

Historic Building Appraisal
Ho Village House
Fan Lau Tsuen, Fan Lau, Lantau Island

Fan Lau Tsuen (分流村) in Lantau Island is a village on the west bank of Fan Lau facing Fan Lau Sai Wan (分流西灣). It was a small village occupied by the Leungs (梁氏), the Ngs (吳氏), the Chans (陳氏), the Hos (何氏) and the Lams (藍氏) who engaged themselves in fishing and agricultural farming. The Leungs were first settlers and they formed the majority. Not more than 200 people were in the village even in the heydays. A large number of boulders are on the hills behind the village which was previously known as Shek Sun Village (石筍村, Village of Stone Shoots). Most of the villagers have moved out of the village to the urban areas. Some of the elderly who moved to Tai O (大澳) or Pui O (貝澳) occasionally revisit the village. **Ho Village House** in the southern end of the village was built by the Hos probably in the late 19th century for their own use for six generations until it has been left vacant since the 1960s.

*Historical
Interest*

Ho Village House is a short distance from the beach facing the sea of Fan Lau Sai Wan. It is a near square detached building built against the hill in its south with its entrance facing northwest. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building with a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. The hall is with a living room and a bedroom. An open foreground is in front of the building. A small detached structure was on the left of the building for use as a bathroom and toilet. The building is constructed of green bricks and rubbles with its walls to support its pitched roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Part of the building is plastered and painted. The floors are with cement screedings.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is a residential building to remind the settlement of the Hos in the village.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The building is surrounded with overgrowth.

Authenticity

The present owner of the house Ho Sun-fa (何新發) was born in 1933 in the house. He was the only son of the family. He was educated in Leung Ying Kong Ancestral Hall (應綱梁公祠) in the northern part of the village. It is the only place in the village where he could have education. The school at the ancestral hall was discontinued in 1956 when a new school was built in the

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

village by the government. The ancestral hall has a history of over 100 years. He was engaged in fishing and farming. He made worship to the graves of his ancestors buried at the hill in the south of the village at Chung Yeung (重陽節) and Ching Ming Festivals (清明節). He resided in the houses for four decades before he moved to Tai O. A soul tablet of his ancestors is still kept at the house for worship.

Ho Village House is at a distance from the cluster of houses in Fan Lau Tsuen and enjoys a more private setting. The Village House is situated at the foot of the mountain surrounded with fields. There are not many village houses left in the village, and large areas of fields occupy the rest of the territory of Fan Lau Tsuen. There is a historic fort nearby, which is now one of the popular spots for the hikers to visit. Physically, it is close to other historical buildings such as Leung Ying Kong Ancestral Hall (應綱梁公祠) which is one of the recorded items under Antiquities and Monuments Office, and the historical item of Tin Hau Temple (天后古廟). *Group Value*