

Historic Building Appraisal
Village House
No. 3 Tung Sam Kei, Tai Po, New Territories

Tung Sam Kei (東心淇) is located between Ko Tong Hau (高塘口) and Chek Keng Hau (赤徑口) as well as facing Tai Tan Hoi (大灘海) at Sai Kung (西貢), but it was later incorporated into the administrative district of Tai Po (大埔). Tung Sam Kei is a small village occupied by the Fus (傅氏) who have inhabited in the area since the 1880s. The Fus came from Huiyang of Guangdong province (廣東惠陽). Some of the Fus settled in Sham Tseng (深井) of Tsuen Wan (荃灣) as well. Some of them later branched out to Ma On Shan (馬鞍山) and other parts of Tai Po. In the old days, the Fus in Tung Sam Kei engaged in fishing, farming and making salted fish, with their surplus sold in Tai Po Market. During the period of Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the Communist-led East River Column (東江縱隊) used to be stationed in Tung Sam Kei Shan; however, they did not have any specific contacts with the villagers. The village house at No.3 was probably built in the 1880s. *Historical Interest*

No.3 Tung Sam Kei is in the middle of a row of houses built on a terrace facing the sea in their north and with a slope at their back. A pier is a short distance on their right. Their communication with outside is by means of boat or a long walk to reach the Pak Tam Road (北潭路) in the southwest. Nos.4 to 7 on its right is a block of new building of two-storey high with an ancestral hall of the Fus at No.4 completed in 1988. The two houses at Nos.1 and 2 rebuilt in 1960s are pitched-roofed ones of two storeys having a parapet at its roof end level of the front façade with a pediment in the middle. *Architectural Merit*

No.3 is the oldest building in the village built in the **1880s**. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall one-storey structure of two rooms. The living room is in the front with a bedroom at the back. A cockloft is above the bedroom accessed via a wooden staircase. It is constructed of rubble and mud with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are partially plastered. The floor is with cement screeding. Part of the front roof has collapsed.

It is a village house to remind the settlement of the Fus in Tung Sam Kei village. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The building is not maintained properly. Its authenticity is diminished.

Authenticity

The Fus were fishermen who prepared salted fish with the salt bought from Ping Chau (平洲). The salted fish were sold in Tai Po Market (大埔墟). They also grew vegetables and reared pigs and cattle. Some of the Fus worked as seamen to improve their living standard.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

*Adaptive
Re-use*