

Historic Building Appraisal

Nos. 13 & 14 Lung Mei

Tai Po

Lung Mei (龍尾) is a Hakka (客家) village in Tai Mei Tuk (大尾督), Tai Po. It was founded by the Chans (陳), the Lees (李) and the Cheungs (張) all coming from Guangdong (廣東) province before 1733. The Chans were the majority coming from Meixian (梅縣) of the province. The Chans were later divided into three branches after they settled in the village. House Nos. 13 and 14 was built by the Chans. It is not known when it was built. Land record shows that it existed in 1945.

**Historical
Interest**

The houses in the village are scattered in different areas, most of them not in rows. House No.13 and 14 is a block of detached residential building facing south to Ting Kok Road (汀角路) and the Plover Cove (船灣). An open foreground is in front of the building. The two-storey residential house is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a three-bay layout. The middle bay in the middle is recessed. Each bay has its own entrance. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support is pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The front portion of each bay is the living room with a bedroom at the back. A green brick stove was on the left behind the entrance. Bedrooms are on the upper floor. The internal walls are plastered and painted and the floors cement-screeded. The front façade of the building is retained with green bricks whilst its side and back walls are plastered. Frieze wall paintings of flowers and calligraphy are under the eave of the middle bay. A tie beam at the living of the middle bay is with carving of “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons).

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a residential building to witness the settlement of the Chans in the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

Its authenticity is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Chan Ancestral Hall (陳氏宗祠) in the village.

Group Value

House No.13 is still occupied by the Chans. The other two houses are left vacated for more than 30 years. The Chans have their ancestral worship at their ancestral hall in the village. Other than used as a place for ancestral worship,

**Social Value,
& Local Interest**

the hall was also used for holding the Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for the new born baby boys of previous year on the 2nd day of the Chinese New Year to signify their rights of inheritance. The family of each boy would light a lantern and make offerings to the ancestors at the hall. After the ritual, the villagers would hold banquet at the hall and in the village. Ancestral worship would also be held at the hall at other festivals including Ching Ming (清明節), Chung Yeung (重陽節), Mid-Autumn (中秋節) and Spring and Autumn Rites (春秋二祭) festivals. The side chambers of the hall were used as a place for teaching the village children in the 1940s. It housed a kindergarten for about two years starting from 2002.