

Historic Building Appraisal
Shrine
Ma Tin Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Ma Tin Tsuen (馬田村) in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉), Yuen Long, was a *Historical Interest* walled village having a history of some 300 years. It was inhabited by 7 lineages surnamed Chan (陳), Wong (黃), Kwan (關), Cheng (鄭), Chow (周), Ho (何) and Tang (鄧). The wall including an enclosing wall, a moat, four watchtowers at its four corners, an entrance gate and a shrine were constructed for the protection of the villagers against any attack from bandits, pirates and other enemies. The entrance gate and the shrine are on the same central axis at opposite ends of the village. The shrine houses a number of deities including Yeung Hau (楊侯), Earth God (土地公), Choi Pak Shing Kun (財帛星君), Chun Fu (巡撫) and others for the worship of the villagers.

The shrine is a building of a one-hall plan built in Qing (清) vernacular style. *Architectural Merit* It was originally constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. In the renovation in 1958, the entire building is plastered internally and externally. Under the eave are wall friezes of birds, flowers, plants and dragon paintings. A fascia board in front of the paintings is with carving of flowers and plants.

It is a shrine of the walled village to remind the history of the village. *Rarity*

It is an item of historic interest. *Built Heritage Value*

The shrine was rebuilt in 2009. *Authenticity*

The entrance gate and the shrine have related group value. *Group Value*

The shrine is the village temple where villagers have their wish expectation and thanks-giving made to their deities. The former is normally at the first or second lunar months whilst the latter in last lunar month. The village is a member of the Shap Pat Heung, literally Eighteen Villages, which would participate in the Tin Hau Festival (天后誕) organized by the Tai Shu Ha Tin Hau Temple (大樹下天后廟) on the 23rd day of the third lunar month with lion dance. A Fa Pow (花炮) would be given at the festival and displayed at the shrine. The village would also take part in the Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) of the Yuen Long Market. *Social Value, & Local Interest*