

廖萬石堂

Liu Man Shek Tong
Ancestral Hall



上水廖族 Liu Clan of Sheung Shui

上水廖族先祖廖仲傑於元代(一二七一至一三六八年)中葉自福建南遷廣東，初居屯門，旋遷深圳河以北的福田村，最後才在上水雙魚河定居，他的子孫其後散居附近一帶。

十六世紀末，廖氏的第七和第八代兩位精通堪輿的族人，力主族人聚居，以使子孫昌盛，宗族繁衍，於是共尋村址，合力建村，即現時的圍內村。圍內村於一六四六至一六四七年間加築圍牆及護城河作守衛，以抵禦群盜滋擾。全村共分東南西北四個大小不同部分，分別由村內三房族人居住。一六八八年，廖族約有成員五百人，其後人口增加，治安好轉，於是向村外拓展。一八一九至一八九八年間，莆上村、中心村、門口村、大元村、上北村、下北村及興仁村先後建立，這些相鄰村落後來與圍內村合稱為上水鄉。

十八世紀時，廖族勢力至為顯赫，這可從他們所建的祠堂——廖萬石堂中印證。此外，廖族在科舉及第的人數眾多，據族譜所載，中試者共四十七人。廖族在十九世紀仍見昌隆，並增建了兩間祠堂。族內一位要人廖鴻，更在一八一九年參與編纂《新安縣志》，並重編廖氏族譜。

一九六三年的
上水鄉
Sheung Shui Heung
in 1963



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二〇一二年的上水鄉
Sheung Shui Heung in 2012



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Liu Chung-kit, the founding ancestor of the Liu clan of Sheung Shui, migrated from Fujian province to Guangdong province in the middle of the Yuan dynasty (1271–1368). Initially settling in Tuen Mun and then in the village of Futian, north of the Shenzhen River, he finally put down roots in the area around the Sheung Yue River, from where his descendants later spread far and wide.

In the late sixteenth century, two clan members of the seventh and eighth generations, both geomancers, came to the conclusion that the unification of the lineage was a prerequisite for the clan to thrive. They therefore drew up plans and chose a site for the establishment of what is now known as Wai Loi Tsuen. The walls and moat around Wai Loi Tsuen were constructed between 1646 and 1647 to protect the residents against bandits and pirates in the vicinity. The village was divided into four wards of different sizes and was occupied by three kinship units. By 1688, the clan numbered about 500 members. As the population grew and public order in the area improved, clan members began to settle outside the walls, and the hamlets of Po Sheung Tsuen, Chung Sum Tsuen, Mun Hau Tsuen, Tai Yuen Tsuen, Sheung Pak Tsuen, Ha Pak Tsuen and Hing Yan Tsuen, which are today known collectively with Wai Loi Tsuen as Sheung Shui Heung, were all founded between 1819 and 1898.

The wealth and influence of the Liu clan reached its apogee in the eighteenth century, and this was reflected both in the construction of the main ancestral hall, the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall, as well as in the massive numbers of clan members who succeeded in passing the imperial civil service examination, an honour that was achieved by 47 members according to the clan's genealogy. The clan continued to prosper in the nineteenth century, and two more ancestral halls were built. Liu Hung, an important clan member, participated in the compilation of the *Xin'an Gazetteer* in 1819 and managed to edit the Liu genealogy.

廖萬石堂後進的功名牌匾
Honorary plaques hanging at the rear hall of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall



廖萬石堂 *Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall*

廖萬石堂為上水廖族最大的祠堂，始建於清雍正（一七二三至一七三五年）初年，並於乾隆年間（一七三六至一七九五年）重修。「萬石」之名可追溯至宋代（九六〇至一二七九年）。相傳廖氏遠祖廖剛及其四個兒子皆任高官，每人官祿二千石，合共萬石。後人為紀念先祖，乃將祠堂命名為「廖萬石堂」。清光緒十七年（一八九一年），廖萬石堂曾進行重修。

一九三二年，廖氏族人為提倡新學，培育人才，於是將廖萬石堂改作小學。祠堂間隔再細分以闢作課室，牆壁亦髹上油漆，令建築物的原來面貌大受破壞。這所小學於一九七四年遷往上水馬會道新址。

廖萬石堂是上水廖族的重要建築，每年的春、秋二祭皆會在祠堂內舉行。



二〇〇六年三月於廖萬石堂舉行的祭祖儀式

Ancestor worship in the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall in March 2006

Built in early years of the Yongzheng reign (1723–1735) and later restored in the Qianlong reign (1736–1795) in the Qing dynasty, the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is the largest ancestral hall of the Liu clan of Sheung Shui. Literally meaning 10,000 *shi* (from *shek*, which was a unit for measuring grain), the name “Man Shek” dates back to the Song dynasty (960–1279). It is believed that a distant ancestor of the clan, Liu Kong, and his four sons were all high government officials who each earned an annual salary of 2,000 *shi* of cereal, thus 10,000 *shi* in total, and their descendants named the ancestral hall “Liu Man Shek Tong” in their honour. Renovation was undertaken in the seventeenth year of the Guangxu reign (1891) in the Qing dynasty.

In 1932, the ancestral hall was converted into a primary school to provide modern education. The ancestral hall was partitioned, the walls were plastered and painted and most of the notable characters of this elegant building were destroyed. The school moved to new premises on Jockey Club Road in Sheung Shui in 1974.

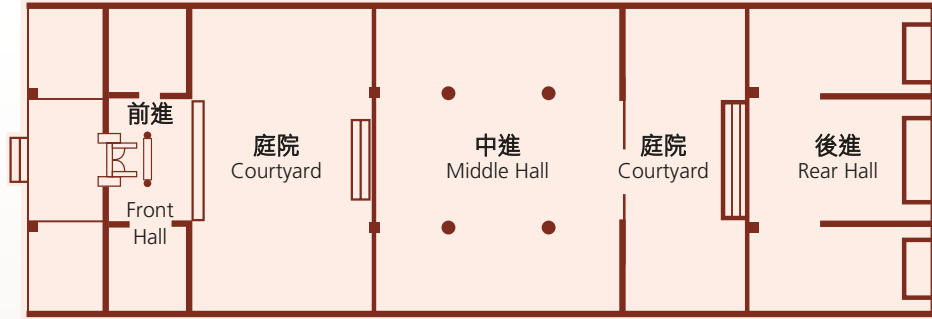
The Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is an important building for the Liu clan, and ceremonies worshipping their ancestors are held here every year in spring and autumn.

修復前的廖萬石堂外貌

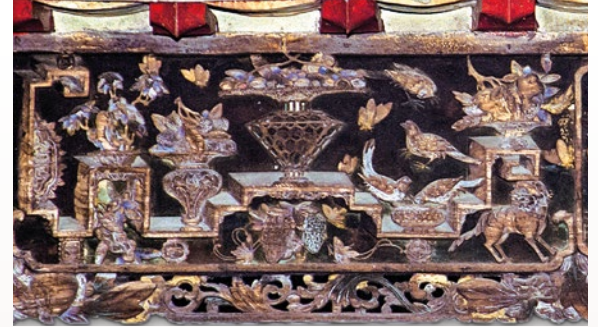
Exterior of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration



建築特色 Architectural Features



廖萬石堂平面圖
Floor plan of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall



刻有傳統吉祥圖案的簷板
Fascia board carved with traditional auspicious motifs

廖萬石堂是一所三進三開間建築物，設兩庭院，祖先木主祭於後進祖龕。整座建築物裝飾華麗，灰塑、木刻、壁畫等比比皆是，題材多為中國傳統吉祥圖案。屋頂以瓦鋪蓋，由雕刻精緻的樑架及斗拱承托，下面以石柱和木柱支撐。憑藉獨特的傳統建築結構，使祠堂看來寬敞莊嚴。祠堂多處選用了昔日較為珍貴的紅砂石為建築材料，彰顯了廖氏族人的財富及地位。

廖萬石堂乃本港現存最大的祠堂和最優美的中國傳統建築之一。由於廖族成員鼎力支持，這所祠堂得以保存及妥善管理，予各界人士欣賞。

The ancestral hall is a three-hall-three-bay building with two courtyards. The altar is located in the rear hall and bears rows of soul tablets. The whole building is richly embellished with plaster mouldings, wood carvings and murals of auspicious motifs. The tiled roofs are supported on stone and wooden columns and an intricate system of carved wooden trusses and brackets. These distinctive features give the building a spacious and impressive character. The use of red sandstone, which was a valuable building material at the time the hall was built, bears testimony to the wealth and prestige of the clan.

The Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is not only one of the largest ancestral halls in Hong Kong, but is also one of the finest traditional Chinese buildings in the territory. Thanks to the ardent support of the Liu clan, the hall is well preserved and managed, allowing everybody an opportunity to appreciate the hall.

後進供奉祖先木主
Rows of soul tablets enshrined at the rear hall



中進飾有精美的木雕
The middle hall is embellished with exquisite wood carvings



修復工程 Restoration Works

一九八三年，一個由廖族成員、北區政務處、古物古蹟辦事處及其他政府部門組成的小組開始商議重修之事，整項工程費用約一百萬元，除政府資助三十萬元外，其餘皆由廖族支付。修復工程於一九八四年十一月展開，分期進行，並於一九八五年底順利完成所有工程。同年，廖萬石堂根據《古物及古蹟條例》列為法定古蹟。為紀念廖萬石堂重修竣工，時任港督尤德爵士夫人於一九八六年三月一日親臨主持開光典禮。為維護古蹟，政府曾多次修繕祠堂，包括二〇二三年完成的中進及中庭院牆身傾側修復及結構修葺工程。



修復前的廖萬石堂內貌
Interior of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration



修復前的廖萬石堂後進
The rear hall of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration

In 1983, a committee comprising members of the Liu clan, representatives of the North District Office, the Antiquities and Monuments Office and other government departments was set up to organise the restoration project for the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall. The project costed approximately \$1,000,000 in total, \$300,000 of which came from the government and the rest provided by the clan. The first phase of the work commenced in November 1984, and the whole project was completed in late 1985. The ancestral hall was declared a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in the same year. To mark the rehabilitation of the building, a ceremony was held on 1 March 1986, at which Lady Pamela Youde, the wife of the then governor Sir Edward Youde, officiated. With a view to conserving the monument, several restoration and repair works to the ancestral hall were carried out by the Government over the years, including the incline-rectification and structural repair at middle hall and central courtyard walls completed in 2023.



一九八四年修復中的前進及庭院
The front hall and courtyard under restoration in 1984



一九九四年工人正在
修復中進的天面結構
Workers restoring the
roof structure of the
middle hall in 1994

一九九四年修復中的中進
The middle hall under
restoration in 1994



二〇一六年修復中的中進
The middle hall under
restoration in 2016



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The above information is for reference only, and is subject to change in accordance with the announcement of relevant organisations.

地址 Venue

新界上水門口村

Mun Hau Tsuen, Sheung Shui, New Territories

開放時間 Opening Hours

星期一、三至日 上午9時至下午1時及下午2時至5時

星期二（公眾假期除外）、聖誕日、聖誕翌日、元旦日及農曆年初一至初三休息

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