

Historic Building Appraisal
Tse Ancestral Hall
Nos. 26-28 Kap Bin Long, Sai Kung

Tse Ancestral Hall (謝氏祠堂) in Kap Pin Long (甲邊朗) is one of the ancestral halls of the Tses (謝) in Sai Kung. The Tses were Hakkas (客家) who moved from Chashan (茶山) of Dongguan (東莞), Guangdong (廣東) province, to Sha Kok Mei (沙角尾), a short distance north-east of Kap Pin Long, in the 17th century. Sha Kok Mei was also inhabited by the Wongs (黃), the Laus (劉) and the Lees (李). When the population of the Tses increased, they then branched out to some other areas in the late 19th century. The first branch of the four branches moved to Nam Pin Wai (南邊圍), south-west of Marina Cove (匡湖居) in Sai Kung, the 2nd and 3rd branches moved to Kap Pin Long and the 4th branch to a place between Nam Pin Wai and Kap Pin Long. This ancestral hall was built by the 3rd branch of the Tses probably in the late 19th century.

***Historical
Interest***

The ancestral hall is on a row of village houses in the village. Its right is connected to a village house. The hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. An open forecourt is in front of the building. The open courtyard is between the entrance and main halls. Two side bays of rooms and chambers are on the left and right of the middle bay but now occupied for residential use. The building is constructed of green bricks and granite blocks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and painted. The altar is in the middle of the end wall housing a soul tablet of the Tse ancestors for worship. The wooden edge of the altar is carved with auspicious carvings of leaves, flowers and in the middle. Two Phoenixes Adoring the Sun (雙鳳朝陽). Under the eave of the main hall are wall friezes of black-and-white curling plants and wall paintings of flowers. Under the front eave are wall paintings of unicorn, flowers, birds and calligraphy. No name of the ancestral hall is at the entrance but a red piece of paper above the lintel with Shiu Hing Tong (紹興堂), the name of the branch of the Tses, written on it.

***Architectural
Merit***

It is an ancestral hall of the Tses to witness their settlement in Kap Pin Long of Sai Kung.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The side bays are for residential use. Its authenticity is diminished.

Authenticity

Regular ancestral worships of the branch of the Tse ancestors are held at the ancestral hall. Members of the Tses of different branches would gather together to have their grave sweeping ceremonies at the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節) on a day of the ninth lunar month at the founding ancestors' graves close to the Lions Nature Education Centre (獅子會自然教育中心) in Pak Kong (北港), Sai Kung.

Social Value,
& Local
Interest