

Historic Building Appraisal
Tsang Ancestral Hall
Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan, N.T.

The village of Chuen Lung (川龍) in north-east of Tsuen Wan is said to be founded by Tsang Tai-cheung (曾大璋) during the Zhengtong (正統, 1436-1449) period of Ming (明) Dynasty. It is one of the oldest Hakka villages in the area. The Tsang Ancestral Hall (曾氏家祠) in Chuen Lung is believed to have been built in around the 17th century. Three Tsang brothers, namely, Tsang Tai-cheung (曾大璋), Tsang Tai-hing (曾大慶) and Tsang Tai-chong (曾大昌), had moved from Huizhou of Guangdong province (廣東惠州) to Muk Min Ha Tsuen (木棉下村) of Tsuen Wan during the Yongle (永樂 1403-1424) period of Ming Dynasty. Several decades later, Tsang Tai-cheung moved to Chuen Lung. And, his younger brother Tai-hing settled in Sheung Kwai Chung (上葵涌) and his youngest brother Tai-chong moved back to Huizhou.

**Historical
Interest**

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its roofs of timber rafters, purlins and ceramic tiles. The walls have been plastered and painted except the front façade and part of the main hall. The altar is at the end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet for worship. Above the altar are wall paintings of flowers and one with a Chinese character ‘囍’ (Double Happiness). The front ridge is with a set of *ruilong* (夔龍) at its two ends whilst its rear ridge is with curling ends. The name of the hall is on the wall above the lintel of the entrance. Under the front eave is a wooden fascia board with carving of flowers, a phoenix and a unicorn. Wall friezes at the recessed entrance are wall paintings of flowers and a peacock.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall to witness the settlement of the Tsangs in Chuen Lung of Tsuen Wan.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The ancestral hall is in good condition.

Authenticity

The ancestral hall is a venue to deal with village affairs and for ancestral worship. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is still practiced at the ancestral hall for new born baby boys of previous year at the Chinese New Year. Wedding ceremony was held at the hall for the Tsangs with the serving of basin meals (盤菜) for the

**Social Value,
& Local
Interest**

villagers.

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

*Adaptive
Re-use*