

Historic Building Appraisal
Yeung Ancestral Hall
Yuen Kong San Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Yuen Kong San Tsuen (元崗新村, Yuen Kong New Village) is in the southern end of Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. It was developed from Yuen Kong Tsuen (元崗村) in its north now separated by the Kam Sheung Road (錦上路) between them. Yuen Kong Tsuen has a history of about 500 years first settled by the Leungs (梁) and later inhabited by the Lees (李), the Wongs (黃), the Yeungs (楊), the Tangs (鄧) and others. The Yeungs were from Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東) province who settled in Yuen Kong Tsuen more than a hundred years ago. Disputes amongst the clansmen led to the younger generations moving to the south to establish their own village of Yuen Kong San Tsuen which has an age of about a hundred years. The Yeung Ancestral Hall (楊氏宗祠) was built by Yeung Chiu-yu (楊朝宇), the 20th generation ancestor of the clan, more than 80 years ago.

**Historical
Interest**

Located in the middle of the village, the ancestral hall is a detached building of Qing (清) vernacular design having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. Side rooms and chambers are on either side of the entrance and main halls. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The doorframe and wall corners are of granite. A tall wooden finely carved altar is in the middle of the end wall of the main hall housing two rows of soul tablets for worship. A pair of geometric patterns is at the two ends of the ridges. Wall frieze paintings of landscape rolling leaves and others are at the front façade, the end walls and under the eave of the main hall. Plastered mouldings of flowers, leaves and *ruilong* (夔龍) patterns are at the gable walls and wall friezes of the facades.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Yeungs to witness their settlement in Yuen Kong San Tsuen. It is the only ancestral hall in the village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The roofs on either side of the open courtyard have been turned into flat concrete reinforced ones in the 1960s. The building has its authenticity basically kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Leung Ancestral Hall (梁氏宗祠) and the Chung Shing Temple (眾聖宮) in neighbouring Yuen Kong Tsuen (元崗村). *Group Value*

The four branches of the Yeungs take turn on monthly basis to make incense offering to their ancestors at the hall and at festivals with special offerings including the Chinese New Years, Chung Yeung (重陽節) and Ching Ming (清明節) festivals. Wedding ceremonies were held at the hall with basin meal (盆菜) served at the hall and at the open ground in front of the hall. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is still held at he hall for new born baby boys of previous year on the 1st to 15th days of the Chinese New Year. The Yeungs took part in the Da Chiu (打醮) of Pat Heung held once every eight years. *Social Value, & Local Interest*