

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Yeung Hau Temple**  
**Sik Kong Wai, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long**

Sik Kong Wai (錫降圍) of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long, was one of the old villages of the Tang (鄧) clan who moved from Kam Tin in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sik Kong Wai was founded by the descendents of Tang Tiu-yuet (鄧鈞月), son of Tang Hung-wai (鄧洪惠, 1391- ?). It is not known when the wall was built, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The wall had a rectangular plan of a symmetrical design with an entrance in the front façade and four watch towers at its corners. It was northwest oriented having six rows of village houses on either side of its central axis. To the far end of the entrance at the enclosing wall is a shrine of the walled village, the Yeung Hau Temple (楊侯宮). It was the deity giving protection to the villagers. On the right enclosing wall is another shrine which was a side entrance of the village. The entrance was blocked due to *fung shui* reasons.

***Historical Interest***

The temple is a Qing (清) vernacular building having one-hall design with its entrance facing the entrance of the walled village at the far end of the wall in the same central axis. It was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Four square concrete columns were added at its four corners in a renovation in the 1950s. The roof was turned into a reinforced concrete one. Its height was also raised with a window opened at the front façade. The walls are plastered. A projected hood is above the doorway with clay tiles mouldings of leaves and flowers. The name board of the temple is above the doorway. In the middle of the hall is the altar which houses the Hau Wong deity's statue.

***Architectural Merit***

It is a building to remind the settlement of the Tangs in Ha Tsuen.

***Rarity***

It has considerable built heritage value.

***Built Heritage Value***

The temple was renovated in the 1950s and 1960s with its structure strengthened. Its authenticity has then been diminished.

***Authenticity***

It has group value with the shrine on the right of the walled village.

***Group Value***

The temple would be given special offerings for the celebration of the Hau Wong Festival on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the second lunar month. A Taoist priest was invited to perform rituals to give blessings to the villagers in the old days. This

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

activity has been discontinued after the Second world War. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was held at the temple. The villagers would take part in Da Chiu (打醮) activities organized by the entire Ha Tsuen.