

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Cheung Ancestral Hall**  
**No. 61 Sheung Che, Pat Heung, Yuen Long**

Sheung Che (上輦) village is in the east of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路), north of Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. It was a multi-clan village occupied by the Lams (林), the Cheungs (張), the Wongs (黃) and the Yeungs (楊). They built their own ancestral halls in the village. Cheung Hei-mou (張起茂), a 17<sup>th</sup> generation member of the Cheungs, moved from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) to the village in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His father Kei-chan (奇燦) was honoured as the founding ancestor. Descendents of the Cheungs branched out to Ha Che (下輦) and Yuen Kong (元崗) of Pat Heung and Shan Ha Tsuen (山下村) of Yuen Long. Two ancestral halls of the Cheungs were built in the village. This Cheung Ancestral Hall (張氏家祠) is a clan one built probably in the 17<sup>th</sup> century but collapsed due to dilapidation. It was rebuilt in 1995. Another ancestral hall of the Cheungs is a family one at No.33 of the village.

**Historical  
Interest**

The ancestral hall is in the middle of a number of village houses in the village. It is a detached building facing south. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of concrete with its walls and columns to support its pitched roofs. The entire building is covered with new ceramic tiles of grey, red, brown and yellow colours. Rows of soul tablets of the Cheung ancestors are on display at the altar at the end wall of the main hall for worship. In front of it is the offering table with incense burners. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of granite installed on the wall above the doorway at the recessed entrance. A couplet engraved on granite is on either side of the doorway. Two circular holes are on either side of the name board for *fung shui* benefit. The two ridges are covered with yellow glazed ceramic tiles and a pair of *longren* (龍吻) installed at the two ends.

**Architectural  
Merit**

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

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

It was rebuilt in 1995. The authenticity of the old ancestral hall has been removed.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with another ancestral hall of the Cheungs in the village. *Group Value*

Only the Lams and the Cheungs still live in the village and upkeep their ancestral halls. The ancestral hall has been used for ancestral worship of the Cheungs. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys was held at the hall at the Chinese New Year but has been discontinued. The Cheungs participated in the Da Chiu (打醮) activities of Pat Heung and has been discontinued as many of the Cheungs became Catholics. A private Catholic church was built at No.25 of the village. *Social Value, & Local Interest*