

Historic Building Appraisal

Ng Fui Study Hall

No. 116 Pak Sha Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Pak Sha Tsuen (白沙村) is in the southeast of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of *Historical Interest* Yuen Long. It is a multi-clan village first established in the Kangxi (康熙, 1622-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty by the Chows (周) and later settled by other ten clans including the Laus (劉), the Tams (譚) with the Chows from Dongguan (東莞), the Yicks (易) from Heshan (鶴山), the Kwans (關), the Taos (陶), the Lees (李) and others. The village was a walled village but the walls have been removed. Ng Fui Study Hall (五奎書室) was erected by the villagers in the 16th year of the Gunagxu (光緒, 1890) reign of the Qing dynasty. The study hall was initiated by a number of villagers especially Yick Tsan-san (易贊臣), a *gongsheng* (貢生) candidate and a scholar, with others including Lau Muk-chun (劉木春), Lau Kwong-yiu (劉廣耀) and Yeung Pak-lam (楊北林).

The study hall is in the left front corner of the village. It is a Qing vernacular *Architectural Merit* building of two bays. The entrance is on the right bay. The right bay is a big room whilst the left bay is a big room with a mezzanine floor. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A parapet was added later at the roof end of the front façade. The right portion of the parapet above the recessed entrance is with rectangular and angled patterns. The walls are plastered and the floors cement-screeded. A picture of Kwan Tai (關帝) is in the middle of the end wall of the right hall behind an altar for worship. A picture of Confucius (孔子) is on the right side wall also for worship.

It is a study hall of Pak Sha Tsuen to witness the history, education and *Rarity* settlement of its villagers.

It has little built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value

The authenticity of the building is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Villa of Tsan San (贊臣別墅) in the village.

Group Value

When the study hall was first erected, it provided education for the village children to learn Chinese classics in order to gain success in the Imperial Civil Service Examination so that they can have position in the Qing government. Towards the turn of the 20th century, modern subjects of mathematics, general *Social Value, & Local Interest*

knowledge and others were taught. Accommodation was provided at the building for the teacher. Yick Tsan-san, his son and grandson taught at different periods in the study hall. The study hall was later renamed as Ng Fui School (五奎學校) in 1944. It provided Primary 1 to 4 lessons for 20 to 30 children whilst Fuk Wah School (福華學校) in Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) also in Shap Pat Heung provided Primary 5 and 6 lessons. Yick Wai-san (易為三), the grandson of Yick Tsan-san, was the principal of the school. He then became the principal of Luen Kwong Public School (公立聯光學校) established in 1954 by a number of villages in Shap Pat Heung. The function of Ng Fui School to provide formal primary education then came to an end. It was used to provide evening classes for female adults for two to three years in the 1950s. It was used as a kindergarten in 1965-70 taking about 15 children. The study hall has been used as a place to deal with village affairs until a new building of the Pak Sha Tsuen Office Building (白沙村村公所) was built in 1996 on its left.