

Historic Building Appraisal
Lung Tin Study Hall
Lung Tin Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Lung Tin Study Hall (龍田書室) in Lung Tin Tsuen (龍田村), Yuen Long, *Historical Interest* was built by the Wongs (黃氏) in 1926. The village was part of Ma Tin Tsuen (馬田村) and developed into a separate one due to increase of village population. Wong Kung-shing (黃恭盛) of Taishan (台山) of Guangdong (廣東) province settled in the village in the 1920s after he retired from the United States. Wong's brothers Kung-yung (恭潤) and Kung-yam (恭任) later moved to Ma Tin Tsuen and Tai Kei Leng (大旗嶺) respectively. The study hall was built and managed in the name of Tung Yi Tong (同義堂), the communal trust of the Wongs. The land was bought from the Wai San Tong (維新堂) of the Tangs (鄧氏) in Hang Mei Tsuen (坑尾村) of Ping Shan (屏山).

The study hall was constructed in 1926 as the year was shown on its pediment, a very vivid feature of western influence fashioned in China in the period. It was built by an architect Wong Wah (黃華) employed from the mainland who also built two residential houses in the village. It is a two-storey building fronted by an open courtyard surrounded by a wall of the same high which has a row of green ceramic balustrades for decoration. The study hall is in Chinese Eclectic style active in the mid-1920s to 30s. Ground floor of the building was for its classrooms whilst the first floor was for the teacher's quarters. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting its pitched roofs. The entrance is on the right end of the surrounding wall with the name board of the hall above the entrance. Above the board is a wall frieze of moulding having hardly recognized landscape, floral and unicorn patterns. Mouldings at the pediment are with calligraphy, floral and auspicious treasures patterns. *Architectural Merit*

It is a rare study hall built in the 1926 to show the settlement of many Chinese moved to Hong Kong in the period. *Rarity*

The building of the Chinese Eclecticism is of high built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The pitched roofs were placed with reinforced concrete ones. The building has been unoccupied for over 20 years and its upkeep is not at all not satisfactory. The entire building is well preserved though with overgrown some time ago. *Authenticity*

Other than teaching the village children, those from nearby villages were also taught at the study hall. A teacher surnamed Lai (黎) from Huangbeiling (黃背嶺), Shenzhen (深圳), was employed to teach in the hall from 1936 to 1940. He and his wife stayed in the second floor of the building and he had four classes at the hall. Chinese classics, geography, abacus calculation and others were taught. The hall was closed since 1940. After the Second World War, children in the villages studied in other new schools. The building was also served as the ancestral hall of the Wongs where ancestral worship activities and Dim Dang (點燈) ritual were held. The building was leased for residential use in the 1980s and has been left vacated.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*