

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lok Ancestral Hall (or Shun Kung Tong)**  
**Tsiu Keng San Wai, Sheung Shui**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. **Lok Ancestral Hall** (駱氏宗祠) was built in around the 1920s to replace the old one in Tsiu Keng Lo Wai. It was also called Shun Kung Tong (信公堂), the name derived from an ancestor called Lok Wai-shun (駱維信).

*Historical  
Interest*

The 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 but some portions of them have peeled off. The floors are cement-screeded. Green bricks are used for its doorframe. The altar is in the middle of the end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of the Lok ancestors for worship. A couplet is on the wall by the side of the tablet. The name Shun Kung Tong is written on a piece of paper above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Two tiny *fung shui* holes are on the front façade under the eave.

*Architectural  
Merit*

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

*Rarity*

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

The hall was renovated in the 1970s and 1980s. The building is not maintained properly. Its authenticity is diminished.

*Authenticity*

Most of the Loks 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 and at festivals when the Loks returned to the village. Wedding, funeral and Dim Dang (點燈) ceremonies were held at the ancestral hall other than ancestral worship. It was used as a place where the village children had their classes given by the elders. The hall was also used for serving banquets to the villagers. Matters concerning the common interest of the Loks would also be discussed and dealt with in the hall.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*

It has group value with the Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏宗祠) 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*