

Historic Building Appraisal
Chung Ancestral Hall
Yuen Tun, Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan

Yuen Tun Tsuen (圓墩村) in Tsing Lung Tau (青龍頭) of Tsuen Wan (荃灣) was established by the Hakka (客家) Chungs (鍾) in the 1780s who originated from Tieluba (鐵爐壩) of Wuhua (五華), Guangdong (廣東) province. Chung Chun-lam (鍾春霖) is the founding ancestor. One of his sons, Ting-choi (廷彩), later branched out to set up a village called Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen (青龍頭村) further down south of Yuen Tun Tsuen close to the seashore. Yuen Tun Tsuen was close to the Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (大欖涌水塘) which was constructed in 1951-59. A tunnel for water pipes was built beneath the site of the village. Since the beginning of the project, the yield of the fields of the village declined. The government claimed that it would be improved after the tunnel was completed. It was that the irrigation water was drained away. The problem could not be improved after the tunnel was completed. The government then resettled the Chungs to a piece of land north of Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen to establish their new village in 1972. The old village was allocated to the Civil Aid Service (民眾安全服務隊) for use as a training camp opened in 1975. Four village houses were renovated for its use and the others demolished. The biggest house was converted for use as a folk museum opened in 1981. The Chung Ancestral Hall (鍾氏宗祠) at the back of the big old house is used as a store room of the Service.

*Historical
Interest*

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. The ancestral hall of the Chungs called Lai Leung Tong (禮良堂) was originally at the old village house in its front but later moved to this purposely built separate building. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and painted white. The main hall used to have an altar housing the soul tablets of the Chungs for worship. A set of red geometric mouldings are at two ends of the front ridge. The name board of the ancestral hall is above the lintel flanked by two wall paintings of landscape. The doorframe of the entrance is fare-faced showing the green bricks. A beam at the main hall is engraved with ‘百子千孫’ (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons).

*Architectural
Merit*

It stands to remind the settlement of the Chungs in the old Yuen Tun Tsuen. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The building is in good condition. Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with other preserved old houses in the village.

Group Value

The use of the old village houses by the Civil Aid Service as its camp though open to its members only does preserve the old houses of the Chungs. The site is for its training and as a camp site. The museum houses the old village furniture, cooking and daily use utensils and farming implements to demonstrate the agricultural life of the Chungs.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*