

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Shrine**  
**Sheung Cheung Wai, Hang Tau Tsuen,**  
**Ping Shan, Yuen Long**

Sheung Cheung Wai (上璋圍), a walled village in Ping Shan (屏山), was built by the Tangs of Hang Tau Tsuen (坑頭村) to its east in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the Tangs' servile families. Most of the families were surnamed Chan (陳) and Wong (黃) who had only hovels in the village. Due to the expansion of the Tangs, the families were removed out of the village and occupied by the Tangs in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original wai was a near square structure having four walls enclosing four rows of village houses in the middle with four corner watch-towers. At its central axis to the southern end of the wall is the entrance gate and at the far opposite end of the northern wall is the shrine. A fishing pond, now filled up, in front of the wai acted as a moat for protective uses. Three of the watch-towers have collapsed and the southwest one remains and converted for use as a residence. Only parts of the wall retained and the entrance gate and shrine rebuilt in 2003. *Historical Interest*

The shrine at the far end of the central axis of the village is a one-hall structure housing the Earth God (土地) at its altar facing the entrance gate to the south. The green brick pitched roof structure is in Qing vernacular design rebuilt in 2003. The wall frieze on its façade has phoenixes, bats, treasures and geometric patterns decoration. *Architectural Merit*

It is a 2003 rebuilt shrine of a historic walled village having a history of over 300 years old. *Rarity*

The rebuilt shrine has little built heritage value. The rebuilt project of the shrine has removed its authenticity. *Built Heritage Value &*

It has relative group value with the walls, watch-towers and the entrance gate. *Authenticity Group Value*

Offerings will be given to the Earth God shrine on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> days of each lunar month and during the end and beginning of the Chinese New Year by the villagers. A wooden dragon head for installation at the dragon boat for Dragon Boat Festival (端午節) is placed at the shrine though the village no longer takes part in any competition of the type during the festival. *Social Value, & Local Interest*