

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lam Chun Fung Ancestral Hall**  
**No. 8 Shui Tsiu San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long**

Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) is a Hakka (客家) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long occupied by the Wongs (黃), the Yeungs (楊), the Cheungs (張), the Chings (程) and the Lams (林). The Wongs and the Yeungs were tenant farmers working for the Tang (鄧) clan of Ping Shan (屏山). They settled in the village in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and followed by the others. By 2004, 15<sup>th</sup> generations of the Lams have been living in Shui Tsiu San Tsuen. The village was initially called Fuk Hing Wai (福興圍) and an ancestral hall Fuk Hing Tong (福慶堂) was built by the five clans. The village has used the present name since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Lam Ting-kwai (林庭桂), the founding ancestor of the Lams, came from Fujian (福建) province in the early Qing (清, 1644-1911) dynasty. The Lams have two ancestral halls in the village. This Lam Chun Fung Ancestral Hall (振鳳林公祠) is a family one converted from an earlier village house of the Qing dynasty owned by the family's communal trust, Chun Fung Tso (振鳳祖), in the 1960s by the fifth generation members of Lam Chun-fung (林振鳳) to commemorate him. Chun-fung was one of the 6<sup>th</sup> generation ancestors of the Lams. His grandfather Chung-hon (振翰) left the village for Shenzhen (深圳) and Chun-fung returned to settle in the village. Another ancestral hall of the Lams, the Lam Ancestral Hall (林氏宗祠), at No. 16 of the village is a clan one of the Chung Wah Tso (忠華祖) built before the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Historical  
Interest*

Situated in the first row of village houses in the nine rows of houses in the village, the ancestral hall is connected to houses on either side. The hall was converted from an ordinary house of the Lams. It is a Qing vernacular design building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is probably 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 are cement-screeded. A soul tablet of the Lams is on the altar at the end wall of the hall. Wall frieze paintings of flowers and birds and calligraphy are on the wall. A tie beam with the carving of “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons) is at the hall. The name of the hall is engraved on a brown marble on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Two circular holes are on the upper portion of the wall for *fung shui* reason. The ridges are covered with green ceramic tiles with curling ends.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Lams to witness their settlement in Shui Tsiu San Tsuen. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

The present Lam Chun Fung Ancestral Hall was converted from a village house. The house was once used for the storage of agricultural implements. In the 1960s, the front portion was rebuilt into the present form and becomes the entrance hall of the ancestral hall. *Authenticity*

It has group value with the other ancestral halls and study halls in the village. *Group Value*

The Hakka Lams have ancestral worship at the hall especially at the Chinese New Year, Dim Dang (點燈), Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節) with special offerings including tea cakes (茶粿) and other Hakka dishes. At the festivals, the Lams would first worship at the Fuk Hing Tong, the Lam Ancestral Hall, and then the Tai Wong Ye (大王爺) and the Earth God (土地) shrines in the village. *Social Value, & Local Interest*