

Historic Building Appraisal
Kwan Ah School (formerly Pan Lam Study Hall)
Sheung Tam Shui Hang, Sha Tau Kok

This Kwan Ah School (群雅學校) refers to the school building constructed in 1930, not the building of the same school to its left constructed in the 1960s. Tam Shui Hang (担水坑) in Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) in the closed area has three villages, namely, Sheung Tam Shui Hang (上担水坑, upper), Chung Tam Shui Hang (中担水坑, middle) and Ha Tam Shui Hang (下担水坑, lower). The multi-surnamed villages have indigenous villagers. The school derived from a study hall erected by the Wans (温氏) called Pan Lam Study Hall (泮林書室) in the Xuantong (宣統, 1909-11) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The study hall later moved to the Yau's (丘) study hall which was the only school providing classical education for the three villages. With the site donated by the villagers, the school was built with three classrooms, a teachers' room and a school office. The upper floor was used as the quarters of its principal in 1967-69. It was a primary private school and became a subsidized one in the early 1960s. A new block was added to cater more students. It is now a whole-day school taking students from Shenzhen (深圳) as well. The old building is for storage use.

*Historical
Interest*

The school is a two-storey building in rectangular plan. It was constructed of green bricks with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The roofs were replaced with reinforced concrete flat ones in 1985. The flooring was also changed with a system of timber joists and planks. Concrete columns and beams were added. The front façade of its upper storey is having a verandah supported by square columns and decorated with vase-shaped green ceramic balustrades. On top of the verandah is a cloud-shaped parapet with a pommel in the middle flanked by two smaller ones. The name of the old school in two Chinese characters '泮林' (Pan Lam) with the dating '民國十九年' (the 19th year of the Republic, i.e.1930) are engraved on the parapet. The ground floor is partitioned into two rooms whereas its upper floor has no partition.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is an old school building to capture the education link of the villages.

Rarity

The 1930s built school premises has considerable built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The 1985 renovation has diminished its authenticity. Its form however has been retained.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Chan Ancestral Hall (陳氏家祠) in the village. *Group Value*

Wan Ah-fat (溫亞發), a member of the Sha Tau Kok Rural Committee (沙頭角鄉事委員會) and a member of the Board of Directors of the School, studied in the school in 1936-37 amongst many villagers of Tam Shui Hang. *Social Value, & Local Interest*