

Historic Building Appraisal
Bok Man School – School Building
Tsung Pak Long, Sheung Shui

Bok Man School (博文學校) in Tsung Pak Long (松柏塢) of Sheung Shui ***Historical Interest*** was established by villagers surnamed Kan (簡), Chan (陳), Li (李), Lau (劉), Wong (黃) and Kwong (鄺) in 1920. Chan Yung-fok (陳容福), trustee of Tsap Fuk Tong (集福堂), applied for the construction of the school on the present site in 1919. Fund raising for the building of the school was organized by Chan Yung-fok and Kan Ki-shou (簡奇壽). Before the establishment of the school, the children in Tsung Pak Long studied at the ancestral halls and study halls of the areas. Before the new school premises was used, the school had been housed in a village house in Tsung Pak Long. Other than classrooms, the new school had a teachers' room and a quarters for the teachers at the loft. A two-classroom block was added connected to northeast of the old block in 1948 due to the increase of students from other villages with the aids of the government. A separate block of two classrooms was added in 1954 parallel to the main block catering the increase of students with funds raised by the villagers. A hall with four classrooms, the Hui Yin Hing Memorial Hall (許彥卿紀念堂), which construction cost donated by a businessman Hui Oi-chow (許愛周, 1881-1996), was built for the school in 1965.

The block is a Qing (清) vernacular design building in a rectangular plan. It ***Architectural Merit*** was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. With many renovations done to the building, it has been updated with modern facilities. Its roof has been replaced with a metal one with insulation membranes. Bigger windows were added to the building which had small grilles only. The walls have been plastered and painted and the floor covered with ceramic tiles. Two classrooms are now housed in the one-storey structure. The northeast façade of the block is having the badge of the school moulded on the upper portion of the wall with plastered relief mouldings of pine and wave patterns as pine and spring represent the school. The school is in Tsung Pak Long where it was with many pine trees and the Ng Tung River (梧桐河) nearby.

It is a school in Tsung Pak Long to witness the history of the area.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

Its authenticity is not kept after numerous renovations.

Authenticity

It has group value with the 1920 and 1948 main block on its right.

Group Value

The school has been providing primary education for the area as far as before 1919. It is one of earliest subsidized schools in the New Territories. It was granted with 60 dollars in the beginning. The school was closed during the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) and reopened in 1946. The quarters for the teachers was no longer in use in the 1970s when the traffic of the area was improved. Multi-class system was used for the school as there were not enough classrooms. The school had 12 classes in 1960 and 14 in 1964. It became a whole-day school in 1993 and has started taking students in the mainland other than those from different areas including San Tin (新田), Yuen Long (元朗), Tuen Mun (屯門), Tai Po (大埔) and others. Cheung Chi-Fan (張枝繁), J.P., M.B.E., started teaching at the school after the war, was the principal in the 1960-70s.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***