

## Historic Building Appraisal

Ching Shu Hin

Nos. 104 & 109 Hang Mei Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Ching Shu Hin (清暑軒) in Hang Mei Tsuen (坑尾村) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, was built by Tang Heung-chuen (鄧香泉, 1838-1879) and his sons in 1874. Heung-chuen is the 22<sup>nd</sup> generation ancestor of the Tang clan in Ping Shan. Ching Shu Hin, literally meaning a cool summer lodge, was built to serve as a guest house for prominent visitors and scholars visiting the next door Kun Ting Study Hall (觀廷書室) built four year earlier. Distinguished visitors include the then Governor Sir Cecil Clementi, Sir Robert Ho Tung (何東爵士), Sir Tang Chi-ngong (鄧志昂) and others. A number of honour boards of its clansmen having achieved titles in the Imperial Civil Service Examination are put on display at the main hall of the building.

**Historical  
Interest**

The house at the mouth of the village is a Qing (清) vernacular residence having an L-shaped plan of two-storeys. It is linked to the Kun Ting Study Hall to its right by a footbridge on the first floor. The elegantly constructed house has the main hall on its ground floor fronted with an open courtyard. To its left is the kitchen and meal preparation room. A stable is in front of the main entrance with separate entrance. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns supporting its pitched roofs of timber rafters, beams, purlins and clay tiles. Skilful craftsmen were employed from Foshan (佛山) and Guangzhou (廣州) to handle the construction. The ridge is with auspicious mouldings of geometric, treasures and floral patterns. Fascia boards, timber beams, wall and gable friezes are with similar matching patterns.

**Architectural  
Merit**

A highly rare guest house to denote the wealth and status of the Tang clan in Ping Shan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Rarity**

It is of high built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

It was renovated in 1993 with its authenticity well-kept.

**Authenticity**

With the Kun Ting Study Hall they are gems of the village having co-related group value.

**Group value**

Other than serving as a guest house, it was a high class venue for the Tangs offering meals to prominent visitors and senior members of the clan.

*Social Value  
& Local Interest*