

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Entrance Gate**  
**Shek Mun Kap, Tung Chung, Lantau Island**

Shek Mun Kap (石門甲), in the inner part of Tung Chung (東涌) in Lantau Island, is a small village probably established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. According to *Xin'an Gazetteer*, there was a village named Shek Kap Mun (石甲門). It is believed that it refers to the subject village (Shek Mun Kap). In fact, the name of this village appears in *Hong Kong Government Gazette* for 1899 (dated 15 July 1899: 1117). The inhabitants of the village were mostly Hakkas (客家) coming from Guangdong (廣東) province. The village houses were built in separate disorder locations, not in rows. It is said that this Entrance Gate, apart from serving a defensive purpose, was also a *fungshui* wall (風水牆). Also, the original length of the wall attached to the Entrance Gate was longer than those of the present one. As it was erected a long time ago, it had deteriorated and the length was shortened.

*Historical  
Interest*

The Entrance Gate is in the northern mouth of the village. The Gate together with part of the connecting wall, probably built **around 1880**, was for *fung shui* and defence purposes. They protected the villagers from the attack of pirates and bandits, although they have lost protective functions nowadays. The Entrance Gate is a Chinese vernacular structure with a rectangular opening. It has a wide name board on top with the name of the village “石門甲村” (Shek Mun Kap Tsuen) moulded on it. A post with pyramidal top is on either side of the board. It is constructed of concrete. The connecting walls are in step design constructed of rubble and concrete. The floor is with cement screeding. An open ground is behind the entrance gate.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is an entrance gate to witness the past history and settlement of the village.

*Rarity*

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

The structure has been renovated. Its authenticity is kept.

*Authenticity*

A full-scale mopping up against the guerrillas in Lantau was launched by the Japanese in May 1944. This plan was decided by Major General Kopa of the headquarters of the Japanese garrison force stationed in Hong Kong (駐港警備司令部小田少將). The Japanese first blockaded the coastal line of Lantau and then bombarded the guerrilla bases in Lantau. Shek Mun Kap was one of

*Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest*

the targets. The Entrance Gate was not damaged although the village was bombed in this attack.

There is a Yuen Tan Temple (玄壇古廟) next to the Entrance Gate. The original temple collapsed a long time ago. The present temple was later rebuilt as their village experienced several outbreaks of plagues. Nearby there is a Loh Hon Monastery (羅漢寺) at Shek Pik Au (石壁凹). *Group Value*

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