

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 45 Tai Kei Leng

#### Main Building, Ancillary Building & Entrance Gates and Enclosing wall Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

No. 45, Tai Kei Leng is a village house of mixed style. It was built in 1926 by the family of Fung Yin-yiu (馮延瑤), who worked in Canada (employed as a worker in Montreal when he was about twenty) around the 1890s and remitted money to his family members to construct the house. The Fungs also bought other property and farmland in the village and appear to have been influential in the community. According to the stone tablet at the Yi Shing Temple of Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long Kau Hui, Fung Kwan-wing (馮昆榮), Yin-yiu's father, donated money for the renovation of the temple in 1938. *Historical Interest*

The house is still in the Fung family. Fung Kei-cheung (馮其祥), who was born there, joined the Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade of the East River Column (東江縱隊港九獨立大隊) in 1943. He was trained in firearms, artillery and organization. He was responsible for organizing guerrilla movements of the Yuen Long Squadron (元朗中隊). Fung resigned from the East River Column in 1945, and later became the chairman of the communication association of the East River Column (原東江縱隊港九獨立大隊老游擊戰士聯誼會會長). The house is the property of Fung Yu Shan Tso (馮如山祖). Fung resided in the house, and acted as the manager of Fung Yu Shan Tso until he retired from the post in 2006.

The house is actually a combination of traditional village houses and various additions, including the 1926 main building which is a mixture of Chinese and Western architectural styles. The main building is a two-storey rectangular block built of grey brickwork, with an enclosed front verandah over the entrance porch capped by an ornamental pediment adorned with peonies and ball-shaped finials. The side elevation features arched windows with decorated tympanums and ornamental balustrading forming a parapet to the flat roof. There is a narrow-walled courtyard in front of the building with two side entrance gates. The rear part of the residence consists a three-roomed hall and two side halls in a typical Chinese enclosed courtyard layout. *Architectural Merit*

Various additions have been made, but the original building forms still remain. The mixed style of the two-storey building reflects Western influences on traditional village houses and is a rare and interesting example of built heritage of the kind. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

As the Fung family are one of the oldest lineages in the village and they are related to the history of China's War of Resistance during the Second World War, their family residence is of some local interest and also has social value to the community. *Social Value & Local Interest*

No. 45 Tai Kei Leng has group value with other historic buildings in the village, such as the houses at Nos. 26, 27, 112, 119, 173, 186 and 188, Siu Lo (筱廬) at No. 643, as well as the Ji Yeung Study Hall (子養書室) at No. 23 of the village (all Grade 3). *Group Value*

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