

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 61 & 62 Tsung Yuen Ha**  
**Ta Kwu Ling**

Tsung Yuen Ha (松園下) village is in the closed area of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺). It is a Punti (本地) single-clan village occupied by the Hos (何) who came to the village in the late Ming (明, 1668-1644) dynasty. A Ho Ancestral Hall (何氏宗祠) of medium size was built in the northern part of the village for the entire village. Two branch ones of smaller sizes were built. One of them has been demolished. The Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall (橋芳家祠) was built by the Kiu Fong Branch (橋芳祖, Kiu Fong Tso) in 1933. Nos. 61 and 62 is a block of two-storey building on the left of the Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall. The building was built by the parents of Ho Fo-yiu (何伙耀). It was first owned by Fo-yiu and later by his brother Fo-leung (伙亮). The latter worked in a Chinese restaurant in London in the 1960s. He was the first person in the village working in Britain. He remitted money back to Hong Kong via a shop called Chi Sheung Hong (知商行) in Sheung Shui (上水). It is not known when the building was built. Aerial photographs indicate it was not constructed in 1924. It was probably built in the 1930s. The block is now left vacated.

***Historical  
Interest***

The block of building is north-west facing of a mixed style. It is a two-storey vernacular building of two units each has its own entrance. A flat-roofed kitchen shorter in height is at the back of each unit. It is constructed of green bricks, granite and concrete with its walls and columns to support its pitched and flat roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A balcony is on the upper floor in the forefront of the two units supported by a column and the gable walls of green bricks extended to the ground floor. Circular mouldings with flower patterns are on the low wall of the balcony. Part of the internal walls are plastered and painted whilst the external walls are of fair-faced green bricks. The roof, floor and staircase of the left unit have collapsed.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a block of houses of the Hos to remind their settlement in the Tsung Yuen Ha village.

***Rarity***

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage  
Value***

The building is not occupied and is deteriorating which authenticity is diminishing.

***Authenticity***

It has group value with the Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall on its left and house Nos.57 – 59 on his right.

***Group Value***

Two wooden labels are believed to be put up on the walls of the building by the Japanese Hong Kong Government of Captured Territory (香港占領地總督部) during the Japanese Occupation (1941-45). Disturbance of Japanese troops to the village, as villagers disclosed, was not great. Fo-leung had contribution on the renovation of the village entrance road. After Fo-leung settled down in London, his wife and children moved subsequently to London. Fo-leung returned to Hong Kong in the early 1970s to participate one of his sons' wedding ceremony. He died soon after the ceremony due to high blood pressure.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*