

## **“Historical and Architectural Traces of Sam Tung Uk” Audio Transcript**

### **Location: Dwelling of the eldest branch**

### **Theme: Architectural features of a vernacular dwelling**

After leaving the Chan Ancestral Hall on the central axis. We're now in the dwelling of the eldest branch of the family. It used to be the residence of Chan Kin-sheung, the 15th- generation descendant of the Chan clan.

In the middle of this dwelling is an open courtyard. Like the open courtyards of the Ancestral Hall, it is an important space providing ventilation and natural lighting. There is a room on the left and right side of this courtyard. Do you notice an L-shaped brick wall next to the main entrance? It used to be a bathroom for the villagers.

The room on your left was the kitchen. It has a stove built with grey bricks. In the old days, villagers cooked with a cast iron wok on the stove and used firewood as fuel for cooking. The smoke from burning would be discharged via the chimney behind. You can also see various utensils near the stove reflecting some of the traditional techniques used, such as an ant-proof jar and a rice steamer.

The room opposite the kitchen is a storeroom, used mainly for storing farming tools. You can learn about many of the old farming tools here.

Now you can cross the courtyard into the main house. The main hall, located in the middle, was the main living room. Furnished with a wooden table and four benches, the main hall was used as a dining area or for family gatherings. The two side rooms are furnished as bedrooms.

There is a cockloft in the main house, which was used mainly for storage. For safety reasons, please do not climb up to the cockloft. You can see a tile made of glass on the rooftop, which echoes the concept of environmentally friendly design from a modern perspective.

You're welcome to continue your tour in the dwelling of the eldest branch. The exhibition panels here introduce the history of the Chan clan in Sam Tung Uk, traditional customs, past economic

activities, and so forth. Or you can leave the dwelling, turn left, and walk to the end of Middle Lane, which will lead you to the row houses.