



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON D.C.

1925 F Street, NW

A Rich History and Tradition in Washington, D.C.

- Built as a private home in 1849 for U.S. Navy Captain Charles Steedman
- The home was purchased and remodeled by Alexander Ray (a miller in Georgetown) in 1868 and remained in the Ray family until after the turn of the century
- American University (AU) purchased the house in 1920 with the possibility of developing a campus location downtown
- Laura Curtis, wife of New York lawyer James Freeman Curtis, rented the home from AU around 1923; she was known as the “uncrowned queen of the Republican party” and held many luncheons and dinners for Washington’s elite
- During the Depression, she had difficulty paying the rent and upon the advice of friends, she turned the parlor level into a club (“the Curtis Club”) and began charging a membership fee
- In 1933, Ms. Curtis turned the club operations over to a management company, which renamed it the “F Street Club,” a members-only dinner and social club
- In 1935, the 1925 F Street Club, Inc. purchased the property from American University; Ms. Curtis continued to live upstairs until she remarried and moved to Bethlehem, PA, after WWII
- In the early 1940s, AU again purchased the property with plans to establish a downtown presence, and the F Street Club leased the property from AU
- GW purchased the property from AU in 1974
- Since 1974, Presidents Carter, Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Clinton have all attended events at the F Street Club
- In 1980, President Reagan’s “Welcome to Washington” party was held at the F Street Club
- When the F Street Club closed in 1999, the property was for the first time used for University purposes and was renamed the Alumni House
- In 2007, GW’s 16th President Steven Knapp announced plans to make this historical landmark his private residence
- The University’s renovation plans are in development and will be presented to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review and approval.

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neighborhood.gwu.edu or gwnewscenter.org