

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Fong Yuen Study Hall**  
**Tin Liu Tsuen, Ma Wan, Tsuen Wan**

Tin Liu Tsuen (田寮村) and Ma Wan Town (馬灣市) are the only two *Historical Interest* villages on Ma Wan Island. The former was settled by the Chans (陳) of Hakka (客家) origin and the latter mainly by the Tanka (蛋家) boat people of different surnames. The Chans were the most powerful clan on the island. They moved from Jiangxi (江西) province to Xin'an (新安) county of Guangdong (廣東) province and later to the Tsing Yi (青衣) island around the 1620s. They then moved to Tin Liu of Ma Wan around 1695-1743. A Chan Study Hall (陳氏書齋) was built by the Chans in the village before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the dilapidation of the study hall, Fong Yuen Study Hall (芳園書室) was built in the 1920-30s to replace the old one.

The study hall is in the western part of the village with its entrance facing *Architectural Merit* east. The two-storey detached building is a Chinese Eclectic building with an open foreground in its front surrounded by a low wall. An arched gateway is on the right wall. A small one-storey kitchen for the teaching staff is on the left of the study hall. The study hall is constructed of concrete and bricks with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs. The front façade of the ground floor is recessed with a balcony above. The open balcony is supported by columns and walls on the ground floor. The balcony is fenced with geometric balustrades. A parapet wall is at the roof end with a pediment in the middle. The name of the study hall (芳園書室) is moulded on the wall with petal and geometric interlocking patterns on either side. The semi-circular pediment is with flower pattern topped with a ball and flanked with a short post. An office and a classroom are on the ground floor. A computer room and a classroom are on the upper floor accessed through an indoor staircase. Another staircase is at the back of the building for access to the upper floor and the roof. The building is plastered and painted white. The entrance is at the left portion of the ground floor. The pitched roof is replaced with a metal one in 1999.

It is an old study hall to remind the settlement of the Chans and history of *Rarity* the island.

It has considerable built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

The authenticity of the study hall is kept though its roof is turned into a *Authenticity*

metal one. The upkeep and maintenance of the building is made. Two renovations were carried out in the 1990s.

It has group value with the kitchen and the gateway of the study hall.

*Group Value*

Traditional Chinese classics were taught to the students when the study hall was first established. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45), the Japanese soldiers stationed at the study hall before they moved to other places. The study hall was reopened after the war. A Ma Wan Free School (馬灣義學) was established in Ma Wan Town which had keen competition with the study hall. The school was closed in the 1950s and has been used as the Ma Wan Rural Committee (馬灣鄉事委員會) office. The study hall reached its peak period in the 1960s taking 84 students and had eight teachers. A new premises with two classrooms was built in 1956 in the south of the study hall. The school was named as Ma Wan Public Fong Yuen School (馬灣公立芳園學校). Due to the improved traffic with outside areas, many of the students on the island study in Tsuen Wan, Tsing Yi and Tuen Mun areas especially after the Tsing Ma Bridge has been constructed.

*Social Value &  
Local Interest*

Fong Yuen Study Hall will be adaptive re-used under the Government's Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.

*Adaptive  
Re-use*