

Historic Building Appraisal

No. 23 Lung Tin Tsuen

Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Lung Tin Tsuen (龍田村) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, was one of the villages inhabited by the people of Taishan (台山) in Siyi (四邑), Guangdong (廣東) province. They either moved from their native regions in Taishan or from the North America where they settled. Lung Tin Tsuen is a comparatively young village in Shap Pat Heung established in the 19th century and inhabited by the Taishan Wongs (黃) starting in the 1920s. Wong Kung-shing (黃恭盛, 1870s-1942) was a native of Dubu (都斛) of Taishan who spent half of his life in Canada operating a laundry with his two younger brothers, Kung-yam (恭任) and Kung-yun (恭潤). He established with other Taishan Wongs a communal trust called Wong Tung I Tong or Wong Tung Yi Tong (黃同義堂), also known as Tung Yi Tong (同義堂) to take part in land investment. *Historical Interest*

Wong Kung-shing sold his laundry on retirement and came to Hong Kong as the colony enjoyed social stability when compared with the Mainland at that time. The Wongs first settled in Yuen Long Kau Hui (元朗舊墟) and later in the northeast part of Ma Tin Tussen (馬田村), northwest of the village, in the early 1920s. Starting from the mid-1920s, the Wongs began to buy land in the Lung Tin Tsuen area from the Tangs (鄧) of Ping Shan (屏山) and established the village. Kung-shing built Lung Tin Study Hall (龍田書室) in the village in 1926, and later built a new house at No.23 between 1928 and 1934. He then sold his old house in Ma Tin Tsuen and moved into No. 23 Lung Tin Tsuen. The contractor was Man Kwok (文國) from Shenzhen (深圳). The building materials were from the Mainland.

The residential house is facing east, a short distance from the Kung Um Road (公庵路) with No.22 in its north. The building is a Siyi two-storey vernacular building. It has a near square plan with an asymmetrical design having an entrance hall and an open courtyard on its left. A living room and two bedrooms are on their right. A kitchen, a storeroom and a toilet are at the back. A living room with some patterned floor tiles and two bedrooms are on the upper floor accessed through a staircase in the living room on the ground floor. The building is constructed of grey bricks with its walls to support its flush pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A wall painting of flowers and rocks and calligraphy are under the eaves of the entrance. A red wall painting with the Chinese character “福” (well-being) is at the courtyard. Window hoods are with mouldings of floral pattern, but most of the windows are made of *Architectural Merit*

aluminium.

It is a Siyi residential building to witness the settlement of the Taishan Wongs in Lung Tin Tsuen, and has some built heritage value. The house was renovated in the 1960s and in 2000. No significant alterations to the building could be identified.

**Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity**

Wong Kung-shing was a land broker in the area and rented some farmlands to the farmers. He was also one of the owners of Fuk Chai Tong (福濟堂), a company offering weighing service in the Yuen Long New Market (元朗新墟). It bade from Hop Yick Company (合益公司), which managed the market, for the right to manage the market's public scales. He was also involved in the community activities. For instance, he donated money for the construction of a road and a bridge between Yuen Long and Tai Tong (大棠) in 1928. He also made contribution for the renovation of the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Tai Shue Ha (大樹下) of Shap Pat Heung in 1938. Kung-shing died in 1942 during the Japanese Occupation (1941-45). Other members of the family living in other areas would return to the house at festivals.

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

No. 23 Lung Tin Tsuen has group value with other village houses at No. 21 (Grade 3) and No. 22 (Grade 3), and the Lung Tin Study Hall (龍田書室) (Grade 2) in the village.

Group Value

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