

Historic Building Appraisal
Assemblies of God Holy Light Church
No. 91 Shung Ching San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shung Ching San Chuen (崇正新村) is a comparatively young Hakka (客家) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long. It is in the south of Yuen Long town centre separated by Yuen Long Highway (元朗公路). It is said that the area was inhabited by Chan Cheung (陳祥), a Hakka from Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東), in 1924. It was then settled by some other Hakkas returned from overseas mostly Southeast Asian countries or from their own native places in the mainland in the 1930-40s. They bought land from villagers in Hung Tso Tin Tsuen (紅棗田村) and Shui Tsiu Lo Wai (水蕉老圍), two villages in the south. Around 1367 villagers were in the early 1950s. House No.91 of the village was probably built in the 1900s by a Tsang San-on (曾新安). The house was called Lau Kwan Kui (柳群居) and was sold to the Assemblies of God Holy Light Church (神召會聖光堂) in 1968 when San-on emigrated to Canada. The house was partly used as a kindergarten run by the church and partly leased out for residential purpose. The entire building was renovated in 1974 for use by the church for its kindergarten, assemblies and residences of its missionaries. It was converted for use as a home for the aged operated by the church in 1990. *Historical Interest*

The house is a few metres east of Tai Shu Ha Road West (大樹下西路) facing north. It was a two-storey near square Chinese vernacular building constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of rafters, purlins and clay tiles. It has a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls in the middle bay. The building has been modernized and strengthened with reinforced concrete having facilities to operate as a home for the aged. Its ground floor is provided with an entrance lobby, an activity room and five rooms of dormitory. Up on the first floor are six rooms of dormitory and a living room. An outdoor staircase is added on its left and a block with kitchen, laundry and toilet facilities is on its right. Sitting out garden facilities are at the back of the house. The building is plastered and painted externally in light brown colour. Above the recessed entrance at the middle bay is a cross painted brown and the name of the church “聖光堂” (Holy Light Church) above the lintel. *Architectural Merit*

It is an altered residential house to witness the early settlement of Shung Ching San Tsuen. *Rarity*

It has little built heritage.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The altered building does not have its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with other historic residences in the village.

Group Value

It is used as a home for the aged.

Adaptive re-use

The church originated from the founding of the Eternal Life Church (永生門) in 1939 when two ecclesiastics Nelosn Cherry (陳潔靈) and Tam Yeuk-hang (譚若行) moved from Qingyuan (清遠) of Guangdong (廣東) province to Yuen Long. The church was renamed as Holy Light Church (聖光堂) in 1940 after two ecclesiastics, Sarah C. Johnson (曾純珍姑娘) and Annie Bailie (李希望姑娘), joined in. They operated an orphanage in Yuen Long. During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), Nelosn Cherry, Sarah C. Johnson and Annie Bailie were interned at Stanley and returned to the United States later. In 1949, Sarah C. Johnson and Annie Bailie went back to Hong Kong and served the Holy Light Church again. In 1959 they operated a kindergarten called Holy Light Church Kindergarten (聖光堂幼稚園). The church was renamed as the present one in 1962 when the church joined the Assemblies of God (神召會). The church has been a member of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union (香港華人基督教聯會) since 1978.

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***