

Historic Building Appraisal
Wong Chun Yu Ancestral Hall
Luk Keng Wong Uk, Luk Keng

The Wong Chun Yu Ancestral Hall (春儒黃公祠) in Luk Keng Wong Uk (鹿頸黃屋) was renovated in 1926. It was built before that year. The Wongs said it was constructed in the Kangxi (康熙, 1662-1722) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The Wongs moved from Fujian (福建) province to Guangdong (廣東) province in the 12th year of Hongwu (洪武, 1379) reign of the Ming (明) dynasty. Nai-sau (乃秀) and his two sons, Chun-yu (春儒) and Chun-mau (春茂), settled in Luk Keng in the Kangxi reign. The village is mainly occupied by the descendents of Chun-yu. The ancestral hall was named after him. **Historical Interest**

Located in two long parallel rows of village houses, the ancestral hall occupies the structure of two houses, one in front of the other. This alignment is very unusual for an ancestral hall. This might be an extension of the hall making use of two houses. The long and narrow hall is a Qing vernacular building having a plan of two houses each has a two-hall-one-courtyard layout. An additional open courtyard is between the two houses. The *dong chung* (檔中) is at the end of the front house whilst the altar is at the end wall of the rear house. The building is constructed of granite blocks and green bricks with its walls to support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The altar has a soul tablet of the Wong ancestors for worship. The ridges are with *ruilong* (夔龍) mouldings. The front façade is of fair-faced green bricks. The gilded name of the hall is engraved above the lintel with a couplet on the doorframe. A fascia board of flowers and lions carving is under the front eave. Two colourful *caimens* (彩門) are respectively hanged at the entrance and at the *dong chung* in the front hall. **Architectural Merit**

It is an ancestral hall to remind the settlement of the Wongs in Luk Keng. **Rarity**

The ancestral hall composing of two aligned houses is rare. It has considerable built heritage value. **Built Heritage Value**

The building was renovated in 1926 and recently in 2003. Its authenticity is kept. **Authenticity**

It has group value with Chan Nam Tak Ancestral Hall (男德陳公祠) and another ancestral hall of the Wongs in the village. **Group Value**

The Wongs were farmers engaged in rice and vegetable growing. They have a lot of land in the area and have great influence in the Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角) area. Wong Cheong (黃昌) and Wong Lap-tuen (黃立端), J.P., were village representatives of Luk Keng. The latter was also an inspector of education and the chairman of the Education Section of the Heung Yee Kuk (鄉議局). The village children in the early 20th century studied at the Man Lam School (文林學校) until 1952. After which it was replaced by the Luk Keng Public School (鹿頸學校). The ancestral hall is used for ancestral worship of the Wong ancestors. Wedding ceremony and funeral of villagers over 90 can be held at the hall. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is normally held on the 15th day of the first lunar month in the hall.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*