

Historic Building Appraisal
Fung Ancestral Hall
No. 22 Lin Fa Tei, Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Lin Fa Tei (蓮花地) village is in the south of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路) in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. It is a multi-clan village occupied by the Kwoks (郭), the Lees (李), the Fungs (馮), the Chengs (鄭) and others. The Kwoks were the first settlers and are still the majority. Later the Lees and the Chengs moved to Ngau Keng (牛徑) village in its south and the Fungs to Shui Lau Tin (水流田) village in its north. Fung King-yau (馮琮友) was the founding ancestors of the Fungs moved from Foshan (佛山) to Shenzhen (深圳) of Guangdong (廣東) province and later settled in the village in the 18th century. The first Fung Ancestral Hall (馮氏家祠) was probably built in the 18th century and was dilapidated. It was rebuilt in 1998. It was also called King Yau Tong (琮友堂) to commemorate the founding ancestor.

***Historical
Interest***

The ancestral hall is in the last row of six rows of village houses in the village. It is connected to village houses on either side. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roofs. The entire building is covered with new ceramic tiles of cream, red, brown and green colours. Rows of soul tablets of the Fung ancestors are on display at the altar at the end wall of the main hall for worship. In front of it is the offering table with incense burners. A marble board engraved with “馮氏家祠” is on the wall above the doorway at the entrance. A couplet engraved on marble is on either side of the doorway. The ridge is covered with green glazed ceramic tiles and a pair of *aoyu* (鰲魚) is at its two ends.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is an ancestral hall of the Fungs to witness their settlement in the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

It was rebuilt in 1998. The authenticity of the old ancestral hall has been removed.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Kwok Ancestral Hall (郭氏宗祠) and other old structures in the village.

Group Value

The ancestral hall has been used for ancestral worship of the Fungs. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys was held once every five years at the hall at the Chinese New Year. The Fungs would participate in the Da Chiu (打醮) activities of the village held once every five years. Statues of different deities of the Pat Heung Temple (八鄉古廟) including Kwun Yam (觀音), Tin Hau (天后), Kwan Tai (關帝) and others would be invited to tour round the village to ward off the evil spirits.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*