

Historic Building Appraisal

Kong Ha Tin Lo

Nos. 198-199 Tai Kong Po, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Kong Ha Tin Lo (江夏田廬) in Tai Kong Po (大江埔) village, Kam Tin (錦田), was built in the 1920s by Wong Hin-ting (黃憲庭), a Hakka (客家人) who settled in the village some 80 years ago. Born in Guangxi (廣西), he served in the army and came to Hong Kong to work as a farmer growing rice and vegetable and rearing pigs. After gaining his fortune, he built this residence. The village was inhabited by villagers surnamed Kong (江), Leung (梁), Wong (黃), Tsui(徐) and Fung (馮). This sizable building accommodated members and descendents of Wong Hin-ting. It also served as the meeting place of the villagers discussing matters concerning the village.

**Historical
Interest**

The residence is a simplified Hakka house design of a two-hall-two-row (兩堂兩橫) plan in a symmetrical layout. The hall-courtyard-hall of three-bay in the middle is the core activities centre of the building. The entrance and main halls are flanked by bedrooms on either side and so is the open courtyard by one side chamber. Photographs and a soul tablet of the ancestors are at the central axis of the house in the middle of the main hall. To their left and right are an open lane of courtyard and a row of bedrooms and service rooms (kitchens and storage). Staircases are at the side chambers providing access to the upper floor with a bedroom and a living-room only. The house is constructed of mainly green bricks with its walls and columns supporting its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and ceramic tiles. Timber joists are used to support the flat roofs. Columns and beams are in concrete. Floorings are in cement screeding except that of the flat roof terrace in Canton tiles. The house is in plaster finishes. The front elevation is having a four-column verandah topped by a parapet with a pediment in the middle. The pediment is with plaster moulding of a pair of bats, lotus, birds, unicorns, flowers and the name of the residence.

**Architectural
Merit**

A simplified and plain Hakka house erected in the 1920s is rare to remind the settlement of Hakkas in the area.

Rarity

The transplant of a Hakka building with the use of traditional Chinese and new building materials in an indigenous environment is of high built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The house is well-kept with minor modifications. Parts of its roofs are replaced with corrugated sheets.

Authenticity

The big house served as the home of the Wongs for decades and also the meeting place of the villagers discussing matters concerning the village. Being farmers themselves, the daily life of the Wongs included those activities of traditional agricultural celebration of festivals such as Mid-Autumn (中秋節), Chung Yeung (重陽節), Chinese New Year, etc.

Social Value

& Local Interest