

Historic Building Appraisal

No. 45 Tai Kei Leng

Main Building, Ancillary Building & Entrance Gate and Enclosing wall Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

No. 45 Tai Kei Leng is a village house of mixed style. It was built in 1926 by the family of Fung Yin-yiu (馮延瑤), who worked in Canada (employed as a worker in Montreal when he was about twenty) and remitted money to them to construct the house. The Fungs also bought other property and farmland in the village and appear to have been influential in the community. According to the stone tablet at the Yi Shing Temple of Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long Kau Hui, Fung Kwan-wing (馮昆榮), Yin-yiu's father, donated money for the renovation of the temple in 1938. *Historical Interest*

The house is still in the Fung family, the current resident being Fung Kei-Cheung (馮其祥), who was born in the house. Fung Kei-cheung joined the Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade of the East River Column (東江縱隊港九獨立大隊) in 1943. He was trained in firearms, artillery and organization. He was responsible for organizing guerrilla movements of the Yuen Long Squadron (元朗中隊). He resigned from the East River Column in 1945. Now, he serves as the Chairman of the communication association of the East River Column (原東江縱隊港九獨立大隊老游擊戰士聯誼會會長).

The house is actually a combination of traditional village houses and various additions, including the 1926 building which is a mixture of Chinese and Western styles/ character known as Chinese Eclectic. The latter building is a two-storey rectangular block built of grey-green bricks featuring an enclosed front verandah over the entrance porch capped by an ornamental pediment adorned with peonies and ball-shaped finials. The side elevation feature arched windows with decorated tympanums and ornamental balustrading forming a parapet to the flat roof. There is a narrow walled courtyard in front of the building with two side entrance gateways. The rear part of the residence consists a 3-roomed hall and two side halls in a typical Chinese enclosed courtyard layout. These buildings are also built of grey-green bricks with Chinese tiled pitched roofs. They are all one-storey high. *Architectural Merit*

Various additions have been made, but the original building forms still remain. The mixed style of the two-storey building reflects Western influence on Chinese traditional style and is a rare and interesting example of built heritage. *Built Heritage Value, Authenticity & Rarity*

The building's unusual style gives it local interest. As the Fung family are one of the oldest lineages in the village and they are related to the history of China's War of Resistance during the Second World War, their family residence also has social value to the community.

Social Value &

Local Interest