

Historic Building Appraisal
Kok Man Study Hall
Shui Tsiu Lo Wai, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Kok Man Study Hall (覺民書室) in Shui Tsiu Lo Wai (水蕉老圍) of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, was erected some 100 years ago by the villagers and those in Nam Hang (南坑). The village was established in the Kangxi reign (康熙, 1662-1722) of the Qing (清) dynasty with major villagers surnamed Tsang (曾), Chan (陳), Kan (簡) and others. The study hall served as one to teach village children from the village and those in Nam Hang, Hung Tso Tin Tsuen (紅棗田村), Nga Yiu Tau (瓦窰頭) and Shung Ching San Tsuen (崇正新村). Chinese classics were taught in the hall and the teacher used to stay at the upper floor of the building. *Historical Interest*

The study hall is a simple Qing vernacular building of two storeys. It has a rectangular plan with a balcony on the first floor. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting its pitched roofs of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Above the lintel of the recessed entrance are wall friezes of landscape paintings. The balcony has concrete balustrades and wall friezes are of flowers-and-rocks and calligraphy. A name board of the study hall is at the balcony. Since the hall has been abandoned, its doors and windows have been blocked up. Its rear tiled roof has been replaced with corrugated sheets. *Architectural Merit*

It is a study hall to remind the past education of the villages. *Rarity*

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

It has been left unattended. Its upkeep is bad losing much of its favours. *Authenticity*

A Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠), a Kan Ancestral Hall (簡氏宗祠) and this study hall in the village have their group value. *Group Value*

The hall was in operation even during the Japanese Occupation when Japanese and subjects assigned by the military government were taught. The hall was closed after the war as children studied at the Wing On She (永安社) beside the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Nga Yiu Tau. Wing On She provided bigger accommodation, better facilities and curriculum and developed into the Wing On School (永安學校) in 1962. Martial arts classes were taught at the hall for village children. It was also used by a local self-defense corps providing security service in the village until the 1950s. It was leased out for residential and storage *Social Value, & Local Interest*

purposes in the 1950s and 1980s. It is left vacated.