

Mud building Si Kak Market: an early commercial area



When the Chinese settled in, they built mud buildings as places to trade and exchange goods. It was a single-storey shophouse with 4-5 continuous rooms. The floor was compacted dirt or covered with bricks. The walls were made of raw clay. Inside was a mezzanine (lao teng) that was used to store products. The front was open, using a removable door or a hinged door. Around 1904, the intersection of Charoen Ratchadet Road and Nakhon Sawan Road was called "Si Kak Market." The clay buildings of Chinese people lined up on both sides of the road until the area in front of Wat Pho Si. It was the first commercial area of Muang Maha Sarakham with products, such as soap, thread and needles, pickled fruits and vegetables, salted mackerel, kerosene, matches, pencils, torch, hoes and shovels, pitch for waterproofing, dyeing colors (especially from khe tree) and siyayon (copper sulfate). It was a place to buy agricultural products and forest products from villagers.