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.

For more news and information about GW, please visit neighborhood.gwu.edu or gwnewscenter.org