

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 26 Tai Kei Leng

#### Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Tai Kei Leng (大旗嶺) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, *Historical Interest* was first settled by the Hakka (客家) Chans (陳) in the Tongzhi reign (同治, 1862-1874) of the Qing (清) dynasty. More than ten other clans came in the coming decades. The village was called Shui Da Pa Tsuen (水打壩村) and renamed as such in 1953. Three brothers of the Leungs (梁), namely, Cheung-wing (象永), Cheung-kai (象祺) and Cheung-yim (象嚴), settled in the village with their mother in the 1920s. They came from Baishi (白石) of Taishan (台山), Guangdong (廣東). Two detached residential houses at Nos. 26 and 27 of the village were built by Cheung-yim and Cheung-kai respectively in 1920-24. Ji Yeung Study Hall (子養書室) in the village was also built by the three brothers to commemorate their father Leung Ji-yeung (梁子養) probably at the same time. The two houses of the same design are in the same alignment, No. 27 in the north and No.26 in the south, both facing north.

The two houses were constructed by a builder surnamed Man (文) and the green bricks used were produced by a kiln owned by the Leungs in Yau Tin (攸田), east of the village. The bricks produced in the kiln were also sold to other villages in Yuen Long. House No.26 is a two-storey Qing vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The open courtyard in the middle bay is in front of the hall. A living room is on either side of the hall. A kitchen is on either side of the courtyard. Two rooms are on the upper floor above the two rooms downstairs accessed through two staircases in the two rooms. One entrance is respectively on the left and right side walls of the house at the two kitchens, the one on the left (west) is the main one. A mezzanine is added at its hall with access through a staircase at the hall. Weathered wall paintings of flowers and rocks are under the eave at the two entrances. *Architectural Merit*

It is a residential house of the Leungs to witness their settlement in Tai Kei Leng village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

Its open courtyard is partially roofed off with reinforced concrete. Some parts of its internal walls are plastered and painted. The authenticity is basically kept. *Authenticity*

It has group value with house No.27 in its front and the Ji Yeung Study hall in the village. *Group Value*

The descendents of the three brothers studied at the Ji Yeung Study Hall three blocks on the left of the house. The study hall was not operated after the Second World War until the 1970s housing a Ching Sum Kindergarten (靜心幼稚園). The kindergarten was closed in the late 1980s and has been used as a storeroom. The hall has been used as an ancestral hall for the worship of the Leung ancestors. Ancestral worship ritual and celebration activities such as basin meal would be held for the wedding of the Leungs. *Social Value, & Local Interest*