

Historic Building Appraisal

Sit Kin Ancestral Hall

Ping Yeung, Ta Kwu Ling

Ping Yeung (坪洋) is a single-clan Hakka (客家) village in Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺) occupied by the Chans (陳). Originated in Shanghang (上杭) of Fujian (福建) province, the Chans moved southwards staying in a number of places in Guangdong (廣東) province. Three members of the 9th generation moved from Wuhua (五華) to Ping Yeung some three hundred years ago. They are Tung-kwok (棟國), Sit-wan (陟雲) and Sit-kin (陟乾). Tung-kwok was the first to settle in the village. Three ancestral halls were built in the village by descendents of the three branches. The Chans share the same ancestors as those in Sheung Kwai Chung (上葵涌), She Shan Tsuen (社山村) in Tai Po, Luk Keng (鹿頸) and Wing Tsuen Tong (穎川堂) in Tsuen Wan. It is not known when this Sit Kin Ancestral Hall (陟乾祖祠) was built. It was probably built in the 18th century the earliest.

*Historical
Interest*

The ancestral hall is the smallest in the village in the middle of the village. It is a small one-hall Qing (清) vernacular building. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The external walls (except the front façade) are plastered and painted red. The internal walls are with white ceramic tiles. The front wall is of fair-faced green-bricks. The altar and the offering table at the end wall of the main hall are covered with red ceramic tiles. A soul tablet is in the middle of the altar for worship. A large gold colour Chinese character “壽” (longevity) is on the end wall flanked with a couplet.. The name of the hall is engraved and gilded on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The doorframe is of granite. Wall paintings of landscape, flowers, birds, figures and calligraphy are at the front wall of the entrance and on the end wall of the altar.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall to witness the settlement of the Chans in Ping Yeung.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

It was renovated in 1939 with other unknown ones. Its authenticity is diminished as many unsympathetic modern building materials are used in the building.

Authenticity

This ancestral hall has group value with the other two selected ancestral halls and Nos.138-139 of the Chans in the village.

Group Value

The Chans had the ancestral worships and celebrations of festivals at the three ancestral halls at almost the same time. They had worship on the last day of the lunar year and on the second day of the Chinese New Year with offerings in the ancestral hall. Wedding, funeral and Dim Dang (點燈) rituals were held at the hall with Hakka banquets and tea-cakes (茶果).

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*