

Historic Building Appraisal
Cheung Ancestral Hall
Tsiu Keng San Wai, Sheung Shui, New Territories

Tsiu Keng villages, including Lo Wai, San Wai and Pang Uk (彭屋), are on the west side of Fan Kam Road (粉錦公路), south of the Fan Ling Golf Club. Tsiu Keng Lo Wai (蕉徑老圍) occupied by the Loks (駱氏), the Lees (李氏), the Fans (范氏) and the Pangs (彭氏) was believed to be erected in the early years of the reign of Emperor Guangxu (光緒, 1875-1908) of Qing (清) Dynasty. Due to the dilapidation of the village houses in the village, the Pangs and the Loks moved southward to establish two new villages respectively called Tsiu Keng Pang Uk (蕉徑彭屋) and Tsiu Keng San Wai (蕉徑新圍) in the early 20th century. The latter was also occupied by the Cheungs who are Hakkas (客家) coming from Nam Chung Cheung Uk (南涌張屋) of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) in the 1920s. Two ancestral halls of the two clans were built in the village, the one of the Cheungs in the front row whilst that of the Loks in the second row. The Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠) was built in around the 1930s. It was also called Shing Chun Tong (成珍堂), the name derived from an ancestor called Cheung Yuk-chun (張玉珍).

*Historical
Interest*

The small ancestral hall is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks, mud bricks and rubbles with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls of the building are plastered. The floors are cement-screeded. Granite is used for its doorframe and lower courses of the front façade wall. The simple brick altar occupies the entire end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of a Cheung ancestor Tak-mou (德茂) and his wife for worship. A couplet is at the far end of the end wall. Behind the altar on the wall is a piece of red paper with a big Chinese characters “壽” (longevity) written on it. The tie beam at the main hall is with the Chinese characters “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons). The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The wall frieze is just a stripe of black paint.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Cheungs to remind their settlement in Tsiu Keng San Wai.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity*

Its authenticity is basically kept.

Most of the Cheungs have moved to the urban area and some overseas leaving one family in the village. The ancestral hall would have ancestral worship during the Chinese New Year when the Cheungs returned to the village. Wedding, funeral and Dim Dang (點燈) ceremonies were held at the ancestral hall other than ancestral worship. The hall was also used for serving banquets to the villagers. Matters concerning the common interest of the Cheungs would also be discussed and dealt with in the hall.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

It has group value with the Lok Ancestral Hall (駱氏宗祠) 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*