

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Villa Ellenbud**  
**No. 50 Sassoon Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong**

Villa Ellenbud (愛蓮別墅) was probably built in the **1920s**. According to records in the Land Registry, the site was leased for 75 years from 29 August 1921. An information for 1939-1940 indicates that Villa Ellenbud was used at that time as residence of Dr. Wu Ta Piao (吳達表醫生). Dr. Wu was a native of Amoy (Xiamen) in Fujian Province of China. Graduating MB BS from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong in the 1920s, he was a medical practitioner. It is believed that Dr. Wu had a closed relationship with Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke (who was Director of Medical and Health Service in Hong Kong from 1938-1943, whose autobiography *Footprints* was published in 1973). A photo of Dr. Wu with some words “To My Dearest Friend, T.P. Wu”, which was a gift given by Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke, was shown in Villa Ellenbud.

*Historical  
Interest*

Villa Ellenbud later served as nurses’ quarters for Queen Mary Hospital between 1959 and 1960. The latest recorded owner of Villa Ellenbud (as at August 2003) is Wilnelmina Chi-ying Wu (吳智英) who has been living there for decades.

Villa Ellenbud or No. 50 Sassoon Road is a three-storey residence of mixed style built to a symmetrical plan. The building can be classified as **Modern Eclectic** as it is built in Modern style and adopts traditional architectural features from the British Colonial style and the Chinese Renaissance style. Colonial features include the colonnaded verandahs and canted bays on the rear façade and the canopy over the front entrance as well as the moulded cornice on the front façade. Chinese features include moon-gate doorways, and geometric, floral and cloud motifs. Modernist features include regular bands of windows, horizontal projecting fins, circular porthole windows to the penthouse, and tubular steel ship’s railings to the parapet, balconies, staircases and terraces.

*Architectural  
Merit*

Other structures found on the property include the irregular shaped annex block (No. 52 Sassoon Road), two pavilions, a swimming pool with showers and changing room, a playroom, sun terraces, in-situ concrete garden furniture, statues, and a Chinese memorial archway at the entrance to the driveway off Sassoon Road.

Villa Ellenbud with its mixed style of architecture is quite rare. Its garden setting and scenic views of West Lamma Channel contribute to its built heritage value. Features and materials from the 1930s such as Shanghai plaster still

*Rarity,  
Built Heritage  
Value &*

remain so that the building retains much of its authenticity. Internally the Chinese Art Deco style interior can still be seen. *Authenticity*

The social value of Villa Ellenbud to the local community is limited since it was obviously built as a rich man's residence. As one of the few remaining pre-war premises along Sassoon Road it is of local interest showing the type of building that used to exist before the modern high-rise blocks were built. *Social Value & Local Interest*

There is another building recorded by the Antiquities and Monuments Office at No. 33 Sassoon Road, Stone Manor, which is the residence of the late **Henry Fok ying-tung** (霍英東). *Group Value*

Villa Ellenbud has been used as a residence and as nurses' quarters to serve Queen Mary Hospital. An old lady at present lives in the house but the penthouse is vacant. The servants' annex block is occupied by expatriates. Possibly the house is too large for present day residential use. With its large garden, splendid views, swimming pool, etc. It would make a very nice private club. *Adaptive Re-use*