

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 148 Hang Mei Tsuen

#### Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Ping Shan (屏山) was settled by the Tangs (鄧) in the late Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. Tang Yuen-ching (鄧元禎) is considered as the first ancestor of the Tangs who settled there in 1216. Two villages were first founded including Hang Tau (坑頭) and Hang Mei (坑尾) villages, the former in the north and the latter in the south. The former was founded by Waai-tak (懷德, 1548-1622) and the latter by Waai-yee (懷義, 1529-1607), two brothers of the 14<sup>th</sup> generation. The house at No.148 of the village was erected by Tang Wai-hing (鄧渭卿, ?-1876) for use as a study room of his children. He was the youngest son of Tang Gang-tong (鄧賡棠, 1771-1841), a 20<sup>th</sup> generation member of the Tangs. He was a *xiucai* (秀才) of the Imperial Civil Service Examination. He purchased a piece of land from the Sos (蘇) and built the study room. It is not known when it was built, probably between 1830s and 1876. After the death of Wai-hing, it ceased to be used as a study room and became a residence of Kam-yuen (錦源), the fourth son of Wai-hing. Cheung-lun (昌麟), the grandson of Kam-yuen, was the last resident of the house who lived there until 1967. It has been left vacated since then.

**Historical  
Interest**

The residential house is among a group of bigger houses in the western part of the village. The Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠), the clan ancestral hall of the Tangs in Ping Shan, is two blocks away on its right. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The building is asymmetrical in a trapezoid shape with its front wall longer than the back wall. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and the main halls. One side room is on either side of the entrance hall. A room is on the right of the main hall. Wall frieze mouldings of geometric pattern and orchids are on the front façade. A fascia board under the front eave is with carving of flowers and butterflies. The door frames and wall corners are of granite.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a residential building to witness the history of Wai-hing and his family in Hang Mei Tsuen.

**Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The authenticity of the house is basically kept.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the Tang Ancestral Hall, Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall (愈喬二公祠), Kun Ting Study Hall (覲廷書室) and other historic buildings of the village. **Group Value**

Gang-tong was a military *xiuca*i and a naval officer in the Qing government. Wai-hing had seven sons and had a large lot of land rented to farmers for cultivation. The family also had a pharmacy, an oil refinery and a sugar factory. The family trust is called Tang Wai Hing Tso (鄧渭卿祖) which has a number of properties in the village. The children of the family studied at the Sing Hin Kung Study Hall (聖軒公家塾) of the village and other schools. The Tangs worship their ancestors at the Tang Ancestral Hall in the village especially at the Chinese New Year and at the Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung (重陽節) Festivals. They take part in the Da Chiu (打醮) organized by Ping Shan villages. They had a security group called Ping Shan Village Vigilant Guard Group (屏山鄉更練團) established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century providing patrol and security services for the villages. The group was disbanded in 2003. **Social Value, & Local Interest**