

Historic Building Appraisal
Cheung Ancestral Hall
Nos. 18 & 35 Fung Hang, Sha Tau Kok, N.T.

Fung Hang (鳳坑) is a single-clan Hakka (客家) village of the Cheungs (張) situated between Luk Keng (鹿頸) and Kuk Po (谷埔). Originally in Fujian (福建) province, the Cheungs moved from Shenzhen (深圳) of Guangdong (廣東) province to Kuk Po. They later moved to Fung Hang in the 10th year of Kangxi (康熙, 1671) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. It is not known when they built the Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠). It was probably built before the 20th century. The Cheung were farmers engaged in fishing and later concentrated in rice and vegetables growing with their produce sold at the Sha Tau Kok Market (沙頭角墟).

**Historical
Interest**

Located in two long parallel rows of village houses, the ancestral hall occupies the structure of two houses, one in front of the other. This alignment is very unusual for an ancestral hall. This might be an extension of the hall making use of two houses. The long and narrow hall is a Qing vernacular building having a plan of two houses each has a two-hall-one-courtyard layout. An additional open courtyard is between the two houses. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The altar is at the end wall of the rear house housing a soul tablet of the Cheung ancestors for worship. Behind the soul tablet is a piece of red paper on the wall with a big Chinese character “壽” (longevity) flanked by a couplet. The front façade and the walls are plastered and the floors are with ceramic tiles. The gilded name of the hall is engraved on a piece of brown marble above the lintel. A fascia board of flowers and scroll carving is under the front eave. The ridge is with a pair of red mouldings at its two ends.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Cheungs to witness their settlement in Fung Hang.

Rarity

The ancestral hall composing of two aligned houses is rare. It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The ancestral hall was renovated in 1975. The authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

Most of the villagers have moved overseas and out of the village living in Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) and in Tai Po (大埔) leaving less than 10 in the village. Ancestral worship is still held at the ancestral hall especially at the Chinese New

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

Year. Wedding and funeral ceremonies were held at the hall. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year was held at the hall on the 15th day of the Chinese New Year. The village children studied at a village school in the village but it collapsed in the 1940s. They then studied at the Kai Choi School (啟才學校) in Kuk Po and later at the Luk Keng Public School (鹿頸公立學校).