

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 120-124 Sik Kong Tsuen (Five Houses)
Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long

Sik Kong Tsuen (錫降村) in the northern part of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long, has a history of more than 300 years established by descendents of Tang Diu-yuet (鄧鈞月), third son of Tang Hung-wai (鄧洪惠). Hung-wai was a 15th generation member of the Tang clan settled in Ha Tsuen. A row of five houses, Nos. 120, 121, 122, 123 and 124, was built in the western part of the village. Nos. 123 and 124 were first built in or before 1945 and the rest a bit later.

*Historical
Interest*

The row of five residential houses is facing south like the other houses in the village. The houses are Qing (清) vernacular buildings each having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks and rammed earth with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The green bricks were produced in two brick kilns in Ngau Hom Shek (鰲磡石), further north of Ha Tsuen in Lau Fau Shan (流浮山) near Sheung Pak Nai (上白泥). A cooking stove and a bath corner is respectively on the left and right of the open courtyard in front of the hall. A living room is in front of a bedroom at the hall. A cockloft is above the bedroom also for use as a bedroom. Above the stone lintel of the entrance of each house is a projected eave with mouldings of flowers, fruits and auspicious treasurers. A wall frieze with mouldings of flowers and birds is on either side of the projected eave. Part of the external and internal walls are plastered and painted and the floor cement-screeded.

*Architectural
Merit*

The row of five houses is to witness the settlement of the Tangs in the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The houses are in fair condition with their authenticity kept.

Authenticity

They have group value with the rebuilt Tung Yum Tong and two shrines in the village.

Group Value

No. 123 is occupied by Tang Cheung-yip (鄧長業) who is a third generation member living in the house. He worked in Britain starting in the late 1950s and has returned to Hong Kong. His children are still in Britain.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

House No. 124 is left vacated and taken care of by Cheung-yip as the owner, a relative of him, and his family are in Britain. Houses Nos. 121 and 122 are owned by the Tangs and are occupied. House No.120 owned by a Tang is left vacated. The Tangs have their family ancestral hall called Tung Yum Tong (桐蔭堂) in the eastern end of the village. They have ancestral worship at the hall which was rebuilt in 2001. The soul tablets of the eldest clansman of each generation are placed at the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠), the main ancestral hall of the Tangs in Ha Tsuen, for worship. The Tangs have their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys on the 11th of the Chinese New Year by burning three oil lamps at the ancestral hall until the 16th. Oil lamps would be hung at Tung Yum Tong thereafter and at the homes of each baby boys. The Tangs also take part in the Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) organized by the villages of Ha Tsuen held once every ten year, the last one was in 2005. The villagers also take part in the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) on the 23rd of the third lunar month organized at the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Sha Kong Tsuen (沙江村) in Lau Fau Shan.