

Historic Building Appraisal

Tung Kok Wai

Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, N.T.

The founding ancestor of the Tangs in Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) is Tang Chung-ling (鄧松嶺, 1302-1387) of the Yuan dynasty (元, A.D. 1271-1368). The Tangs had a long history of development in Lung Yeuk Tau and they further spread to neighbouring areas and established 11 villages collectively known as Five Wais and Six Tsuens (五圍六村, that is, five walled villages and six villages). Tung Kok Wai (東閣圍) is one of the walled villages. Having a history of some 500 years, Tung Kok Wai was first erected by Tang Lung-kong (鄧龍崗, 1363-1421), son of Tang Chung-ling. The enclosing wall of the village was constructed to give protection to the villagers from attacks of bandits, pirates and enemy villagers. It was a small walled village and the enclosing walls are not in proper shape. The watchtowers in the four corners of the village have collapsed, leaving their bases.

**Historical
Interest**

The rectangular wall had an entrance gate in the front wall with four watchtowers at its four corners. It is a Qing (清) structure in symmetrical design with its entrance gate at the central axis. The entrance gate is at the north-west front wall constructed of green and red bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, battens and clay tiles. Two small rectangular windows are above the doorway. Above the lintel is a stone plaque with the name board of the wai engraved on it dated 1953, the year of restoration. The gate is accessed by a flight of steps. Inside the gate house are four red sandstone column bases and two big rectangular granite blocks which were the remnants of a temple built around the village.

**Architectural
Merit**

The remaining structure of the wai is to remind the past settlement of the Tangs in Lung Yeuk Tau.

Rarity

The structure is of some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The authenticity of the wall has not been kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with other historical buildings such as the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall (松嶺鄧公祠), Tin Hau Temple (天后宮), Lo Wai (老圍) and others.

Group Value

An Earth God (土地) shrine is erected close to the entrance gate for villagers' worship. Its acts as the guardian of the village giving protection to them. In the old days Gang Lin (更練, patrol and security) service was organized by male villagers at night to keep the village in peace. The villagers also took part in ancestral worship and Dim Dang (點燈) activities organized at the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall and other celebrations during festivals and Da Chiu (打醮) activities.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***