

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Woodside, Mansion and Garage**  
**No. 1 Mount Parker Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong**

Built in the **mid 1920s**, Woodside was used as quarters for European staff of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery (太古糖廠) owned by Butterfield & Swire Co. Ltd. (太古洋行). In 1976 Woodside was acquired by the Government Property Agency, and in 1985 leased to the Institute of Cultural Affairs (國際文化事務協會). The Institute organized exhibitions and music concerts in the mansion for more than a decade until 2001. The mansion is currently under the management of the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for conversion into a nature education centre.

**Historical  
Interest**

Woodside is a two-storey red-brick **Edwardian Style** building with a semi-circular arcaded verandah at G/F level. The four elevations are enlivened by painted stone features including string courses, cornices, lintols, cills, keystones, balustrades, pilaster capitals and moulded architrave framing to window openings. Internally the building is divided into two handed flats, so that there are two main entrances, two back doors and two internal rear stair cores. The layout of the rooms is identical with a mirrored plan. These two flats were called Woodside No.1 and Woodside No.2.

**Architectural  
Merit**

The Building was extensively looted during the Japanese Occupation but repaired after the War. All doors, windows, floors and other wooden components had been looted and therefore had to be replaced. Plumbing, sanitary fittings, electrical wiring, etc., all had to be replaced also. Even the original pitched roof which had collapsed was replaced with a flat roof. Nevertheless despite this assault on its authenticity, Woodside remains a rare example of its type and has a certain built heritage value.

**Built Heritage  
Value &  
Authenticity**

Although architecturally insignificant, mention should be made of the garage block built in 1947 outside the main gate of Woodside. It is a simple brick and concrete structure with a flat roof in **Utilitarian** style.

Located inside Tai Tam Country Park, Woodside is just twenty minutes' walk from King's Road. Leading up by the winding Mount Parker Road, Woodside is surrounded by the greenery providing an excellent ambience. There is a relic of war-time cooking ranges (柏架山戰時爐灶) at the opposite side of the road, which was built for the civilians during the Japanese invasion. It is also close to another historic building, the Former Quarry Bay School (前鰂魚涌學校).

**Group Value**

Locally, the building is known as the “Red Brick House” and the area surrounding it is popular with morning walkers and practitioners of *tai chi*. The ICA organized numerous exhibitions and concerts which attracted many people. The exhibitions made it possible for the work of local unknown artists to reach the public. Film-making was also promoted helping to publicise the building as a piece of Hong Kong’s built heritage.

***Social Value***  
***Local Interest***  
***& Rarity***

The building is now undergoing conversion into an information centre for AFCD as part of the Eastern District Green Trail.

***Adaptive***  
***Re-use***