

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lee Ancestral Hall**  
**San Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok**

The Lee Ancestral Hall (李氏宗祠) in San Tsuen (新村) is in the closed area of Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). It was a multi-lineage village also occupied by the Lams (藍), the Yaus (邱), the Ngs (吳), the Lams (林) and others. The Lees were Hakkas (客家) moved from Bolou (博羅) of Guangdong (廣東) province to the village in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Lees later branched out to Muk Min Tau (木棉頭) village, south-east of the village. It is not known when the ancestral hall was built. It was probably constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The ancestral hall serves the Lees of the two villages. *Historical Interest*

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. It is constructed probably of green bricks, mud bricks and rubbles with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. A side chamber is on either side of the hall which have been for residential use with separate entrances. The front portion of the side chamber has been turned flat-roofed. The walls of the building are plastered. The altar is in the middle of the end wall housing a soul tablet of the Lee ancestors for worship. On the left of the tablet is a small ceramic statue of Kwun Yam (觀音) also for worship. Behind them on the wall are two pieces of red papers respectively with two big Chinese characters “壽” (longevity) and “福” (well-being) written on them. The name of the hall is engraved and gilded on a piece of stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. *Architectural Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Lees to remind their settlement in San Tsuen of Sha Tau Kok. *Rarity*

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage Value*

It was renovated in the 1960s. The authenticity is kept.

*Authenticity*

Other than ancestral worship, wedding ceremony and Dim Dang (點燈) ritual were held at the hall until the 1990s. The latter was for new born baby boys of previous year by lighting lanterns at the hall to recognize their formal rights of inheritance. *Social Value, & Local Interest*