

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Lee Ancestral Hall

#### Ting Kok, Tai Po

Ting Kok (汀角) village is a relatively big village on the northern shore of Plover Cove (船灣), Tai Po. It was first inhabited by the Yips (葉) and the Laws (羅) in the Qianlong (乾隆, 1736-1795) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty. The Lees (李) then settled in the village some years later becoming the third largest clan and followed by the Yus (俞) and the Lams (林). Originated from the Fujian (福建) province, the Hakka (客家) Lees moved to Wuhua (五華) of Guangdong (廣東) province. They moved further south to Ting Kok and settled there engaged in fishing and agricultural farming growing rice and vegetable. The Lee Ancestral Hall (李氏家祠) was built around a hundred years ago. Over 10 ancestral halls are erected in the village but most of them have been modernized.

**Historical  
Interest**

Located in the last row of six rows of houses on the left of the village, the ancestral hall is connected to houses on either side. Two ancestral halls, one for the Yeungs (楊) and another family hall for the Lees, are on its left. The ancestral hall is a Qing vernacular building having one hall structure only. An open forecourt is in front of the building surrounded by a low wall with a new tall entrance gate topped with a roof dressed with yellow tiles. The building is constructed of mud bricks and green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and the floors cement-screeded. The red-brick altar is at the end wall of the hall housing a soul tablet of the Lee ancestors for worship. A tiny ceramic Kwun Yam (觀音) is on the left of the tablet also for worship. A smaller soul tablet is placed on a wooden table on the left of the hall also for worship. Behind the tablet on the wall is a big Chinese character “壽”(longevity) moulded on the wall with a big red circle flanked by two couplets. Two tie beams in the hall are engraved with “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons) and “奕世其昌” (Prosperity from Generation to Generation). The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of brown marble at the entrance gate above the gateway.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall to remind the settlement of the Lees in Ting Kok village.

**Rarity**

It has little built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

It was renovated in 2000. It has its authenticity kept.

**Authenticity**

It has group value with the many ancestral halls in the village.

*Group Value*

The ancestral hall was used as a venue to teach the village children in the 1930s until the Japanese Occupation in 1941. It continued to operate after the war in 1945 for about 10 years until it was replaced by the Ming Tak Primary School (明德學校). The hall has been for ancestral worship of the Lees. It was used a place to hold banquets for the Lees who had weddings or birthdays.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*