

Historic Building Appraisal
Kwok Ancestral Hall
Pak Mong, Tai Ho Wan, Lantau

The Kwok Ancestral Hall (郭家宗祠) of Pak Mong (白芒) village in Tai Ho Wan (大蠔灣), in the northern shore of Lantau Island, was built before 1911 as the genealogy of the clan has recorded the year of its renovation. The village was established some two hundred and fifty years ago. Originated from Tingzhou (汀洲) of Fujian (福建) province, Kwok Shi-ching (郭仕禎) of their eighth generation moved to the foot of Por Kai Shan (婆髻山), west of the village probably in the 16th century. Their earlier ancestors were in Taiyuan (太原) of Shanxi (山西) province. They moved to Tai Ho Wan for permanent settlement in the mid-18th century. Being close to the sea, they made their living by cultivation, fishing and transportation. Some of their descendents branched out to Lin Fa Tei (蓮花地) village of Yuen Long. The village was a small one with only 75 villagers in 1911. It had only two rows of village houses and the ancestral hall is facing the sea in the north.

Historical Interest

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building constructed in the front row of the village. It is a one-hall-one-courtyard building with a side chamber of equal length on its right. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The ancestral altar is at the end wall with the soul tablet of a number of the ancestors' names written on it. All the walls are plastered and painted except the front and side walls. The floors of the main hall and open courtyard are covered with modern ceramic tiles. The plastered mouldings on the front façade and gable walls of flowers and plants motifs are painted with brown colour. A fascia board under the front eave is with flowers and birds carvings.

Architectural Merit

It is an ancestral hall of the Kwoks to remind their settlement in Pak Mong village.

Rarity

The simple ancestral hall has no significant built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

A recent renovation was carried out in 2003. Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the watchtower in the village.

Group Value

The ancestral hall was used as a meeting place to deal with village matters. It was used as a school to teach the village children. The side chamber was to accommodate the teacher of the school. The school function of the ancestral hall was transferred to the watchtower of the village erected in the 1940s.

Social Value,
& Local
Interest