

Historic Building Appraisal

Wing Ning Wai

Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling

The founding ancestor of the Tangs in Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) is Tang Chung-ling (鄧松嶺, A.D. 1302-1387) of the Yuan dynasty (元, A.D. 1271-1368) whose ancestor Tang Yuen-leung (鄧元亮) had his descendents branched out to Kam Tin (錦田), Ha Tsuen (廈村), Tai Po Tau (大埔頭), Lung Yeuk Tau and Shijing (石井, in the mainland) in the Song dynasty (宋, A.D. 960-1279). The Tangs had a long history of development in Lung Yeuk Tau and further spread to neighbouring areas establishing 11 villages known as Five Wais and Six Tsuens (五圍六村, five walled villages and six villages). Wing Ning Wai (永寧圍, Walled Village of Wing Ning) is one of the villages. The village has a history of some 400 to 500 years. The wall was constructed to give protection to the villagers resided inside the walls from attacks of bandits, pirates and enemy villagers. It is not known the exact boundary of the wall as most of the enclosing walls and watchtowers have been demolished. As the existing village houses and portions of the walls structures show, the wall was a rectangular one having three rows of village houses within the walls.

**Historical
Interest**

The rectangular wall had an entrance gate in the front wall with four watchtowers at its four corners. It is a Qing (清) structure in symmetrical design with its entrance gate at the central axis. The entrance gate is at the north-east front wall. It was constructed in the 9th year of Qianlong (乾隆, A.D. 1744) reign of the Qing dynasty. Its front façade is covered with red sandstone with a rectangular doorway. Its internal doorway is arched with green bricks only. Its roof has collapsed having its top flattened. Only portions of the wall remain with village houses built on or connected to it. The watch towers have been demolished, some with new buildings constructed on them.

**Architectural
Merit**

The remaining structure is to remind the past settlement of the Tangs in Lung Yeuk Tau.

Rarity

The structure is of little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The authenticity of the wall has not been kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with other historical buildings such as the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall (松嶺鄧公祠), Tin Hau Temple (天后宮), Lo Wai (老圍) and others.

Group Value

An Earth God (土地) shrine is erected close to the entrance gate for villagers' worship. Its acts as the guardian of the village giving protection to them. In the old days Gang Lin (更練, patrol and security) service was organized by male villagers at night to keep the village in peace. The villagers also took part in ancestral worship and Dim Dang (點燈) activities organized at the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall and other celebrations during festivals and Da Chiu (打醮) activities.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***