

Historic Building Appraisal
No. 11 Fung Ka Wai
Wang Chau, Yuen Long, New Territories

Fung Ka Wai (馮家圍) village is in the east of Tin Shui Wai (天水圍), Yuen Long. The small village is not a walled village and was so named as it was first and has been mainly occupied by the Fungs (馮氏). The Fungs came from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province. They first settled in the village of Tong Fong (塘坊) of Ping Shan (屏山) working for the Tang (鄧) clan as farmers. They then moved to the present area which was previously called Kok Tsz Tau (角子頭) and established their own village in 1895 after having some savings. They started with mat-sheds and later built their houses with green bricks and mud bricks. *Historical Interest*

Houses at Nos. 1-16 were built in the 1930s with individual blocks Nos. 1-5, No.6, No.11, and Nos.7-16 (except No.11) erected. No. 6 collapsed and No.11 was rebuilt some time ago. Part of Nos. 7-16 was demolished and rebuilt. The block was built by four brothers of the Fungs including Kwok-hei (國喜), Kwok-ping (國平) and Kwok-cheung (國祥). The block was built in 1937 as calligraphy written on the front wall has the year inscribed on it. It was a row of nine houses built connecting one to another. Two houses in the middle were demolished and one detached two-storey new house was erected. On the left is a remaining old house and on the right is a row of remaining old houses including the Wing Hing Tong (永慶堂), an ancestral hall erected by two families of the Fungs.

The block of building is facing southwest. It is constructed of green bricks and mud bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Each house cost around three hundred dollars and bricks were bought from a Yau Lee Store (有利) in Ng Hop Street (五合街) in Yuen Long. It is a Qing vernacular building having a general two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. The houses shared a common roof at their rear halls. The houses except Wing Hing Tong are for residential use. Part of the front façade of the building is retained with fair-faced green bricks and its side walls are plastered and painted. At the recessed entrance of Wing Hing Tong are calligraphy and wall frieze paintings of landscape, peonies, a cock, birds and rocks. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall cum residence to witness the settlement of the Fungs in the village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

Its rear portion has collapsed.

*Authenticity
Group Value*

It has group value with the block Nos.1-5 on its right.

Only 15 families of 74 members were in the village in 1960. The villagers were farmers engaged in agricultural farming which land was rented from the Tangs. They have their representative in the Ping Shan Rural Committee (屏山鄉事委員會). The Fungs had their ancestral worship at the Yee Hing Tong (怡慶堂) at Nos. 1-5 and at Wing Hing Tong. The rear portion of Yee Hing Tong collapsed some 30 years ago and Wing Hing Tong was in ruin about 20 years ago. The soul tablets at the latter were removed. At the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) they would have grave sweeping at their ancestors' graves at Kai Shan (髻山) in the east of the village. They had their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the Yee Hing Tong and Wing Hing Tong on the 9th day of the first lunar month with lanterns lit and hung at the two halls for the baby boys born in previous year. The ritual was discontinued about 20 years ago. The Fung children studied at the Tat Tak School (達德學校) and the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠) in Ping Shan. They worship the Tin Hau deity at the Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) at Fung Chi Tsuen (鳳池村) in Wang Chau.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

*Adaptive
Re-use*