

Historic Building Appraisal
Ching Chun Fong Ancestral Hall
No. 9 Shui Tsiu San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) is a Hakka (客家) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long occupied by the Wongs (黃), the Yeungs (楊), the Cheungs (張), the Chings (程) and the Lams (林). The Wongs and the Yeungs were tenant farmers working for the Tang (鄧) clan of Ping Shan (屏山). They settled in the village in the 17th century and followed by the others. The village was initially called Fuk Hing Wai (福興圍) and an ancestral hall Fuk Hing Tong (福慶堂) was built by the five clans. The village has used the present name since the early 20th century. The Chings came from Heyuan (河源) of Guangdong (廣東) province. The Chings have two ancestral halls in the village. The Ching Ancestral Hall (程氏宗祠) is for all the Chings whilst this Ching Chun Fong Ancestral Hall (俊芳程公祠) is a family one. This family hall was established by three grandsons of Ching Chun-fong (程俊芳) to commemorate him in the 1940s. Probably it was converted from an earlier village house of the Qing dynasty of the Chings.

**Historical
Interest**

Situated in the first row of village houses in the nine rows of houses in the village, the ancestral hall is connected to houses on either side. The hall might have been converted from an ordinary house of the Chings. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The internal walls are plastered and the floors are cement-screeded. A soul tablet of the Chun-fong and his wife is at the altar in the middle of the hall. A ceramic statue of Kwun Yam (觀音) is on the left of the tablet also for worship. A big wall painting of two phoenixes is behind the tablet. Wall frieze paintings of flowers and birds and calligraphy are above the painting. The front and rear facades are of fair-faced green bricks. The lower courses of the front façade are of granite and so is the doorframe of the entrance. The name of the hall is engraved on a stone and painted on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Two circular holes are on the upper portion of the wall for *fung shui* reason. A pair of geometric mouldings is at two ends of the front ridge. The main ridge is with curling ends.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Chings to witness their settlement in Shui Tsiu San Tsuen.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

It has its authenticity kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the other ancestral halls and study halls in the village.

Group Value

Ching Chun-fong was involved in the construction work of the Tai Shu Ha Tin Hau Temple (大樹下天后廟) in Nga Yiu Tau (瓦寮頭) of Shap Pat Heung in the 10th year of Guangxu (光緒, 1884) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The Hakka Chings have ancestral worship at the hall especially at the Chinese New Year, the Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung Festivals (重陽節) with special offerings including tea cakes (茶粿) and other Hakka dishes. At the festivals, the Chings would first worship at the Fuk Hing Tong, the Ching Ancestral Hall, this Ching Chun Fong Ancestral Hall and then the Tai Wong Ye (大王爺) and the Earth God (土地) shrines in the village.

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