

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Dun Hau Tong

#### Tsung Pak Long, Sheung Shui

Tsung Pak Long (松柏朗) village in Sheung Shui (上水) is recorded as a *Historical Interest* Punt village in the Xin'an Gazetteer (新安縣志) of 1819. It was inhabited by six families including the Chans (陳), the Laus (劉), the Kwongs (龐), the Kans (簡), the Wongs (黃) and the Lees (李). It is said that the Laus, the Kwongs and the Kans were the earliest settlers. The Kans were from Boluo (博羅) of Guangdong (廣東) province whose founding ancestor was Kai-kung (啓庚). One of his sons, Wai-lok (維樂), branched out to Tai Tau Leng Tsuen (大頭嶺村), a short distance southeast of Tsung Pak Long. A block of three ancestral halls built connected together is in the middle of the village, the Kwongs' in the middle and the Chans' and the Laus' respectively on the left and right. Two ancestral halls of the Kans and the Wong separated by an open lane are on the right of the block. The government resumed land in the north-east of the village in the 1930-40s that the villagers had government compensation. They built five ancestral halls of their own with the money. Dun Hau Tong (敦厚堂) of the Kans was one of them built probably in the period.

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a *Architectural Merit* one-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are with fair-faced green bricks having a nine stretcher courses to one header course bonding (九順一丁). The floor is with cement tiles. The altar is in the middle of the end wall of the hall housing three big soul tablets and four smaller ones of the Kan ancestors for worship. The name of the hall is moulded above the lintel of the recessed entrance. The ridge is with a pair of geometric mouldings at its two ends. Wall frieze paintings are under the front eave and internal eave with motifs of landscape, flowers, birds, fruits and calligraphy.

It is an ancestral hall of the Kans to remind their settlement in Tsung Pak Long. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. It is the most authentic and decorative ancestral hall of the village. *Built Heritage Value*

Its authenticity is kept.

*Authenticity*

It has group value with the other four ancestral halls next door.

*Group Value*

Before the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945), the villagers had an organization called Zap Shing Tong (集成堂) which had a building where all the ancestral tablets of the villagers were housed for worship. The building later collapsed and was rebuilt after the war. A soul tablet of three villagers is in the Tong for worship. They were killed in a battle against the Lius (廖) and the Haus (侯) in Yin Kong (燕崗). The Chans have the celebration of festivals and their village affairs dealt with at the hall. They had their wedding feast (basin meal) at the hall and in open ground in front of the hall. The Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for different clans would be held at the Zap Shing Tong. Kan Ping-chee, Brian (簡炳墀) of the clan was a famous horse trainer of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He is also a chairman of the Sheung Shui Rural Committee (上水鄉事委員會) and a member of Heung Yee Kuk (鄉議局).

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*