

Historic Building Appraisal
Yeung Hau Temple
Sheung Cheung Wai, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

The Yeung Hau Temple (楊侯古廟) situated between Sheung Cheung Wai (上璋圍) village and Hang Tau Tsuen (坑頭村) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, is one of the six Yeung Hau temples in Yuen Long. It was erected by the Tang (鄧) clan of Ping Shan which first ancestor Yuen-ching (元禎) settled in the area as far back as in 1216. It is not known when the temple was built. It might be at the time when the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠) was constructed 700 years ago. The design of the building however is a Qing (清) temple having an age of 300 years the most. The temple was repaired in 2002 after a fire having all its features renewed. The deity is said to be a marquis in the Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty who gave up his life to protect the last two emperors. Two other deities are also worshipped in the temple including the Earth God (土地) and Lady Kam Fa (金花娘娘), the later was reputed to give blessings to pregnant ladies.

**Historical
Interest**

The temple is a Qing vernacular building of a one-hall-one-courtyard plan having a three bays layout. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. The Hau Wong deity is housed at the altar in the middle of the hall. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The right bay is for the Lady Kam Fa deity and the left bay for the Earth God deity. The walls have been with false brick lines. The main ridge is without any decoration. Its gable friezes are with black-and-white curling flower pattern.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a Hau Wong temple to witness the settlement of the Tang clan in Ping Shan.

Rarity

It is a temple of considerable built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Major renovations were held in 1963 and 1991. The authenticity has been diminished due to its repair in 2002.

Authenticity

It has group value with other historic buildings in the village including the Kun Ting Study Hall (觀廷書室), the Tang Ancestral Hall and others.

Group Value

Other than the three deities, some other deities are also worshipped in the temple including Kwun Yam (觀音), Kwan Tai (關帝), Choi San (財神, God of Wealth) and others. The temple is one of the attractions of the historic buildings on the Ping Shan Heritage Trail (屏山文物徑) inaugurated in 1993 open to the public.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*