

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lik Wing Tong Study Hall**  
**No. 85 Shui Tau Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long**

Lik Wing Tong Study Hall (力榮堂書室) is one of the six study halls in the historic village of Shui Tau Tsuen (水頭村) of the Tang (鄧) clan in Kam Tin (錦田), Yuen Long. It was built by the descendents of Tang Lei-yuen (鄧履元) of the first branch (長房) of the clan in Kam Tin. The exact year of construction of the study hall is not known. It was probably built before 1835 as a wooden board at the study hall has the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Daoguang (道光, 1835) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty inscribed on it. *Historical Interest*

With the provision of new schools in Kam Tin such as the Kam Tin Mung Yeung Public School (錦田公立蒙養學校), Lik Wing Tong Study Hall ceased to function as a place for education about 50 years ago. It has, however, continued to be a place for the clan members to gather together for discussion and to deal with village matters.

The study hall is at the right end of the village with six rows of village houses on its left. It is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. Side rooms and chambers are on either side of the halls and courtyard. The forecourt in its front is slightly smaller than the width of the building with an entrance opened at its left end. A narrow short side court was added on its right which reaches up to the extent of the front hall level. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are retained with their fair-faced green bricks except the main hall with imitation brick lines. The black ridges are in boat shape with white curling pattern. Wall frieze paintings of figures and calligraphy are above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Fascia boards and mouldings at the front façade and at the gable walls are of flowers, birds and landscape pattern. *Architectural Merit*

It is a study hall of the Tang clan to witness their settlement and history in Kam Tin. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

A renovation was made by the Antiquities and Monuments Office in 2004. It has its authenticity kept. *Authenticity*

It has group value with the historic buildings in the village including So Lau Yuen (泝流園), Yi Tai Study Hall (二帝書院), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮), Loi Shing Tong (來成堂) and many others. *Group Value*

The study hall was a private school to provide education for the children of the branch and others so that they could gain titles at the Imperial Civic Service Examination. *Social Value, & Local Interest*