

Historic Building Appraisal
Liu Ying Lung Study Hall
Po Sheung Tsuen, Sheung Shui Wai, Sheung Shui

Liu Ying Lung Study Hall (應龍廖公家塾) in Po Sheung Tsuen (莆上村) of Sheung Shui Wai (上水圍), Sheung Shui, was built in the 18th year of Daoguang reign (道光, A.D. 1838), Qing (清) dynasty to commemorate Liu Ying-lung (廖應龍), the 4th generation ancestor of the Liu clan in Sheung Shui. Originated from Jiangxi (江西) province, the Lius moved to Guangdong (廣東) province in the middle of the Yuan (元, 1279-1368) dynasty. Liu Chung-kit (廖仲傑) the founding ancestor settled in Sheung Shui Wai after a stay in Tuen Mun (屯門). The study hall provided training for village children for their achievement in the Imperial Civil Service Examination of the dynasty. It did have many successful candidates gaining the titles of *juren* (舉人) and *gongsheng* (貢生) and having their commemorative boards displayed at the study hall. The study hall continued to provide education for children even in the modern times and a kindergarten was operated in the hall in 1965-88. The building is having no education function for the time being.

***Historical
Interest***

The study hall is a medium size Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. An open courtyard is between the halls and flanked by two side chambers, one on each side. It is in symmetrical design with the main altar at the far end of the central axis in the middle of the main hall. Two other altars are on the side bays of the main hall. At the entrance are two drum terraces, one on each side. The entrance is with granite door frame, threshold and lintel above which is the name board of the building. Opposite the entrance is a Chiu Pik (照壁) to ward off evil spirits. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns supporting the pitched roofs of bracketed systems. The ridges are with mouldings of floral pattern and the hip end ridges are in curling ends. The gable friezes are with moulding of cloud motif. Wall friezes and fascia boards are respectively with auspicious patterns of geometric and floral mouldings and carvings.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is one of the historic buildings in Sheung Shui Wai to witness the settlement of the Liu clan. It is of high built heritage value.

***Rarity &
Built Heritage
Value***

Side chambers at the central courtyard were altered when the building was used as a kindergarten. Side entrances and windows were added. Parts of the walls were plastered. This would affect the authenticity of the building.

Authenticity

The study hall was restored to its original Qing dynasty (1644 – 1911) condition in preparation for the 60-year Da Chiu (打醮) which was held in 2006. The removal of intrusive modern alterations added in the past has revealed the building's historic layout and structure. The historic murals and vernacular architectural details are conserved. It stands as one of the finest halls in Sheung Shui Wai.

It has group value with Ming Tak Tong (明德堂), another study hall at the back, and Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall (廖萬石堂), a declared monument in the same village. **Group Value**

The study hall is also used as an ancestral hall for ancestral worship. The soul tablets of ancestors including Chung-kit, Chi-yuk, Ying-lung are at the central altar. The left altar at the left bay of the main hall called 'Pui Yin (配賢)' is for those with excellent academic achievements in the Imperial Civil Service Examination. The right altar called 'Pui Heung (配享)' is for those having donation for a renovation held in 1923. Other rituals and celebration activities of the lineage such as births, weddings, traditional festival and the most important event, the Spring Equinox (春祭), were held at the study hall. **Social Value, & Local Interest**

The restoration project of the study hall has won an Honourable Mention in the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.