

Historic Building Appraisal
Tung Fuk Tong
Nga Yiu Tau, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Tung Fuk Tong (同福堂) in Nga Yiu Tau (瓦窑頭) village of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, is a communal Hakka (客家) ancestral hall built by six families of the village, namely, the Kans (簡氏), the Lais (賴氏), the Tangs (鄧氏), the Tses (謝氏) and two Cheung (張) families. They came to settle in the village around the end of the 19th or the early 20th centuries and the ancestral hall was built in the 1910s. The village was originally called Lung Yin Tsuen (龍涎村) and changed into the present name during the Second World War when newcomers settled there. The hall serves as the common place for ancestral worship of the six families with their ancestors soul tablets displayed at the altar. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a one-storey Qing (清) vernacular building having a taller hall in the middle and flanked by one chamber to its right and left. The right chamber (originally a kitchen) however has been demolished and the left one is used as a kitchen. The building was constructed of green bricks with flush gable pitched roofs (硬山式). Its walls support the roofs which are composed of wooden rafters, purlins and red clay tiles. Its recessed entrance has the name board above the lintel. The only decoration of the hall is the wall friezes at the façade with paintings of a dragon and landscapes and calligraphy. At the altar at the far end of the hall, a common soul tablet and six soul tablets of the families are on display for worship. *Architectural Merit*

It is a multi-family Hakka ancestral hall of considerable rarity. *Rarity*

The simple ancestral hall has some built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

Though the right chamber has collapsed and parts of the walls of the right one replaced with corrugated sheets, the hall itself is in good up-keep condition. *Authenticity*

The left side chamber was used as a study hall called Lung Yin School (龍涎學校) founded in the 1920-30s teaching Chinese classics and other subjects for village children. The families, being Hakkas, do not have Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the hall and they would hang gingers at the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Nga Yiu Tau instead. *Social Value, & Local Interest*