

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 76-77 Hung Uk Tsuen (two houses)
Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Hung Uk Tsuen (洪屋村) is in the southeast of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long. It was first inhabited by the Fungs (馮) and later also inhabited by the Tangs (鄧) who were the biggest clan in Ping Shan branched out from their Hang Tau Tsuen (坑頭村). The Tangs settled in Ping Shan in the late Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. Tang Chok-tung (鄧作東) and Tang Tai-fuk (鄧泰福) moved to Hung Uk Tsuen around the 1700s. It is not known when Nos.76 and 77 were constructed. They were built by the Tangs and belonged to the Tang Sham Wo Tong. The manager was Tang Pun (鄧品). He had resided in the houses until 1973 when he emigrated to Canada. The houses were left vacated and sold to a developer in 1999. They are not occupied.

Historical Interest

The two connected residential houses are on the last row of three rows of houses in the village. The houses are Qing vernacular buildings each having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A cooking stove and a bath corner is at the open courtyard. A living room is in front of a bedroom at the hall. A cockloft is above the bedroom also for use as a bedroom. Above the lintel of each entrance is a projected eave with plastered mouldings of scroll, flowers and auspicious treasures. A wall frieze of flowers, fruits and grass plastered mouldings is running at the top end of the front façade wall. Black-and-white curling grass mouldings are at the gable walls. The walls are partially plastered and the floor cement-screeded.

Architectural Merit

The two houses are residential buildings to witness the settlement of the Tangs in Hung Uk Tsuen.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The roof of No.77 was replaced with corrugated sheets. The authenticity of the two houses is basically kept.

Authenticity

They have group value with other old houses of the village.

Group Value

The Tangs became the majority after they moved to the village. The villagers took part in the Da Chiu (打醮) organized by Ping Shan and other activities such as dragon boat racing at the Dragon Boat Festival (端午節). The

Social Value, & Local Interest

Tangs worship their ancestors at the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠) in Hang Mei Tsuen (坑尾村) at the Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung (重陽節) Festivals. Three representatives of the villagers called Ling Shou (令首) are chosen each year for the worshipping of the Earth God (土地) and Well God (井頭神) of the village. They are responsible of offering incense to the deities on the 1st and 15th days of each lunar month and at festivals. Children of the Tangs studied at the Tang Ancestral Hall and Tat Tak Public School (達德學校) in Hang Mei Tsuen.