Historic Building Appraisal

Ng Ancestral Hall

Fung Wong Wu, Tak Kwu Ling

Historical Interest

Fung Wong Wu (鳳凰湖) is a Punti (本地) and Hakka (客家) village in the closed area of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺). It was first inhabited by the Yiks (易) and the Yeungs (楊), and later followed by the Hakka Ngs (吳). The Yiks were from Pak Sha Tsuen (白沙村) of Yuen Long and the Yeungs from Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). Originated from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province, Sheung-yu (尚儒), the 88th generation ancestor of the Ngs, moved to Sha Lan Ha (沙瀾下) of Sha Tau Kok in the Qing (清, 1644-1911) dynasty. Some of the Ngs moved to Fung Wong Wu in the 19th century. Ng Sang (吳生, 1883-?), a first generation member of the Ngs born in the village, built the Ng Ancestral Hall (吳氏宗祠), a family one, together with his clansmen in around the 1920s. They have their clan ancestral hall in Sha Tau Kok.

Architectural Merit

The ancestral hall is a detached building in the upper end of the village. A spacious foreground is in front of the hall which was used for grain drying. It is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Except the end wall of the main hall, the walls of the entire building are showing fair-faced green bricks in a regular one header course to nine stretcher courses bonding (九順一丁). The altar is at the end wall of the main hall with a soul tablet of the Ng ancestors for worship. The front ridge is with a pair of red geometric mouldings at its two ends. The name of the hall is moulded above the lintel of the recessed entrance.

Rarity

It is a family ancestral hall of the Ngs to witness the settlement in Fung Wong Wu of Ta Kwu Ling.

Built Heritage Value

It has some built heritage value.

Authenticity

The altar was damaged in a flood in 1994 and repaired in 1995. The authenticity of the hall is kept.

Social Value, & Local Interest

The Ngs have their ancestral worship at the ancestral hall on the first and 15th of each lunar month. At the Chinese New Year, they have special offerings of chicken and pork early in the morning of the first day. At other festivals such as Chung Yeung (重陽節) and Mid-Autumn (中秋節) they have the same

treatment. They would make known of new born baby boys and wedding of male members to the ancestors at the hall. A Pak Kung (伯公) shrine, a shrine for the Well God (井頭伯公) and one for the Tai Wong Yeh (護鄉大王爺) at the village entrance are also worshipped by the villagers.