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The Old Phuket Town has a long history and has many Sino – Portuguese buildings that blend Chinese and European styles. These buildings have existed for more than a hundred years. The Old Phuket Town was built on riches reaped from Phuket’s tin-mining boom of the last century, when the metal was an extremely valuable commodity. Moreover, it has an excellent Chinese Shrine with a rich Chinese style and culture including history behind it. There are distinctive cultures and traditions in the town such as Baba – Peranakan culture which deeply blends several customs and traditions from Thailand, China, Malaysia, and the West, for example, apparel of Baba – Peranakan, and Baba – Peranakan weddings. Chinese God Worship Day in Chinese New Year festival, and Hokkien Chinese theater puppet performance in the Chinese God Worship Day are other examples of traditions which have been taking place for over a hundred years in the Old Phuket Town, and they form a particular and significant component of the heritage of the Old Phuket Town.

The purpose of this research project is to study the cultural landscape of the Old Phuket Town such as Sino – Portuguese architecture, Baba – Peranakan culture, and Chinese beliefs and art. The result of this study will be to analyze the aforementioned aspects in order to recommend and contribute to interpretation plans, streetscape upgrades, and cultural tourism for the Old Phuket Town.

The research gained in this paper involved many lengthy interviews with local people from the area over a period of many visits. In addition to the first hand sources, a lot of the information within comes from data revealed in literature associated with particular aspects which were important to describe details when the personal interviews were found to be insufficient for adequate descriptions of certain points.

It is to be hoped that this paper will be useful for those who want to study and conserve cultural landscapes. It may also apply to other communities who want to conserve cultural landscapes and pass their community’s identity on to future generations.

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Independent Study Advisor's signature .....

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