

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Leung Ancestral Hall**  
**Nos. 21 & 32 Tai Hang Hau, Sai Kung**

Tai Hang Hau (大坑口) is a single-clan Hakka (客家) village in Clear Water Bay (清水灣) of Sai Kung facing Sheung Sze Wan (相思灣). It was occupied by the Leungs (梁) originated from Banshe village (板石村) of Changping (常平) in Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東) province. Their founding ancestor is Leung Cheuk-fu (梁卓富) who came to settle in the area in the 1740s. He came with his four brothers to Hong Kong and one of them died on the way. The others settled in Pak Kong village (北港村) of Sai Kung and Ma Kwu Lam (馬牯纜) village in Shap Sze Heung (十四鄉). It is not known when the Leung Ancestral Hall (梁氏家祠) was built. It could be existed as early as before 1907 as the land record has the year recorded. It is the only ancestral hall in the village. It is a family ancestral hall of the Leungs also called On Ding Tong (安定堂). The Leungs were fishermen and farmers engaged in fishing and rice growing. Tin Hau (天后) deity has been their patron who is worshipped at the ancestral hall.

**Historical  
Interest**

The ancestral hall is situated in two rows of houses in the village. The two rows of houses are the oldest buildings in the village. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. The ancestral hall is located in the two parallel rows of houses occupying the structures of two houses, one in front of the other. This alignment is unusual for an ancestral hall. This might be an extension of the ancestral hall making use of two houses. The long and narrow hall is constructed of green and mud bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls except a small portion of its front façade are plastered and painted. The floors are with ceramic tiles. The altar is at the end wall of the main hall with a soul tablet of the Leungs for worship. A small statue of Tin Hau is on its left also for worship. A big wall painting of “雙鳳朝陽” (Two Phoenixes Adoring the Sun) is on the wall behind the altar. Two tie beams at the main hall are engraved with the Chinese characters “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons) and “長命富貴” (Longevity, Wealth and Honour). A fascia board is under the eave at the front entrance and at the main hall with carvings of flowers, birds, lions and treasures. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone on the wall above the lintel of the recessed entrance. A couplet engraved on stone is by the doorframe. The ridges are each with a pair of geometric pattern at its two ends.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall to witness the settlement of the Leungs in Tai Hang Hau village. **Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

Except the newly paved ceramic floor tiles, its authenticity is kept.

**Authenticity**

The Leungs had the ancestral worship and celebrations of festivals at the ancestral hall. They would make special offerings of fruits, vegetables, chickens, pork and paper money at the festivals. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual would be held at the hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the first lunar month for new born baby boys of previous years. They would first light a lantern at the Pak Kung (伯公) shrine of the village and hung it at the beam of the hall. Banquets for the celebration of the villagers' wedding, birthdays and other functions would be held at the open ground in front of the hall.

**Social Value,  
& Local Interest**