

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 57, 58 & 59 Tsung Yuen Ha
Ta Kwu Ling

Tsung Yuen Ha (松園下) village is in the closed area of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺). It is a Punti (本地) single-clan village occupied by the Hos (何) who came to the village in the late Ming (明, 1668-1644) dynasty. A Ho Ancestral Hall (何氏宗祠) of medium size was built in the northern part of the village for the entire village. Two branch ones of smaller sizes were built. One of them has been demolished. The Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall (橋芳家祠) was built by the Kiu Fong Branch (橋芳祖, Kiu Fong Tso) in 1933. Nos. 57, 58 and 59 is a block of two-storey building built to the right front of the Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall. The building was built by Ho Wa-shau (何華壽) who was one of the Ho members first worked overseas in the 1920s. He worked as a sailor. After he came back to the village, he built the block. It is not known when it was built. Aerial photographs indicate it was not constructed in 1924. It was probably built in the 1930s. The block is now left vacated.

**Historical
Interest**

The block of building is north-west facing of a mixed style. It is a two-storey vernacular building of three units each has its own entrance. A kitchen block was on its right but has collapsed. It is constructed of green bricks, granite and concrete with its walls and columns to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A verandah is on the forefront of the block on the ground floor supported by four square columns of green bricks extended to the upper floor balcony. Two ends of the verandah are with arched openings. The units for residential use have cocklofts on the ground floor. The walls are plastered and painted. Doorframes of the three entrances are of granite. Red mouldings of interlocking patterns are on the external low walls of the balcony.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a block of houses of the Hos to remind their settlement in the Tsung Yuen Ha village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The building is not occupied and is deteriorating which authenticity is diminishing.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Kiu Fong Ancestral Hall and house Nos. 61 – 62 on its left.

Group Value

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45), the building was used for observation purposes. Wooden labels were put up on the walls of the building by the Japanese Hong Kong Government of Captured Territory (香港占領地總督部). Disturbance of Japanese troops to the village, as villagers disclosed, was not great. Ho Cheuk-kwan (何卓坤), son of Ho Wa-shau, did not live in the building as some people indicated the *fung shui* of the building was bad. It was mainly used as a storeroom from the late 1950s, with a relative of the Hos living in No.59 until the early 1990s upon her death. Cheuk-kwan had contribution on the renovation of the village entrance road, a pavilion and the Ho Ancestral Hall.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***