

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Lee Ancestral Hall

#### Wo Liu, Sai Kung

Wo Liu (禾寮) in the east of Tai Mong Tsai (大網仔), Sai Kung, is a small village with only a few village houses occupied by the Lees (李) only since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Lee Ancestral Hall (李氏家祠) is the biggest building in the village. The Lees were Hakkas (客家) who moved from China to Wong Chuk Yeung (黃竹洋), a short distance north-west of Wo Liu. The Lees said that their distant ancestor was a court historian of the late Song Emperor Bing (宋帝昺, 1279). The ancestor in Wo Liu is called Li Ng-tsai (李五仔) who had four sons. His first son Fat (發) moved to the U.K. and his second and third sons Hei (喜) and Yau (有) moved to other places of Sai Kung. Only his fourth son Kun (庚) remained to stay in Wo Liu. Kun passed away in 1997 with his widow, a son and daughters still living in the area.

*Historical  
Interest*

The ancestral hall is a humble building facing north-west. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard in the middle bay is between the entrance and main halls. The side bays were with chambers and rooms on either side of the middle bay. It is constructed of green bricks and rubbles with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The altar is in the middle of the end wall with a simple soul tablet of the Tse ancestors for worship. The external walls were plastered but partially weathered showing the mud and rubbles. The side bays are in ruinous condition. The left one is occupied by weeds whilst the left one has its front roof collapsed now covered with corrugated sheets.

*Architectural  
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Lees to depict their settlement in Wo Liu.

*Rarity*

It has little built heritage value.

*Built Heritage  
Value*

The side bays are in poor condition with part of their structure collapsed. Its authenticity is not wholly kept.

*Authenticity*

The Lees were poor farmers with limited agricultural activities engaged. They had to make use of the footpath to get their daily necessities from the Sai Kung Market. With the opening of the Sai Sha Road (西沙公路) vehicles can only reach their nearby village, O Tau Village (澳頭村), in their north-east. The Lee children had their education in the Shui Ying School (萃英學校) in Tai Wan (大環) village in their south.

*Social Value,  
& Local Interest*