

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Nos. 49 and 50 Shui Hau**  
**Lantau Island**

1057

Shui Hau (水口) is a small multi-lineage village in the west of Tong Fuk (塘福), north of South Lantau Road (嶼南路). It is a short distance from the sea, facing Shui Hau Wan (水口灣). The village was mainly inhabited by the Chans (陳氏), the Tangs (鄧氏), the Fungs (馮氏) and the Chis (池氏). *Historical Interest*

It is believed that the village house at Nos. 49 and 50 Shui Hau was constructed in around the 1920s by the Chans, who were, in the early 2000s, said to have resided in Shui Hau for nine generations by that time. The story goes that Chan Hei-sin (陳喜善), a 12<sup>th</sup> generation ancestor of the Chans, moved from Chayuanxia (茶園峽) of Dongguan (東莞) in Guangdong province with his mother Madam Fan (范氏) and a younger brother in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the Qianlong reign (乾隆, 1764) of the Qing (清) dynasty. It was said that over the years, the Chan clan had developed into four *fang* (房, branches) and four respective *tong* (堂, trust), whereas the Chans in Shui Hau are members of the master *tong* named Fuk Yuen Tong (福源堂).

Located on a levelled slope of the village, Nos. 49 and 50 is a Qing vernacular design building having a flat-roof front portion and a pitched-roof rear portion. The walls of the front portion are constructed of granite blocks, whereas the rear portion's are built of grey brickwork. The pitched roof is of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its terraced flat roof is surrounded by green glazed ceramic balustrades. *Architectural Merit*

The village house is a historical reminder of the settlement of the Chans in Shui Hau, and has some built heritage value. The traditional style blends in well with the rural village context in Shui Hau. No significant alteration which might have diminished the authenticity of the exterior can be identified. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The Chans were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing and fishing. They had an ancestral hall at No. 8 of the village built, but it collapsed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Chan's property at No. 54 was then temporarily used to house the ancestral hall. In 1952, the government built Shui Hau Public School (水口公立學校) at No. 8. The school was closed in 1989 due to the decrease in students. Later, the school building was demolished to make way for a new Chan Ancestral Hall (陳氏宗祠), which was built by the Chans and opened in 2000. *Social Value, & Local Interest*

Nos. 49 and 50 Shui Hau does not have group value with any graded *Group Value* historic buildings.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Document Records at The Land Registry Office, Hong Kong**

Property Particulars of Lot No. 221 in D.D. 325.

Property Particulars of Lot No. 222 in D.D. 325.

### **Newspapers**

蕭國健，「香港嶼南之塘福及水口二鄉」，《華僑日報》，1979年9月18日。

### **Other Sources**

Oral history interviews with the villagers of Shui Hau by the Antiquities and Monuments Office in 2003.