

Historic Building Appraisal
Kan Ancestral Hall
No. 9 Ma On Kong, Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Ma On Kong (馬鞍崗) village in Pat Heung (八鄉) of Yuen Long is occupied by the Wus (胡), the Fans (范) and the Kans (簡). The Kans moved to the village from Shui Tsiu Lo Wai (水蕉老圍) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long about one hundred years ago. The Kans in the village and those in Ha Che Tsuen (下峯村) in Pat Heung and Hung Tso Tin Tsuen (紅棗田村) would make ancestral worship at their clan ancestral hall in Shui Tsiu Lo Wai. The founder of the Kans was Kung-cheung (恭章), a fifth generation ancestor of the clan in Shui Tsiu Lo Wai. The descendents of Kung-cheung built the Kan Ancestral Hall (簡氏家祠), a family hall of the Kung Cheung Tso (恭章祖), probably before the 20th century.

*Historical
Interest*

The ancestral hall is in the first row of village houses facing an open ground. It is connected to a house on either side. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. The walls except the front façade are plastered and painted. The floors are cement-screeded. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The lower courses of the front façade are of granite blocks. The altar is in the middle of the end wall housing a soul tablet of the Kan ancestors for worship. A Kwun Yam (觀音) image is on the left of the tablet also for worship. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. A pair of red geometric mouldings is at two ends of the front ridge.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Kans to witness their settlement in Ma On Kong village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the On Ding Ancestral Hall (安定家祠), Wu Ancestral Hall (胡氏宗祠) and other historic buildings in the village.

Group Value

The Kans have no Dim Dang (點燈) ritual held at the ancestral hall. They would just inform the ancestors at the hall the new born baby boys of the Kans at the Chinese New Year. They would have ancestral worship at the hall at Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節) and have grave sweeping at the ancestors' graves near the entrance of the village. They would have basin meals at the hall and at the open ground of the village for celebration of festivals, wedding and birthdays.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*