

Historic Building Appraisal
Village House
No.11, 1st Lane, Chung Sum Tsuen, Sheung Shui

The village house at No.11 of Chung Sum Tsuen (中心村) in Sheung Shui Wai (上水圍) of Sheung Shui was built by Liu Yi-man (廖伊文), a 12th generation member of the Liu clan in Sheung Shui. It was probably built in the 19th century. Originated from Jiangxi (江西) province, the Lius moved to Guangdong (廣東) province in the middle of the Yuan (元, 1279-1368) dynasty. Liu Chung-kit (廖仲傑), the founding ancestor, settled in Sheung Shui Wai after a stay in Tuen Mun. Wai Noi Tsuen (圍內村) was first established in the 16th century and later Po Sheung Tsuen (莆上村), Mun Hau Tsuen (門口村), Chung Sum Tsuen and others in the 19th century. Yi-man gained a *gongsheng* (貢生) title by donating money to the local government and became an official in Guangzhou (廣州). After gaining his fortune, he returned home and built the house. After his death, the house was inherited by his second son Suk-chiu (叔肖). The house was then inherited by the first son of the descendents. The present owner is Ying-tak (英德), a member of the 19th generation.

***Historical
Interest***

The residential house is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall plan of two bays. An open forecourt is in front of the building. The entrance of the house is on a side wall on the left of the forecourt. On the left of the entrance is a storeroom. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. In front of the main hall is the entrance hall and on the left of the main and the entrance halls is respectively a bedroom and a kitchen. A soul tablet is on an offering table in the middle of the end wall at the main hall for worship. The house is with a *wok yee* (鑊耳) gable. The floors of the house are with cement screeding.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a residential house of the Lius to witness their settlement in the village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

Part of the entrance hall is with flat concrete roof. The authenticity of the house is barely kept.

Authenticity

It has distant group value with the Man Shek Tong (萬石堂), Liu Ying Lung Study Hall (應龍廖公家塾), Ming Tek Tong (明德堂) and other historic buildings in Sheung Shui Wai.

Group Value

The descendents of Yi-man were farmers who had their own land for cultivation or had their land rented out for cultivation. Ying-tak was a committee member of the Lius Association of Hong Kong (香港廖氏宗親總會) and a member of the village council of Sheung Shui Heung Office (上水鄉公所). He was involved in the restoration of Man Shek Tong. His son Hon-keung (漢強) is an active member of the village and a village representative. Ancestral worship of their earliest ancestors has been held at the Man Shek Tong in the north of Chung Sum Wai. Man Shek Tong was built in 1751.

Social Value,
& Local
Interest