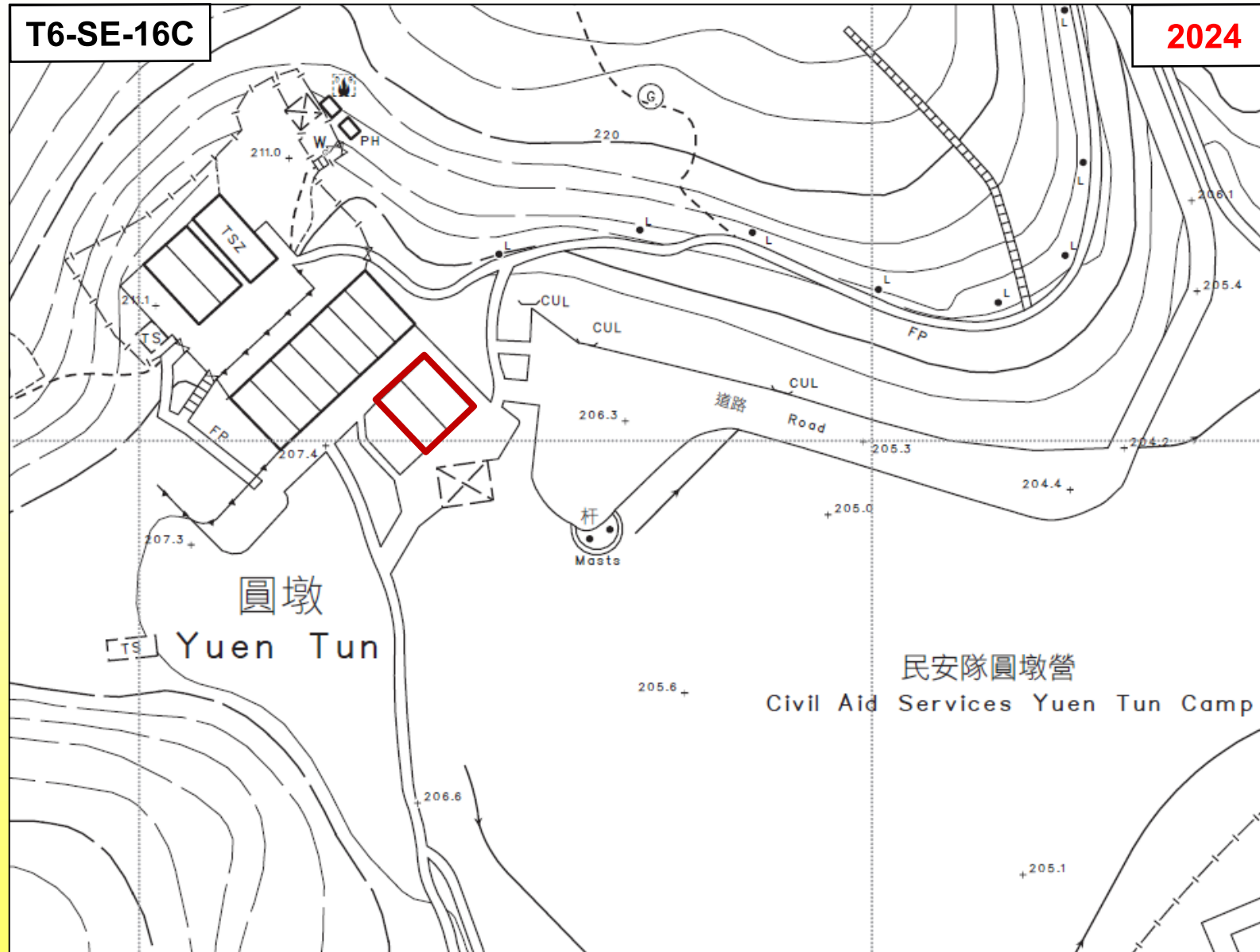


N437

**新界荃灣青龍頭圓墩石屋
Stone House, Yuen Tun,
Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan, N.T.**

擬議三級歷史建築
Proposed Grade 3

建於1905年前
Built before 1905



擬議評級範圍
Proposed grading
boundary



建築物的正立面
Front elevation of the building



鋪砌了客家瓦的傳統硬山頂
Traditional flush gable roof laid with Hakka-style tiles



木椽和桁條
Timber rafters and purlins

Historic Building Appraisal

Stone House, Yuen Tun, Tsing Lung Tau, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

The Stone House at Yuen Tun (圓墩), thought to have been constructed in 1905 or even earlier, was originally served as a village residence for the Chung (鍾) clan. **Historical Interest**

Perched 650 feet¹ above the coastal area of Tsing Lung Tau (青龍頭) in Tsuen Wan, Yuen Tun, which literally means the “round mound”, was an upland Hakka village established by a single lineage of the Chung clan. The family’s ancestor migrated from Tieluba (鐵爐壩) in Changle (長樂) county² in Guangdong province around 200 years ago.³ For their livelihood, the villagers⁴ cultivated over 27 acres of agricultural land,⁵ primarily growing rice.⁶ They settled mainly to the northwest of the paddy fields, where they built three rows of village houses, with the Stone House positioned at the front.⁷

The Stone House is believed to date back to 1905 or earlier, as the Block Government Lease issued in that year already classified its plot (D.D. 389 Lot 376) as a “mixed lot”, with 0.01 acres designated for a “House” and 0.05 acres for “padi” (which refers to “paddy fields”).⁸ As the residence of a

¹ HKRS337-4-244. “Tai Lam Chung Reservoir Scheme - 1. Compensation For Crop Losses At Yuen Tun Village. 2. Improvement Of Water Supply To Yuen Tun Village”, 13 April 1956 – 19 March 1974.

² Changle county was renamed Wuhua (五華) county in 1914. See 〈行政区域〉, 五华县人民政府网页, <https://www.wuhua.gov.cn/zjwh/whgk/xzqy/>, accessed on 14 May 2025.

³ According to oral accounts, the Chung clan found, when they migrated to the present-day New Territories, that the lowlands were already occupied by other villages, which prompted them to select higher ground to establish their village. Oral history interview with the Chung of Yuen Tun Village by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) on 24 April 2025.

⁴ In the report prepared by Stewart Lockhart in 1898 on the New Territories of Hong Kong, the population of Yuen Tun was recorded as 80 people. See “Notification No. 204.” *The Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 8 April 1899.

⁵ HKRS337-4-244. “Tai Lam Chung Reservoir Scheme - 1. Compensation For Crop Losses At Yuen Tun Village. 2. Improvement Of Water Supply To Yuen Tun Village”, 13 April 1956 – 19 March 1974.

⁶ The villagers had two rice harvests each year. In addition to cultivating rice, they also grew sweet potatoes, peanuts and other vegetables. Livestock was also raised in the village, including cattle, pigs and chickens. Ibid.

⁷ Survey and Mapping Office, Aerial photos dated 2 June 1949 (Photo Ref.: 81A_134-5054).

⁸ Land Registry, Block Government Lease of D.D. 389.

relatively affluent Chung clan family,⁹ the Stone House occupied a prominent location and was later passed down through generations.¹⁰

In November 1955, the villagers experienced an unprecedented loss of both spring water and paddy field irrigation,¹¹ likely due to the construction of a tunnel system for the Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (大欖涌水塘) located about 400 feet below the village.¹² As a result, farming became impossible, devastating the community's livelihood. To compensate for the loss, the Government provided rice as a relief from June 1956 to January 1959, followed by a monetary settlement of \$48,576 in 1960.¹³ Despite this assistance, the villagers, including the owners of the Stone House, petitioned the Government for resettlement near Tsing Lung Tau, as the water supply issues remained unresolved.¹⁴ In response, the Government agreed to resume the village and its land in 1969,¹⁵ beginning resettlement to a new village, "Yuen Tun Village", in the north of Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen (青龍頭村)¹⁶ the following year.

⁹ Oral history interview with the Chung of Yuen Tun Village by AMO on 24 April 2025.

¹⁰ Land Registry, Property Particulars of D.D. 389 Lot No. 376.

¹¹ The six springs in the village, which were the primary water source for agricultural and domestic uses, dried up in December 1955, and by April 1956 the fields, usually moist the whole year round, had developed cracks and lost their ability to retain water. See HKRS337-4-244. "Tai Lam Chung Reservoir Scheme - 1. Compensation For Crop Losses At Yuen Tun Village. 2. Improvement Of Water Supply To Yuen Tun Village", 13 April 1956 – 19 March 1974.

¹² An investigation carried out by the Government in early 1956 revealed that the water loss could potentially be attributed to the construction of two tunnels under the village that connected Tai Lam Chung Reservoir to Tsuen Wan, as a significant amount of water was found seeping into the tunnels at the same time that the water loss was discovered above ground. Ibid.

¹³ Relief was allocated to the villagers in the form of 348 piculs of rice in June 1956, 185 piculs in January 1957, 92 piculs in November 1957 and 23 piculs in September 1958. After receiving the fourth distribution, the villagers conveyed to the Government, through the Tsuen Wan Rural Committee, that the amount of the rice they had been given as relief was insufficient. In response, the Government decided to conduct a final settlement, providing 93 piculs of rice in January 1959 and granting financial compensation of \$48,576 in May 1960. Ibid.

¹⁴ In the early 1960s, as the water supply issue in the village remained unresolved, the villagers petitioned the Government to resume the village lands and help them relocate. In 1967, the villagers abandoned their farmland and homes in Yuen Tun and moved to temporary structures that they had built themselves in Tsing Lung Tau. At the same time, they again petitioned the Government to resume their land and relocate them. The prolonged inability to cultivate their farmland caused by the water shortage forced the villagers to seek alternative means of livelihood, such as factory work, and by 1967 only three villagers still identified themselves as farmers. Ibid.

¹⁵ The Finance Committee approved the budget for the relocation of the Yuen Tun villagers in October 1969, enabling 24 families comprising 147 individuals to move to new homes located north of Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen. Ibid.

¹⁶ Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen, located down the hill and near the shore facing Lantau Island, is an offshoot of Yuen Tun established around a hundred years ago. Even today, the villagers of Yuen Tun Village and Tsing Lung Tau Tsuen return to Yuen Tun for the annual Spring and

After the Government resumed the land of Yuen Tun, it allocated the site to the Civil Aid Service (“CAS”)¹⁷ in 1973 to set up a permanent campsite for its cadet corps (少年團), known as Yuen Tun Camp.¹⁸ Yuen Tun Camp was officially opened on 11 April 1977 by the governor of Hong Kong, Sir Crawford Murray MacLehose.¹⁹ To conserve the village landscape of Yuen Tun, CAS raised private donations²⁰ in 1980-81 to renovate the Stone House and the grey brick houses behind it.²¹ The Stone House has since been used as a storeroom for the CAS Yuen Tun Camp. It not only testifies to the history of the Chung clan of Yuen Tun, but also bears witness to the development of CAS.

Designed in a one-hall, two-bay layout, the Stone House is a traditional Hakka village dwelling. Its walls are constructed of irregularly shaped rubble masonry, sourced from the surrounding area. The flush gable roof is supported by timber rafters and purlins and laid with Hakka-style tiles.

Architectural Merit

Autumn Ancestral Worship of Lineage (春秋二祭). Oral history interview with the Chung of Yuen Tun Village by AMO on 24 April 2025.

¹⁷ Founded in January 1952, CAS serves as an auxiliary force within the Security Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government. When it was first founded, its main responsibility was to conduct civil defence and wartime emergency tasks. In the early 1960s, however, the political stability enjoyed by Hong Kong meant that CAS was able to change its focus to handling natural and man-made disasters and performing civic duties, such as crowd control. See Civil Aid Service. Civil Aid Service Silver Jubilee, 1952-1977, <https://digitalrepository.lib.hku.hk/catalog/9w033034v#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-306%2C-101%2C1780%2C1904>, accessed on 14 April 2025.

¹⁸ The CAS Cadet Corps was established in 1968 with the aim of guiding young individuals aged 12 to 15 “into becoming good citizens with a sense of responsibility and civic involvement”. CAS had been looking for a permanent campsite for the Cadet Corps since its inception, as it had previously had to rely on renting military camps, which lacked essential camping facilities. See HKRS156-6-31. “C.A.S. Cadet Corps Camp Sites At Yuen Tun And Tai Tan”, 26 July 1973 – 15 November 1973.

¹⁹ In the course of converting the village to a campsite, the Stone House and six grey brick structures behind it were retained. The Yuen Tun Camp is well equipped with classrooms, basketball fields and a swimming pool. The site not only allows the Cadet Corps but also adult members of CAS to enjoy a variety of activities, including camping, hill trekking, nature studies, afforestation projects as well as games and field sports. See 《民眾安全服務隊圓墩營啟用典禮：由港督兼三軍總司令麥理浩爵士主持》，香港：民眾安全服務隊，1977年。

²⁰ Funds for the restoration project were mainly donated by local businessmen and philanthropists, including Mr Deacon Te-ken CHIU (邱德根先生), the founder of Far East Bank, and Mrs Rita TONG LIU (廖湯慧靄女士), the owner of Gale Well Group. See 《民安隊：圓墩營舊村重修啟用典禮》，香港：民眾安全服務隊，1981年。

²¹ A ceremony was held on 28 December 1981 at which the CAS commissioner Sir Rogerio Hyndman Lobo (羅保爵士) unveiled a plaque commemorating the opening of the village. The second row of village houses, comprising an ancestral hall at the centre and old houses on either side, have been repurposed as a folk museum demonstrating the agricultural life led by the Chung clan, while the buildings in the third row are now used as the Yuen Tun Camp office. Ibid.

The two bays of the Stone House are divided by a central wall and slightly recessed from the front elevation, with the entrance positioned in the left bay. The edges of gable walls and central wall are adorned with decorative mouldings, incorporating horizontal and wavy lines. Inside, a doorway in the dividing wall connects the two bays. Like many other traditional Chinese village houses, the Stone House includes a cockloft, originally used for storage. It can now be accessed from the rear section of the left bay. The cockloft spans both bays, supported by wooden beams and timber floor planks and is interconnected through two doorways.

The exterior of the Stone House remains largely intact, though some interior modifications have been made. For example, the cockloft was originally accessed via a wooden staircase from the rear section of the right bay, but this was replaced with a reinforced concrete staircase at the rear section of the left bay to facilitate its use as a storeroom. The floor has also been laid with new modern tiles. As one of the few surviving structures of the Chung clan still standing in its original location, the Stone House serves as testimony to the development of Yuen Tun. It is also the only building made of rubble masonry in the area, which further underlines its unique nature.

***Authenticity &
Rarity***

The Stone House holds deep significance for the descendants of the Chung clan in Yuen Tun, serving as a lasting reminder of the resettlement of the whole village due to the development of the water works in the area. Though its function has changed, the Stone House has served CAS for over 50 years and has become a popular hiking destination. Visitors are drawn to the traditional architecture of the Stone House, which provides a glimpse into the agricultural way of life once led by the villagers.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

The Stone House, the Chung Old Houses (鍾氏古屋) and the Former Chung Ancestral Hall (舊鍾氏家祠) (both Grade 3) at its rear constitute the legacy of the Chung clan of Yuen Tun. The Stone House also shares a group value with the Old House at Nos. 31-35 Hau Wong Temple New Village (侯王廟新村 31 至 35 號舊民居) (Grade 3) and the Stone House at Central Kwai Chung Park (中葵涌公園石屋) (Grade 2), both of which are also constructed of masonry.

Group Value

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