

Historic Building Appraisal
No. 41 Fuk Hing Tsuen
Wang Chau, Yuen Long, New Territories

Fuk Hing Tsuen (福慶村) is one of the villages in Wang Chau (橫洲), southwest of the Yuen Long Industrial Estate (元朗工業邨), Yuen Long. A small hill Chu Wong Ling (豬黃嶺) is at its north. Most of the old village houses are facing south. It was a multi-clan village inhabited by the Wongs (黃), the Kwans (關), the Lis (李) and others. It is said that the village was established some 600 years ago. Most of them were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing. Many of the original villagers have either moved overseas or to the urban areas leaving the houses occupied by the new comers. The house at No. 41 was built by Li Fuk-tai (李福太) more than 100 years ago. The Lis resided in the houses until the late 1950s and the house has been left vacated since then. It is one of the old houses in the village.

Historical Interest

The residential house is in the fourth row of seven rows of houses in the village. It is connected to a house on its right. The house is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A living room is in front of a bedroom at the hall. A cockloft is above the bedroom also for use as a bedroom. Above the lintel of the entrance is a projected eave without any moulding. External walls are heavily plastered and painted and the floor cement-screeded.

Architectural Merit

The house is to witness the settlement of the Lis in the village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The house has its authenticity barely kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with other historic village houses in the village. Together with the nearby Yi Shing Temple and Yu Yuen (娛苑), a group of historic buildings is formed, recalling the reminiscence of village life in the New Territories.

Group Value

The house is owned by the Lis. They had their celebration of festivals, wedding and birthdays at the house. They have their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for the newborn baby boys of previous year on the 15th day of the Chinese New Year. They would have Dang Jou (丁酒), a banquet for celebration for all

Social Value, & Local Interest

those in the village. They would report the names of the new born baby boys to the village representative and to the deities at the Yi Shing Temple (二聖宮) in Wang Chau. They would also participate in the Da Chiu (打醮) activity of Wang Chau held once every eight years.

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time. *Adaptive
Re-use*