

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Tsang Ancestral Hall**  
**Shek Kwu Lung, Tai Po**

The Tsang Ancestral Hall (曾氏家祠) in Shek Kwu Lung (石鼓壟) village, Tai Po, is established by the Tsangs to commemorate their ancestor, Tsang Hung-tseung (曾鴻祥), a Hakka (客家) who came to settle in the village from Nantou (南頭) of the Guangdong (廣東) province in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Tsangs, the main indigenous villagers of the village, were rice and vegetable growers belonging to the Luen Yik Heung (聯益鄉) of the Tang (鄧) clan selling their agricultural products in the Tai Po Old Market (大埔舊墟). The ancestral hall is one of the five attached village houses of the village built facing north-east. It is believed that it was converted from its original residential use for ancestral worship after the row of houses constructed.

**Historical  
Interest**

The row of the five village houses is of Hakka *dou lang* (斗廊) design, a type of simple Qing (清) vernacular building. Two of the five units are having recessed entrances and three of the connection units form a plan resembling the Chinese character *ao* (凹) meaning 'indented'. The shape is like an indented container called *ao dou* (凹斗) in Chinese, and hence having the name *dou lang*. Each single-storey unit used to have its rooms at the back with a cockloft above. The building is constructed of ashlar granite, green bricks and rammed earth. The projected units are granite-faced with green brick trimmings at top level. The ancestral hall is one of the two recessed units having green brick façade with granite lintel and threshold. Its rammed earth walls support the pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The façade is decorated with a simple black wall frieze. The altar is at the far end of the hall in the middle with a single ancestral tablet and an Earth God (土地) shrine at the bottom.

**Architectural  
Merit**

A rare ancestral hall to demonstrate the history of a Hakka village in Tai Po.

**Rarity**

The ancestral hall in *dou lang* design is of considerable built heritage value.

**Built  
Heritage**

The hall was renovated in 2001. Alterations such as the adding of steel window frames are not serious affecting its authenticity.

**Value  
Authenticity**

Other than ancestral worship ritual held at the hall, Dim Dang (點燈) and bridegroom worship rituals were held at the hall but discontinued recently. On the first day of the Chinese New Year and on the 9th day of the nine lunar month, the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節), the Tsangs, including those who moved away

**Social Value,  
& Local  
Interest**

from the village, will pay tribute to the ancestors at the hall.