

Historic Building Appraisal

No. 22 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) before 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 Tussen (馬田村), northwest of the village, to Lung Tin Tsuen before the 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 before 1920. 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 left vacated since 2001 as the Wongs have emigrated overseas.

*Historical
Interest*

The residential house is facing east, a short distance from the Kung Um Road (公庵路) with No.21 in its north. The building is a Siyi two-storey vernacular building. It has an L-shaped plan with an asymmetrical design having an entrance hall and an open courtyard on its left with a living room and bedrooms on the right. A living room with bedrooms 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 and grilles in its upper portion. The house is also decorated with plastered mouldings of flowers, leaves 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. Window hoods are with mouldings of petal pattern.

*Architectural
Merit*

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

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

Wong Wing-yan returned to Mexico for a short period after the Japanese Occupation (1941-45). Later he returned to Hong Kong and operated a metal retailing shop in Yuen Long New Market (元朗新墟). He and his brother were involved in the community affairs, e.g. they contributed to the renovation of Tin Hau Temple in Tai Shue Ha, Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉大樹下天后廟) in 1938. He passed away in the early 1960s at the age of over 80. His descendents moved out of the house gradually and his son emigrated to Canada.

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

It has group value with houses Nos.21 and 23 and the Lung Tin Study Hall in the village.

Group Value

The house has been on loan to the Wongs' relatives for storage use.

***Adaptive
Re-use***