

Historic Building Appraisal

Tang Hung Tat Ancestral Hall

Wang Toi Shan Wing Ning Lei, Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Wang Toi Shan (橫台山) in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long, was first settled by the Hakka (客家) Tangs (鄧) who developed from the oldest Wing Ning Lei (永寧里) village to others. It was later also inhabited by the Lees (李), the Loks (駱), the Los (盧) and others. The Tangs moved from Shibi (石壁) of Ninghua (寧化) in Fujian (福建) province to Chaozhou (潮州) of Guangdong (廣東) province and then southwards to Huizhou (惠州) after generations. Tang Ting-kwai (鄧廷桂) of the 14th generation moved from Huizhou to Wang Toi Shan in the 27th year of Kangxi (康熙, 1688) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. He was regarded as the founding ancestor of the Tangs in Wang Toi Shan. His descendents later branched out to different villages in Wang Toi Shan and other areas. Descendents of Hung-tat (洪達), a son of Ting-kwai, branched out to Ho Lik Pui (河瀝背) other than staying in Wing Ning Lei. Descendents of Hung-lam (洪琳), another son of Ting-kwai, branched out to Shan Shan Tsuen (山散村). Descendents of Hung-mou (洪茂), another son of Ting-kwai, moved to the north of Wang Toi Shan in Chuk Hang (竹坑) and San Lung Wai (新隆圍) villages. Descendents of Ting-pan (廷彬), a brother of Ting-kwai, settled in Tsat Sing Kong (七星崗) and Shui Lau Tin (水流田) villages in Pat Heung. Tang Hung Tat Ancestral Hall (洪達鄧公祠) in Wing Ning Lei village was erected to commemorate Tang Hung-tat. It was not known when it was built. It was probably built before the Tang Ting Kwai Ancestral Hall (廷桂鄧公祠)). The latter was built between 1688 and 1818.

*Historical
Interest*

Connected to the Tang Hung Kwai Ancestral Hall on its left, the ancestral hall is of equal length, long and narrow. It is behind the entrance gate of the village. It is a Qing vernacular building having a three-hall-two-courtyard plan. The two open courtyards are in-between the entrance, central and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The lower courses of the front façade wall, the door frame, the wall corners and the courtyard floors are of granite. The walls are partially plastered and painted. The floors are with red cement screeding. A wooden finely-carved altar is at the end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of the Tangs for worship. A tie beam is carved with “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons) at the main hall. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings of flowers, birds and landscape are at the front façade and at the end wall of the main hall. A fascia board with

*Architectural
Merit*

flowers and birds carving is under the eave of the entrance and of the main hall. The ridges are decorated with a pair of red geometric mouldings at its two ends. Plastered mouldings of the Eight Immortals (八仙) are at the front wall of the main hall.

It is an ancestral hall of the Tangs to witness their settlement in Wang Toi Shan. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The building was renovated in 1974. It has its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Tang Ting Kwai Ancestral Hall next door, Shung Man Study Hall (崇文書室), Wui Tsuen Study Hall (匯泉書室) and other historic buildings in the neighbouring Ho Lik Pui village. *Group Value*

The ancestral hall is for the branch of the Tangs to have ancestral worship in the village. The hall has special offerings at the Chinese New Year and at the Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節). Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was held at the hall but has been discontinued. *Social Value, & Local Interest*