

Ta Mok's house was built on October 17, 1993 on 1.614 hectares of land. It is located two kilometers from the roundabout of Anlong Veng district, followed by a right turn onto the national road for about 500 meters. Ta Mok's house is situated in Akphiwat Village, Anlong Veng Commune, Anlong Veng District, Oddar Meanchey Province. The land upon which Ta Mok's house was built had been a small, elongated hill. However, in order to construct the dam and O'Chik Bridge, worker had to extract the rock from the hill. Thus, the hill was leveled and Ta Mok decided to build his house there.

The First House: Built in 1993, the house was constructed of wood with asbestos-cement roof tiles and a concrete floor. Ta Mok used this house as his headquarters while supervising the workers who were building O'Chik Dam. The house was also used as a site for parking trucks and cars.

The Second House: Construction began in 1994 and was completed in 1996. The house consisted of three floors: the top floor was Ta Mok's bedroom; the middle floor was Ta Mok's living room. Paintings of the temples of Angkor Wat and Preah Vihear, as well as a map of Democratic Kampuchea, were hung on the walls; and the ground floor had only one entrance, which was four meters wide. No one was allowed to enter except Ta Mok. The room was completely closed and seemed to contain secret items.

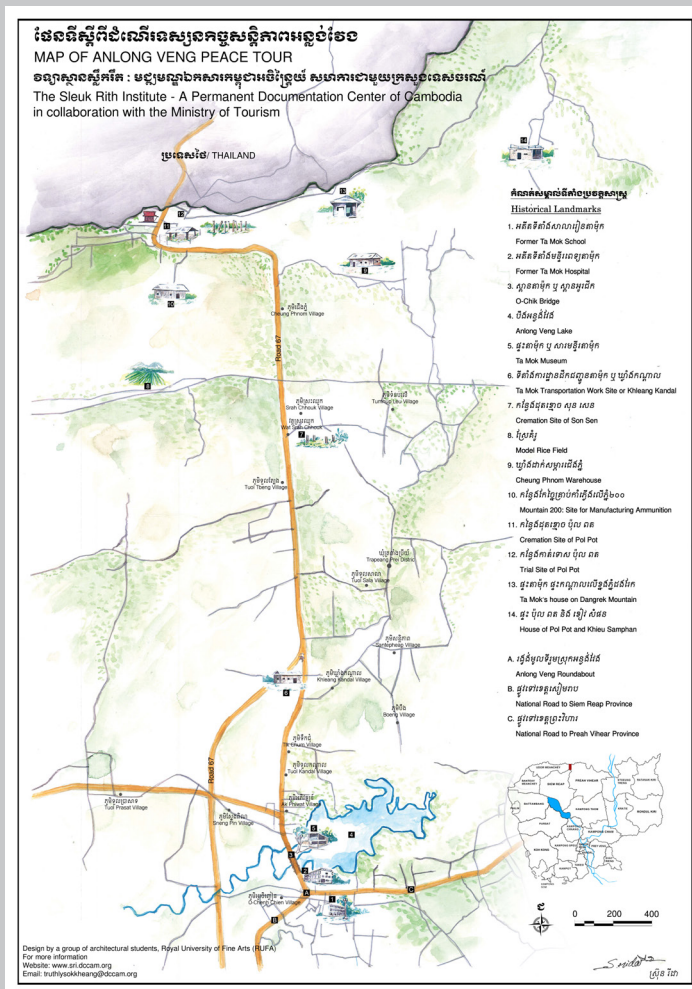
Based on a conversation with Sann Saroeun, the worker who helped build Ta Mok's house, the ground floor was used to store important items such as statues, ancient artifacts, and various sized Buddha statues. It was Ta Mok's sacred place, where he burned incense and prayed on holy days.

The Third House: The house was very large, since it was built to accommodate Ta Mok's family members as well as other visitors who came requesting cattle, rice, and unhusked rice. In addition, some people came there to receive various donations.

The Fourth House: Built in 1993, this house was for the cooks and other staff members. It was considered to be the kitchen. The house consisted of three stories—the ground floor was used as a cellar; the second floor was a place for the staff and subordinates to eat the meals; and the third floor was used for bedrooms for the cooks.



Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, Yun Yat, **Ta Mok**, Vorn Vet



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Anlong Veng History Museum

Ta Mok's Museum, Ta Mok's Former House

Ministry of Tourism & Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)



It is Anlong Veng's remarkable history that makes it a unique and fascinating place that remains a district of much debate. Anlong Veng was the last district to integrate into the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in 1998 after former Khmer Rouge chief Chhit Choeun, better known as Ta Mok, had governed the area since 1989. Ta Mok had been the chief of the South West zone of the Khmer Rouge's governance over Cambodia between 1975 and 1979 in which the nation was known as 'Democratic Kampuchea'. The regime is believed to be responsible for the death of nearly 2 million people.

Ta Mok grew in prominence during his leadership of Anlong Veng and was revered by the people of the district. To accommodate his people, Ta Mok spent several months building basic infrastructure, which has remained a legacy of his time in power over Anlong Veng. Out of 14 historical sites designated under the RGC's sub-degree, Ta Mok's former house is recognized and was converted into a museum in the early 2000s. Rarely do visitors to Anlong Veng miss the opportunity to take a look at the so-called "Anlong Veng History Museum", which exists within Ta Mok's former house.

“100 Photos for Memory & Education”

The “100 Photos” exhibition inside Anlong Veng’s museum— which used to be Ta Mok’s house—begins its display to the public for the first time. Each single photo conveys an untold story of Cambodia’s troubled past. The photos are intended to be used as educational instruments that will, hopefully, help promote understanding and provoke critical reflection. While being a stark reminder of the past, this exhibition is also physical evidence, which preserves the memory of the horrific events the Cambodian people have endured.

After Anlong Veng’s reintegration into Cambodia in 1998, Ta Mok’s house was converted into a Museum two years later. It has been ranked as the most popular site of all the 14 historical sites in Anlong Veng. It has received approximately ten thousand visitors per year, and locals form the majority of the visitors. With the need to revitalize the site for a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the history of war and peace in Cambodia, the Anlong Veng Peace Center, an initiative of Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, is taking a step forward to display this exhibition.



Anlong Veng’s reintegration into government in 1998

The First House does not have any walls, but just a roof. Upon entry, visitors will notice a billboard consisting of the precincts history, as well as a map for guidance. A nearly damaged, ragtag truck bears a sign of “Mobile Radio Station of Pol Pot” on the right hand-side, while two cages are visible that were used as a prison. The cages are remembered as a holding facility for Ta Mok’s two high-profile prisoners— So Saroeun, known simply as ‘05’, and Miech San, known as ‘06’. These two prisoners were commanders under Democratic Kampuchea’s former Prime Minsiter, Pol Pot, and were believed to be responsible for the killing of former Khmer Rouge Leader Son Sen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, and his family.



The Second House Stepping into “The Second House,” there is an open space with paintings of Angkor Wat and Preah Vihear temples. An information billboard of the exhibition is hung on the wall and directs the visitor to the top floor where photo exhibitions are on display. Starting from the period before the Khmer Rouge regime, a dozen photos hang on the outside of Ta Mok’s former bedroom showing officials of the Khmer Republic regime (1970-1975) led by Field Marshall Lon Nol. Before going down through the stairs, a series of photos mark the beginning of the DK regime from early 1975.



The Third House shows the entire period of the DK regime and its movement up until its demise in 1998. Starting from the walls on the right hand-side, the photo exhibition gives a glimpse of the early period of 1975 and moves through to the period of 1976 and 1977. The color photos represent the period of 1978 when Gunnar Bergstrom, a pro- communist reporter,

visited KR cooperatives and construction sites. Then, the photos show the period of 1979 when people travelled back to their native villages. The final parts cover the period of Anlong Veng under Ta Mok’s rule and its final reintegration into the RGC in 1998.



The Fourth House is the visual art room where visitors could view a series of documentary films and newly produced films on Anlong Veng. Visitors can use the space to do reflections on the premises and its history.



Anlong Veng Peace Center, Ta Mok’s former meeting house, on top of Dang-rek mountain.