

Historic Building Appraisal 0
Chung Shing Temple
Wing Lung Wai, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Wing Lung Wai (永隆圍) in Kam Tin (錦田), Yuen Long, was founded by *Historical Interest* Tang Siu-kui (鄧紹舉) and his clansmen in the Chenghua (成化, 1465-1487) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. The enclosing wall was built by Tang Sui-cheung (鄧瑞長) and Tang Kwok-yin (鄧國賢) in the Kangxi (康熙, 1662-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty to safeguard the village from bandits, privates and other enemies. Siu-kui was the grandson of Tang Hung-i (鄧洪儀, 1360-1410), the founding ancestor of the Tangs in Kam Tin. Siu-kui's father Ting-ching (廷楨) obtained a *juren* (舉人) degree in 1471 and was a County Magistrate (知縣) of Tengxian (藤縣) in Guangxi province (廣西). Due to the growth of the clan's population, Siu-kui established the village which was called Sha Lan Mei (沙欄尾) or Wing Lung Wai (永龍圍), the latter literally meaning everlasting dragon. The latter was changed into the present name, literally perpetuating prosperity, in 1905. The original walled village was built towards the west with six rows of village houses enclosing by a wall having four watch towers at its corners. The symmetrical village had an entrance gate at its front wall and a shrine at the back wall on its central axis. The main entrance however was relocated to the south after Tai Hong Wai (泰康圍) to its right was established due to *fung shui* reasons. The old entrance gate was no longer existed and so are the watch towers (the north-east tower has some base structure left) and most of the wall structure. The moat was reclaimed in the 1960s. The Chung Shing Temple (眾聖宮, Temple of All Saints) at the back wall of the central axis of the walled village is the village shrine of the villagers where they worship eleven deities including Kwun Yam (觀音), Hung Shing (洪聖) Che Kung (車公) and others.

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall rectangular plan. Its *Architectural Merit* rectangular entrance doorway is facing the original entrance gate (demolished) at the opposite end of the wall. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support the timber rafters, beams and clay tiles. Its internal and external walls have been plastered. Its external walls are built as cavity walls consisting of two separate thickness of brickwork bonded together at intervals. The altar is in the middle of the end wall housing a red board with the names of the deities written on it. Above the board is a wall frieze of a black-and-white dragon flanked by two pieces of calligraphy. Its ridge is with a pair of curling ends and mouldings of fruits and flowers. Above the doorway of the recessed doorway is the name board of the temple. A wall frieze under the eave is a painting of flowers-and-rocks flanked by two pieces of calligraphy.

It is the shrine (temple) of the previous walled village to remind the settlement of the Tangs in Kam Tin **Rarity**

The building is of high built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Re-roofing was carried out in 1959 due to termite infestation. The walls have been plastered and painted white. The last renovation was undertaken before the Da Chiu (打醮) was held in November 2005. The temple is in good upkeep condition.

Authenticity

It has group value with the entrance gate of the village.

Group Value

The temple is taken care of by the villagers in turn having a system called *muntaupai* (門頭牌), a small calabash-shaped wooden board circulated among 62 households of village in a 12 days' interval for the offering of incense to the deities twice a day. The temple has special offerings during the Chinese New Year and at festivals. The villagers have their Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for their new born baby boys of previous year at the temple on the 15th day of the first lunar month. The villagers take part in the Da Chiu held once every ten years organized by the Kam Tin villages.

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**