

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lin Kong Tong**  
**No. 5 Ham Tin Kau Tsuen, Pui O, Lantau**

Lin Kong Tong (蓮江堂) of Ham Tin Kau Tsuen (鹹田舊村) in Pui O (貝澳), Lantau Island, is an ancestral hall of the Cheungs (張氏) who settled in the village in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Cheungs came from Huizhou (惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province. They first came to Pui O San Tsuen (貝澳新村); however, they found that the place was not enough for their development as it was occupied by the Hos (何) who also came from Huizhou at the same time. So they went to the place now called Ham Tin where it was close to the sea and inundated with seawater during the typhoon season. They were mainly farmers engaged in agriculture. Later on, the Cheungs especially Cheung Kwong-tsun (張廣全, 1850-1916) made their fortune by trading. They owned half of the private lands in Pui O. *Historical Interest*

**Lin Kong Tong** belongs to an older branch of the Cheungs. It serves the dual-purpose of ancestral hall and meeting place to the Cheungs, the leading lineage in Pui O. It is not known when Lin Kong Tong was built. It had a lease with the government in 1898. It can be assumed that it has a history of **over 100 years**.

The ancestral hall is on the single-row of the village houses of the village facing the sea in the south-west. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building of a one-hall plan. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. It is constructed of granite blocks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The altar is at the end wall of the hall. The altar is painted red with the soul tablet of the ancestors in the middle for worship. The internal walls are plastered and painted. The floors are with tiles. The wall of the recessed entrance is with red ceramic tiles. The name board of the tong is above the doorway flanked with a couplet. *Architectural Merit*

It is a branch ancestral hall of the Cheungs to witness their settlement in Pui O. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. The external front walls are covered with modern ceramic tiles which very much diminished its authenticity. *Built Heritage Value*  
*Authenticity*

It has group value with the Cheung Study Hall and Si Tak Tong (an ancestral hall) on its right. Cheung Study Hall is now used as an ancestral hall for the younger branch, while Si Tak Tong is a gathering place for the two branches. *Group Value*

There is a Shui Jing Pak Kung (水井伯公, the God of Well) at the end of the row of houses, where a well with a small earth god shrine is found. At the end of the further row of houses, there is a Dai Pak Kung (大伯公), which is a small Earth God placed in a shrine taking an arm-chair form.

The building is for the ancestral worship of the Lin Kong Tong branch of the Cheungs. Other major matters of the entire clan would be dealt with at the Si Tak Tong (四德堂) on the right of the neighbouring Cheung Study Hall (張氏家塾). ***Social Value, & Local Interest***

It is considered that the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time. ***Adaptive Re-use***