

Historic Building Appraisal

Tung Yik School

Lin Fa Tei, Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Tung Yik School (同益學校) is in Lin Fa Tei (蓮花地) village in Pat Heung (八鄉) of Yuen Long. It was opened in 1921 as a modern school in Pat Heung to replace many of the study halls in the areas. The study halls were too small and incapable to meet the then requirements of education needs. The school was founded by Tung Yick (or Yik) Tong (同益堂), an organization of the Pat Heung villages which later developed into the Pat Heung Rural Committee (八鄉鄉事委員會). The land was provided by the village and the construction cost raised by the villagers. The opening ceremony was officiated by the then Governor, Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs (司徒拔爵士), on the 28th September 1921. The school principal was Chan Kam-tong (陳錦堂). It took boys only in Pat Heung as well as those in Yuen Long and Tuen Mun when it was first established. Boarding facilities were provided for students in Sheung Shui and Tuen Mun areas.

***Historical
Interest***

The school is a one-storey Chinese Eclectic building having an H shape plan. The original plan was the middle portion as the central assembly hall flanked by classrooms on either side. The present layout has the principal and staff rooms, a canteen, a computer room and a classroom instead. The two wings are with a kitchen and a storeroom other than classrooms. The north-west facing school has a spacious playground in its front and a gardening courtyard at the back between the two projected wings. A verandah is at the front façade of the building with windows on all sides. A parapet is at the roof end of the front façade with a curved pediment in the middle. The name of the school is moulded at the pediment. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls and columns to support its flat-roof. The walls are painted and the floors covered with ceramic tiles. Modern facilities including air-conditioning, drainage system, aluminium windows and others are installed in the building.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a school to witness the education changes in Pat Heung area.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The tiled roof was turned into a concrete flat-roof in 1950. The wooden doors and windows were replaced with metal ones in 1961 due to termite infestation. A number of renovations were carried out in the school, the last one

Authenticity

being in 2002. It has its main form retained.

When it was first operated, the school provided the teaching of Chinese classics including the Four Books (四書) and Five Classics (五經). As it is in the countryside, the teaching of vegetable gardening was also introduced with the practice of growing cabbages, tomatoes and others in its garden.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

The school premises was looted by the Japanese troop in Winter 1941. Classes were temporarily run in Kong Ha Wai (江廈圍) in Spring 1942 until the end of the War. The school was repaired and re-opened after the War.

After the War, it had about 600 students and provided evening classes as well. The enrolments dropped in the 1970s as some other schools were built. Teachers teaching in the school were mainly from the Colleges of Education. Cheung Yan-lung (張人龍), the former chairman of the previous Regional Council, was one of the graduates of the school. The school became a subsidized one in 1960. The school still provides primary education for students in the area.