

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 43 Yung Shue O

#### Tai Po

Yung Shue O (榕樹澳) is a remote village in the northeast of Sai Sha (西沙). It is a short distance from the Three Fathoms Cove (企嶺下海) in its west. It is a multi-family Punti (本地) village first established in the Wanli (萬曆, 1573-1620) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. It was inhabited by the Haus (侯), the Shings (成), the Fongs (方), the Lees (李), the Tsangs (曾), the Chams (湛) and the Yungs (翁). The Fongs were the majority of the village. The Tsangs settled in the village before the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Qianlong (乾隆, 1770) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The house at No.43 of the village was built by the Tsangs before 1935. It is still owned by the Tsangs and has been left vacant.

**Historical  
Interest**

The house is in the second row of three rows of houses in the village all facing west to the sea like the others. It is a Qing vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard of two bays. It is constructed of green bricks and mud bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The right bay is recessed at its front façade whilst the left bay is projected. An open courtyard is in front of the main hall of the right bay. A stove is at the front portion of the left bay with a bedroom at the back. A bedroom is on the upper floor. A wooden altar is at the main hall with a soul tablet of the Tsangs for worship. Behind the altar is a storeroom. A cornice moulding is on the gable. The walls are plastered and painted and the floor cement-screeded.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a residential house of the Tsangs to remind their settlement in the village.

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The house is in upkeep condition. The roof of the open courtyard has been turned into a concrete reinforced one. This would slightly diminish the authenticity of the building.

**Authenticity**

The Tsangs were farmers mainly engaged in rice and vegetable growing. They collected firewood and grass for sale. They also engaged in fishing and collecting coral and shells for use as ingredients for lime making in the lime kilns along the coast.

**Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest**