

Historic Building Appraisal
Sik Lo – Ancillary Block
Yeung Ka Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung

Sik Lo (適廬) in Yeung Ka Tsuen (楊家村) of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), *Historical Interest* Yuen Long, was built by two Yeung brothers, Yeung Chuk-nam (楊竹南) and Yeung Wai-nam (楊衛南) in 1933. It was the Yeungs' settlement in the area that the village and adjoining area is called Yeung Ka Tsuen, village of the Yeungs. They were Hakkas (客家人) from Meixian (梅縣) of Guangdong (廣東) province working in Indonesia to earn their living. They came to Hong Kong and built the house working as farmers. Some of their descendents still live in the house and some are in Indonesia. Their main agricultural activities were rice and vegetables growing with pig rearing. Their produces were sold at the Yuen Long Old Market (元朗舊墟). The Yeungs are no longer farmers and the vegetables grown are for self-consumption.

The Hakka house is at good *fung shui* location with Tai Lam (大欖) *Architectural Merit* mountain at the back and Yuen Long town area to its south. It is a typical Hakka village house of a two-hall-two-row (兩堂兩橫) plan. A gate house is at the north-east with the enclosing low wall surrounding its front compound. A separate block for farm implements, pig rearing is to its left.

The ancillary block was built for keeping the farm implements such as ploughs, grain grinders, husk removers and others and for keeping the cows for field-ploughing. Pigs were also reared at the block for self-use and sold at the market. Firewood and grass collected at the hill at the back called Dam Chai (擔柴) were stored there for their use. The building is almost the same length of the main house constructed of bricks and cement with its walls supporting its pitched roofs of timber rafter, round fir purlins and ceramic tiles. Its front wall is slightly recessed showing the projected roofs and the supporting plastered blocks of trusses. It is plastered in white. The block is no longer used for farming purposes and converted for bathroom and toilet uses.

It is a rare Hakka house built in 1933 to show the Yeungs' settlement in the *Rarity* village.

It is a 1930s version of a Hakka house of high built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The authenticity of the village house is kept though with minor *Authenticity Group Value* modifications to suit its present uses.

The gate house, the Sik Lo main building and the ancillary block have co-related group value.

The Yeungs have their ancestral worship at their main hall with photographs and a soul tablet at the altar. The hall is called Dun King Tong (敦敬堂) which three Chinese characters are written in the middle of the altar flanked by a pair of couplets. The Yeungs also take part in Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) activities at the Tai Shu Ha Tin Hau Temple (大樹下天后廟) in Shap Pat Heung on the 23rd day of the third lunar month. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) local guerrillas stayed for a year at the house with the Yeungs who did not move away.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***