

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Kong Ancestral Hall**  
**No. 80 Cheung Shue Tan, Tai Po, New Territories**

Cheung Shue Tan (樟樹灘) is on the southern shore of To Lo Harbour (吐露港) in Tai Po (大埔), lying in-between Tai Po and Sha Tin (沙田). Its history is thus inevitably linked to the development of these two districts. Indeed, before 1892, it was still part of the Fo Tan *yeuk* (火炭約), one of the alliances in the Alliance of Nine or *Kau Yeuk* (九約) which served as a communal and political structure of the entire Sha Tin district. It is not clear when the Alliance was set up, but evidently, it came into being as a formalized alliance when the Sha Tin Che Kung Temple (沙田車公廟) was renovated in 1890. At least 12 members of the Kong clan (江氏) of Cheung Shue Tan contributed to the renovation project through private donation. *Historical Interest*

Cheung Shue Tan was first settled by the Wans (溫氏) in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Shunzhi (順治, 1655) reign of Qing (清) Dynasty and later followed by the Yaus (邱氏), the Kongs (江氏) and the Chengs (鄭氏). The Kongs were from Wuhua county in Guangdong province (廣東五華縣) in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Kong Ancestral Hall (江氏宗祠) was built **around 90 years ago**. It is to commemorate Kong Hon-ying (江漢英), the founding ancestor of the Kongs there.

The ancestral hall is a Qing vernacular building having one hall. An open forecourt is in front of the building surrounded by a low wall with a ceramic-tiled entrance gate. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and the floors cement-screeded. The ceramic-tiled altar is at the end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of the Kong ancestors for worship. An image of Kwun Yam (觀音) is on the left of the tablet also for worship. Behind the tablet on the wall is a big Chinese gilded character ‘壽’ (longevity) engraved on a piece of brown marble. Two tie beams in the main hall are engraved with ‘百子千孫’ (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons) and ‘奕世其昌’ (Prosperity from Generation to Generation). The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of brown marble on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The front façade and the end wall of the main hall are with ceramic tiles. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Kongs to remind their settlement in Cheung Shue Tan. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage  
Value***

The authenticity is kept.

***Authenticity***

Functionally, it serves as a place where the Kongs pay homage to their ancestor and hold banquet featuring the burning of firecrackers, lion dancing and basin meal. Yet, as many of the young generation have moved away, such a ritual is only held from time to time. In addition, the Kongs no longer hold the rituals of lighting lanterns (點燈) in celebration of newborn baby boys at the ancestral hall. They also seldom pay group homage to their ancestors on the Ching Ming Festival (清明節) in the third lunar month or the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month.

***Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest***

It has group value with Hip Tin Temple (協天宮) and another two ancestral halls in the village.

***Group value***

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

***Adaptive  
Re-use***