

Historic Building Appraisal
Tse Ancestral Hall
No. 73 Tung Lo Wan, Sha Tin

Tung Lo Wan (銅鑼灣) village in Sha Tin was a Hakka (客家) village of the Pai Tau Yeuk (排頭約) occupied by families of different surnames, the Yaus (邱) being the majority. The Tse clan has lived in Tung Lo Wan for several generations. Tse Lam-sin (謝林仙) and Tse Fu-tung (謝富通) were the first generation of the Tse clan who settled in the village. They came to Hong Kong in the 1850s during the Taiping Rebellion (太平天國之亂, 1851-1868). They first settled in a village near Daam Hon Po (擔捍埔). Due to the construction of the Kowloon Canton Railway (KCR) in the early 20th century, they then moved to Tung Lo Wan. The **Tse Ancestral Hall** (謝氏祠堂), also called Tse Po Shu Tong (謝寶樹堂), was built before **1910** when it had government registration in that year. It is the only ancestral hall in the village.

*Historical
Interest*

Located in the middle row of village houses of the five rows of houses in the village, the ancestral hall is connected to village houses on either side. It is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a simple one-hall plan. The building together with other houses are built on a platform. It shares a common roof with two houses on its left. The building is constructed with green bricks with its walls to support its roof of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The traditional roof has been reconstructed with concrete in mid-2000s. The walls are plastered and painted with cream colour and its floors cement screeded. The altar is at the end wall of the building with a soul tablet of the Tse ancestors for worship. An image of Kwun Yam (觀音) on the left is also worshipped at the altar. A red piece of paper with the Chinese character “壽” (longevity) is on the wall above the tablet. No name of the ancestral hall is at the recessed entrance. The lower courses of its external front wall are of granite blocks.

*Architectural
Merit*

It is an ancestral hall of the Tses to remind their settlement in Tung Lo Wan village of Sha Tin.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

*Built Heritage
Value*

The recent renovation has diminished the authenticity of the building.

Authenticity

The ancestral hall was used as a room for rice storage by the Japanese during the Japanese Occupation (1941-45). The hall has been a place for ancestral worship of the two Tse families. Dim Dang (點燈) and wedding ceremonies were held at the hall for the Tses. The former was for new born baby boys of previous year at the Chinese New Year. The ceremonies have discontinued after the 1990s.

*Social Value,
& Local Interest*

Tse Ancestral Hall is surrounded by village houses of modern style, while the row house configuration is still well kept. At the two ends of Tung Lo Wan, there are two Pak Kung (伯公) guarding the whole village. Historic buildings are found nearby. They include Tsang Tai Uk (曾大屋), Che Kung Temple (車公廟), High Rock Christian Camp (基督教靈基營) and Lam Ancestral Halls (藍氏家祠).

Group Value