

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Leung Ancestral Hall

#### Ma Po Mei, Tai Po

Ma Po Mei (麻布尾) is a multi-clan Hakka (客家) village occupied by the Leungs (梁), the Chungs (鍾), the Laws (羅) and the Wongs (黃). It is on the west side of Lam Kam Road (林錦公路) and is one of the 26 villages in Lam Tsuen Valley (林村谷). The Leungs were from Songhao (松口) of Jiaying (嘉應), Guangdong (廣東) province. Leung Sheung-lun (梁常麟) was the founding ancestor who moved to Lam Tsuen and settled in Ma Po Mei. His grave built in the Tongzhi (同治, 1862-1874) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty is at the entrance of Pak Ngau Shek (白牛石) village in the west of the village. Some of the ancestors of the 6<sup>th</sup> generation branched out to Cheung Kong Tsuen (長江村) in Pat Heung (八鄉) of Yuen Long in 1931. It is not known when the ancestral hall (梁氏家祠) was built. A wall painting at the front façade has the year 1925 written on it. The building was probably built before 1925.

**Historical  
Interest**

Located on a levelled ground of a slope in the village, the ancestral hall is a detached Qing vernacular building having a two-hall-one-courtyard plan. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. Except the front façade, the walls of the building are plastered. The floors are of cement screeding. The lower courses of the front façade are of granite blocks. The altar is in the middle of the end wall housing a soul tablet of the Leung ancestors for worship. Behind the tablet on the wall is a piece of red paper with a big Chinese character “壽” (longevity) written on it. A tie beam at the main hall is carved with four Chinese characters “百子千孫” (Hundreds of Sons and Thousands of Grandsons). A pair of *ruilong* (夔龍) mouldings is at the two ends of the front and rear ridges. The name of the hall is engraved on a piece of stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings under the eave are of flowers, cock, pomegranates and others.

**Architectural  
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Leungs to remind their settlement in Ma Po Mei village in Lam Tsuen Valley.

**Rarity**

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value**

The authenticity is kept.

**Authenticity**

The ancestral hall has the ancestral worship of the Leung ancestors at festivals and at Chinese New Year. Other than ancestral worship, wedding and funeral ceremonies and Dim Dang (點燈) ritual were held at the hall until the 1960s. The latter was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month 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*