

Historic Building Appraisal
Wong Yun Wui Ancestral Hall
San Hing Tsuen, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long

The Wong Yun Wui Ancestral Hall (源匯黃公祠) in San Hing Tsuen (新慶村) of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long, was built around 1900 by descendents of the Wong (黃) clan to commemorate their 13th generation ancestor Wong Yun-wui (黃源匯). Originated from Futian (福田) of Shenzhen (深圳), the Wongs settled in Sha Kong Wai of Yuen Long. Due to increase of population they expanded to Ngau Hom (鰲磡) and later to San Hing Tsuen. The hall is also called Wui Pun Tong (匯本堂), being the main ancestral hall for all the Wongs in the three villages.

Historical Interest

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. On either side of the courtyard is a side chamber. The two halls' middle bays and side halls are connected by tall and wide archways. The main hall's middle bay houses the finely carved wooden altar with rows of soul tablets of the Wong ancestors. Two cocklofts are erected at the side bays of the main hall. The building is constructed of green bricks which walls and columns (turned into concrete ones) support the pitched roofs of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The main ridge of the entrance hall is decorated with moulded geometric pattern to either end with square openings, dragon, floral and plant patterns in the middle. Wall friezes and fascia boards are with auspicious flowers-and-rocks, calligraphy and floral patterns.

Architectural Merit

It is an ancestral hall to show the past development of the villages.

Rarity

The historic building has considerable built heritage value. Parts of the side chambers have its roofs turned concrete and walls plastered. This would slightly affect its authenticity.

Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

The hall was used as a school before the Second World War. After the war, a Tai Shing School (泰成學校), also called Yuen Wui School (源匯學校), was established at the hall. It was renamed as Tai Shing Public School (泰成公立學校) until it ceased to operate in the 1960s. The hall has regular offerings made to the ancestors' soul tablets on the 1st and 15th day of each lunar month, at the Chinese New Year and at Chinese festivals. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year by lighting up lanterns is still held at the hall.

Social Value, & Local Interest