

Historic Building Appraisal
Law Ancestral Hall
No. 47 Sheung Kwai Chung Village, Tsuen Wan

The Law Ancestral Hall (羅氏家祠) of Sheung Kwai Chung Tsuen (上葵涌村, Upper Kwai Chung Village) in Kwai Chung, Tsuen Wan (荃灣), is one of the ancestral halls of the village. The village was a multi-lineage village occupied mainly by the Tsangs (曾), the Chans (陳) and the Laws (羅). The Laws moved to the village in the late 18th to the early 19th century. It is believed that the ancestral hall was built around the period. The hall was for the ancestral worship of the Laws. *Historical Interest*

Located in the back row of village houses of the village, the ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan. The building is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and painted. The altar is in the middle of the end wall of the hall housing a big soul tablet for worship. The front façade of the hall is painted red with imitation brick lines. No decoration is on the ridge nor at the recessed entrance. Granite is used for the doorframe of the entrance and the courtyard floor. *Architectural Merit*

The building is an ancestral hall to remind the settlement of the Laws in Sheung Kwai Chung Tsuen of Tsuen Wan. *Rarity*

It has little built heritage value. *Built Heritage Value*

The building is in upkeep condition. Its authenticity is kept. *Authenticity*

It has group value with other ancestral halls in the village. *Group Value*

Other than regular worship of the ancestors at the hall, special offerings are made at the festivals including the Chinese New Year, the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節), the Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節) and others. They never had Dim Dang (點燈) ritual at the hall. They did have wedding and funeral ceremonies at the hall. *Social Value, & Local Interest*