

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Kang Sam Tong**  
**No. 64 Wing Lung Wai, Kam Tin, Yuen Long**

Kang Sam Tong (耕心堂) in Wing Lung Wai (永隆圍), Kam Tin (錦田), *Historical Interest* was erected by Tang Kang-sam (鄧耕心) in the 1880s. The Tangs of the village were the descendents of the two sons Yam (欽) and Yui (銳) of Tang Hung- yee (鄧洪儀), the most important ancestor of the clan in the development of Kam Tin. Siu-kui (紹舉), grandson of Yui established the village in the Chenghua reign (成化, 1465-1487) of the Ming (明) dynasty. It was called Sha Lan Mei (沙欄尾) or Wing Lung Wai (永龍圍). Enclosing walls were constructed in the Kangxi reign (康熙, 1662-1722) of the Qing (清) dynasty to protect the village from bandit attack by two ancestors, Sui-cheung (瑞長) and Kwok-yin (國賢). Kang-sam was the grandson of Kwok-yin. He built the hall for ancestral worship as well as to provide a place for teaching children in the village. At the time the teacher resided in the hall. It ceased to operate as a study hall up to 1926 when a Mung Yeung Public School (公立蒙養學校) was established in Kam Tin.

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one courtyard plan of three bays. Connected to its left is a building of similar size. *Architectural Merit* The altar is at the central axis of the building in the middle of the main hall. The altar is simple with no soul tablets having a name board of the hall and framed images of Kwun Yam (觀音) and Kwan Tai (關帝) deities for worship. The medium size building is constructed of green bricks having its walls to support its roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The roofs of its side chamber have been converted into concrete reinforced ones and some of the doorways have been blocked up. The ridges have curling ends with floral and treasure patterns in the middle.

It is an example of a family ancestral hall in the historic Kam Tin. The medium size ancestral hall has some built heritage value. *Rarity & Built Heritage Value*

The building is in dilapidated condition with its side bays used as residence. Alterations have been carried out very much affecting its authenticity. *Authenticity*

The ancestral halls, study halls and other historic buildings of the Tang clan in Kam Tin have close related group value. *Group Value*

The worship of the ancestors at the hall had special offerings at the lunar year end and the Chinese New Year with special offerings including dumplings, vegetarian dishes. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual would be held on a day before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first lunar month for baby boys born in previous year at the hall. Other than having offering at the hall, it will be also made at the main ancestral hall of the clan, the Tang Tsing Lok Ancestral Hall (清樂鄧公祠). At the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, the soul tablets at the hall will be worshipped and grave-sweeping held for Kang-sam's grave near the Shing Mun Reservoir (城門水塘). The hall has been occupied for residential use since the 1960s and the two side bays are now not accessible. The central bay is in dilapidated condition.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*