

Historic Building Appraisal
Cheung Village House
No. 6 Tai Shui Hang, Sha Tin

Tai Shui Hang (大水坑) village is in the west of Ma On Shan (馬鞍山), Sha Tin, facing the mouth of Shing Mun River Channel (城門河道). It was established by Cheung Shau-hing (張首興), a Hakka (客家) who moved from Datian (大田) of Wuhua (五華) in Guangdong province (廣東省), in the early Kangxi (康熙, 1662-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The village is separated by a stream in the middle which older part in the south is called Lo Wai (老圍) and the younger part in the north Kak Hang (隔坑). The block of house at No.6 was built by Cheung Man-cheung (張文祥) in 1939. Man-cheung had worked for years on the island of Aruba in the Caribbean Sea, Central America, and returned home at 40 after he earned a sum. The block of house was built on a number of smaller houses demolished. The new block was to accommodate his family and also that of his brother Yik-cheung (奕祥). It is still owned by the Cheungs.

***Historical
Interest***

The block of house is in the Kak Hang in the northern part of the village facing south with the hill at the back. The stream is in its south. A spacious forecourt is in front of the house. It is a two-storey Chinese Eclectic building of three bays. The entrance is at the middle recessed bay flanked by a projected bay on either side. Up on the upper floor of the front façade is a balcony fenced with vase-shaped ceramic balustrades. At the roof edge is a parapet topped with a cloud shaped pediment in the middle. Two black bats are painted on the pediment. Short posts with a ball moulding on their top are on the parapet. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Lower courses of the front façade wall, doorframes and window lintels are of granite. The middle bay is the living room and the left bay a kitchen. Two bedrooms are on the right bay. The upper floor is used as bedrooms.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a residential building to witness the settlement of the Cheungs in the village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value &***

The parapet, balustrades and window hoods are awkwardly painted. This would slightly diminish its authenticity.

Authenticity

It has group value with another block of historic building of the Cheungs in the village. *Group Value*

The Cheungs were mainly farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing and pig and poultry farming. They obtained their daily necessities from the old Tai Po Market old Tai Po Market (舊大埔墟) by taking boats across the Tolo Harbour (吐露港). During the Japanese Occupation, the village was one of the intelligence centres for the guerrillas fighting against the Japanese. No.6 was occupied by the Japanese troop as a station headquarters. *Social Value, & Local Interest*