

## Historic Building Appraisal

Ming Yuen

Fung Kat Heung, Yuen Long

Ming Yuen (明園) is a village house in Fung Kat Heung (逢吉鄉) in the north of Kam Tin, Yuen Long. The house was built more than 50 years ago by the Cheungs (張). Cheung Yee (張義) was a first generation member who inhabited in the village before the 1950s. Cheung Yee has passed away. He had a son and the house is owned by his grandson Cheung Sin-sun (張善申?). The house is now occupied by a Cheung family coming from Shanghai. It is not known when the building was constructed.

**Historical  
Interest**

The residential house is a detached building in the village facing south. It is a square Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard in the middle bay is between the entrance and main halls. Side chambers and side rooms are on either side of the middle bay. It is probably constructed of green bricks and concrete with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The name of the building Ming Yuen (明園) is written on the plastered moulded board above the lintel of the front wall. The door frame is of granite. The external walls are plastered and painted with light earth yellow colour. The ridge, the front façade and the gable walls are of no decoration.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a residential building to remind the settlement of the Cheungs in the village.

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

It has its authenticity kept.

**Authenticity**

It has distant group value with the Chun Nam Tong (鎮南堂) and the Miu Kwok Yuen (妙覺園) in the village.

**Group Value**

It is said that Cheung Yee had a large lot of land in the village. The land was leased out for farming. He himself was not a farmer. A villager Choi Suk (財叔) leased land from him until the 1990s.

**Social Value,  
& Local Interest**