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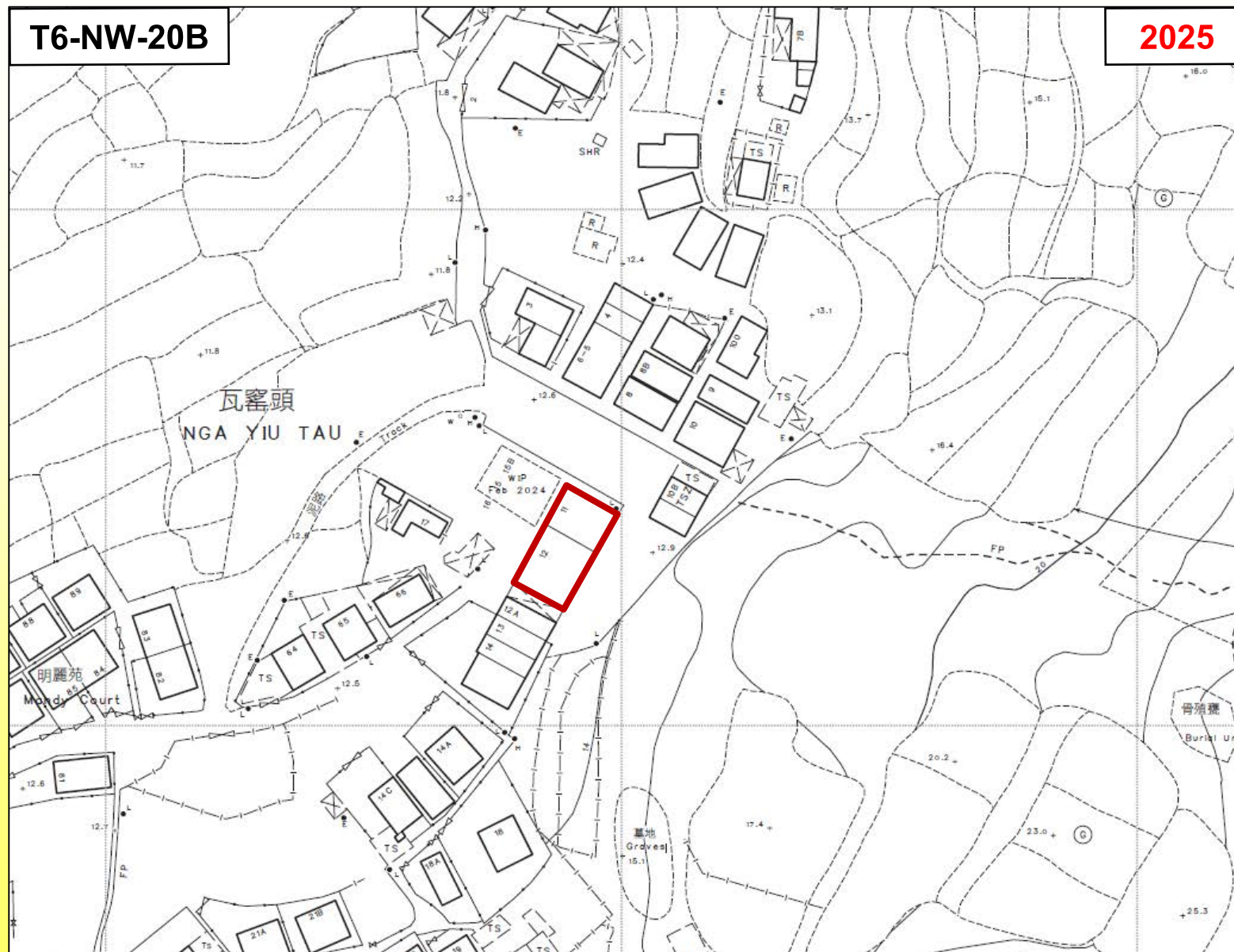
新界元朗十八鄉瓦窰頭11-12號

Nos. 11-12 Nga Yiu Tau, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long, N.T.

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擬議二級歷史建築
Proposed Grade 2



約建於1923年
Built around 1923

擬議評級範圍
Proposed grading
boundary

只用於識別位置，並非確實範圍 For identification of location only, not exact boundary



建築物的外部
Exterior of the building



帶吉祥花草圖案的彩色灰塑
Polychrome plastered mouldings with
auspicious floral and plant patterns



以書法及山水為主題的壁畫
Murals depicting landscapes
and calligraphy



刻有吉祥寓意中文字句的燈樑
Lantern beams inscribed with Chinese characters
with auspicious meaning



閣樓入口上方的精美灰塑
Exquisite plastered mouldings above
the cockloft's entries

Historic Building Appraisal

Nos. 11-12, Nga Yiu Tau, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long, New Territories

Constructed around 1923, the building at Nos. 11-12 Nga Yiu Tau (瓦窑頭) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, is the last remaining traditional vernacular residence from the village's early days. It stands as a testament to the founding and development of Nga Yiu Tau. *Historical Interest*

Located southeast of Yuen Long Town, Nga Yiu Tau¹ is a multi-lineage village established in the early 1920s by six families with five different surnames: the Tang (鄧), Tse (謝), Kan (簡), Lai (賴) and two Cheung (張) families.² These families formed a “tong” (a traditional clan organisation tasked with land ownership) called Tung Fuk Tong (同福堂, meaning “good fortune together”) and collectively purchased land for agriculture and residential uses.³ At the village centre, an open ground features a communal ancestral hall with family residences on either side.⁴ To the left of this open ground stands the building at Nos. 11-12 Nga Yiu Tau (the “Building”), once home to the Tang family and originally owned by Tang Shui-pui (鄧瑞彪), one of the village's founders.⁵

Tang Shui-pui, a Hakka native from Zhangshubu (樟樹布) in Baoan (寶安) County, migrated to Yuen Long in the 1910s. He opened a shop in the area, producing and selling grey bricks,⁶ which he used to construct the family

¹ Nga Yiu Tau was originally called Lung Yin Tsuen (龍涎村, literally “the village of dragon's drool”), as evidenced by the stone inscription bearing that name at the entrance to the ancestral hall. According to oral accounts, the name was derived from the presence of spring water nearby, which was essential for irrigating the farmland. After the Second World War, Lung Yin Tsuen was renamed Nga Yiu Tau, meaning “a place with a clay tile kiln”, as there was once a kiln that manufactured clay tiles not far from the ancestral hall. Oral history interview with the Tangs of Nga Yiu Tau by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) on 29 April 2025.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid. and Land Registry, Property Particulars of D.D. 116 Lot No. 2628 and 2630.

⁴ Survey and Mapping Office, Aerial photos dated 6 November 1945 (Photo Ref.: 681_4-3182).

⁵ Land Registry, Property Particulars of D.D. 116 Lot No. 2628 and 2630 and Oral history interview with the Tangs of Nga Yiu Tau by AMO on 29 April 2025.

⁶ In addition to the shop selling grey bricks, Tang Shui-pui also operated two groceries, Yau Tai Emporium (有泰百貨公司) and Tung Tai (東泰), in Yuen Long. Oral history interview with the Tangs of Nga Yiu Tau by AMO on 29 April 2025.

residence.⁷ Based on the year displayed in the murals on the wall friezes, “癸亥年”, the Building is believed to have been completed around 1923. Subsequently, the Building became the place where Tang Shui-pui’s four sons branched out. At its peak, over twenty people lived there.⁸

Among the many members of Tang Shui-pui’s family who lived in the Building at various times, two made notable contributions to society. His son, Tang Tung-kwong (鄧同光),⁹ served as chairman of the Yuen Long Chamber of Commerce (元朗商會), dedicating himself to advancing education and fostering community development in the district. His grandson, Professor Tang Ching-wan (鄧青雲),¹⁰ is a renowned physical chemist credited with inventing the organic light-emitting diode (OLED) in 1987, a groundbreaking technology that revolutionised flat-screen displays and lighting. The Building is therefore regarded as a cradle of talents that has produced a legacy of excellence.

The Tang family lived in the Building for nearly nine decades until the last family member moved out in 2013.¹¹ Today, the Building is divided into

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Tang Tung-kwong was a businessman who was dedicated to serving the Yuen Long community. Believing firmly in the importance of education, he opened Lung Yin School (龍涎學校) in the village's ancestral hall to provide education for village children. He was repeatedly nominated as the chairman of the Yuen Long Chamber of Commerce between 1951 and 1994, and it was under his leadership that the chamber established Yuen Long Chamber of Commerce Primary School in 1948 and its secondary school in 1961 as well as a medical clinic in 1956. Tang held several other important positions and was for example one of the founders of the New Territories General Chamber of Commerce (新界總商會). Tang was awarded the Queen’s insignia in 1987 in recognition of his notable contributions to promoting education and affordable healthcare for the local community. Ibid and see 《元朗商會成立廿五週年紀念特刊》，香港：香港新界元朗商會，1963年，〈關於本會〉，新界總商會網頁，<http://www.ntgcc.org.hk/hk/subpage.php?mid=2>，accessed on 14 May 2025, and 〈鄧同光獲榮譽獎章 元朗商會宴賀 共促發展繁榮〉，《華僑日報》，1987年4月15日。

¹⁰ Born in 1947, Professor Tang Ching-wan is an influential scientist who is hailed as the father of OLED. He was a professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Rochester, New York. He is also a founding member of the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong (香港科學院). Tang was awarded the prestigious Wolf Prize in Chemistry in 2011 and made an honorary Doctor of Science at the University of Hong Kong in 2018. See The University of Hong Kong. Past Congregations, TANG Ching Wan, Biography, <https://www4.hku.hk/hongrads/graduates/professor-ching-wan-tang-tang-ching-wan>, accessed on 20 May 2025.

¹¹ Oral history interview with the Tangs of Nga Yiu Tau by AMO on 29 April 2025.

three rental units.¹² With neighbouring houses demolished for redevelopment, it now stands as the sole surviving vernacular residence that bears witness to the village's establishment.¹³

The building at Nos. 11-12 Nga Yiu Tau is a vernacular Hakka village house featuring a one-hall-five-bay (一進五開間) layout, constructed with fair-faced grey bricks. It is topped with a flush gable roof, supported by timber rafters and purlins, and covered with Hakka-style tiles. Granite cornerstones are placed at all four corners, with matching granite blocks laid horizontally above them to reinforce the walls. The same design appears on the sides of the two recessed bays between the three projecting bays of the front elevation.

*Architectural
Merit*

An outstanding example of traditional Lingnan (嶺南) architecture, the Building features exquisite exterior mouldings and murals. The gable wall friezes are adorned with scroll grass-patterned mouldings, while the friezes of the three projecting bays are embellished with polychrome plastered mouldings featuring auspicious floral and plant motifs. In contrast, the wall friezes of the two recessed bays are decorated with murals depicting landscapes and calligraphy. Each recessed bay includes a fascia board beneath the eaves, intricately carved with flowers, birds and Chinese characters conveying auspicious messages, such as “福祿壽全” (meaning “completeness of blessings, fortune, and longevity”) on one and “百世其昌” (meaning “prosperity for hundreds of generations”) on the other. Most of the Building's windows retain their original rectangular design and are fitted with security bars. Some are further embellished with crown mouldings and mouldings in the shape of a *ruyi* (如意) and Chinese scroll motifs that enhance the grandeur of the Building.

The granite-framed, double-leaf wooden doors of the two recessed bays open into the main halls of Nos. 11-12 Nga Yiu Tau. Beneath the roof purlins, lantern beams (燈樑) inscribed with Chinese characters are visible – No. 11 reads “奕世其昌” (meaning “prosperity for generations”), while the other beam in No. 12 bears the inscription “百子千孫” (meaning “a hundred sons and a thousand grandsons”). Above the rear of the main halls are the cocklofts constructed with timber planks over timber joists. Openings on the

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Survey and Mapping Office, Aerial photos dated 27 February 2023 (Photo Ref.: E189380C).

sides of these cocklofts connect the upper floors of the three adjoining bays, with timber staircases providing access to the ground floor. The tops of the cocklofts' entrances are elegantly adorned with fine mouldings – at No. 11, they depict agricultural produce and include Chinese characters that read “如松”, “之勝” (meaning “longevity like pines”), while at No. 12, the design features Chinese scroll patterns and the phrase “左通”, “右達” (meaning “smooth transition and connection”).

The Building has retained much of its authenticity, particularly in its architectural fabric and intricate decorations. Although some original windows have been widened with new windows and ventilation openings added, the exterior remains largely intact, and the internal layout is mostly unchanged. As the only surviving traditional vernacular building in the village, it stands as a rare architectural gem.

Authenticity & Rarity

The Building has functioned exclusively as a private residence since its construction and stands as a lasting testament to the Tang family's notable contributions to both Nga Yiu Tau and the broader society. As the only surviving residence reflecting the village's historical origins, this grey brick building is a well-recognised landmark within the local community.

Social Value & Local Interest

The Building also holds group value alongside the nearby Tin Hau Temple at Nga Yiu Tau, Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉瓦窑頭天后古廟) (Grade 2). Together, they embody the interconnected aspects of traditional village life and the cultural beliefs of Nga Yiu Tau's villagers, reflecting the community's historical and spiritual heritage.

Group Value

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