

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Fuk Hing Tong (Shrine)

#### No. 121 Shui Tsiu San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, was a *Historical Interest* Hakka (客家) village inhabited by the Yeungs (楊) and the Wongs (黃) who worked for the Tang (鄧) clan as early as the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and later joined by the Chings (程), the Lams (林) and the Cheungs (張). Fuk Hing Tong (福慶堂) is the shrine (神廳) of the village which also acts as the general ancestral hall of the villagers. It was built for the worship of Kwan Tai (關帝) in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The shrine is operated by a trust of the five clans.

The shrine is a Qing (清) vernacular building of a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. A *Architectural Merit* compartment of equal length is on its right. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Immediate behind the recessed entrance is the open courtyard. The altar occupies the entire end wall of the main hall which houses the Kwan Tai deity for worship. An Earth God (土地) shrine is at the bottom of the altar in the middle. The compartment to the right has a kitchen and also used as a storage. Its front façade of the shrine is with five courses of granite blocks as its base and with brick-lined plaster. Above the lintel is the name board of the shrine and under the eave are wall friezes of flowers and birds paintings. The main ridge is with a set of geometric plastered mouldings. A wall painting in the middle of the main hall is a dragon in rolling clouds. Other wall paintings in the main hall are with peony, flowers, birds and calligraphy.

The shrine is the common ancestral hall and for the worship of Kwan Tai of the *Rarity* villagers.

It has considerable built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

The shrine was renovated in 1961. It has been maintained in proper condition. Its *Authenticity* authenticity is kept.

It has group value with other ancestral halls and two study halls in the village.

*Group Value*

The shrine is the common ancestral hall of the clans where they would celebrate *Social Value, & Local Interest* the Chinese New Year and different festivals. In the old days, wedding and funeral feasts would be held at the shrine and the open playground of the village. The trust also operated a Fuk Wah Study Hall (福華書室) beside the shrine which provided education for the village children.