

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Tai Kei Study Hall**  
**Tin Sam Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long**

Tin Sam San Tsuen (田心新村) is in the south of Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. It was founded by Tang Tai-kei (鄧大紀, 1861-1941), alias Tai-loi (泰來), a 23<sup>rd</sup> generation member of the Tangs from Kiu Tau Wai (橋頭圍) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long. He moved first to Yuen Kong (元崗) village in the east of the village for more than ten years and finally settled in the area to found the village. He built houses in the village and also the Tai Kei Study Hall (大紀家塾) for use as an ancestral hall as well. It is not known when the hall was built. It was probably built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Historical  
Interest***

The study hall is in the northern part of the village. The entrance hall is on a one-bay plan while the end hall on a three-bay plan. On either side of the entrance hall are houses connected together to form a single row. The right bay was occupied by a son of Tai-kei and the entrances leading to the bay were blocked. The building is constructed of green and mud bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Part of the internal walls is plastered and painted. The floors are cement-screeded. A wooden carved altar is in the main hall housing seven soul tablets of the Tangs for worship. Two photographs of Tai-kei are hanging on the wall. The front façade is of fair-faced green bricks. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone on the wall above the lintel. Wall frieze paintings of flowers and birds are on either side of the name board.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a study hall to witness the settlement of the Tangs in the Tin Sam San Tsuen.

***Rarity***

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage  
Value***

The roofs of the open courtyard are turned into reinforced concrete ones. This would diminish the authenticity of the building.

***Authenticity***

Other than used as a study hall, it was for ancestral worship. Seven soul tablets are worshipped at the altar of the hall including one for all the Tang ancestors, one for Tang Tai-kei and five for his sons. The children of the village studied at a government aided school, Tung Yick School (同益學校), near Shui Lau Tin (水流田) village in Pat Heung opened in 1921. Ancestral worship is made at festivals at the hall including Chung Yeung (重陽節) and Ching Ming

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

festivals (清明節). Dim Dang (點燈) ritual would be held at the hall every three years for new born baby boys of the last three years. Three lanterns would be lit in the Tai Kei Study Hall; Chung Shing Temple (眾聖宮), south of Yuen Kong village; and the parents' homes respectively.