

Historic Building Appraisal

Tat Yan Study Hall

No. 226 Shan Ha Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

Tat Yan Study Hall (達仁書室) in Shan Ha Tsuen (山下村) of Ping Shan (屏山), Yuen Long, was erected in 1919 by the descendents of Cheung Kwan-chuen (張君存). His ancestor Chuk-ping (祝平) moved from Huangchuen (篁村) of Dongguan (東莞) to Wang Chau (橫洲) in the late 15th century. Chuk-ping's grandsons settled in Tsat Sing Kong (七星崗) and then moved to Shan Ha village in the Shunzhi reign (順治, 1644-1661) of the Qing (清) dynasty. The hall was built to commemorate one of the descendents of Kwan-chuen, Yung-wan (容穩). Soul tablets of Kwan-chuen's lineage were displayed at the hall's altar for worship. Descendents of Kwan-yuet (張君悅), brother of Kwan-chuen, also built a study hall named Kwan Yuet Study Hall (君悅書室).

**Historical
Interest**

The study hall is a building of Qing vernacular design having a two-storey-two-hall plan of three bays. A kitchen is later added to its right. A courtyard is at its entrance hall and side rooms are on the left and right of the halls. Access to the first floor is provided by staircases in the side rooms of the main hall. It is in symmetrical design with the altar at the far end of the central axis in the middle of the main hall. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting the flush gable pitched roofs of wooden rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The balconies of the first floor are with green ceramic balustrades and walls at the main halls are with window grilles of similar type. The recessed entrance is with granite door frame, lintel and wall corners. Above the lintel is the name board of the study hall. Wall friezes at the façade are with auspicious mouldings of unicorns, flowers and plants.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is one of the historic buildings to witness the settlement of the Cheungs in Shan Ha Tsuen.

Rarity

The study hall is of considerable built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The roofs of the side rooms have turned into flat reinforced concrete ones and many internal walls plastered. The building on the whole has its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

The Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠), the Kwan Yuet Study Hall, Hing Po Study Hall (興寶書室) and this one have co-related group value.

Group Value

Around 12 children were taught at the hall by a Cheung King-shung (張景宋) a Christian graduated from a university in Beijing. He later taught at the Tat Tak School (達德學校) of Ping Shan. The hall is also for ancestral worship with rows of soul tablets of the Kwan-chuen's lineage displayed at the finely carved altar.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*