

Historic Building Appraisal
Chan Study Hall
Tai Wan San Tsuen, Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island

The Chan Study Hall (陳氏家塾) in Tai Wan San Tsuen (大灣新村, Tai Wan New Village) of Yung Shue Wan (榕樹灣), Lamma Island, was built as a study hall cum ancestral hall in 1921 by the Chans (陳) who moved from Nantou (南頭) of Shenzhen (深圳) north of Hong Kong some three hundred years ago. A branch of the ancestor, Chan Ying-yip (陳應業), moved to Tai Wan Kau Tsuen (大灣舊村) of Yung Shue Wan. Due to the increase of population, they branched out to establish a new village (San Tsuen) in its south-west in the early 20th century. An old study hall was originally built at the old village. When it became dilapidated, a new one (the present study hall) was constructed to replace it. *Historical Interest*

The study hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of local granite blocks and green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls have been plastered and painted with cream colour. Its floors and the offering table are covered with brown or red patterned glazed ceramic tiles. The doorframe is of granite. The granite board above the entrance doorway is engraved with the name of the study hall and painted gold colour. A big character '福' (well-being) is engraved on the red folding door at the entrance. The colourful altar at the end wall of the main hall houses three rows of finely carved soul tablets of the ancestors for worship. Above the altar, a wooden board with the name of Wing Chuen Tong (穎川堂), a tong name of all Chans, is hanged under the roof. The two ridges are each decorated with a set of red *ruilong* (夔龍) mouldings at the two ends. *Architectural Merit*

It is a study hall cum ancestral hall to witness the settlement of the Chans in Yung Shue Wan of Lamma Island. *Rarity*

It has considerable built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

Despite the ceramic floor tiles added, the authenticity of the hall is basically kept. *Authenticity*

Since its establishment, the study hall provided education to the village children of the Chans and others in the village and those in neighbouring villages. It was the best one in Yung Shue Wan. Classics and traditional subjects were taught in the old days. Modern subjects were introduced in the early *Social Value, & Local Interest*

decades of the last century providing six classes from primary one to six. After the Second World War, a new public school was built in the area to meet the rapid demand of education. The study hall ceased its education role starting from 1949. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual was held at the study hall on the 15th of each first lunar month for the new born baby boys of previous year and distribution of pork for all male members after the ritual. The ritual has been discontinued. The function of ancestral worship is still maintained at the hall.