

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 32 and 33 Ha Tin Liu Ha
Tai Po, New Territories

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Tin Liu Ha (田寮下) is a Hakka (客家) village and one of the twenty-six *Historical Interest* villages in Lam Tsuen (林村/ 林村鄉). During the Qing dynasty (清朝, 1644-1911), Lam Tsuen was a member of Tsat Yeuk (七約, literally, Seven Alliance). Tsat Yeuk was an inter-village alliance which formed Tai Wo Market (太和市) in 1892 to break the monopoly of the old Tai Po Market (大埔墟) formed by the Lung Yeuk Tau Tang clan (龍躍頭鄧氏). Of the twenty-six villages in Lam Tsuen, only five are Punti (本地) while the other are Hakka. The history of Lam Tsuen can be traced back to Song dynasty (宋朝, A. D. 960-1127). Its early settlers were the Chungs (鍾氏) who form a large proportion of the population in the area. The villages were linked together by an alliance named Luk Woh Tong (六和堂), which was derived from the *baojia* system (保甲制) in the Qing times. Luk Woh Tong remained its key role in the valley until it was replaced by the Lam Tsuen Rural Committee (林村鄉公所) in 1954.

A block of five connected units at Nos. 32 & 33 Ha Tin Liu Ha was built in the 1910s by the Chungs who are the descendants of Chung Ning-kau (鍾寧玖). Chung Ning-kau moved to Ping Long from Qingqi (青溪) of Dongguan (東莞) in Guangdong (廣東) province, in the 25th year of Kangxi (康熙, 1686) reign of the Qing dynasty. One of his grandsons Chung Yuk-chin (鍾毓遷) moved to Tin Liu Ha to establish a new village. Tin Liu Ha was later subdivided into Sheung Tin Liu Ha (上田寮下, literally upper Tin Liu Ha) and Ha Tin Liu Ha (下田寮下, literally lower Tin Liu Ha). Built by the fifth generation descendants of Chung Yuk-chin, the house is left vacant.

The house is in the northeast end of the village. It is not amongst the three parallel rows of buildings of the village on its left. An open foreground is in front of the building. It is a Qing vernacular building of Hakka *doulang* (斗廊) style. Two recessed units are each individually sandwiched by two projected units on either side. Each unit is with an open courtyard in its front and a hall at the back. The five units share a common roof at the back. *Architectural Merit*

The building block is constructed of grey brickwork with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Two entrances are at the recessed units. The doorframes of the recessed unit, the window frames and lower courses of the external walls (except the back) are of

granite. A wooden *tanglung* (趟籠, sliding door) is installed at the entrance of the recessed unit. A pair of *ruilong* (夔龍, geometric dragon) mouldings is at the two ends of the rear ridge. Under the front eaves of the recessed unit are wall frieze paintings of landscape, flowers and rocks and calligraphy and a fascia board of flowers and treasures carving. Wall frieze paintings and calligraphy of similar type are under the eaves of the halls. Wall frieze plastered mouldings of flowers and curling grass pattern are at the external walls of the projected units and at the gable walls. An eaves plastered moulding with treasure pattern is above the window of the projected unit front facade.

It is a block of five residential houses of the Chungs to witness their settlement in Ha Tin Liu Ha in Lam Tsuen. It has high built heritage value in Lam Tsuen, with delicate decoration and craftsmanship at the wall frieze paintings and plastered mouldings, and the wood carvings at the fascia board. The authenticity of the house block is basically kept, although the left portion of the building is with heavy overgrowth which is deteriorating the building.

**Rarity, Built
Heritage
Value &
Authenticity**

The Chungs made their ancestral worship at the Chung Ancestral Hall (鍾氏家祠) in the village. The hall was first built in Sheung Tin Liu Ha in the Qianlong (乾隆, 1736-1795) reign of Qing dynasty but relocated to Ha Tin Liu Ha due to *fung shui* reason. The first hall is said to be built by Chung Ting-yuk (廷玉) to commemorate his father Chung Yuk-chin, who founded the village. The present hall has a history of over 100 years. Ancestral worship, wedding, funerals and *dim dang* (點燈, literally lighting the lantern) ritual were held at the hall. The Chungs who live elsewhere would return to the ancestral hall at the Chinese New Year to make worship to their ancestors. The children of the Chungs studied at Yuk Lan Study Hall (玉蘭書室, demolished) in Sheung Tin Liu Ha, a short distance in the west of the village. The study hall was replaced by Lam Tsuen Public School (林村公立學校) established in 1950.

**Social Value,
& Local Interest**

This building is within walking distance of other historic buildings, including house block at Nos. 24B-D (Grade 2), and the Chung Ancestral Hall and Chung Man Tsoi Ancestral Hall (鍾文彩家祠) (both Grade 3) in the village.

Group Value