

Historic Building Appraisal
Wing Kit Study Hall
Nos. 12-13 Tong Fong, Ta Kwu Ling

Wing Kit Study Hall (永傑書室) in Tong Fong (塘坊) of Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺) is within the restricted area and was erected by Man Sing-fat (萬勝發) of the village to commemorate his grandfather Man Wing-kit (萬永傑) in 1889. Man was the 20th generation ancestor of the Mans who branched out from Ping Che (坪輦). Other than teaching children in the village, those from Ping Che, Ping Yeung (坪洋) and Chow Tin Tsuen (周田村) also studied at the hall. It was closed in the 1930s up to 1945 due to the lack of teachers. After the Second World War it resumed its function and a new school building was constructed beside the hall. They worked together and were called Sing Ping School (昇平學校). The limited space of the building led to their closure and a new school was built beside Ping Che Road (坪輦路) in 1961 and the School thus relocated to the new premises. The School was closed in 1993 and children in the village studied in other schools in nearby villages instead.

Historical Interest

The study hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. Side chambers are on either side of the main hall with cockloft above. The side chambers of the front hall are for the teacher's residence and kitchen. It is in symmetrical design with the main classroom in the middle of the main hall. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting its pitched flushed gable roofs of wooden rafters, beams and clay tiles. The recessed entrance has granite door frame, kerb and lintel with a name board of the hall above. In front of the building is a forecourt fenced off by a low wall. A small hut was constructed to its left used as its toilet. The ridges have mouldings of geometric, treasures and floral patterns. Wall friezes and fascia boards are with paintings and carvings of auspicious patterns of dragons, fish, crabs and flowers and calligraphy.

Architectural Merit

It is a rare study hall to witness the history of the area. The building is of considerable built heritage value.

Rarity & Built Heritage Value

The hall is well preserved having its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The hall is for residential use by descendents of Man Sing-fat.

Adaptive re-use

Teachers taught in the hall were employed from mainland China and they stayed in the hall that a kitchen and washroom were provided in the building. Traditional Chinese classics and other subjects were taught. In later stage,

Social Value, & Local Interest

teachers from Government Tai Po Vernacular Normal School (香港大埔官立漢文師範學堂) established in 1926 in Tai Po Market were employed to teach in the study hall. In the old days, a portrait of Confucius was hung in the hall and the pupils had to prostrate themselves in front of the portrait. They had to bring their own desks, chairs, books and stationery to their study hall.