

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Old Bridge

#### Lin Ma Hang, Sha Tau Kok

The old bridge in Lin Ma Hang (蓮麻坑) of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) is in the closed area on a river to the west of the village. The river flows in the valley of the hills which was the cultivation fields of the villagers who have long abandoned their farming activity. The stone bridge was an access for them to cross the river for their daily cultivation from their home and back. A residence of Ip Ting-sz (葉定仕, 1882-1942) is to its south. It was not known when it was erected. It was probably constructed before 1913 when the residence was built. Lin Ma Hang was inhabited by the Ips (葉氏), Cheungs (張), Laus (劉), Koons (官), Tsengs (曾) and Sins (洗). With the farming activities dropped and as the village is in closed area, many of its villagers moved overseas and to the city areas.

***Historical  
Interest***

The bridge is made of granite slabs. Three parallel slabs of two groups meet at a pier of diamond shape in the middle. The slabs are coarsely cut without any mortar in between. The crust of the pier is with a layer of concrete to shield the stones.

***Architectural  
Merit***

It is a rare structure of the village to witness the days of the villagers when they had their agricultural farming.

***Rarity***

It is of special built heritage value. It is in good condition.

***Built Heritage  
Value &***

It has group value with the Lau Ancestral Hall (劉氏宗祠), the Koon Ancestral Hall (官氏宗祠), the residence of Ip Ting-sz and Kwan Tai Temple (關帝宮) of the village.

***Authenticity  
Group Value***

The residence of Ip Ting-sz is to the south of the bridge. He was an indigenous villager of Lin Ma Hang who made his fortune in Thailand and later joined the Tungmenghui (同盟會) supporting Dr. Sun Yat-sen (孫中山) in the Republic revolution. He returned home after the 1930s anti-Chinese movement in Thailand and died of hunger in his residence in 1942 during the Japanese Occupation (1941-45).

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