

Historic Building Appraisal

Yi Kung Lok Mansion

Kwan Tei, Fanling

Yi Kung Lok Mansion (義公樂居) or Yi Kung Tong (義公) is an ancestral hall in Kwan Tei (軍地) village built by its villagers to worship their colleagues who sacrificed in fights with those in 20 villages of the Ta Kwu Ling (打鼓嶺) known as Luk Yeuk (六約, Six Yeuks or Six Alliances) including Lee Uk Tsuen (李屋村), Ping Yeung (坪洋), Ping Che (坪輦), Heung Yuen Wai (香園圍) and others. It is not known when the hall was built. It probably has a history of over a hundred years. Kwan Tei was inhabited by the Laus (劉), the Leungs (梁), the Koons (楊), the Yeungs (楊) and the Chengs (鄭). The Laus were the first to settle in the village in the 5th year of Shunzhi (順治, 1648) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. They came from Longmen (龍門) of Guangdong (廣東) province. The ancestral hall was built together with the Lau Ancestral Hall (劉氏家祠) in the front row of the village. The two halls forming a single block of building are identical with their recessed worshipping halls in the middle flanked by their side halls on the left and right.

**Historical
Interest**

The Mansion shares a common wall with the Lau Ancestral Hall next door. It is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan in the main bay with a side bay of a side chamber and a side room. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks and mud bricks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered. The floors are cement-screeded. A big soul tablet for the worship of the Laus, the Koons, the Yeungs, the Kwoks (郭) and the Chengs is at the altar of the end wall. Five soul tablets of the Laus, the Haus (侯), the Yaus (邱), the Lees (李) and the Fungs (馮) are also on display for worship. The name of the Yi Kung Lok Mansion is written on a piece of red paper pasted on the lintel of the recessed entrance.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the villagers to witness their settlement and history in Kwan Tei.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The building was renovated in the 1970s. Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Lau Ancestral Hall next door.

Group Value

The building of Yi Kung Tong was used as a study hall for teaching village children. The Lau Ancestral Hall next door was used for teaching girls at night. The hall was used as a kindergarten in the 1970s for a few years. Weddings of the villagers were held at the two halls and for banquets to celebrate the weddings and other functions. The side chambers of the two halls were also used for residential purposes. The villagers participated in the celebrations of the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) at the Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟) in Ping Che and the Fa Pow (花炮) function at the Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮) in Hung Leng (孔嶺).

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*