

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 21 Tai Kiu Tsuen

#### Yuen Long

Tai Kiu Tsuen (大橋村) is in the north of the Yuen Long town centre and on the east side of the Shan Pui River (山貝河). It was established by four clans about 400 years ago including the Chans (陳), the Tangs (鄧), the Tses (謝) and the Leungs (梁). The Chans were the majority. They came from Shuibei (水貝) of Dongguan (東莞), Guangdong (廣東) province. Four brothers of the 13<sup>th</sup> generation of the clan came to the village and only one, Charm-fu (參乎), settled down. He was the founding ancestor of the clan in the village. Five rows of northeast-facing houses were built in the village. The house at No. 21 was built by a member of the Chans in 1939.

*Historical  
Interest*

The house at No.21 is in the second row of five rows of houses in the village. It connects with two houses on its right but their structures have almost collapsed. The house is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks and concrete with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A kitchen with a chimney and a bathroom are built in the courtyard. The hall with a cockloft at the back is mainly the living room with bedrooms. The front wall is plastered and painted in cream colour. A parapet is built at the roof end of the front façade with the year 1939 engraved on it. The parapet is topped with a pediment having a circle based on petals mouldings in the middle. The gable wall is decorated with a wall frieze moulding of floral pattern.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is a village house to remind the settlement of the Chans in the village.

*Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

It has its authenticity kept.

*Authenticity*

It has group value with entrance gate of the village.

*Group Value*

The Chans like other villagers were farmers engaged themselves in rice and vegetables growing. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is still made at a communal hall of the village starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> day of the Chinese New Year. A lantern would be hung for each new born baby boy of previous year at the hall. Dangjou (燈酒), a banquet in the form of basin meal (盆菜) will be served in the village. Celebration of wedding and other functions with banquet would be held in the village.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*