

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 12, 13 & 14 Wong Nai Tun Tsuen**  
**Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long**

Wong Nai Tun Tsuen (黃泥墩村) is in the far south of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long. It was occupied by the Hos (何) first and then the Yus (俞) and the Lais (賴) some 100 to 150 years ago. They are both Hakkas (客家) and the Hos have their ancestors from Jiangxi (江西) province. The Hos were farmers engaged in rice growing and later switched to sugar cane and vegetable growing. After the Second World War, many of the Hos worked as sailors in the 1940s. Many of them worked in Britain in the late 1950s and the 1960s. They later moved with the families to settle there and some in Australia. The block of building at Nos. 12, 13 and 14 was probably built in the 1930s for the residence of the Hos. It was later enlarged to the present size by the father of Ho Sue-hing (何樹興) in the 1940s.

***Historical  
Interest***

The block of three units at Nos. 12, 13 and 14 is a detached building facing south at the last row of three rows of houses in the village. The two-storey building is a traditional Chinese building adopting western style features fashionable in the 1930s. It is constructed of green brick with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The building of three units each has its own entrance and separated by walls between them. The tall building has a parapet at its roof end at the front façade. Each unit has its own pediment separated by short square columns each topped with a ball. The front portion of the building is the living area consisting of living and bedrooms with kitchens at the back. Two chimneys are at each of the kitchen. A living room is immediately behind the entrance with bedrooms at the back of each unit. Bedrooms are on the upper floor. The external walls are left with fair-faced green bricks. The lintels and windows frames are of granite. Windows are opened above the lintel at the front façade for the upper floor rooms. The parapet is decorated with mouldings of flowers and bats.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a residential block of the Hos to witness their settlement in Wong Nai Tun Tsuen.

***Rarity***

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage  
Value***

The authenticity of the building is basically kept.

***Authenticity***

It has group value with the ancestral hall of the Hos and Saam Wo Tong (三和堂), a communal hall, in the village.

***Group Value***

After 1966 only No.14 was occupied by a sister of Ho Sue-hing until she was admitted to a home for the aged. Nos.12 and 13 were rented to outsiders and quarrels were between the tenants and the villagers in the 1990s. The block of building has then left vacated since then. Ho Sue-hing was active in village activities and took part in the Fa Pow (花炮) organizing functions of the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) of Shap Pat Heung in the 1960s. He was also a village representative of Wong Nai Tun Tsuen in 1972-77.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*