

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Shrine**  
**Sik Kong Wai, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long**

Sik Kong Wai (錫降圍) of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long, was one of the old villages of the Tang (鄧) clan who moved from Kam Tin (錦田) in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sik Kong Wai was founded by the descendents of Tang Tiu-yuet (鄧鈞月), son of Tang Hung-wai (鄧洪惠, 1391- ?). It is not known when the wall was built, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The wall had a rectangular plan of a symmetrical design with an entrance in the front façade and four watch towers at its corners. It was northwest oriented having six rows of village houses on either side of its central axis. To the far end of the entrance at the enclosing wall is a shrine (神廳) of the walled village, the Yeung Hau Temple (楊侯宮). It was the deity giving protection to the villagers. On the right enclosing wall is another shrine which was a side entrance of the village. The entrance was blocked due to *fung shui* reasons. On the right wall of the shrine is a niche which houses the Earth God (土地).

***Historical Interest***

The shrine, originally the side entrance gate-house of the walled village, was a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall design. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The wall has an eleven stretchers for every one single header course (十一順一丁) bonding. The present arched entrance was the internal doorway of the side entrance. Granite blocks are for its wall corners, lower courses of the rear wall and doorway frame. In the middle of the end wall is the altar which houses a mirror where the name of the Tin Hau (天后) deity is written. Wall freize above the doorway is with fruit and plant mouldings.

***Architectural Merit***

It is a building to remind the settlement of the Tangs in Ha Tsuen.

***Rarity***

It has considerable built heritage value.

***Built Heritage Value***

The building is not kept properly with a lot of village household items dumped inside making it untidy. The entirety of the building however is maintained.

***Authenticity***

It has group value with the Yeung Hau Temple in the walled village.

***Group Value***

A plaque hanging on the wall behind the altar denotes Tang Wing-leung (鄧 榮亮), a member of the Tang clan in Ha Tsuen, was given the honour *hualing* (花翎) in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Tongzhi (同治, 1871) reign of the Qing dynasty. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was also held at the shrine. Villagers of the Wai would take part in the Da Chiu (打醮) activities organized by the entire Ha Tsuen.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*