

Historic Building Appraisal
Yeung Ancestral Hall
Yeung Uk Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Yeung Uk Tsuen (楊屋村), named after the Yeungs (楊) inhabited in the village, is in the northeast of Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) in Yuen Long. It is a single-surname village founded by Yeung Sing-kui (楊勝舉), the 10th generation ancestor of the Hongnong (弘農) branch some 300 years ago. Yeung Shun-kau (楊順球) from Punyu (番禺) of Guangdong (廣東) province settled in the southern portion of the village in the early 20th century. The northern part of the village is commonly known as the old village (舊村) whilst the southern part as new village (新村). The Yeung Ancestral Hall (楊氏家祠) is a family ancestral hall built by the sons of Shun-kau in the early 1930s. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a medium-sized building in the southeast of the village. It is connected to three attached blocks of residential buildings of the Yeungs on its left. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in-between the entrance and main halls. Side rooms and chambers are on either side of the two halls. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The left side chamber beside the main hall is a kitchen. The roofs of the side chambers and side rooms are turned into flat concrete ones. The walls are plastered and the floors with cement screeding. A wooden altar with colourful carving is in the middle of the end wall housing a big and two smaller soul tablets for worship. An image of Tin Hau (天后) is on their left also for worship. Its doorframe is of granite. The name of the hall is moulded on a stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings of landscape, birds and flowers and calligraphy are under the eave of the entrance and at the main hall. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Yeungs to witness their settlement in Yeung Uk Tsuen of Shap Pat Heung. *Rarity*

It has some built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The flat roofs of the side chambers and rooms would slightly diminish its authenticity. *Authenticity*

It has group value with another ancestral hall of the Yeungs at No.9 of the village. *Group Value*

The descendents living in the village take turn to have incense offering for ancestral worship at the hall monthly. They have special offerings at the Chinese New Year and at festivals including Mid-Autumn, Ching Ming (清明節) and Chung Yeung (重陽節). They had basin meals at festivals at the hall and at the open ground of the village. Before they have Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the ancestral hall for new born baby boys of previous year, the Yeungs have to report to the village representative and make registration at the Yi Shing Temple (二聖宮) north of the village and close to Tsoi Uk Tsuen (蔡屋村). The ritual would take place on the 11th day of the Chinese New Year. The ancestral hall housed a Shun Kau School (順球學校) operated by the Yeungs to provide a class of 30 students of Primary 1 to 3 in the 1950-60s. The Yeungs would take part in the Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) organized in Yuen Long.

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