shenzhen (深圳) and later settled in Lin Fa Tei. A trust called King Yau Tong (琼友堂) was set up by the Fungs in the name of Fung King-yau (馮琼友), a fourth generation member. Due to the increase of population Pin-lap wanted to build new houses for his family. No suitable location was in the village that he built a row of 13 houses in Shui Lau Tin in 1918.

**Historical
Interest**

The row of 13 houses is in the south-eastern end of the village. They are built connected together facing northeast. Nos.212, 213 and 214 are on the left end whilst the rest Nos.215 to 224 are on their right. They are one-storey Qing (清) vernacular residential houses. An open ground is in front of the building which was used for drying grain. They are constructed of green bricks with their walls to support the pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The three houses are basically identical each with a hall fronted by an open courtyard. A kitchen is behind the entrance and a *michong* (米椿), a rice husking hammer, was installed at the main hall. The front portion of the hall is for the living room whilst the rear portion is for a bedroom. A cockloft is at the main hall as another bedroom. A bath corner is respectively on one side of the courtyard. The doorframes, wall corners and window frames are of granite slabs. Wall frieze mouldings of flowers and birds and curling pattern, most of them peeled off and weathered, are running above the lintels.

**Architectural
Merit**

They are three residential units of the Fungs to witness their history and settlement in Shui Lau Tin village.

Rarity

They have some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

They are in good condition. The authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

They have group value with the Tang Kwok Mou Ancestral Hall (國茂鄧公祠) and Choi Yi Wah Ancestral Hall (彝華蔡公祠) in the village. **Group Value**

Pin-lap was a successful merchant of bricks and roof tiles and beancurb sheets (腐竹). His kiln is in Ma Pau Ling (麻包嶺), southeast of Lin Fa Tei. The green bricks and roof tiles used were from his kiln whilst the granite blocks were from Guangzhou (廣州). Some of the workers were also from Guangzhou. Pin-lap and his four sons settled in the village. Their descendents are still living in the village who have a trust called Pin Lap Tso (品立祖). The Fungs still have their ancestral worship at the Fung Ancestral Hall (馮氏家祠, also called King Yau Tong 琼友堂, rebuilt in 1998) at festivals and at the Chinese New Year. They have Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the ancestral hall once every five years for new born baby boys. Pin-lap's father, Lai-cheong (禮昌), was one of the sponsors in the renovation of the Pat Heung Temple (八鄉古廟) in Sheung Tsuen (上村) of Pat Heung. Pin-lap was one of the sponsors in the construction of the Pok Chai Bridge (博濟橋) in Shek Tau Wai (石頭圍) in Pat Heung. **Social Value, & Local Interest**