

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Li Ancestral Hall

#### Kuk Po Lo Wai, Luk Keng

Kuk Po (谷埔), north of Luk Keng (鹿頸), has six villages including Kuk Po Lo Wai (谷埔老圍), Kuk Po San Uk Ha (谷埔新屋下), Yi To (二肚), Sam To (三肚), Sze To (四肚) and Ng To (五肚). Kuk Po Lo Wai is the oldest village. Most of the villagers are Hakkas (客家) including the Yeungs (楊), the Sung (宋), the Chengs (鄭), the Lis (李), the Yaus (邱), the Hos (何) and the Ngs (吳). The Yeungs were the earliest settlers who moved to Kuk Po about 300 years ago. The Lis have two ancestral halls. This one (Ji Hei Lau Fong, 紫氣流芳) is on the right of another Li ancestral hall. They are on the same alignment facing north-west. It is not known when it was built. It was probably constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

***Historical Interest***

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. It is constructed of green bricks and mud bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Parts of the walls are plastered and some of the plasters have peeled off. The finely carved wooden altar occupies the entire end wall of the main hall housing a soul tablet of the Lee ancestors for worship. The gable walls of the entrance hall are in rectangular shape. No decoration is on the front ridge. The name of the hall is moulded on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall paintings of flowers motif are under the internal eaves.

***Architectural Merit***

It is an ancestral hall of the Lees to witness their settlement in Kuk Po.

***Rarity***

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage Value***

It is not upkept properly showing deterioration. Its authenticity is basically kept.

***Authenticity***

It has group value with the other ancestral hall of the Lis to its right.

***Group Value***

The ancestral hall is still for ancestral worship. Wedding and funeral ceremonies were held at the hall with banquets served. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year was held at the hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Chinese New Year. The lanterns hung at the hall would not be burnt until the next ritual held.

***Social Value, & Local Interest***