

Historic Building Appraisal

Gate Tower

Ha Tsuen Shi, Yuen Long

The Gate Tower in Ha Tsuen Shi (廈村市, Ha Tsuen Market) of Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long, was constructed during the Qianlong reign (乾隆, 1736-1795) of the Qing (清) dynasty, probably around 1760s when the small market was established by the Ha Tsuen Tangs. Built together with other gate towers for the protection of the market, it is at the entrance of the south-east mouth of the north-west running lane of the market. Called the East Gate of the market, it is the only surviving old gate tower of the market.

Historical Interest

The tower is a green brick structure with timber purlins supporting its roof. The opening of the tower to the open street (Tin Ha Road 田廈路) is rectangular in shape while the in-lane one is arched. A niche was built inside the tower to house the earth god but now empty. The geometric pattern decoration of the frieze above the arched opening is painted in red.

Architectural Merit

It is the only surviving tower of the market.

Rarity

Though it has been much neglected with little maintenance, it has some built heritage value reflecting the historic development of Ha Tsuen. No repair record can be traced on the renovation of the tower but it has been maintained from time to time. Corrugated sheets are seen connected to the exterior of the structure.

Built Heritage Value & Authenticity

It is a part of the market and a remaining part of the existing structures (gateways, village houses, a Kwan Tai temple and others).

Group value

Other than the protection given by the tower, the market was protected by a team of watchmen (更練團) organized by the Tangs patrolling the area. It is now used as a normal gate giving minimum protection for the villagers.

Social Value, & Local Interest