

Historic Building Appraisal
Wong Shuk Nai Ancestral Hall
No. 91 Shan Tsui, Sha Tau Kok

Shan Tsui (山咀) village is in the closed area of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). It was a village of the Tangs (鄧) of Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) and later occupied by six Hakka (客家) clans including the Ngs (吳), the Laws (羅), the Mos (巫), the Wongs (黃), the Yaus (邱) and the Tsuis (徐) after the lifting of the Evacuation Edict (遷界令) by the Qing (清) empire in 1669. Two ancestral halls of the Wongs are built side by side in the village, but they have no lineage relationship. The founding ancestor Wong Shing-kam (黃勝錦), a 5th generation ancestor of the Wongs, settled in the village in the early 18th century. The old Wong Shuk Nai Ancestral Hall (淑孺) built between 1905 and 1921 was to commemorate Shing-kam's father Suk-nai (淑孺). It was built by Wing-cheung (永彰), a 9th generation member, who gained his fortune by working in Panama in the mid 19th century. Due to dilapidation of the old ancestral hall, it was rebuilt in 2003. The ancestral hall next door is the Wong Tak Ching Ancestral Hall (妣禎黃公祠) built in 1921. *Historical Interest*

It is a Qing vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of two bays. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. A side room or chamber is on the right of the courtyard and the two halls. A side room is also on the left of the entrance hall. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Except some internal walls, the entire building is covered with granite tiles and new ceramic tiles of brown and green colours. A soul tablet of the Wong ancestors is 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. Two big characters “孝” (filial piety) and “悌” (fraternal love) are engraved on stone at the open courtyard. The name of the ancestral hall is engraved on a board on the wall above the doorway at the entrance. The two ridges are covered with green glazed ceramic tiles and a pair of ceramic *aoyu* (鰲魚) is at two ends of the ridges. Wall frieze ceramic tile paintings of landscape, dragon and flowers are on the front façade, the gable walls and internal walls. *Architectural Merit*

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

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The authenticity of the old ancestral hall has been removed.

Authenticity

Descendents of the Wongs in the village later branched out to Nai Chung (泥涌) in Ma On Shan (馬鞍山). After Wing-cheung returned to Hong Kong in the late 19th century, he had an import and export company in Sheung Wan (上環) dealing business with Australia and New Zealand. The shop also dealt with remittances of villagers working overseas. He once had a firm to employ labourers to work for the construction of the railway station in Zhangmutou (樟木頭) of Dongguan (東莞), Guangdong (廣東) province. He also built houses in the village and contributed money for the renovation of the Hip Tin Temple (協天宮) in the area and the Kwong Fuk Bridge (廣福橋) in Tai Po. The Wongs have their ancestral worship at the ancestral hall in the Chinese New Year. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual would be held at the hall on the 15th day of the first lunar month. Kwun Yam (觀音) is also worshipped at the hall.

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***