

Historic Building Appraisal

No. 22 San Lung Tsuen,

San Tin, Yuen Long

The Mans in San Tin (新田), Yuen Long, are the descendents of Man Tin-shui (文天瑞), a blood brother of Man Tin-cheung (文天祥) who was a renowned patriot fighting with the Mongols to protect the Song Emperors in the late Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. Man Sai-gor (文世歌) was the first settler moved from Tuen Mun (屯門) to San Tin in the Hongwu reign (洪武, 1368-1398) of the Ming (明) dynasty. San Lung Tsuen (新龍村) was established by Man Tak-tai (文德泰) some 300 years ago. He was a 16th generation member of the Man clan who branched out from Yan Sau Wai (仁壽圍) of San Tin. Tak-tai had three grandsons, namely, Wai-nam (位南), Chun-nam (鎮南) and Sik-nam (式南), whose descendents became the main inhabitants of the village. More houses were built in the village when the population of the Mans increased. Man Kam-tong (文金堂), the grandson of Wai-nam, was a rich merchant who had two wives and eight sons. He built a number of houses for his family. No.21-25 was a row of five houses built by him among others in the 1880s. No.22 was succeeded by his 3rd son Hop-sau (合壽).

**Historical
Interest**

The house at No.22 of the village is connecting to another old house No.21 on its left both facing northwest like the other houses. The house is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A kitchen and a washroom is respectively on the right and left of the covered courtyard in front of the hall. A living room is in front of a bedroom at the hall. A cockloft is above the bedroom also for use as a bedroom. A soul tablet is installed on the partition wall of the living room for worship. Above the stone lintel of the entrance is a projected eave with mouldings of auspicious treasures, fruits, flowers and fish. A wall frieze is running on the front façade and side wall with plastered mouldings of *ruilong* (夔龍), treasures and other patterns. The ridge is with curling ends. Its internal walls are plastered and painted and the floor cement-screeded. Its wall corners are of granite blocks. A corrugated-sheet canopy is added at the front façade under the wall frieze.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a residential house to witness the settlement of the Mans in San Lung Tsuen

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

Despite the covered courtyard and the canopy at the facade, it has its authenticity kept.

***Authenticity
Group Value***

It has group value with other old houses, the Tak Tai Study Hall (德泰書室, rebuilt) in the village.

Kam-tong had a brick kiln in Shek Wu Wai (石湖圍), south of San Tin. The bricks used to build the house were produced at the kiln. He also built a study hall Tak Tai Study Hall in the village. It is an ancestral hall of the village built to commemorate Tak-tai and his son Shing-kui (聖舉). The study hall was rebuilt some years ago. The Mans of the village have their ancestral worship at the Man San Ye Ancestral Hall (莘野文公祠), a family ancestral hall, in Fan Tin Tsuen (蕃田村) neighbouring the village in the northeast. The Mans have the Dim Dang (點燈) ritual held at the study hall and the ancestral hall. Before the 1970s, wedding feasts were held at the study hall but discontinued thereafter.

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***