

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Ho Yin Lo**  
**No. 1 Kau Lung Hang, Tai Po, N.T.**

Ho Yin Lo (浩然廬) in Kau Lung Hang (九龍坑) of Tai Po was built in 1932. The name “浩然廬” is engraved on the ornamental pediment at the entrance gateway to the main building. The residence was named after its first owner, Poon Tin-bo (潘天保) alias Poon Ho-yin (潘浩然). The original hometown of the Poons was Xingyang (滎陽) of Zhengzhou (鄭州) in Henan (河南). During the early twentieth century, the Poons migrated from Meixian (梅縣) in Guangdong (廣東) to Hong Kong due to the lack of cultivated land in Meixian. Poon Tin-bo was a Hakka (客家) who moved to Kau Lung Hang before 1930 as he had a friend surnamed Yeung (楊) who had moved over there before. Poon Tin-bo was a merchant having business in Guangzhou (廣州), Macau (澳門) and Hong Kong. Ho Yin Lo was used as a vacation villa, not a permanent residence. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), Poon Tin-bo left Ho Yin Lo and took refuge in Meixian. He returned after 1949 with some of his relatives and lived there for a few years. At present, the building is a private residence of the Poon’s family.

**Historical  
Interest**

The building is built of both modern western building materials of reinforced concrete as well as traditional bricks, beams and roof tiles. The two-storey building has a semi-circular boundary wall enclosing a garden in front of the house very much like a *fung shui* pond of a traditional Hakka house. It is in symmetrical plan having on its ground floor a living room in the middle and flanked by three rooms on either side. Behind them is a corridor backed by a row of five rooms. Its first floor is the same as the ground floor except that the back row is replaced by a rear balcony. Its front facade is with a verandah on the ground floor and a balcony on the first floor. A semi-circular pediment is in the middle sitting on a parapet. The verandah and balcony have round and square columns supporting their roofs. Toilets, service quarters and kitchens are on either end of the house. The pitched roofs of the building are with timber rafters, purlins and ceramic tiles. Wall cornices mouldings are the main decoration in the building.

**Architectural  
Merit**

The style of the building is fashionable between the 1920s and 1930s blending Chinese and Western architectural features. Some of the original circular timber roof purlins of the annex block were replaced with rectangular ones. Dilapidated timber windows were all replaced with steel

**Rarity, Built  
Heritage  
Value and  
Authenticity**

windows with glasses. The artistic drainpipes also due to dilapidation were replaced with PVC pipes. The authenticity of the building is on the whole kept.

The style and form of the building is eye-catching in the village. Its *Social Value* architectural features are attractive to television programmes and film *& Local Interest* producers.

Ho Yin Lo has no group value with any other graded historic buildings. *Group Value*