

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Yau Sin Study Hall**  
**San Wai, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long**

San Wai (新圍) village, or San Hing Tsuen (新慶村), its full name in the old days, is in the northwest of Ha Tsuen (廈村), Yuen Long. It was established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Tang Tso-tai (鄧作泰) and Tang Wai-shi (鄧爲士), two 18<sup>th</sup> generation members of the Tangs (鄧) who branched out from Ha Tsuen. Ha Tsuen was first established by two brothers, Tang Hung-wai (鄧洪惠) and Tang Hung-chi (鄧洪贄), two 15<sup>th</sup> generation members of the Tang clan in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Tso-tai and Wai-shi were descendents of Hung-wai. The Yau Sin Study Hall (友善書室) was first built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for the education of the village children. Teachers were accommodated on the upper floor of the study hall teaching around 20 to 30 student in the side rooms. The hall was also used for ancestral worship with a soul tablet of the Tangs worshipped at the main hall. Due to dilapidation of the old building, the hall was rebuilt in 1984.

*Historical  
Interest*

The building is a medium-sized study hall. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of four bays. An additional bay was added on the right of the hall in the later stage. An open forecourt is in front of the building. The new study hall is constructed of concrete with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs. An open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls in the middle bay. Rooms are on either side of the entrance hall and open courtyard on the ground floor and so is the upper floor. The main hall houses an altar with a soul tablet of the Tangs at the end wall for worship. A beam with a ceramic picture of the Eight Immortals (八仙) and landscape is installed between two columns at the main hall. The building is plastered and painted. The external walls are with groove lines. The original granite blocks of the front façade of the old building are retained in the new building. The name of the ancestral hall “友善書室”(Yau Sin Study Hall) is engraved on the lintel above the doorway of the recessed entrance. A big piece of ceramic tiled picture of a dragon and a phoenix is above the doorway. The ridges are each with a set of green glazed *longren* (龍吻) at its two ends. The roofs are covered with green glazed tiles and drippers.

*Architectural  
Merit*

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

*Rarity*

The rebuilt study hall has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

This rebuilt study hall is a 1984 version of an old study hall. Its authenticity is not kept.

*Authenticity*

The old study hall was to educate the village children for the preparation of the Imperial Civil Service Examination. A number of the villagers did gain titles in different levels of the examination. A board at the hall records a Tang Jor-wai (鄧佐槐) gaining the *jinshi* (進士) title in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the Tongzhi (同治, 1868) reign of the Qing dynasty.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*