

Historic Building Appraisal
Yeuk Hui Study Hall
No. 95 Hang Mei Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Tang Wai-tak (鄧懷德, 1548-1622) and Tang Wai-yee (鄧懷義, 1529-1607), two brothers of the 14th generation ancestors of Ping Shan Tangs, were regarded as the first ancestors of the Hang Tau (坑頭) and Hang Mei (坑尾) villages in Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long. Yeuk Hui Study Hall (若虛書室) in Hang Mei Tsuen (Village) was built by Tang Tak-kwong (鄧德光, 1710-1775), alias Yeuk Hui (若虛), the 18th generation ancestor, in the late 18th century to provide a venue for the village children to study and to practice martial arts. Yeuk-hui was the great great grandson of Wai-yee and a student of the Imperial College (國子監). Yeuk Hui Study Hall was named after him. The hall was managed by the branch of the Tangs called Wai Sun Tong (維新堂). The building had a major renovation in 1963 led by Tang Wai-ming (鄧偉明). The internal structure was strengthened with reinforced concrete.

Historical Interest

Located on the right of Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮) in the village, the study hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The middle bay is with an open courtyard between the main and entrance halls. The two side bays are two-storey with chambers and rooms. The hall is constructed of green bricks with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Whilst the external facades have been retained, its internal halls and rooms are modernized. A big ceramic-tiled picture of Fortune, Status and Longevity (福, 祿, 壽) is at the end wall of the main hall. Two others of landscape are on either side of the open courtyard. The internal walls are plastered and the floors with ceramic tiles. The façades of the building are fair-faced green bricks with big granite blocks for its lower courses of the walls. The name of the hall Wai Sun Tong is engraved on a marble on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The ridges are in boat shapes with curling leaf patterns and birds and flowers mouldings. Three rows of white petals mouldings are at the front and rear facades under the eaves. Fascia boards and wall frieze mouldings of leaf and fruit patterns are under the eaves for decoration.

Architectural Merit

It is a study hall of the Tangs to witness their settlement in Ping Shan.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

With the modernized interiors, its authenticity has been diminished.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Tang ancestral halls in the village, the Kun Ting Study Hall (觀廷書室) Hung Shing Temple and others. *Group Value*

The hall is partially for residential use.

Adaptive Re-use

The students were trained to achieve success in the Imperial Civil Services Examination both in arts and martial arts. A race course and a stable were at the back of the hall for horse-riding training. Unlike other study halls, the hall has not housed any soul tablet of the Tangs for worship. After the renovation of the building in 1963, the rooms of the upper storey are for residential use. The main halls and other rooms are for the gathering of the clan members. *Social Value, & Local Interest*