

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Yeung Ancestral Hall**  
**Fung Wong Wu, Tak Kwu Ling**

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 Ngs (吳). The Yiks are Puntis and the Yeungs and Ngs are Hakkas. The Yiks were from Pak Sha Tsuen (白沙村) of Yuen Long and the Ngs from Sha Lan Ha (沙欄下) of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). Three families of the Yeungs moved first from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province to So Lo Pun (鎖羅盆) in Kat O Hoi (吉澳海), Puji (布吉) and Henggang (橫崗) of Shenzhen (深圳). They stayed in Sha Tau Kok and finally settled in Fung Wong Wu in the Daoguan (道光, 1821-1850) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. It is not known when the Yeung Ancestral Hall (楊氏宗祠) was built. Aerial photographs indicate that it was built between 1924 and 1945. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a detached building in the middle of the village. 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. The external walls and the end wall of the main hall are slightly plastered. The internal walls have a regular one header course to seven stretcher courses bonding (七順一丁). The altar is at the end wall of the main hall with a soul tablet of the Yeung ancestors for worship. A statue of Kwun Yam (觀音) is on the left of the tablet also for worship. A plaque with a big Chinese character “福” (well-being) is on the wall behind the tablet. 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. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Yeungs to witness the settlement in Fung Wong Wu of Ta Kwu Ling. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

The building was renovated in 1950 and in the 1970s. The authenticity of the hall is kept. *Authenticity*

The Yeungs have their ancestral worship at the ancestral hall on the first and 15<sup>th</sup> of each lunar month. At the Chinese New Year on the 19<sup>th</sup> day they had a ceremony called Pa Lung Suen (扒龍船 , Dragon Boat Rowing) when they would take a large paper dragon boat to visit the Earth God shrines (土地), the Well God shrine (井頭伯公), the ancestral hall and each village house of the village in turn. They would beat drums and gongs and the villagers would throw incenses, paper money, New Year cakes (年糕) and rice cakes (米通 ) to the dragon when it passed through their houses. The boat would be incinerated at the river bank at the end of the ceremony. The ceremony was a ritual to purify the village sweeping away all evil spirits. Wedding, funeral and Dim Dang (點燈) rituals were held at the ancestral hall but have been discontinued.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*