

No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue

Sai Kung, N.T.

Tseng Lan Shue (井欄樹), in the southeast of Kowloon Peak (飛鵝山), is a **Historical Interest** single-surname Hakka village founded by Yau Wan-lun (邱雲麟). The first settlers of the village subsisted by growing rice and vegetables on the surrounding slopes. The Yaus (邱) are Hakkas (客家) originating from Weibei (渭北) of Henan (河南) province. They were living in Bao'an (寶安) of Guangdong (廣東) province before moving to Tseng Lan Shue in the late seventeenth century. Some of the Yau descendents later branched out to Kam Tin (錦田), Tung Lo Wan of Sha Tin (沙田銅鑼灣), Sham Ka Tsuen of Kwai Chung (葵涌三家村) and Tai Tam Tuk (大潭篤) on Hong Kong Island. The house at No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue was probably built around the 1900s by two brothers of the Yaus, Yau Chen-yi (邱振義) and Yau Chen-chi (邱振志), who were sailors. It was once occupied by the Japanese troops during the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945). Fortunately, it remained intact and did not suffer from serious damage.

No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue is in the central part of the village facing south. It is a **Architectural Merit** *dou lang* (斗廊) style of Hakka building. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. An open forecourt is in front of the house surrounded by a low wall. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. A stove is on the left room and a room is on the right of the open courtyard. A side chamber is on either side of the hall. The entrance in the middle bay is recessed with two bays on either side having high walls projected to form the shape of the Chinese character “凹”. The building is constructed of grey bricks and rubbles with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered except the recessed entrance and the floors with cement screeding. The ridge of the entrance is with a pair of red geometric moulding at its two ends. Wall frieze paintings of landscape are under the eaves of the recessed entrance. Weathered frieze plastered mouldings of flowers and birds are on the walls of the front facade. The gable walls are with red *kuilong* (夔龍) plastered mouldings.

It is a residential house of the Yaus to remind their settlement in the village, and has some built heritage value. The authenticity is basically kept. However, it lacks care and maintenance over the years, and is in poor condition. **Rarity, Built Heritage Value Authenticity**

No. 43 was once the private residence of the Yau's family, but had been abandoned for some years. It thus has limited social value to the local residents of the village. ***Social Value, & Local Interest***

No other graded historic buildings are located in the environs of No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue. ***Group Value***

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