

Historic Building Appraisal
Entrance Hall, Shut Hing Study Hall
Tong Fong Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Shut Hing Study Hall (述卿書室) in Tong Fong Tsuen (塘坊村) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, was built in the 13th year of Tongzhi (同治, 1874) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty by Tang Wai-sing (鄧惠成), alias Kwan-shek (均石), to commemorate his father Shut-hing (述卿), a 21st generation ancestor of the Tang clan in Ping Shan. Shut-hing was granted a *wenlinlang* (文林郎) title, a civil official of the 7th grade in the Qing government. His father Shui-tai (瑞泰, 1777-1831) had the *ligongsheng* (例貢生) title with donation to the government. The study hall was built to educate the village children for preparation of the Imperial Civil Service Examination to gain position in the government. Wong Kat-wun (黃吉雲) and his brother Chee-lut (子律) both having the title of *xiucai* (秀才) taught in the hall. Chee-lut had a very important role in the education of the New Territories who also taught in Kun Ting Study Hall and Tat Tak School (達德學校) and later founded Chung Sing School (鐘聲學校) in 1934 and Chung Sing Girls' School in 1938.

**Historical
Interest**

The study hall was a medium size Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard was between the halls and flanked by two side chambers. It was built for use as a school and library. It had termite attack in the 1940s causing serious dilapidation. It was demolished leaving its entrance hall only. The surviving hall has a recessed entrance fronted by four granite columns which support the pitched roof. The entrance has fine granite door frame, high wall bases, wall corners and lintel. Above the lintel is the finely engraved name board of the study hall. The ridge has rich mouldings of dragons, unicorns, flowers and plants. The gable ridges are with end-of-straw mouldings. Fascia board and wall friezes are with carvings and paintings of auspicious treasures, flowers-and-birds and figurines motifs.

**Architectural
Merit**

The entrance hall is a structure to remind the past glory of the Tang clan in Ping Shan. The structure is of high built heritage value.

**Rarity & Built
Heritage Value**

The entrance hall is well-preserved.

Authenticity

Kun Ting Study Hall (覲廷書室), the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠) and this structure with others in the village have related group value.

Group Value

Chinese classics were taught at the hall in the old days. It was also used as an ancestral hall where soul tablets of Shut-hing's lineage were worshipped. The educational role of the study hall was changed when modern schools were introduced in the area and the Tat Tak School in the village took up its position in 1931.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*