

Historic Building Appraisal

Kin Tak Mun (Entrance Gate)

Nos. 15-16 Shung Him Tong Tsuen, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling

Kin Tak Lau (乾德樓) is a huge mansion in Shung Him Tong Tsuen (崇謙堂村) of Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭), Fanling. Shung Him Tong Tsuen, located in the southwest of the historic Five Wais (walled villages) and Six Tsuens (villages) (五圍六村) of the Tang (鄧) clan, was named after the church of the village, namely, Tsung Kyam Church (崇謙堂) erected in 1951. *Historical Interest*

Kin Tau Lau was built in 1910 by three pastors, Ling Kai-lin (凌啓蓮, 1844-1917), Ling Shin-un (凌善元, 1867-1936), son of Kai-lin, and Pang Lok-sam (彭樂三, 1875-1947). It was built to accommodate the two Lings and Pang and their families. The name Kin Tak (乾德) probably derived from the baptized names respectively of Ling Kai-lin and Pang Lok-sam – Kin-fu (乾甫) and Tak-fuk (德福). The building, under the corporate ownership of Ling Shin Un Tso of the Lings as well as Kuk Yi Tong and Lok Sin Tong of the Pangs, is still managed by the descendents of the two families.

Ling Kai-lin was one of the first Christians under Theodore Hamberg (韓山明) of the Basel mission preaching in Bao'an (寶安) and Wuhua (五華) and other regions in Guangdong (廣東) province. He studied theology in Lilang (李朗) of Bao'an and so was his son and Pang Lok-sam. Kai-lin came to Lung Yeuk Tau with his son for retirement because of the bandit problem in Lilang in 1903. The place where he settled was named Tsung Hom Tong (松凹塘 or 松壩塘) in Lung Yeuk Tau. He bought a large piece of land in the area and hired Hakkas (客家) from his native place Buji (布吉) and Lilang as tenants to cultivate his land. The Lings began preaching to the Hakkas in the area and Kai-lin requested the Basel mission to establish a church in the area. Pang Lok-sam became the pastor in the village in 1905.

The mansion is composed of a five-bay main block at the back flanked by four ancillary blocks of different sizes on either side. An entrance gate is in front of the blocks surrounding by a low wall with a forecourt in-between. The compound is symmetrical and the two-storey main block is having living rooms on the ground floor with two arched openings at the front facade. The building is a Qing (清) vernacular building constructed of green bricks with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The entrance gate is in the forefront of the compound on the central axis. It is in an H-shape plan with a pitched roof. The recessed structure is covered with red sandstone blocks and its doorframe is of granite. The name of the gate Kin Tak Mun (乾德門) and the year of construction, 1910, are *Architectural Merit*

moulded in a plastered board above the lintel. The floor is with cement screeding. A flight of four steps is in front of the gate entrance.

It is a big residential building to witness the settlement of the Lings and the Pangs in the religious village. It is one of the historic buildings to witness the history of the Basel mission in Hong Kong. **Rarity**

It has high built heritage value. **Built Heritage Value**

It has its authenticity kept. **Authenticity**

It has group value with Tsung Kyam Church and Shek Lo (石廬) in the village and Lok Yuen (樂園), Lok Dao Shan Fang (樂道山房) and the cemetery of Tsung Kyam Church nearby. **Group Value**

Dao-yeung (道揚), grandson of Kai-lin, was the president of Chung Chi College (崇基書院). Pang Lok-sam served as the head evangelist of Tsung Kyam Church until 1913 and then dedicated to land investment in the New Territories including the village. With his brother-in-law Tsui Yan-sau (徐仁壽), he established in 1925 a modern school called Tsin Him School (從謙學校) at Kuk Yi Study Hall (穀詒書室) for Christian and non-Christian Hakka children. Tsui Yan-sau moved with his family to the village and built his residence called Shek Lo in 1924. Under the leadership of Pang Lok-sam, the cottage church at the village was replaced by one constructed in 1927. It was later replaced by another one built in 1951. Pang Lok-sam was active in public service. He was one of the originators of Tsung Tsin Association (崇正總會) of the Hakkas established in 1921 and one of the founders and later four times served as the chairman of Heung Yee Kuk (鄉議局) established in 1926. **Social Value, & Local Interest**