

Historic Building Appraisal

Yeung Ancestral Hall

Kuk Po Lo Wai, Luk Keng

Kuk Po (谷埔), north of Luk Keng (鹿頸), has six villages including Kuk Po Lo Wai (谷埔老圍), Kuk Po San Uk Ha (谷埔新屋下), Yi To (二肚), Sam To (三肚), Sze To (四肚) and Ng To (五肚). Kuk Po Lo Wai is the oldest village. Most of the villagers are Hakkas (客家) including the Yeungs (楊), the Sung (宋), the Chengs (鄭), the Lis (李), the Yaus (邱), the Hos (何) and the Ngs (吳). The Yeungs were the earliest settlers who moved to Kuk Po about 300 years ago. When the population of the clan increased, they branched out to Yi To, Sam To, Sze To and Ng To villages. They came back to have their ancestral worship at the Yeung Ancestral Hall (楊氏宗祠) they had built in Lo Wai. It is not known when the hall was built. It was probably constructed in the later half of the mid-18th century. The hall is also called Wang Lun Tong (宏農堂), Ching Pak Tong (清白堂) or Sze Chi Tong (四知堂).

**Historical
Interest**

Located in the middle of the village, the ancestral hall is facing north-west as the other village houses of the village. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks and granite blocks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered. The green brick altar occupies the entire end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of the Yeung ancestors for worship. Behind the soul tablet is a piece of red paper on the wall with a big Chinese character “壽” (longevity) flanked by a couplet. By the soul tablet are two tiny statues of Kwun Yam (觀音) also for worship. The gable walls of the entrance hall are in rectangular shape. Granite is used for its doorframe, wall corners and lower courses of the front wall. A pair of red *ruilong* (夔龍) mouldings is at two ends of the front ridge. The rear ridge is in boat shape with curling ends. The name of the hall is moulded on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall paintings of flowers and birds with calligraphy are under the front roof.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Yeungs to witness their settlement in Kuk Po.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

It is in upkeep condition. Its authenticity is basically kept.

Authenticity

Although most of the Yeungs have moved out the village, some do come back to worship their ancestors at the ancestral hall during the Chinese New Year and at the Chung Yeung (重陽節) and Ching Ming Festivals (清明節). Wedding and funeral ceremonies were held at the hall. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year was held at the hall on the 15th day of the Chinese New Year.

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