

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Entrance Gate of Chik Chuen Wai**  
**Tai Wai Tsuen, Tai Wai, Sha Tin**

Chik Chuen Wai (積存圍) also called Tai Wai (大圍) in Sha Tin was said to have been built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Wanli (萬曆, 1574) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. It was a village of multi families with Wai (韋) as the majority. The walled village gave protection to villagers residing inside the village from bandits, pirates and enemy villagers. The enclosing wall would have been in rectangular with four watchtowers at its four corners, but parts of the structure have long been demolished leaving only the entrance gate. And, its surroundings have been developed due to city redevelopment.

*Historical  
Interest*

The existing entrance gate is a Qing (清) structure built probably at the central axis in the middle of the front wall of the original walled village. It was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. It had granite blocks for its bases. Two openings are on its front façade for *fung shui* benefits. They are opened on its mezzanine floor which is now used for storage. The front doorway is in rectangular whilst its rear is in arched form. An Earth God (土地) niche is constructed at the entrance housing the deity which is the guardian of the village. The ridge is decorated with a pair of geometric pattern plastered mouldings. The name of the wai is written on its façade in white plaster background.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is the only remaining structure to remind the historic village.

*Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

Though its internal walls have been plastered, its main authenticity is kept.

*Authenticity*

The Hau Wong Temple (侯王廟) to the opposite end of the village and this structure have related group value. The temple was originally constructed within the wall opposite the gate.

*Group Value*

The Earth God at the entrance gate is still worshipped by the villagers. The wai established on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month was celebrated each year. The celebration however has been discontinued. Villagers still worship the Hau Wong deity at the Hau Wong Temple. Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) has been held once every ten years at the village. Celebrations of lion dance, vegetarian meals and special offerings to the Hau Wong deity will be made. The gate is still used

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*

by the villagers as a passing-by gate corridor for daily use.