

Historic Building Appraisal
Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall
Tsung Yuen Ha, Ta Kwu Ling

Tsung Yuen Ha (松園下) village is in the closed area of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺). It is a Punti (本地) single-clan village occupied by the Hos (何) who came to the village in the late Ming (明, 1668-1644) dynasty. A Ho Ancestral Hall (何氏宗祠) of medium size was built in the northern part of the village for the entire village. Two branch ones of smaller sizes were built. One of them has been demolished. This Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall (橋芳家祠) was built by the Kiu Fong Branch (橋芳祖, Kiu Fong Tso) in 1933. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a detached building in the south-west of the village facing west. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks and mud bricks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls except the front façade are plastered. Thirteen soul tablets are on the altar which is at the end wall of the main hall. The ridges are with curling ends and the front ridge is with a pair of small red geometric mouldings at its two ends. The name of the hall is moulded above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings of landscape, flowers, birds and calligraphy are at the front wall. *Architectural Merit*

It is a branch ancestral hall of the Hos to remind their settlement in Tsung Yuen Ha village. *Rarity*

It has some building heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The authenticity of the building is kept. *Authenticity*

It has group value with a number of old houses nearby. *Group Value*

The Hos were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing and poultry and pig rearing. They have regular ancestral worship at the hall and the worship and the upkeep of the hall was made in monthly turn by the families. They would have special offerings for the ancestors at the hall at the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) on the ninth of the ninth lunar month before they make their grave sweeping at the graves of the ancestors. They still maintain the Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for the new born baby boys of previous year at the *Social Value, & Local Interest*

hall on the 15th of the first lunar month. Lanterns would be hung at the Ho Ancestral Hall and this one. Dangjou (燈酒, celebration dish) would only be held at the open foreground in front of the Ho Ancestral Hall. Many of the families of the Hos have moved overseas or to the urban area leaving only six of the branch in the village.