

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Chung Man Tsoi Ancestral Hall**  
**Ha Tin Liu Ha, Tai Po**

Tin Liu Ha (田寮下) is on the east side of Lam Kam Road (林錦公路) and is one of the twenty-six villages in Lam Tsuen (林村/ 林村鄉). Tin Liu Ha was later subdivided into Sheung Tin Liu (上田寮下, or literally upper Tin Liu Ha) and Ha Tin Liu Ha (下田寮下, or literally lower Tin Liu Ha). The latter was developed in later stage. Three groups of Chungs settled subsequently in the village. It was first inhabited by Chung Yuk-chin (鍾毓遷) and his descendants who moved from Tai Om Shan (大菴山) in the southwest. It was then settled by Chung Man-tsoi (鍾文彩) and his family who moved from Tsai Kek (寨𨵿) also in the southwest. Man-tsoi's ancestor in Tsai Kek was from Changle (長樂) of Guangdong (廣東) province. The last group was those of Chung Yum-tsoi (鍾欽才). There were three ancestral halls in the village, one of which (Yum Tsoi Chung Ancestral Hall 鍾欽才家祠) has been abandoned due to the leaving of its members. The Chung Ancestral Hall (鍾氏家祠) at No. 34 of the village was built by the descendants of Yuk-chin to commemorate him. This Chung Man Tsoi Ancestral Hall (鍾文彩家祠) was erected by the descendants of Man-tsoi. The Chungs said that the building has a history of over 100 years and was probably built before 1900.

*Historical  
Interest*

Located in two long parallel rows of village houses, the ancestral hall occupies the structures of two houses, one in front of the other. This alignment is very unusual for an ancestral hall. This might be an extension of the hall making use of two houses. The long and narrow hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a plan of two houses each has a one-hall-one-courtyard layout. An additional open courtyard is in-between the two houses with connected arched openings on either side. The *dong chung* (擋中, screen door) is at the end of the front house whilst the altar is at the end hall in the rear house. The building is constructed of grey brickwork and granite blocks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The front ridge is with a pair of red *ruilong* (夔龍, dragon) mouldings at its two ends whilst the rear ridge is with curling ends. The front facades and part of its internal walls are of fair-faced green bricks. The rest are plastered. The rear wall is constructed of granite blocks. The floors are covered with ceramic tiles. The altar has a soul tablet of the Chung ancestors in the end hall for worship. Behind the tablet is a gold colour Chinese character “壽” (longevity) flanked by two couplets on the wall. The

*Architectural  
Merit*

name of the hall “鍾文彩家祠” is engraved on a stone above the lintel at the recessed entrance whilst “鍾氏家祠” (Chung Ancestral Hall) is engraved above the lintel at the entrance of the main hall at the back. Fascia boards and wall frieze paintings of flowers, birds, trees and others are under the eaves of the halls.

It is an ancestral hall of the Chungs to remind their settlement in Ha Tin Liu Ha in Lam Tsuen. The ancestral hall making use of two village houses is rare. It has some built heritage value. The roofs at the open courtyard have been turned into concrete reinforced ones. The authenticity is basically kept.

***Rarity, Built  
Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity***

Chung Man Tsoi Ancestral Hall is within walking distance of other historic buildings, including the houses at Nos. 24B-D, Nos. 32 – 33 (both Grade 2), and the Chung Ancestral Hall (鍾氏家祠) (Grade 3) in the village.

***Group Value***

The ancestral hall has been serving a venue for launching traditional rituals and ceremonies of the clan. Other than ancestral worship, wedding and funeral ceremonies and *dim dang* (點燈, literally lighting the lantern) ritual were held at the hall. The Chungs having moved away from the village would return to the ancestral hall at the Chinese New Year to make worship to their ancestors.

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