

Historic Building Appraisal
King Yip Study Hall
No. 113 Mong Tseng Wai, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Mong Tseng Wai (輞井圍) village in Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, was first inhabited by the Tangs (鄧) who branched out from Ha Tsuen in the late Ming (明, 1368-1644) dynasty. It was also inhabited by the Cheungs (張), the Lees (李), the Sits (薛) and the Wus (胡). Some of the Cheungs and Lees later branched out to Mong Tseng Tsuen (輞井村) in the west. King Yip Study Hall (敬業書室) in the village was built for the Tang children to be educated firstly for them to gain success in the Imperial Civil Service Examination in order to have official career in the Qing (清) government. It is not known when the study hall was built. It was probably first erected in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). The hall was rebuilt in 1958.

***Historical
Interest***

The study hall is in the last two rows of houses of the village. It occupies the west ends of the two rows showing that it might have its expansion in later stage. Unlike the other houses facing south, it is facing west. It was a Qing vernacular building but has been very much altered. It is in an irregular form having mainly a main hall on its right and a kitchen, an office and a rest room on its left separated by an entrance hall, an open courtyard and a bedroom in the middle. A cockloft is constructed in the main hall accessed via two staircases. It is constructed of red and green bricks with its walls and columns to support its pitched and flat roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and painted and the floors are with cement screeding. The end wall in the main hall is painted red with a ceramic statue of Kwan Tai (關帝) on an altar for worship. The name of the hall is moulded above the lintel of the recessed entrance.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a study hall of the Tangs to remind their history and settlement in Mong Tseng Wai.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The authenticity of the building is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with a shrine in the village.

Group Value

It is used for the worship of Kwan Tai by the villagers.

Adaptive Re-use

The hall provided traditional teaching of Chinese classics to the students. *Social Value,*
Towards the turn of the 20th century, modern education was introduced *& Local Interest*
teaching other subjects including mathematics, general knowledge and others.
Teachers were recruited from Guangzhou (廣州) and outside Yuen Long.
Accommodation was provided for the teachers at the hall which included
bedrooms, a kitchen and a washroom. After the Second World War, classes
were given in the hall with the lower forms on the ground floor and upper
forms in the cockloft. A total of some 13 students were taught at the hall. When
the Mong Tseng Public Shung Yee School (輞井公立崇義學校) was set up in
1946, the study hall was then closed. A grocery was housed in the hall in 1963
until 1968.