

Historic Building Appraisal
Tang Kwok Mou Ancestral Hall
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Tang Kwok Mou Ancestral Hall (國茂鄧公祠) was built in 1907 to commemorate Tang Kwok-mou (鄧國茂), the 17th generation ancestor of the Tangs, whose first ancestor is Tang Chi-chai (鄧志齋), a *jinshi* (進士) in the Song dynasty (宋, 960-1279) who moved to Meixian (梅縣) of Guangdong (廣東) province in 1259. His descendents moved further south and Kwok Mou's son Kou-Kwong (球光) moved from Shing Mun (城門) to Shui Lau Tin (水流田) in the 16th year of Guangxu (光緒, 1890) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The village was a multi-lineage one including the Chois (蔡氏) and the Fungs (馮氏). The hall was built by Kwok Mou's three sons, namely, Kou-kwong, King-kwong (璟光) and King-kwong (琮光) who are believed to have made their fortune overseas. The hall is also called Sam U Tong (三餘堂), literally three surplus hall.

Historical Interest

The hall is built on the central axis of the village and opposite to it is another ancestral hall, the Choi Yi Wah Ancestral Hall (彝華蔡公祠) of the Chois. The hall is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall plan of three bays. An open courtyard is between the halls in the middle flanked by one aisle on either side. The building is supported by granite columns and greenbrick walls topped with bracketed roofs of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The pitched roofs are in flushed gable style (硬山式). At the entrance the door frame, lintel, threshold and wall corners are of granite. The altar is at the middle bay of the main hall housing the two soul tablets for worship. The ridge is decorated with a set of geometric moulding on both ends with auspicious treasures, floral and plant patterns in the middle. The wall paintings at the façade and internal walls are with calligraphy, landscape, flowers-and-birds and others.

Architectural Merit

It is a rare historic building to identify the lengthy settlement of the Tangs from the mainland to Hong Kong.

Rarity

It is a medium size ancestral hall of considerable built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

No major adverse work of restoration is carried out to the building.

Authenticity

The Choi Yi Wah Ancestral Hall and this one of two different clans are having co-related group value in the same village.

Group value

The hall is for ancestral worship. At the altar only two soul tablets are on display for worship, one is that of Kwok-mou and the other is for ancestors of the whole clan. Kwun Yam (觀音) and Kwan Tai (關帝) deities are also worshipped at the hall.