

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 652-654 Tin Sam Tsuen, Pat Heung,**  
**Yuen Long, New Territories**

Nos. 652-654 Tin Sam Tsuen (田心村) was built by a branch of the Wu (胡) clan in the 1920s. Although the Wus still own the building they no longer live there and have rented the house to other people. Originally the village people lived by farming and were self-sufficient. It is not known what the present villagers do for their livelihood.

*Historical  
Interest*

The old house, which is divided into three dwelling units, is basically two storeys high but an extra floor has been added on to the roof at the rear of the middle unit. The house is built of grey-green bricks with a pitched roof and flush gable end walls. The front elevation is divided into three sections, the centre section being slightly recessed. Each dwelling unit has its own entrance door and four windows, two at ground floor level and two at first floor level. The lower part of the wall appears to be constructed of granite blocks. The front façade has an ornamental parapet and frieze with a semi-circular centre pediment. Bas relief decorations of floral motifs and geometric designs can be seen, also a gable with ribbons on the pediment. The rear and side elevations are rendered with irregularly spaced windows. A decorative parapet can be seen at the rear. The architectural style of the house can be said to be **Qing Vernacular**.

*Architectural  
Merit*

This type of village house is not particularly rare but it has built heritage value. Its authenticity has been affected unfortunately by alterations and additions such as modern replacement windows, additional rooftop structures, metal security gates, a steel structure in front of the building, and rendering and painting externally spoiling the grey-green brick walls and symmetry of the façade.

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity*

The social value of the house is limited as it apparently has only ever been used for residential purposes. It has some interesting decorations on the front façade. It is said to be the only surviving historical building in Tin Sam Tsuen.

*Social Value  
& Local  
Interest*

It is difficult to suggest an adaptive re-use for this house as much depends on the needs of the local community. Probably the best use is that for which it was intended, that is residential use.

*Adaptive  
Re-use*