

**Borough of Franklin Park  
(Formerly Franklin Township)  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

# Stone Mansion



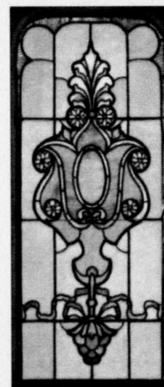
**Built by Robert G. Woodside  
1935**

**1600 Stone Mansion Drive  
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090**

## **Woodside's Stone Mansion**

Surrounded by modern office buildings next to a busy highway, the Stone Mansion welcomes visitors to an era when intricately carved mahogany, richly colored stained glass and highly decorative fireplaces graced the homes of wealthy Pittsburghers.

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Robert G. Woodside (1876-1964) arrived in Pittsburgh as a child when his father accepted a position in one of the city's many churches. After serving in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, Woodside established a private law practice in Pittsburgh where he became politically active. He again served during WWI and became Brigadier General of the PA National Guard during WWII. Woodside was a founding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and was elected Allegheny County Sheriff and PA Auditor General before serving as Allegheny County's Controller from 1928-1948. It was while serving as Controller that Woodside purchased the former Ford Farm on Wexford-Bayne Road in rural Franklin Township and constructed his home that is now known as the Stone Mansion.



Designed with a nod to Reverend Woodside's ancestral Irish home, the distinctive U-shaped dwelling resembles three stone cottages standing end to end. Elegant interiors from Pittsburgh mansions set for demolition were carefully moved to the Franklin Township home where they were restored to their former grandeur. Seven decorative mantels, including a twenty foot carved stone fireplace from France, are featured in the three level house along with several stained glass windows, the most notable being a wall sized panel in the entry hall.

Upon retiring, Woodside sold the property to the William Hess Webb Family who named the 80 acre estate Rolling Hills Farm. The property then passed through several owners before being purchased by a local developer who built the Stone Mansion Drive townhomes during the early 1990s.

The house itself was sold in 1989 and transformed into the Gryphon Restaurant, the first of three upscale eateries to occupy the site. The Stone Mansion Restaurant followed in 1994 and was replaced with Woodside's Grille from 2009 to 2011. At present, Robert Woodside's former home is being converted into a funeral home.

(Photos courtesy of Phil Stebler and Glenn Lewis.)