

Historic Building Appraisal
No. 10 Wong Chuk Hang San Wai
Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong Island

No. 10 Wong Chuk Hang San Wai (黃竹坑新圍) is an old house built in around 1890 by the Chow (周) family. A Hong Kong Wai (香港圍) was first inhabited in the 15th century in the area and later expanded and divided into two, the Kau Wai (舊圍, Old Walled village) and the San Wai (新圍, New Walled Village). The former was established in the Kangxi (康熙, 1662-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty whilst the later in around 1860-70. The Chows have settled in the villages for some 300 years and one of their descendents was the late Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣, 1861-1959). The house was first owned by a Chow Kwai-hing (周貴興) and later his son Yan-kit (恩傑). Yan-kit's wife stayed in the house for over 60 years until 1989. The house was surrendered to the government in 1992 for a plan to develop the area into a park.

***Historical
Interest***

The house is a Qing vernacular building of Hakka (客家) *doulang* (斗廊) style. It has a two-hall three-bay layout with a light well between the halls. It is in a symmetrical design which main hall is flanked by two side rooms, one on its left and right. The side room to the right of the entrance hall is the kitchen. Above the main hall and the rear side rooms are cocklofts. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Its door frame, wall bases and wall corners are with granite blocks. At its entrance doorway is a *tanglung* (趟籠), a wooden sliding fence. Its ridges are with geometric plastered mouldings. At its entrance, the fascia board and wall friezes are with carvings and paintings of cranes, phoenixes and floral motifs. Plastered mouldings on the wall friezes of its front and side façades are with flowers, birds, unicorns, corns, and plants motifs. Its gables are with wall friezes of curling plants pattern painting. The highly decorated altar occupying the entire span of the main hall is with carvings of a theme called Two Phoenixes Adoring the Sun (雙鳳朝陽) symbolizing glory and grandeur. In its middle is the soul tablet of the Chows' ancestors for worship.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is one of the very few rare historic buildings on Hong Kong Island. It is to remind the settlement of the Chows in the old village.

Rarity

The tiny house has high built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

Its authenticity has been kept with its restoration made in 1996.

Authenticity

The old house to its left, No.11, is also of historic interest which will be retained. They are having related group value. *Group Value*

Up till the 1970s the villagers had minor agricultural activities in the area such as the growing of flowers and vegetables. *Social Value,
& Local
Interest*