

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Choi Kei Tung (Tso) Ancestral Hall**  
**Shek Wu Tong, Pat Heung, Yuen Long**

Shek Wu Tong (石湖塘) is in the southwest of Kam Sheung Road (錦上路) in Pat Heung (八鄉), Yuen Long. Most of the inhabitants are the Chois (蔡) came in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They are Hakkas (客家). The Choi Kei Tung (Tso) Ancestral Hall (紀通(祖)蔡公祠) is the only ancestral hall in the village. It is not known when it was built. It probably has a history of one hundred years. It was rebuilt in 1998.

*Historical  
Interest*

The ancestral hall is south of the main road leading to the village. It is facing northwest to the road. It is a detached building with an open forecourt in its front surrounded by a low wall. The rebuilt hall is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in front of the main hall. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roofs. The entire building is covered with new ceramic tiles of various colours. A soul tablet of the Choi ancestors is housed at the altar in the middle of the end wall of the hall for worship. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of granite installed on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Ceramic tile paintings of landscape, flowers, birds and auspicious treasures are at the front façade and walls of the hall. The roof of the hall is covered with green glazed ceramic tiles and a pair of *longren* (龍吻) is at its two ends.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is a building to witness the settlement of Chois in the village.

*Rarity*

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

It does not have the authenticity of the old hall kept.

*Authenticity*

The Chois have their ancestral worship at the hall and with special offerings to the ancestors at the Chinese New Year and at festivals. The Chois would have Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the ancestral hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> days of the Chinese New Year for new born baby boys of previous year. The village children study at the Shek Wu Public School (石湖公立學校) which is close to the Kam Sheung Road. The school was established some 50 years ago.

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*