

Historic Building Appraisal
Sin Hing Study Hall
No. 1 Tsz Tong Tsuen, Tai Hang, Tai Po

Sin Hing Study Hall (善慶書室) in Tsz Tong Tsuen (祠堂村) of Tai Hang (泰亨), Tai Po, was said to be built some 300 years ago by the Man (文) clan whose first settler in Tai Hang was Man Yam (文蔭), a 6th generation ancestor of Man Tin-shui (文天瑞). Tin-shui was a blood brother of Man Tin-cheung (文天祥) who was a renowned patriot fighting with the Mongols to protect the Song Emperors in the late Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. The Mans first settled in Tuen Mun (屯門) and Ping Shan (屏山) before they moved to Tai Po. In the late Qing (清) dynasty two teachers having the title of *xiucai* (秀才), (successful in the district level of the Imperial Civil Service Examination) Tang Kwun-shing (鄧冠成) and Man Yuk-tsuen (文郁邨) from San Tin (新田), taught in the study hall. Man Chai (文齊), a local gentry, had his education at the hall.

Historical Interest

The study hall was a small Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard was between the two halls. It was in symmetrical design with the Confucius portrait hung in the middle of the main hall in the old days. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls and arches supporting its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The recessed entrance has granite door frame, wall bases and lintel. Above the lintel is the name board in plastered form. The central portion of the building is in ruin. Its left and right portions have been installed with separate doors for residential use. Mouldings of the wall friezes are in flowers-and rocks pattern with their colours faded away.

Architectural Merit

It is one of the study halls in Tai Hang to witness the education role of the Mans. The building is of considerable built heritage value.

Rarity & Built Heritage Value

It is in a very dilapidated stage. No upkeep has been made to the remains of the building.

Authenticity

Ngai Wun Tong (藝沅堂), Ching Lun Tong (正倫堂), Chung Kwai Study Hall (叢桂書室) and this one in Tai Hang have related group value.

Group Value

Other than teaching children in villages of Tai Hang, many others came to study at the hall as far as from Lam Tsuen (林村). In the later stage when modern education was introduced to the area, teachers from the Government Tai Po Vernacular Normal School (大埔官立漢文師範學堂) were employed to teach in

Social Value, & Local Interest

the hall.