

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**General House – Hip Wai House**  
**Fung Kat Heung, Yuen Long**

The building known as “General House” was built by Shum Hung-ying (沈鴻英), a warlord of the Kwangxi clique (桂系) during the warlord period (1912-1928) of the Chinese Republic. Shum Hung-ying was born in 1871 and moved to Luorong (雒容) of Guangxi (廣西) from Enping (恩平) of Guangdong (廣東). He had been a bandit and later became a prefecture officer (管帶) in the Qing (清) government. He then served at the Republic government and was promoted to a number of posts, eventually became defence commissioner in the two provinces. He was the Commander-in-Chief of the Frontier Defence of the Third Route Army of Guangdong and Guangxi (粵桂邊防第三路軍總司令), had armed confrontations with the renowned generals Pai Chung-hsi (白崇禧) and Li Tsung-jen (李宗仁) in 1925, and later fled to Hong Kong. When he was a general in the Chinese mainland, he bought a lot of land in Hong Kong. He was a member of the Board of Director of Pok Oi Hospital (博愛醫院) in 1932 and 1933 and its Chairman in 1934. His residence in Fung Kat Heung (逢吉鄉) was probably completed in 1932.

**Historical  
Interest**

The residence is called Shum Residence (沈氏大屋) or Chun Nam Tong (鎮南堂) built in a row of three houses separated by two courtyards in the form of a Hakka (客家) house blending with western design elements. The largest being the General House (上將府) in the middle and to its right is the Shum Ancestral Hall (沈氏家祠) and to its left the Hip Wai House (協威樓). The House was named as such as Shum was given the title of General Hip Wai (協威將軍) by President Li Yuan-hong (黎元洪總統). It is a two-storey building of western style most fashionable in the 1930s. It was served as Shum’s residence. It has three bays with the entrance in the middle bay. At the far end of the middle bay is a small open courtyard. The house is constructed of concrete and steel bars having flat roofs. The most impressive decoration is the moulded parapet of the scroll design of the name board and cornices at the facade.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a rare residence to outline the development of the early 1930s.

**Rarity**

The residence is a modern version of a Hakka house of high built heritage value.

**Built  
Heritage  
Value**

Minor additions and plastering are not that serious to downtune its authenticity. *Authenticity*

The General House main building was used as the dining and living rooms where Shum met his friends and had meals with his friends and family. Hip Wai House was where Shum lived. The Shum Ancestral Hall houses a number of soul tablets of Shum ancestors for worship with special offerings during the Chinese New Year, Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節). Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is still held at the hall on the first day of the first lunar month. *Social Value, & Local Interest*