

Historic Building Appraisal

Jun Wah Study Hall

No. 130 Shui Tsiu San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) is a Hakka (客家) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long occupied by the Wongs (黃), the Yeungs (楊), the Cheungs (張), the Chings (程) and the Lams (林). The Wongs and the Yeungs were tenant farmers working for the Tang (鄧) clan of Ping Shan (屏山). They settled in the village in the 17th century and followed by the others. The village was initially called Fuk Hing Wai (福慶圍) and an ancestral hall Fuk Hing Tong (福慶堂) was built by the five clans. The village has used the present name since the early 20th century. The Chings came from Heyuan (河源) of Guangdong (廣東) province. The Chings and the Lams later became the major clans in the village. Jun Wah Study Hall (俊華書室) was built by the Chings for use as a communal hall of the clan first and later used as a study hall as well. It is not known when it was built. A wall painting at the front façade has the year of 1907 inscribed on it indicating it might have been built before 1907. The hall is the biggest building in the village which took over much of the work of a Fuk Wah Study Hall (福華書室) set up by all the village members due to the increase of village children. The study hall also took children from other villages including those from Pak Sha Tsuen (白沙村), Muk Kiu Tau (木橋頭), Tai Tong Tsuen (大棠村) and others in Shap Pat Heung.

*Historical
Interest*

The study hall is a detached building on the left rear end of the rows of houses in the village. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building 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 two halls. An annex including two rooms and a kitchen was constructed on the left of the building but demolished in 1998. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Granite blocks are used for its doorframe, wall corners and lower courses of its front façade walls. The name of the hall is engraved on a stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings including the Eight Immortals (八仙) and others are under the eave of the entrance. Plastered mouldings and fascia boards mostly weathered of unicorns, flowers and birds are on the front façade. Wall paintings of flowers, birds and landscape and frieze ones of curling flowers are at the main hall. The main ridge is with a pair of red geometric mouldings at its two ends.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is a study hall of the Chings to witness the history and education of the clan and the village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The building is in dilapidated condition especially the open courtyard and the entrance hall which are covered with corrugated sheets. The authenticity is diminished. *Authenticity*

It has group value with the ancestral halls, Fuk Wah Study Hall and other historic buildings in the village. *Group Value*

The teachers of the study hall were employed from the mainland. Accommodation was provided at the annex of the study hall. The study hall continued to educate the children in the area after the Second World War until it was replaced by the better facilitated new school, Luen Kwong Public School (公立聯光學校), set up near Tai Tong Tsuen in 1954. It was used as a residence from 1958 to 1970s. It was later rented to a Chow Moon-bill (鄒滿標) for use as a residence and a rattan factory in the 1970-80s. It was occupied by a member of the Chings for use as his residence and a grocery in 1996-99. The building is now used as a storeroom. *Social Value, & Local Interest*