

Historic Building Appraisal
Earth God Shrine
Kam Tsin, Sheung Shui

The Haus (侯) in Kam Tsin Tsuen (金錢村), Sheung Shui were the descendants of the fifth generation of Hau Ng-long (侯五郎, 1022-1084), who achieved the academic title of *jinshi* (進士) in the Northern Song dynasty (北宋, A.D. 960-1127) and moved from Xin'an (新安) of Guangdong province to the New Territories in late Southern Song dynasty (南宋, A.D. 1127-1279). Their ancestors first settled in Ho Sheung Heung (河上鄉) of Sheung Shui and later branched out to Kam Tsin, Ping Kong (丙崗), Yin Kong (燕崗) and Hung Leng (孔嶺). An earth god shrine was built for the village protection, as most of the indigenous villages did, in the last years of Qianlong reign (乾隆, 1736-1795), Qing dynasty at the mouth of the village. The shrine and the village are now separated by Castle Peak Road near Yin Kong Tsuen. The villagers has special passion towards the deity as they believe he gave help to one of their ancestors and a Hau Chung Fuk Coummunal Hall (侯宗福堂神廳) was built specially for his worship.

***Historical
Interest***

The Earth God shrine is in Qing vernacular design built of green bricks with *wok yee* (鑊耳) on both sides symbolizing a high respect of the villagers to the deity.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is a rare shrine of some 200 years old to signify the lengthy history of the village.

Rarity

The shrine having a *wok yee* design is of special built heritage value. It has been well maintained having a high authenticity.

***Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

It has great relative group value with the communal hall.

Group Value

The Earth God has high status in the village. On the 18th day of the first lunar month, Festival of Fuk Tak (福德大王誕), it will be placed on a sedan chair and carried from the shrine to the communal hall for a special offering called *tiu chiu* (調朝) for three days. Cantonese opera performances, Fa Pow (花炮) and basin meals are held to celebrate the festival.

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***