

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Wong Tak Ching Ancestral Hall**  
**No. 92 Shan Tsui, Sha Tau Kok**

Shan Tsui (山咀) village is in the closed area of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). It was a village of the Tangs (鄧) of Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) and later occupied by six Hakka (客家) clans including the Ngs (吳), the Laws (羅), the Mos (巫), the Wongs (黃), the Yaus (邱) and the Tsuis (徐) after the lifting of the Evacuation Edict (遷界令) by the Qing (清) empire in 1669. Two ancestral halls of the Wongs are built side by side in the village, but they have no lineage relationship. The founding ancestor Wong Tak-ching (黃迪禎) moved from Bolou (博羅) of Guangdong (廣東) province and settled in the village in the 1720s. The Wong Tak Ching Ancestral Hall (迪禎黃公祠) was built in 1921 to commemorate him. One of the descendents of the Wongs, Yiu-cheung (黃耀祥), worked in Panama together with others in the area and gained his fortune in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. He later returned to Hong Kong and worked as a businessman of imports and exports and investor of land and property. The ancestral hall has wall paintings and mouldings of western influence including objects of airplanes, tropical fruits and others very much shows the Wongs' overseas experience.

**Historical  
Interest**

The ancestral hall is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. Side rooms and side chambers are on either side of the middle bay halls and courtyard. The building is constructed of green bricks and rammed earth with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and floors cement-screeded. The archways of the halls and chambers have openings of cloud shapes. A finely-carved wooden altar is at the end wall of the middle bay housing two soul tablets of the Wong ancestors for worship. The name of the hall is moulded on a piece of brown marble above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The roofs are covered with yellow ceramic tiles. The front ridge is with geometric mouldings at its two ends and some other mouldings of auspicious treasures, flowers, fruits, vegetables, lions, unicorns, horses, fish and others. Fascia boards and wall frieze mouldings under the eaves and internal wall paintings are of similar motifs with calligraphy, birds, figures, landscape as well as an airship, a balloon, airplanes, an elephant and other western-influenced objects.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Wongs to witness their settlement in Shan Tsui village.

**Rarity**

It has considerable built heritage value. Its wall paintings, fascia boards and mouldings having uncommon western objects are rare among the Chinese historic buildings in Hong Kong.

***Built Heritage  
Value  
Authenticity***

The building was renovated in 1986 and 2002. Its authenticity is basically kept.

Tak-ching had a leading role in the establishment of the Tung Wo Market (東和墟) in Sha Tau Kok. His grandson, Yin-fung (賢鳳, 1779-1867) took an initiative in the construction of the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) near the market in 1815-20. Another member of the clan, Yau-hong (有康, 1804-1902), was an officer in the Xinan (新安) magistrate. Three of Tak-ching's grandsons moved to Nai Chung (泥涌) of Ma On Shan (馬鞍山) who do not have their ancestral hall. Their descendents have their ancestral worship at the ancestral hall in the Chinese New Year. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was held at the hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first lunar month. Kwun Yam (觀音) is also worshipped at the left chamber of the hall.

***Social Value,  
& Local Interest***