

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 38 and 39 Fuk Hing Tsuen
Wang Chau, Yuen Long, New Territories

Fuk Hing Tsuen (福慶村) is one of the villages in Wang Chau (橫洲), southwest of Yuen Long Industrial Estate (元朗工業邨). A small hill Chu Wong Ling (豬黃嶺) is at its north. Most of the old village houses are facing south. It was a multi-clan village inhabited by the Wongs (黃氏), the Kwans (關氏), the Lis (李氏) and others. The Wongs came from a place called Jitigang (雞啼崗) in the mainland and settled in the village some 600 years ago. Most of them were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable cultivation. Many of the original villagers have either moved overseas or to the urban areas leaving the houses occupied by the newcomers. The two houses at Nos. 38 and 39 were built by Wong Wah-fuk (黃華福) in the 10th year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu (光緒, 1884) of Qing (清) Dynasty. The houses were inhabited by the Wongs until 1992 and they have been left vacated since then. They are two of the best preserved houses in the village.

**Historical
Interest**

The two connected houses are in the fourth row of seven rows of houses in the village. The houses are Qing vernacular buildings each having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green and red bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A cooking stove and a bath corner is respectively on the left and right of the open courtyard in front of the hall at No.38. No.39 is without any stove. A living room is in front of a bedroom at the hall. A cockloft is above the bedroom also for use as a bedroom. A rice polishing pestle (腳踏碓) is at the living room of No.38. Above the lintel of the entrance of each house is a projected eave with a wall painting of peony at No.38. A wooden plaque engraved with two Chinese characters “吉祥” (Auspiciousness) and “祥光” (Auspicious Light) is respectively fixed at the lintel of Nos. 38 and 39. The walls are partially plastered and the floor cement-screeded.

**Architectural
Merit**

The two houses are to witness the settlement of the Wongs in the village.

Rarity

They have some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The houses have their authenticity kept.

Authenticity

They have group value with other historic village houses in the village.. Together with the nearby Yi Shing Temple and Yu Yuen (娛苑), a group of

Group Value

historic buildings is formed, recalling the reminiscence of village life in the New Territories.

The two houses are owned by Wong Ting-leung (黃丁良), the village head. He was born in the houses and now at his 70s. He is also a village representative of Wang Chau. When he was a child he studied at a village school called Sai Wo Tong (四和堂) in the village. He moved to another new house in the village in 1992. The Wongs had their celebration of festivals, wedding and birthdays at the houses. They have their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for the new born baby boys of previous year on the 15th day of the Chinese New Year. They would have Dang Jou (丁酒), a banquet for celebration for all those in the village. They would report the names of the new born baby boys to the village representative and to the deities at the Yi Shing Temple (二聖宮) in Wang Chau. They would also participate in the Da Chiu (打醮) activity of Wang Chau held once every eight years.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

***Adaptive
Re-use***