

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Kong Ha Wai –Entrance Gate**  
**(Near Kam Tsin Wai) Pat Heung, Yuen Long, N.T.**

Kong Ha Wai (江夏圍) is a huge mansion erected by Wong Kwong-kiu (黃廣僑) in 1933-36. The area has been named as Kong Ha Wai since then. It is on the east of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路) and west of Kam Tsin Wai (金錢圍) village in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. Kwong-kiu was a Hakka (客家) coming from Meixian (梅縣) of Guangdong (廣東) province. He was a merchant of gold business. He bought the land from a Tang Lo-pun (鄧魯賓?) and built his mansion. Some of the workers were villagers of Kam Tsin Wai. The mansion is so called “wai” (圍, walled village) but it is not a walled village itself. The mansion comprises a main building for use as a residence of some 20 members of the Wong, a servants’ quarters, a gate entrance, two ponds in front of the main building and a surrounding garden with green houses. The Wongs left the mansion during the Japanese Occupation (1941- 45) and wooden furniture of the house was looted as firewood. Tung Yick School (同益學校) was temporarily accommodated in Kong Ha Wai in Spring 1941 until the end of the War.

*Historical  
Interest*

The Wongs did not return to the mansion in 1945 after the War. It was used as a temporary police station as the one in Au Tau (凹頭) had been destroyed. They returned to their mansion when the police station moved to a new one in Pat Heung in 1953. The garden of the mansion was used as a factory starting in 1963 and later extended to the residential main building as well in the 1970s. Three of Kwong-kiu’s grandsons emigrated to Australia and the U.S. in the 1980s leaving their father Shui-luen (瑞麟) residing in the servants’ quarters until 1997 when he sold the mansion to a developer.

The main building occupies an area of about 10.5 square metres facing northwest. In front of it is an open foreground. In the past, there were two semi-circular *fung shui* ponds in front of this foreground. The bigger pond was added in later stage in the outer skirt of the smaller one. However, the ponds were reclaimed between 1982 and 1985 by a landscape nursery for more usable space. A pitched-roof gate entrance is at the right end of the compound and a servants’ quarters at the right corner of the open foreground. The entrance gate has a recessed front façade with a double-door opening. The name of Kong Ha Wai (江夏圍) is moulded above the doorway. A couplet “秀山環抱, 俊傑超群” is moulded on either side of the wall. The gate is constructed of concrete and green bricks with its structure to support a flat-roof topped with tiles and a boat-shaped ridge.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is an entrance gate of the Kong Ha Wai mansion, an integral part of the mansion, to witness the settlement of the Wongs in Kong Ha Wai.

**Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The structure has its authenticity kept.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the main building and the entrance gate of the mansion.

**Group Value**

Kwong-kiu had two sons, Tak-ling (德麟) and Shui-luen, both served in the Hong Kong May Shien Association (香港梅縣同鄉會) in 1970-96. The former was the chairman of the Association in 1979-81. One of the nephews of Kwong-kiu, Kai-lun (繼麟), studied at Kam Chuen School (錦全學校) in Kam Tsin Wai. Kwong-kiu bought lots of land in the area and rented them to the nearby villagers for agricultural farming and livestock breeding. A paper mill was at the garden of the mansion and later the main building was used as factories of plastic flowers, plastic moulds, carpets, rubber bands, zinc products and lately polyfoam products. The garden has been used by a landscape nursery since 1980.

**Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest**