

**N65**

**南丫島鹿洲村7號**  
**No. 7 Luk Chau Village, Lamma Island**





窗花  
Window grilles



正立面  
Front elevation



渦形圖案及直線圖案  
Volute curvilinear pattern and  
vertical pattern



露台圍欄  
Balustrade of the balcony

## Historic Building Appraisal

### No. 7 Luk Chau Village, Lamma Island

Situated in the north-eastern part of the Lamma Island<sup>1</sup> Luk Chau **Historical Interest** Village nestles beneath Luk Chau Mountain and looks out to Luk Chau Island and beyond to Luk Chau Wan.<sup>2</sup> The calm waters and abundant fish in this bay attracted people who relied on fishing and farming for their livelihood to settle in the area and they eventually established Luk Chau Village.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the residents of Luk Chau Village bear the surname Iu (more commonly transliterated as Yiu nowadays). According to the land records No. 7 Luk Chau Village situates on three private lots which are owned by Iu Fu (or Iu Foo 姚富 also known as Iu Foo Kee 姚富記 or Yiu Hon Ting 姚漢廷) and others. Having established a construction firm Iu Foo Kee at No. 573 Nathan Road in Yau Ma Tei on the Kowloon Peninsula<sup>4</sup> Iu Foo stated in a newspaper advertisement published in 1935 that he was an experienced contractor whose business had been in operation for over 20 years.<sup>5</sup> A 1938 newspaper article reported that he had completed numerous works for the Taikoo Dockyard and the government of Hong Kong.<sup>6</sup> His business continued at the same address even during the Japanese occupation.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lamma Island is one of the outlying islands located southwest of Hong Kong Island. The earliest known written records that mention Lamma Island date as far back as 1464 when it is mentioned in the *Dongguan Gazetteer* (《東莞志》). Called Pok Liu Shan (泊寮山) at that time, it was later referred to as Pok Liu (泊寮) in the 1819 edition of the *Xin'an Gazetteer* (《嘉慶新安縣志》).

During the Ming dynasty the imperial court granted Lamma Island to an ancestor of the Yiu (姚) clan who resided in Nantou (南頭 now Nanshan District Shenzhen 深圳市南山區) and who managed the land rights of Lamma Island from his ancestral hall Yiu Yi Yin Tong (姚貽燕堂). During the reign of the Kangxi emperor in the Qing dynasty the Yiu clan was forced to move inland by the "Evacuation Edict (遷界令)". After the edicts were lifted the Yiu clan leased the land to villagers from the Chow (周) and Chan (陳) clans to cultivate; this is documented in the land rates section of the 1819 edition of the *Xin'an Gazetteer*.

<sup>2</sup> Captain Belcher of the British naval survey ship *HMS Sulphur* established a survey station on Luk Chau Island in 1841 and produced an initial chart of the area within the same year. The official chart that Belcher later created in 1843 named it George Island. The term Luk Chau ("deer island") first appears in 1866 in *Map of the San-On-District* produced by the missionary Simeone Volonteri.

<sup>3</sup> Local stories suggest that the ancestors of the villagers of Luk Chau Village originated from Xixiang Bao'an County (寶安縣西鄉) where they farmed and fished for their living. It was their fishing that eventually led them to Luk Chau Wan (Luk Chau Bay). A villager had once mentioned that Luk Chau Village got its name because the nearby area was populated by barking deer (赤麂 commonly known as 黃麂).

<sup>4</sup> "Claim Fails. Payment For Goods Supplied Disputed. Prior Settlement" *South China Morning Post* 5 March 1949.

<sup>5</sup> "New advertisements. Notice" *South China Morning Post*, 9 July 1935.

<sup>6</sup> "HIRE OF LAUNCHES Salvage of vessels leads to litigation" *South China Morning Post* 30 June 1938.

<sup>7</sup> 《電話番號簿》，香港電話局，1943年11月30日。

The house at No. 7 Luk Chau Village stands on Lots 104 105 and 198 in D.D. 5 of Lamma Island. Although there is no specific record of the exact year in which it was constructed clues can still be found in land records that help trace its history. While Lots 104 and 105 both recorded as “House Courtyard” had been owned by the Yius (or Ius) since the 1910s Lot 198 was sold at a public auction on 2 August 1940.<sup>8</sup> In addition the earliest extant aerial photo in which the house can be seen was taken in 1945 suggesting that it was likely built before the Second World War given that construction works was difficult to carry out during the war due to the scarcity of resources.

According to the villagers it was believed that the house was the ancestral home of Iu Fu’s family but it was gradually vacated from the 1990s onwards and the condition of the house has deteriorated in the absence of any occupants.<sup>9</sup>

The house at No. 7 Luk Chau Village is a two-storey village house mainly built of red brick and finished with Shanghai plaster. The house is topped with a flat roof, with the exception of the middle section, which features a double-layered Chinese pan-and-roll tiled roof. Supported by cantilevered beams, there is a pediment decorated with clean horizontal lines and a circular pattern at the top of the house. Timber windows, accompanied by windowsills and lintel mouldings, are installed at regular intervals on both floors, while there is a concrete balcony on the first floor that is also supported by cantilevered beams.

***Architectural  
Merit***

The house skilfully juxtaposes Art Deco motifs with a typical village house design. Geometric shapes are obvious on the front façade especially at the window and door surrounds and on the balustrades while they also feature on the metal window grilles on the ground and first floors. The windows are further decorated with a series of volute curvilinear patterns and vertical patterns. A cast iron downpipe fitted with a fluted hopper head is installed on the first floor.

There is a side alley that allows for direct access into the rear of the house through a very narrow door at its end and the first floor also offers a small balcony that extends across almost the whole width of the alley. The rear elevation facing the back alley is plain apart from a square chimney with square

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<sup>8</sup> Government Notification No. 354, *Hong Kong Government Gazette*, 16 July 1940.

<sup>9</sup> Information provided by Mr. Yiu a villager of Luk Chau Village when members of staff of the Antiquities and Monuments Office conducted site visit on 11 April 2024.

holes on all sides. It is believed that the chimney was used to exhaust hot fumes from the kitchen.

The house is a reminder of the settlement history in the area. While the village otherwise consists of simple rural houses No. 7 Luk Chau Village is unique not only for its height but also its western appearance. Although the pitched roof has fallen into disrepair over the years other distinctive features – including the balcony and the Art Deco ornamental elements of the windows and doors – have largely been retained and reflect a high degree of authenticity. The use of geometric shapes on the window and door surrounds and on the balustrades is rarely seen in typical village house design.

***Authenticity & Rarity***

No. 7 Luk Chau Village is a privately owned residence that was completed before the Second World War. By the 1990s there were no longer any residents living in the house. Probably because of its remote location on Lamma Island and the absence of regular ferry service at the nearby pier few people other than the local villagers know about the house and in this respect it is not of high social value or local interest.

***Social Value & Local Interest***

The Tin Hau Temple in Yung Shue Wan (Grade 3) is the only graded historic building on Lamma Island. Given the architectural style of the house which is different from the typical village houses that neighbour it and the fact that it does not form part of any cluster of buildings in the area the house bears little group value in its immediate context.

***Group Value***

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