

Protection and Planning of Traditional Clan Architecture: A Case Study of Pingshan Heritage Trail in Yuen Long District, Hong Kong

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Abstract

Hong Kong is a unique city with a combination of Chinese and Western characteristics. It has both Chinese traditional culture and the shadow of western culture, especially British culture. The Pingshan Heritage Trail, located in the Tang clan in Pingshan, Yuen Long, Hong Kong, has a long history and is of great research value. Through the author's on-the-spot investigation in the course, consulting historical materials, and taking Deng clan architecture as an example, this paper deeply analyzes and studies the clan value, historical education value and social development value of ancient buildings, and then puts forward some suggestions on the protection and planning development of traditional clan architecture.

Keywords

History and Culture; Building Protection; Regional Development.

1. Introduction

Hong Kong is a unique city with a combination of Chinese and Western characteristics. It has both Chinese traditional culture and the shadow of western culture, especially British culture. The Pingshan Heritage Trail, located in the Tang clan in Pingshan, Yuen Long, Hong Kong, has a long history and is of great research value. Through the author's on-the-spot investigation in the course, consulting historical materials, and taking Deng clan architecture as an example, this paper deeply analyzes and studies the clan value, historical education value and social development value of ancient buildings, and then puts forward some suggestions on the protection and planning development of traditional clan architecture.

1.1. Section Headings

The Tang clan in Hong Kong's New Territories is a clan among the indigenous inhabitants of Hong Kong's New Territories. Their clansmen originally lived in Jiangxi and Fujian, China. In the early years of the Northern Song Dynasty, Deng Hanfu, who lived in Baisha Township, Jishui County, Ji'an Prefecture, Jiangxi Province, moved to Guangdong as Chengwu Lang. Influenced by the simple folk customs of Guangdong, he decided to live here for a long time and settled in Centian (now Jintian, New Territories, Hong Kong) at that time. Later, also in the Southern Song Dynasty, Deng Hanfu and his son Deng Congguang moved from Jintian to Pingshan, and Deng Yuanzhen was regarded as the ancestor of Pingshan School. From then on, future generations lived here and established "three measurements and six villages".

Since Deng people settled in Pingshan, they have built many buildings with far-reaching historical value. Among them, the most famous one is that the Pingshan Cultural Relics Trail is formed with eight historic sites as the core. The Pingshan Heritage Trail was completed in 1993, showing the local culture and ethnic history of Deng Clan people in the past thousand years. It is the crystallization of Pingshan culture and the first heritage trail in Hong Kong.

1.2. Pingshan Heritage Trail Has A Long History

The eight core buildings of Pingshan Heritage Trail are Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda, Deng's Ancestral Hall, Shengxuan Public School, Scholar's Former Residence, Jin Ting Library, Qing Shu Xuan, Shu Qing Library and Dade CCBA. Because of its long history and high value of architectural art, it is called "Eight Best of Pingshan". Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda, erected in the estuary at that time with blue bricks and granite, is the oldest and only ancient pagoda in Hong Kong, and is a statutory monument. Deng's Ancestral Hall is one of the largest ancestral halls in Hong Kong and a statutory monument; Shenggong Family School is the tallest and largest ancient book house in Hong Kong, Scholar's former residence is the strongest ancient house with the most local cultural relics in Hong Kong, Jin Ting Book Room is the most beautiful ancient private school in Hong Kong, Qing Shu Xuan is the most elegant ancient reception room in Hong Kong, Shu Qing Book Room is the gatehouse of the ancient school with the most architectural value in Hong Kong, and Dade CCBA is the earliest and largest anti-British command center in Hong Kong. Apart from the "Eight Best Places in Pingshan", there are also some historic buildings with a history of 100 years, such as Yu Qiao Er Gong Temple, Shangzhangwei, Yanghou Temple, etc. on Pingshan Heritage Trail, which shows that the buildings in Pingshan Heritage Trail have extremely high historical value.

1.3. Spatial Planning Analysis of Pingshan Heritage Trail Building

The Pingshan Cultural Relics Trail is about 1.6 kilometers long, winding between Kengtou Village, Kengwei Village and Shangzhangwei. As shown in Figure 1, the heritage trails are linearly distributed among three villages, connecting many ancient buildings, and a main street runs through the whole from the subway station. At the two ends of the street, Tin Shui Wai Subway Station and Pingshan Light Rail Station are connected with the outside world, while the parking lot is next to the light rail station in the lower left corner. The layout of Pingshan Cultural Relics Trail is reasonable, which not only highlights the functionality of the main body, but also takes into account the daily practicality. Among the three villages, Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda, the oldest and only ancient pagoda in Hong Kong, is located at the beginning of the Heritage Trail. Deng's ancestral hall is the most important public space of the Deng people, located in the center of the distribution map; The location of the parking lot can not only meet the original parking needs of the villagers, but also not interfere with the cultural relics trail in space.

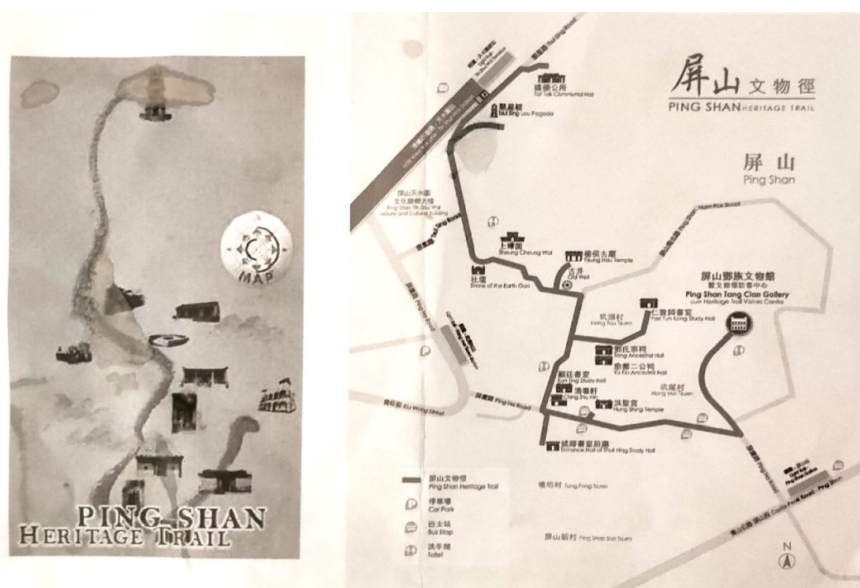


Figure 1. Introduction of Pingshan
(http://www.amo.gov.hk/b5/trails_pingshan.php)

2. The Value of Pingshan Heritage Trail architecture of Deng Clan

2.1. Clan Value

2.1.1. Sub-section Headings

Pingshan Cultural Relics Trail is the crystallization of family history from generation to generation of Deng clan in Pingshan. It is a "family history museum" built with great care to commemorate ancestors and inspire future generations. This kind of family culture, which originated from a common ancestor and connected families by blood relationship, thus formed centripetal force and strengthened cohesion, prompted generations of Deng clan people to continue to struggle and build one ancient building after another today. It can be seen that Pingshan Heritage Trail not only has the primary value of commemorating and inheriting ancestors, but also reflects an enterprising spirit of unity and hard work.

2.2. The Value of History Education

On the one hand, Pingshan Cultural Relics Trail encourages Deng's descendants to keep in mind their ancestral teachings and not forget their roots. Among them, the buildings such as Shengxuan Public School, Scholar's Former Residence, Jin Ting Library, Shu Qing Library, etc., from the plaque naming of the buildings to the internal furnishings, fully demonstrate the ardent expectation of the Deng clan to encourage the middle and younger generations of the clan to study hard and write poems and books for generations to come.

On the other hand, the historical facts in a large number of ancient buildings also provide an immersive tour experience for foreign tourists who come here to visit. In the Heritage Trail, apart from the ancient buildings that display the inheritance of the Tang clan culture, there is also a special place-Dade Hall. This is an ancient building built in Qing Dynasty to resist pirates, which recorded and displayed the historical scenes at that time in detail. On March 28, 1999, Britain sought land and built a police station in Pingshan, but it was strongly opposed by representatives of villages in the New Territories. Representatives held a meeting at the Dade CCBA in Pingshan, and decided to fight against Britain. In the following days, there was an exchange of fire. With the overnight withdrawal of British personnel, the British authorities decided to take over the New Territories by force. In 1938, Dade CCBA was rebuilt, and a monument was erected for the anti-British people. On the monument, a list of 176 martyrs and women was recorded, of which Pingshan Erlang accounted for 73.

2.3. The Value of Social Development

All the scenic spots of Pingshan Heritage Trail are free and open. The original intention of its committee is to hope that the tourism value of the Heritage Trail will help tourists learn about history and Hong Kong's tourism economy. Here, visitors can enjoy all the scenic spots in about half a day, and there are signposts and information boards along the route to guide visitors.

Deng Lianxing, the inheritor of Hong Kong's nine great cuisines, made great efforts to promote Deng's ancestral characteristic potted vegetables to Hong Kong's tourism industry in order to carry forward the ancestral "potted vegetables", which became a household name food. Every year after the reunification, on October 1st, the Deng clan in Pingshan held a National Day potted vegetable banquet to congratulate the founding of the motherland. No matter what the ancestors of the Tang clan built the cultural relics trail in the past, or what people after the Tang clan did today, they all conveyed the values of Do not forget your initiative mind, the clan, who did not forget his roots to the society.

3. Suggestions on Protection and Planning Development of Ancient Buildings in Pingshan Heritage Trail of Deng Clan

3.1. Protect Ancient Buildings and Indigenous Living Environment, Promote the Improvement and Upgrading of Infrastructure

To protect the ancient buildings of Pingshan Heritage Trail, you can consider adding a warning sign at the beginning of Pingshan Heritage Trail to remind tourists to visit in a civilized way. Combined with the author's own field visit experience, although the visiting streets of Pingshan Heritage Trail appear to be all the way through on the road map (as shown in Figure 1), the personal experience of field visit streets is not very good. First, the greening and beautification of the main street needs to be strengthened, and the overall layout, reasonable setting and scientific layout of the landscape belt are not mature enough. The functional orientation of the second street needs to be accurately grasped. The second street interwoven with three villages can easily interfere with and confuse the tour route, resulting in many first-time tourists not having a clear tour route, and even having a bad tour experience. At the same time, it will inadvertently disturb the daily life and environment of local villagers.

It is suggested that this kind of problem can be solved by adding some design elements to the main and secondary streets of Pingshan Heritage Trail. First, add some landscape design elements to the main street, and moderately arrange some green plants, scene shapes, pocket parks, etc. that fit the theme of the scenic spot, so as to create the atmosphere of the scenic spot. Second, for the secondary street of Heritage Trail, because its own width is smaller than that of the main street, and the secondary street is intertwined with the buildings of three villages, this requires that the secondary street cannot bear too much greening to distinguish it from the village streets, and its own shape cannot be changed. Therefore, it can be considered to add some interesting devices in the secondary street, so as to completely distinguish the secondary street from the main street visually and increase the recognition of the first-time visitors. The specific form can be placing the theme ornaments, or printing some emotional memoirs of Deng Clan in Pingshan on the exhibition board and posting them along the way for display, which can not only indicate the tour route, but also increase the interest of viewing during the trip.

3.2. Actively Develop Tourism and Drive Related Industries

When visiting Pingshan Heritage Trail, the author didn't find many commercial shops about the tourism industry, but what he saw most were some commercial shops that villagers needed in their daily life. Therefore, it is suggested that by developing tourism, developing some cultural and creative products and opening some tourist shops, it can not only spread Pingshan culture, but also meet the daily needs of tourists and villagers, which will not only promote the development of related industries in the village, but also contribute to the tourism economy of Hong Kong.

Pingshan Heritage Trail is the development and practice of Chinese traditional culture on Hong Kong Island, and it is a unique and precious cultural heritage formed in the special historical development of Hong Kong. It should be paid attention by all sectors of society, protected and developed, so that it can give full play to its due historical role and value.

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