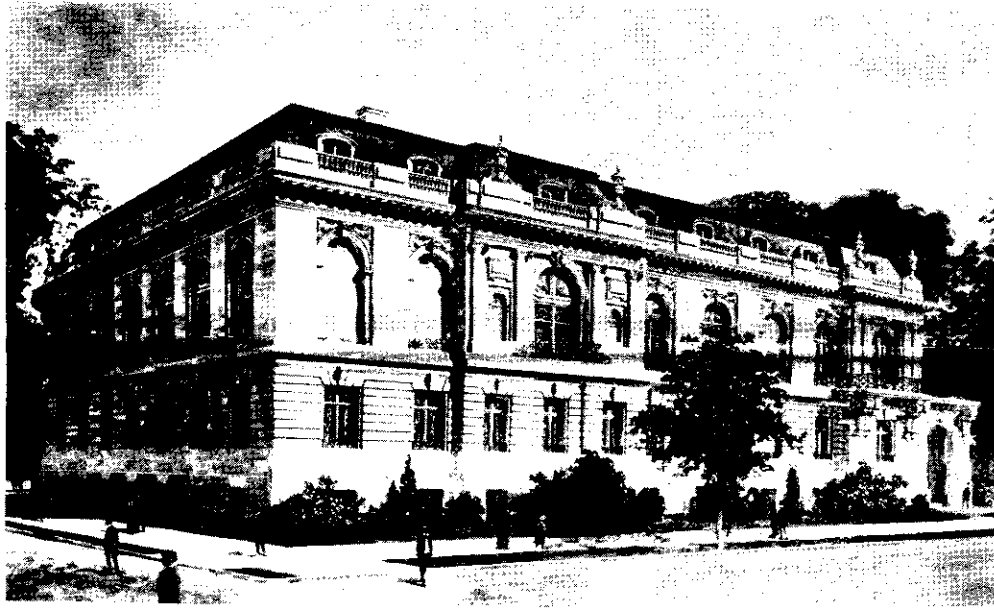


EASTERN STAR ACQUIRES THE BELMONT MANSION

Excerpts from Washington Post, Saturday, September 14, 1935



The famous Perry Belmont House at Eighteenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue has been sold to the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Wedge-shaped house at Eighteenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest, which Washingtonians know by two names—The Perry Belmont House and the "house where the Prince of Wales stayed"—has been sold.

Shuttered windows which for so many years shielded the opulence that entertained the Capital's great diplomats, statesmen, social leaders, will be open again.

Sale of the Mansion was revealed yesterday by a court notice. The buyer was the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. The home will be used by the organization as International Headquarters. Negotiations were conducted by Weaver Bros., Inc.

In February 1933, Mr. Belmont, financier, diplomat and scion of one of the nations noted families, appeared before the District Zoning Commission to ask permission to rezone the residence to make apartments of rooms where royalty was entertained. "I would rather see it rented to desirable tenants than see it stand there, a monument to the depression," Belmont told the Commission.

The house was built by Belmont in 1909. He had been a member to Congress from 1881 until 1889 and later Minister to Spain.

The Mansion occupies the whole wedged shape of ground set off by New Hampshire Avenue, Eighteenth Street and R Street, N. W. The location is most desirable, being near fashionable DuPont Circle and close to all necessary business facilities.

The entrance hall to the Mansion is spacious and dignified with its wide marble stairs and beautiful bronze railing. For many years it was one of the centers of Washington socially. An idea of its beauty may be judged from a description of the Ballroom. It is paneled in gilt, with gold brocade and mirrors which shine in the light from a crystal chandelier. There are mural decorations on canvas. The house has innumerable rooms. An idea of its size may be judged from the fact that the basement has 11 rooms, two baths and a squash court. There are three stories above.

It was in 1919 that the Prince of Wales used the house as his headquarters during his Washington visit.