

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Wong Ancestral Hall

#### Wong Yi Chau, Sai Kung

Wong Yi Chau Tsuen (黃宜洲村), or Ha Yiu (下窰, Lower Kiln), is one of the six villages in Pak Tam Chung (北潭涌), Sai Kung. It is in the south of Sheung Yiu (上窰, Upper Kiln). The two villages were inhabited by the Wongs (黃), Hakkas (客家), from Baoan (寶安) of Guangdong (廣東) province more than 200 years ago. The Wong Ancestral Hall (黃氏家祠) is in the northwest of the village first built probably when the village was established. It became dilapidated and was rebuilt in 2000. It is also called Ng Fuk Tong (五福堂, Five Fortunes Hall) as the founding ancestor of the Wongs had five sons. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a detached building a short distance from the village houses in its south. The hall is facing southeast to the sea with an open forecourt in its front. The hall is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. A long wall is on either side of the front façade of the building. A pitched roof entrance gate covered with yellow glazed tiles is on the left of the forecourt at the approaching foot path. The hall is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof. The entire building is covered with pink, red and brown ceramic tiles. Its roofs are with yellow tiles. A pair of geometric water pattern is at the two ends of the front ridge. A pair of yellow ceramic dragons and a firing pearl are at the rear ridge. A soul tablet of the Wong ancestors is in the middle of the altar at the end wall of the main hall for worship. Two characters “壽” (longevity) and “福” (well-being) engraved on black marbles are at the main and entrance halls. The name of the hall on a piece of black marble is on the wall above the doorway of the entrance. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Wongs to witness their settlement in the area. *Rarity*

It has little built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

It was rebuilt in 2000. The authenticity of the old hall is removed. *Authenticity*

The Wongs were engaged in rice and vegetable growing and fishing as the villages are close to the sea. They also made lime with the coral and shells collected from the sea. They produced green bricks and tiles for sale to *Social Value, & Local Interest*

the urban areas in Kowloon. The ancestral hall is for the ancestral worship of the Wongs especially at the Chinese New Year and at the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節). Kwun Yam (觀音) deity is also worshipped at the hall. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is also held at the Chinese New Year for new born baby boys of previous year by lighting a lantern at the hall. Many of the Wongs became Christians in the 1950-60s and a church called Fuk Yam Tong (福音堂), a gospel chapel, was in the village making use of the premises of a school in the 1960s. Most of the villagers have moved overseas or in the urban areas. The ancestral hall is still used for ancestral worship at festivals.