

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 89 & 124 Hang Tau Tsuen (one building)**  
**Ping Shan, Yuen Long**

Ping Shan (屏山) was settled by the Tangs (鄧) in the late Southern Song *Historical*  
 (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. Tang Yuen-ching (鄧元禎) is considered as the *Interest*  
 first ancestor of the Tangs who settled there in 1216. Two villages were first  
 founded including Hang Tau (坑頭) and Hang Mei (坑尾) villages, the  
 former in the north and the latter in the south. The former was founded by  
 Waai-tak (懷德, 1548-1622) and the latter by Waai-yee (懷義, 1529-1607),  
 two brothers of the 14<sup>th</sup> generation.

The building at Nos. 89 and 124 of Hang Tau Tsuen was originally one  
 block of detached building which later divided into two belonged to two  
 different owners. The block of building was probably built in the early 19<sup>th</sup>  
 century by Tang Hin-ho (鄧獻可, 1777-1831), a 20<sup>th</sup> generation member of  
 the Tangs. He gained a *juren* (舉人) title in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the Jiaqing (嘉慶,  
 1804) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty and served as a military officer in the  
 Qing government. The block of building was one of the six houses built by  
 him for his sons. Five of his six sons had achieved different titles in the  
 Imperial Civil Service Examination. Kun Ting Study Hall (覲廷書室) in  
 Hang Mei Tsuen and Shut Hing Study Hall (述卿書室) in Tong Fong Tsuen  
 (塘坊村) were respectively built to commemorate his two sons, Kun-ting (覲  
 廷) and Shut-hing (述卿) by their descendents. The block was divided into  
 two houses owned by his descendents. The owners of Nos. 89 and 124 are  
 respectively Lai-kin (勵堅) and Kwok-fung (國風), two 25<sup>th</sup> generation  
 members.

The residential block is among a group of bigger houses in the middle *Architectural*  
 of the village facing west. The Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠), the clan *Merit*  
 ancestral hall of the Tangs in Ping Shan, is five blocks further south. The  
 block of building is a Qing vernacular building having a  
 one-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. It is constructed of green bricks  
 with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay  
 tiles. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. One side room is on the right  
 of the hall. A granary is on the left. The building is facing west and two  
 entrances are on the north and south side walls of the courtyard for *fung shui*  
 benefit. The block of building is divided in the middle into two halves each  
 with one room and a hall at the back. The building is internally modernized  
 and altered. A cockloft is added at the rear portion of the hall. The open  
 courtyard in the front is converted for use as a kitchen and a sitting room.

The ground and upper floors of the side room and the upper floor of the kitchen are used as bedrooms. Its external walls of green-brick and granite block are retained. Above the lintel of each of the two entrances is a projected eave moulding. Wall frieze plastered mouldings are with flowers, fruits and geometric patterns. Three *wok yee* (鑊耳) gables are at the side walls and at the granary wall with iron spikes at their top for keeping the evil spirits away. The main ridge is with curling ends.

It is a residential building to witness the history of the family of Tang Hin-ho in Hang Tau Tsuen. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value &**

The authenticity of the exterior of the house is kept.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the Tang Ancestral Hall, Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall (愈喬二公祠), Kun Ting Study Hall and other historic buildings of the village. **Group Value**

Chung-lin (松年), one of the great grandson of Kun-ting, is a medical doctor who studied in the U.S. He opposed the government to build a military airport in Ping Shan in 1945 and the proposal was dropped. The Tangs worship their ancestors at the Tang Ancestral Hall in the village especially at the Chinese New Year and at the Ching Ming (清明) and Chung Yeung (重陽) Festivals. They take part in the Da Chiu (打醮) organized by Ping Shan villages. Children of the Tangs studied at the Tang Ancestral Hall and Tat Tak Public School (達德公立學校). They had a security group called Ping Shan Village Vigilant Guard Group (屏山鄉更練團) established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century providing patrol and security services for the villages. The group was disbanded in 2003. **Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest**