

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Cheung Ancestral Hall**  
**Nos. 11-12 Cheung Uk Tei, Tai Po**

Cheung Uk Tei (張屋地, literally the land of the Cheungs' houses) is a Hakka (客家) village in the south of Sheung Wun Yiu (上碗窰) village in Tai Po. It was founded by two brothers of the Cheungs, Kwong-on (廣安) and Ying-on (應安). Their two 18<sup>th</sup> generation brother ancestors, Hung-mou (洪茂) and Hung-shing (洪盛), were from Heyuan (河源) of Guangdong (廣東) province who settled in Wun Yiu village working for the Mas (馬) in the manufacturing of porcelain wares in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Kwong-on and Ying-on went to San Francisco of the U.S. working for a period in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and returned home with a sum of money. They brought a large piece of land from the Mas and established their own village. It was just a small village named after their surname with a maximum of 14 houses. Many of which have been in ruin. The Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏祠堂) was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is also called Kum Kam Tong (金鑑堂).

**Historical  
Interest**

The ancestral hall is in the middle of a U-shaped block of building of five units. The middle three units are the recessed ones whilst the two on either side are projected ones. The block is built on a terrace against a *fung shui* grove at the back. The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having only a one-hall structure. It is connected to two residential village houses on either side. It is constructed of green bricks and rammed earth with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. It used to have a common roof with the two neighbouring houses but the one on the right has been rebuilt into a three-storey one. The internal walls are plastered and the floor is cement-screeded. The altar occupies the entire end wall and is exceptionally tall as a storeroom is partitioned underneath. The entrance of the storeroom is on its left. A big soul tablet of the Cheung ancestors is in the middle of the altar for worship. A Kwun Yam (觀音) image is also worshipped on the left of the tablet at the altar. The front façade of the building is of fair-faced green bricks. A red piece of paper with the name of Kum Kam Tong written on it is pasted above the doorway of the recessed entrance.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Cheungs to witness their settlement in Cheung Uk Tei.

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The building was renovated in the 1970s and the 1980s. Its authenticity is kept.

**Authenticity**

The descendents of the Cheungs were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing and poultry and pig rearing with their surplus produce sold in the Tai Po Market (大埔墟). The Cheung children were educated in the Man On School (民安學校) in Wun Yiu village. The school was later renamed as the Wun Yiu Public School (碗窑公立學校) in the 1950s. Many of the Cheungs have moved out of the village and stayed in the urban areas.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*