

Historic Building Appraisal

Entrance Gate

Mong Tseng Wai, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Mong Tseng Wai (輞井圍) is in the northeast of Lau Fau Shan (流浮山), Yuen Long. It was founded by the Tang (鄧) clan of Kam Tin (錦田) in the Ming (明, 1368-1644) dynasty. Most of the indigenous villagers have moved to the urban areas or overseas. An open foreground and a big pond are in front of the village. The entrance gate is in the middle of the first row of six rows of houses in the village all facing south. A shrine is at the opposite northern end row on the same central axis of the village. The entrance gate was probably first built in the Ming dynasty and rebuilt in the Qing (清, 1644-1911).

Historical Interest

The entrance gate is an independent structure connected to a two-storey residential house on its left. The gate is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall plan. It is constructed of green brick with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its front and rear doorways are in rectangular shape. Two small rectangular holes are on either side of the front doorway for *fung shui* benefit. Inside the gate entrance on the left end wall is an Earth God (土地) niche and an incinerator at the bottom. The kerbs, steps and lower wall corners are of granite. The floor is of cement-screeded. Cornice moulding is under the eave for decoration. The ridge is in boat shape.

Architectural Merit

It is an entrance gate to witness the history of the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

It has its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the shrine in the village.

Group Value

The entrance gate was an essential structure to protect the villagers living inside the village. It was used to keep away all the enemies, bandits and any threats that would endanger the villagers. It was closed at night. The Earth God at the entrance gate would be offered with incenses on the first and 15th days of each lunar month and at festivals with special offerings. The deity would have offerings of fruits and roast pork at the Earth God Festival (土地誕) on the second day of the second lunar month. The shrine at the far end of the village houses the Earth God and Kwan Tai (關帝) deities among others for worship.

Social Value, & Local Interest