

Historic Building Appraisal

No. 21 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. The Wongs of the Tung Yi Tong (同義堂), a communal trust of the Wongs, moved from the northeast part of Ma Tin Tusen (馬田村), northwest of the village, to Lung Tin Tsuen in the mid-1920s. Wong Wing-kam (黃榮金, 1884-1976) and Wong Wing-yam (黃榮恩, 1880s-early 1960s), two brothers working in Mexico, built two houses Nos. 21 and 22 in the village in 1931. The house was built by a contractor Wong Wah (黃華) from Shenzhen (深圳) who also built the Lung Tin Study Hall (龍田書室) in the village and No. 542 Tai Kei Leng for Wong Kung-yam (黃恭任), a founder of Tung Yi Tong.. The house is still occupied by the Wongs.

*Historical
Interest*

The residential house is facing east, a short distance from the Kung Um Road (公庵路) with No.22 in its south. 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, a storeroom and two bedrooms are on the right. A disused pig poultry and a toilet are at the back. A living room with a bedroom are on the upper floor accessed through a staircase in the living room on the ground floor. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its flush pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its side and back walls are decorated with green glazed vase-shaped ceramic balustrades in its upper portion. The house is also decorated with plastered mouldings of flowers, leaves, unicorn, eagle emblem and auspicious patterns on its wall friezes at the external and gable walls. Internal walls at the entrance hall and courtyard are with wall paintings of flowers and rocks and calligraphy. A special plastered moulding of Eight Treasures (八寶) to symbolize the Eight Immortals (八仙) is at the courtyard. Window hoods are with mouldings of petal pattern.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is a Siyi residential building to witness the settlement of the Taishan Wongs in Lung Tin Tsuen.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

Part of the open courtyard has been roofed up with reinforced concrete. The authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with houses Nos.22 and 23 and the Lung Tin Study Hall in the village.

Group Value

Wing-kam did not return to Mexico after the Japanese Occupation (1941-45) and he engaged in agricultural farming and pig rearing with his son until the 1980s. He and his brother were also involved in the community activities that they had 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. A soul tablet of the Wongs is at the living room on the upper floor of the house for worship together with the Kwun Yam (觀音) deity. Other members of the family would return to the house at festivals. They would have grave sweeping of their ancestors' graves at the hill behind the Tin Hau Temple in Tai Shue Ha.

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