

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 112 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. Among the late comers, some of them are the Chung (鍾) who came from Dapeng (大鵬) of Guangdong (廣東) province around 80 years ago. Houses Nos. 111 and 112 were built by the Chung. It is not known when they were built. Aerial photographs show that they were built between 1924 and 1945. No.112 belongs to the first branch of the Chung.

The two houses are in the upper portion of the village. The two detached *Architectural Merit* buildings are standing side by side, No.112 on the left and No.111 on the right, facing to the north. The two houses are basically identical. House No.112 is a two-storey Qing vernacular building having a two-bay layout. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The recessed entrance is at the left bay with a hall on the ground floor. A kitchen and toilet are at the back. The upper storey and the right bays are bedrooms. Above the entrance is a projected balcony with vase-shaped green glazed ceramic balustrades. The doorframe is of granite. Wall paintings of landscape and flowers and calligraphy are under the eave of the balcony. A frieze is at the external wall on the right bay with plastered mouldings of flowers and birds. Its windows are with semi-circular hoods on the walls. The internal walls are plastered and painted and its floors are with ceramic tiles. A free standing altar is at the hall with a soul tablet of the Chung for worship.

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

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

The authenticity is basically kept.

*Authenticity*

No. 112 Tai Kei Leng has group value with other houses in the village, of which Ji Yeung Study Hall (子養書室) at No. 23 and another two village houses at Nos. 26 and 27 are in close proximity to it. *Group Value*

The Chungs were farmers engaged in agricultural farming and poultry and pig rearing. They also sold herb teas (涼茶) in Yuen Long New Market (元朗新墟) 40 years ago. After they became well off, they bought land adjoining the two buildings. Altogether the Chungs have seven branches and most of the members have emigrated to New York in the 1970s. Chung Sik-chi (鍾錫墀), owner of the house, was a village representative of the village some 30 years ago. The Chungs is a member of the Luen Fuk Tong Fa Pow Hui (聯福堂花炮會) of Tai Kei Leng (大旗嶺) which participate in the Fa Pow (花炮) activities of the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) organized by the Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee (十八鄉鄉事委員會). The Chungs had many of their celebration of birthdays and weddings in the form banquets at the open ground in front of the two houses.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*