

Historic Building Appraisal
Chan Ancestral Hall
No. 104 Luk Keng Chan Uk, Luk Keng

Chan Man-tai (陳萬泰) was a Hakka (客家) who settled with his family in Xinan (新安) of Guangdong (廣東) province in the 58th year of the Kangxi (康熙, 1719) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. His fifth son Tze-tak (子德) moved to Lo Wai (老圍, or Sheung Wai 上圍) of Luk Keng (鹿頸) (now known as Luk Keng Chan Uk 鹿頸陳屋) in the Yongzheng (雍正, 1723-1735) reign of the dynasty. Another son of Man-tai, Nam-tak (男德), moved to Ha Wai (下圍) next to Wong Uk (黃屋) in the 5th year of the Qianlong (乾隆, 1740) reign. Wong Uk in the north of Chan Uk was occupied by the Wongs. It is said that the Wongs were afraid of bandits and pirates that Wong Chun-yu (黃春儒) invited Nam-tak and his family to settle next to their village so that they could have stronger forces against the enemies (Wong Uk and Ha Wai are now known as Lung Keng Wong Uk 鹿頸黃屋). The Chan Ancestral Hall (陳氏家祠) in Luk Keng Chan Uk was believed to be built around 1900 for the ancestral worship of the Chan ancestors. Another ancestral hall, the Chan Tze Tak Ancestral Hall (子德陳公祠), in the village was built by the sons of Tze-tak. An ancestral hall, the Chan Nam Tak Ancestral Hall (男德陳公祠), in Luk Keng Wong Uk was built to commemorate Nam-tak. The Chans of Sam Tung Uk in Tsuen Wan (荃灣三棟屋), Sheung Tam Shui Hang (上担水坑) and Luk Keng (鹿頸) have the same ancestor.

**Historical
Interest**

Located in a row of houses of the village, the small Chan Ancestral Hall is a Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. Half of the village houses are deserted. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The altar occupies the entire end wall of the main hall with a simple soul tablet for worship. Its external walls are partially plastered and painted. Its front façade is with fair-faced green bricks. The doorframe is of granite. No name of the hall is at the entrance.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Chans to remind their settlement in Luk Keng.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The authenticity of the building is kept.

Authenticity

It has group value with the Chan Tze Tak Ancestral Hall in the village.

Group Value

The children in the village studied at a village school called Man Lam School (文林學校) named after a branch of the Chans called Man Lam Tong (文林堂) in the old days. The school was closed in 1952 and replaced by the Luk Keng Public School (鹿頸學校). The ancestral hall is still used for ancestral worship of the Chan ancestors. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual has been discontinued since the 1970s. The Chans do participate in the Da Chiu (打醮) of Luk Keng and Nam Chung (南涌) held once every ten years.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*