

## Historic Building Appraisal

No. 5 Ng Uk Tsuen,

Sheung Shui, N.T.

No.5 Ng Uk Tsuen (吳屋村) was built by a Tsang Chak-wai (曾習槐) of Hakka (客家) who came from Qingxi (清溪) of Dongguan (東莞), Guangdong (廣東) province. The 11<sup>th</sup> generation of the Tsangs moved to Lai Chi Wo (荔枝窩), Mui Tsz Lam (梅子林) and Ngau Chi Wu (牛池湖) of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Those of Lai Chi Wo moved to Ng Uk Tsuen probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Ng Uk Tsuen in Sheung Shui had been established by the Ngs (吳氏) who had fight with the Pangs (彭氏) of Fanling (粉嶺). The Ngs were defeated and fled from the village. The house was probably built in early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Tsang Chak-wai who immigrated to Singapore and ran a bar and grocery. When he retired, he brought a piece of land and built the house No.5. Chak-wai had one son and two grandsons. One of his great-grandson still occupies the house.

**Historical  
Interest**

No.5 Ng Uk Tsuen is the only old house left in the village. It is in Qing (清) vernacular design constructed of green bricks with its walls supporting its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The door and windows are of granite frames. The house is simple and symmetrical without courtyard. The recessed entrance has a *tanglung* (趟籠), a sliding timber bar fence. The ridge is without any decoration. The fascia board is with flowers-and-birds carving and the wall friezes are with paintings of flowers-and-rocks and auspicious treasures.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is a traditional Qing village house to capture the history of the village.

**Rarity**

The house has considerable built heritage. It is in good condition.

**Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity**

As there is no ancestral hall in the village, the Tsangs had their ancestral worship at their ancestral hall in Lai Chi Wo. They kept their ancestors' soul tablets over there for worship. The Tsangs had their daily necessities bought at the nearby markets in Shenzhen Market (石湖墟) and Shek Wu Hui (深圳墟) of Sheung Shui. The Tsangs took part in Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) of Sha Tau Kok held once every ten years. The last one was in 2000.

**Social Value  
& Local Interest**