

Historic Building Appraisal
Enclosing Walls and Entrance Gate
Fui Sha Wai, Tai Hang, Tai Po, N.T.

Fui Sha Wai (灰沙圍) in Tai Hang (泰亨) of Tai Po was set up by the Mans (文氏) whose founding ancestor Man Yam (文蔭, 1341-1425) first moved to To Chi Yin (陶子峴) of Tai Po and then settled in Choi Hang (蔡坑) now known as Tai Hang. The village they first settled was Tze Tong Tsuen (祠堂村). When their clan members increased, they built another two, Fui Sha Wai and Chung Shum Wai (中心圍). The walled village was built some 300 to 400 years ago with an entrance gate, enclosing walls and four corner watch towers to give protection to villagers resided inside from bandits, pirates and enemy villagers. Guns, iron rods, rocks and hot fire ashes were used as weapons to fight against intruders. The security functions have gone as time goes by.

*Historical
Interest*

The walled village is a Qing (清) structure in asymmetrical design unlike most of those in Hong Kong of symmetrical. It is a south-west facing rectangular structure having its entrance gate in the middle of the front wall and four watch towers at its corners. Four rows of village houses were built inside the walled village. There was a moat surrounding the wall but has been reclaimed. The walls were constructed of grey brickwork with thickness of four to five layers arranged in a seven stretcher courses and one header course (七順一丁) bonding. Buttresses were used at certain places to strengthen the brick work. Small gunholes were made at the wall and at the watch towers for gun shooting purposes. The walls were around five metres high but have been lowered. The watch towers at the wall corners were of some three storeys high. Now only round two thirds of the wall structure remained which is not in good shape. The entrance gate was constructed in red sandstone as a member of the walled village had gained a position in the Imperial Civil Service Examination. The original red sandstone was replaced with red plaster finishes in a reconstruction in 1981.

*Architectural
Merit*

The remaining wall structure is to witness the settlement of the Mans in the village. The structure is of some heritage value. The remaining enclosing walls and the towers are not preserved in good condition. Only part of them still exist.

*Rarity, Built
Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

A shrine housing a White God (白神) is at the entrance gate for villagers' worship. The entrance gate was also used as a venue for the villagers to discuss matters concerning the village. Its second floor was used as a *hang uk* (行屋) for children to study and have activities. ***Social Value & Local Interest***

Fui Sha Wai is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as Ngai Yuen Tong (藝浣堂, Grade 3). ***Group Value***