

Historic Building Appraisal

Main Shrine

No. 73 Tin Liu Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Tin Liu Tsuen (田寮村) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long was a **Historical Interest** walled village occupied by four clans surnamed Wu (胡), Wong (黃), Yip (葉) and Sit (薛). It was a Punti (本地) village in the early 19th century which was one of the alliance members of the Shap Pat Heung, literally meaning Eighteen Villages. The enclosing wall was built for the protection of the villagers against any attack from bandits, pirates or other enemies. Together with the walls, an entrance gate (rebuilt in 1930) at the front wall and a shrine at the back wall were constructed. They are on the same axis. The former is for the in and out of the villagers whilst the latter is the *shenting* (神廳) of the village in which Tai Wong (大王) is the protective deity of the villagers. The deity is Hung Shing (洪聖) invited from Maozhou (茅洲) of Shenzhen (深圳). The shrine was rebuilt in 1935 having its width widened from 11 to 13 slates (坑). It was renovated in 1959.

The shrine is a one-hall Qing (清) vernacular building of a rectangular plan. **Architectural Merit** It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are with a nine-stretcher courses to one-header course brick bonding (九順一丁). The altar occupies the entire end wall of the building with a tablet of Tai Wong, a statue of Tin Hau (天后), a Fa Pow (花炮) lantern of the village and images of other deities on display. The internal walls are with false brick lines. Its floor is finished with granite slabs. Its recessed entrance is decorated with a wall frieze of calligraphy and flowers-and-birds and landscape paintings under the eave.

It is a building to remind the settlement of the Tin Liu Tsuen.

Rarity

It has considerable built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The present shrine was renovated in 1959 having its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The entrance gate and the main shrine have related group value.

Group Value

The shrine is maintained and managed by households in turn by a system called Ping On Tau (平安頭) in annual shift. Besides Tai Wong, a statue of Tin Hau invited from the Tin Hau Temple of Tai Shu Ha (大樹下天后廟) in Shap **Social Value, & Local Interest**

Pat Heung is also worshipped in the shrine. The deities of the shrine would have the regular worship and offerings and at festivals. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was held in the shrine for new born baby boys of previous year.