

Annex H4

Detailed Records of Lei Uk

Overview of Lei Uk

Historical Appraisal ⁽¹⁾


Sha Lo Tung Lei Uk (沙螺洞李屋) is in the upland valley among the hills of Sha Lo Tung south-west of Pat Sin Range (八仙嶺), Tai Po. Formerly known as Lo Wai (老圍), it is also called Lei Uk as it was occupied by the Leis (李氏) who came to the area which had been occupied by the Cheungs (張氏) some 300 years ago. With the increase of village population, the Cheungs moved westward and established their own village then called Cheung Uk (張屋, Village of the Cheungs). The old village was called Lei Uk, Village of the Leis. Both the Leis and Cheungs were Hakkas and the former came from Guishan (歸善, now known as Waizhou 惠州) of Guangdong (廣東) province. Lei Tsz-ching (李子禎, 1656-1728), the 15th generation ancestor settled first in Wai Ha (圍下) village of Shuen Wan (船灣) in 1689 and his son Wai-yan (維仁, 1684-1770) married a girl of the Cheungs in the then Lo Wai. He later moved uphill and settled in the village becoming the first generation ancestor of the Leis in Sha Lo Tung. The present Lei Uk village is two separate irregular-shaped rows of village houses on the western foots of two slopes. The entire village is deserted with the villagers moving out to the city areas or overseas when the agricultural activities dropped. The first row to the east has most of the houses long fallen into ruin whilst the west row has been deteriorating.

General Architectural Appraisal

The two rows of Hakka (客家) village houses are single-storey buildings of one-hall Qing (清) vernacular design. They were connected together in three rows, the longest being in the west known as Ma Tseuk Ha (麻竹下). The other two are in the east row known as Lo Wai (老圍). An ancestral hall was in the latter row. The village houses are constructed of green or mud bricks or a mix of both with rubble having its walls supporting its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The houses were without courtyard and one or two pieces of glass was among the clay tiles on its roof for natural light. A stove was built inside the small house with living room on the ground floor and bedroom on its mezzanine floor. As the houses were relatively small, no columns and trusses were constructed. Timber board and joists were used to support its mezzanine floor. Decorations in the form of painting friezes and plastered mouldings are minimal with floral and bird motifs most of them faded away due to weathering.

There should be around 20 houses built in the village. However, there are only 3 sites recorded from the survey as many of the houses are ruined or totally covered with vegetation. Details of recorded sites are presented below.

(1) Historic Building Appraisal, Sha Lo Tung Lei Uk, information on line; available from http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Monument/form/Brief_Information_on_proposed_Grade_III_Items.pdf

Site Code: GB2-01	Site Name: Ruins at the southwest area of Lei Uk
Full Address: Southwest area of Lei Uk (see <i>Plan 2</i> in <i>Annex H2</i>)	
Orientation: West	Category: Built Structure (Residential House)
Age of structure: Early 19 th century	
Description of Surrounding Environment: Two rows of village houses constructed at Lei Uk by a slope.	
Historical Appraisal: See historical appraisal above.	
Associations with Historical/Cultural Events or Individuals: Lei and Cheung Clans	
Inscriptions: Nil	
Architectural Appraisal: <i>Layout:</i> See architectural appraisal above. Single-storey rectangular layout village house with shared party walls.	
<i>Construction Material:</i>	
Roof: Pitched tile	Windows: Iron bars fencing, metal framed
Walls: green or mud bricks or a mix of both with rubble	Doors: Wooden
<i>Decoration Features:</i> Decorations in the form of painting friezes and plastered mouldings are minimal with floral and bird motifs most of them faded away due to weathering.	
Interior: Not accessible/abandoned	
Details of Architectural Features: See photographic records.	
Past and Present Uses: They were residential houses and are currently ruined.	
Notes on Any Modifications: Some of the buildings were modified by modern material. Such as metal framed glass window.	
Existing Condition: Unroofed, ruined and mostly covered by vegetation and abandoned.	
Photographic Records: 	
General View	

Site Code: GB2-01

Site Name: Ruins at the southwest area of Lei Uk



Existing Condition



Front Elevation



Front Elevation



Front Elevation



Front Elevation



Some example of Interior




Some example of Interior



Some example of Interior



Some example of Interior

Site Code: GB2-02	Site Name: Leis Ancestral Hall
Full Address: Northeast area of Lei Uk (Lo Wai) (see <i>Plan 2</i> in <i>Annex H2</i>)	
Orientation: West	Category: Built Structure (Ancestral Hall)
Age of structure: Early 19 th century.	
Description of Surrounding Environment: Two rows of village houses constructed at Lei Uk by a slope	
Historical Appraisal: See historical appraisal above.	
Associations with Historical/Cultural Events or Individuals: Lei and Cheung Clans	
Inscriptions: See photographic record showing Lei Ancestral Hall in Chinese. (李氏家祠)	
Architectural Appraisal:	
<i>Layout:</i> See architectural appraisal above. Single-storey rectangular layout village house	
<i>Construction Material:</i>	
Roof: Pitched tile	Windows: Nil
Walls: Masonry and green bricks	Doors: Wooden
<i>Decoration Features:</i> Wall frieze painting fading away	
Interior: Not accessible	
Details of Architectural Features: See photographic records.	
Past and Present Uses: It is used as the Leis ancestral hall.	
Notes on Any Modifications: Nil.	
Existing Condition: Good.	
Photographic Records:	
	
General View	




Front View



Side View



Wall frieze painting fading away

Site Code: GB2-03	Site Name: Ruined houses in Lo Wai
Full Address: Northeast area of Lei Uk (Lo Wai) (see <i>Plan 2</i> in <i>Annex H2</i>)	
Orientation: West	Category: Built Structure (Residential House)
Age of structure: Early 19 th century.	
Description of Surrounding Environment: Two rows of village houses constructed at Lei Uk by a slope.	
Historical Appraisal: See historical appraisal above.	
Associations with Historical/Cultural Events or Individuals: Lei and Cheung Clans	
Inscriptions: Nil	
Architectural Appraisal: <i>Layout:</i> See general architectural appraisal above. Single-storey rectangular layout village house	
<i>Construction Material:</i>	
Roof: Pitched tile	Windows: Iron bars fence
Walls: Masonry and green bricks	Doors: Wooden
<i>Decoration Features:</i> Nil	
Interior: Not accessible/abandoned.	
Details of Architectural Features: See photographic records.	
Past and Present Uses: Residential houses left abandoned.	
Notes on Any Modifications: Nil.	
Existing Condition: Unroofed, ruined and mostly covered by vegetation and abandoned.	
Photographic Records:	
	
General View	



Examples of ruins



Examples of ruins