

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 1-5 Fung Ka Wai
Wang Chau, Yuen Long, New Territories

Fung Ka Wai (馮家圍) village is in the east of Tin Shui Wai (天水圍), Yuen Long. The small village is not a walled village and was so named as it was first and has been mainly occupied by the Fungs (馮氏). The Fungs came from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province. They first settled in the village of Tong Fong (塘坊) of Ping Shan (屏山) working for the Tang (鄧) clan as farmers. They then moved to the present area which was previously called Kok Tsz Tau (角子頭) and established their own village in 1895 after having some savings. They started with mat-sheds and later built their houses with green bricks and mud bricks. *Historical Interest*

Houses at Nos. 1-16 were built in the 1930s with individual blocks Nos. 1-5, No.6, No.11, and Nos.7-16 (except No.11) erected. No. 6 collapsed and No.11 was rebuilt some time ago. Part of Nos. 7-16 was demolished and rebuilt. Nos. 1-5 is an ancestral hall cum residence called Yee Hing Tong (怡慶堂). The Tong is the ancestral hall for all the Fungs where they have their ancestral worship. It has its rear portion partially collapsed about thirty years ago and is covered with wild vegetation.

The block of building is probably the oldest building erected by the Fungs in the 1930s. It is a two-storey building facing southwest. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. It is a symmetrical building with the main hall in the middle bay for ancestral worship. Rooms on the ground and upper floors are on either side of the entrance and main halls for residential use. The front façade of the building is retained with fair-faced green bricks. Its side walls are plastered and painted. The entrance in the middle bay is recessed. The building is without any decoration except the cornice moulding under the eave. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall cum residence to witness the settlement of the Fungs in the village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

Its rear portion has collapsed.

Authenticity

It has group value with the block Nos.7-16 on its right.

Group Value

Only 15 families of 74 members were in the village in 1960. The villagers were farmers engaged in agriculture and farmland was rented from the Tangs. They have their representative in the Ping Shan Rural Committee (屏山鄉事委員會). The block of house was occupied by six families before the Second World War. The Fungs had their ancestral worship at the Wing Hing Tong (永慶堂) at Nos.7-16. At the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) they would have grave sweeping at their ancestors' graves at Kai Shan (髻山) in the east of the village. They had their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the Yee Hing Tong and Wing Hing Tong on the 9th day of the first lunar month with lanterns lit and hung at the two halls for the baby boys born in previous year. The ritual was discontinued about 20 years ago. The Fung children studied at the Tat Tak School (達德學校) and the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠) in Ping Shan. They worship the Tin Hau deity at the Tin Hau Temple (天后廟) at Fung Chi Tsuen (鳳池村) in Wang Chau.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

*Adaptive
Re-use*