

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 109, 110, 111 & 112 Lin Fa Tei
Pat Heung, Yuen Long

The village of Lin Fa Tei (蓮花地) is in the south of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路) in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. It is a multi-clan village occupied by the Kwoks (郭), the Lees (李), the Fungs (馮), the Chengs (鄭) and others. The Kwoks were the first settlers and are still the majority. Later the Lees and the Chengs moved to Ngau Keng (牛徑) in its south and the Fungs to Shui Lau Tin (水流田) in its north. The Kwok clan moved from Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東) province to Nantou (南頭), west of Shenzhen (深圳), in the Ming (明, 1368-1644) dynasty. Kwok Kui-tin (郭巨田, 1507-1567), the 6th generation ancestor, moved from Nantou to Yuen Long. He was a teacher in a private school in Yuen Kong (元崗) in Pat Heung. Hei-lung (禧隆, 1630-1696) and Shuen-pik (旋壁) of the 11th generation settled in Lin Fa Tei in the end of the Ming or early Qing (清, 1644-1911) dynasty. Two branches named Hei Lung Tong (禧隆堂) and Shuen Pik Tong (旋壁堂) were developed.

**Historical
Interest**

The four connected houses at Nos. 109, 110, 111 and 112 were probably built in 1905 by Kwok Sau-wah (郭秀華) of Shuen Pik Tong, a 17th generation member, for his four sons, Wan-tai (穩泰), Ying-tai (英泰), Fo-gun (伙根) and Chiu-ying (招英).

The four connected houses were built for residential use. They used to be connected to Nos. 107 and 108 which formed a row. Nos. 107 and 108 have been rebuilt. The four houses are Qing vernacular buildings constructed of grey brickwork with walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Each house has a flat-roof front portion for kitchen and bathroom use. A living room is in the middle with a bedroom at the back. A cockloft is above the bedroom. A forecourt is in front of the houses surrounded by a low boundary wall. The external walls are mostly retained with their original grey brickwork. Delicate plastered mouldings can be identified at the canopy above each entrance with the relief of bamboo, plums, chrysanthemum, flowers, fish, birds and animals and calligraphy.

**Architectural
Merit**

The houses are old buildings of the Kwoks to witness their settlement in Lin Fa Tei. They have some built heritage value, without obvious alterations which may have diminished its authenticity.

**Rarity, Built
Heritage Value &
Authenticity**

Wong Yim (黃艷), wife of Kwok Fo-gun, has been living in No.110 when she married at 18 in 1940. She recalled that a row of houses was built including No. 108 on the left. It has been rebuilt into a two-storey house. Nos. 109 -112 is a historical reminder of the settlement of the Kwoks in Lin Fa Tei and the development of the village.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***

Nos. 109 – 112 Lin Fa Tei has group value with Tung Yick School (同益學校) (Grade 2).

Group Value

REFERENCES

Document Records at The Land Registry Office, Hong Kong

Property particulars of Inland Lot No. 790 Sec. A sub-section 1 in D.D. 112.

Property particulars of Inland Lot No. 790 Sec. A sub-section 2 in D.D. 112.

Books, Articles, and Other Sources

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