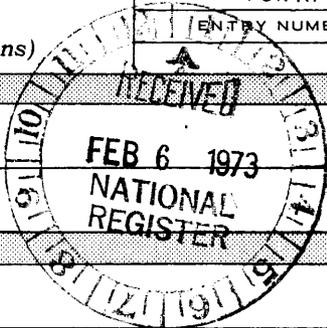


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



**1. NAME**

COMMON: International Eastern Star Temple  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Belmont, Perry, House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 1618 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia)  
 STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Sororal organization's headquarters</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star (Sayda S. Petterson et al.)  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1618 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 6th and D Streets, N.W.  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks  
 DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Planning Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W.  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The International Eastern Star Temple (Perry Belmont House) stands on a truncated triangular site surrounded by a small yard of grass and shrubs enclosed by an iron fence. This site is two blocks northeast of Dupont Circle and is bordered by Corcoran Street on the south, 18th Street on the west, R Street on the north and New Hampshire Avenue on the east. The ornate two and one-half story, stone mansion built in 1909 in the Beaux-Arts style is one of the city's most grandiose houses. It is a focal point of the New Hampshire Avenue axis leading to Dupont Circle and complements neighboring late nineteenth century and turn of the century buildings. Due to its location and monumental design, it visually dominates the recent high rise buildings across 18th Street.

Although there are slightly projecting pavilions and a one story porte-cochere, the visual impression the house gives is of a contained two and a half story mass, a solid wedge. The right angle of this triangular mass is located at the northwest corner. The northeast corner is rounded and the southwest point has been clipped to form the one bay wide Corcoran Street facade. Except for the porte-cochere which has a flat roof, the total mass is under a steeply-pitched mansard roof. The roof line breaks to reflect the side pavilions but there is no break to suggest the corner entrance pavilion.

Full advantage is taken of the corner location. Projecting from and forming the first story of the Corcoran Street facade is the porte-cochere. A corner pavilion one bay wide on each of its three sides projects slightly from the main block. The porte-cochere and pavilion are embellished with ornamentation. Particularly notable are the cartouches above the entrance archways and the wrought iron balcony above the boldly projecting cornice of the porte-cochere and of the entablature at the second floor level of the pavilion. Elaborately carved consoles support this balcony.

The east (New Hampshire Avenue) and west (18th Street) facades are composed of the one bay porte-cochere, the one bay corner pavilion, four bays, a three bay slightly projecting pavilion which is an exterior manifestation of the location of the second floor ballroom, and three end bays on the New Hampshire side and two end bays on the 18th Street side. The New Hampshire Avenue street frontage is 224.3 feet while the 18th Street facade is 181.3 feet in length. The 132.2 foot frontage on R Street has seven bays. The northeast corner contains a one bay curving pavilion. The Corcoran Street bay is 10 feet wide.

The structural system consists of steel reinforced, stone bearing walls supporting concrete floors. Steel girders support the slate covered roof. The huge smooth stone blocks of the high foundation have regular ashlar bands. Above the first floor window sills the walls of Indiana limestone are rusticated ashlar. A boldly projecting full entablature forms the base of the second story which is laid in smooth ashlar. These two story stone walls are terminated by full entablature with modillion cornice and cushion frieze surmounted by a balustraded parapet with panels at regular intervals. At the corners of the pavilions these panels support ornate urns. The mansard roof partially hidden by the parapet has a segmental dormer in each bay except on the Corcoran Street facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

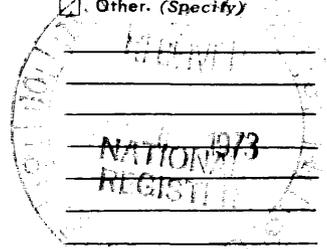
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1909 Date Constructed

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the International Eastern Star Temple (Perry Belmont House) a Category II landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This freestanding stone mansion completed in 1909 was designed by the fashionable French architect Ernest Sanson (1836-1918) with Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia overseeing the construction. It is a significant example of a lavish city residence for the very wealthy designed in the early twentieth century as a place for elaborate entertaining. The visual impact of this mansion modeled on 18th century French designs is increased by its wedge-shaped mass and impressive location.

In 1906 Perry Belmont, the son of the New York financier August Belmont and the grandson of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, purchased the block bounded by New Hampshire Avenue, Corcoran Street, 18th Street and R Street. At the time this area around Dupont Circle was the most fashionable section of the city.

Belmont from 1881 to 1887 had been a Congressional Representative from New York and in 1888-9 was minister to Spain. While in Europe he became familiar with the designs of Sanson and hired the Ecole des Beaux Arts trained architect to design his Washington residence. Sanson designed many works in Paris and Belgium and a house in Madrid, Spain, which has been occupied by the American Embassy.

Belmont spent lavishly on his Washington home and estimates of its cost range from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000. Its architectural importance was recognized by contemporaries and while under construction it was illustrated by plans and an elevation in The American Architect and Building News of April 22, 1908. On its completion it became a social center of Washington during the few months of the year when it was occupied by the Belmonts.

At several times the Belmont residence housed diplomatic missions. In 1917 the Special Japanese Mission headed by Viscount Kikujiro Ishii, Admiral Takeshata, and Major General Sagano used this building as their residence and headquarters for six weeks. Later it served briefly as the headquarters of the Italian War Mission, of President Epitacio du Selva Pessoa of Brazil, and of the British Mission. In November 1919 the Prince of Wales stayed there ten days during his official visit.

By 1929 the Belmonts no longer lived in the house. On October 21-22, 1932, art objects from it were sold at an auction. In February 1933 Belmont requested a zoning change to permit the building to be converted into six luxury apartments. Nothing came of this and the house stood vacant until 1935 when it was purchased from Belmont by the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star for \$100,000. The new owners refurbished it and

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The American Architect and Building News. XCIII, No. 1687, April 22, 1908.

"Belmont House." Washingtoniana Collection. District of Columbia Public Library. 901 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. "International Eastern Star Temple." Published pamphlet. No date.

Files of the National Capital Planning Commission.

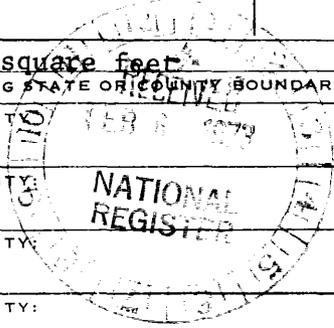
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	54'	44"	77°	02'	29"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 11,978 square feet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: Jan. 2, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/8/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 4 30 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

7. Description - International Eastern Star Temple

The facades are ordered compositions and, when the interior plan does not permit an opening, false windows are used to maintain the consistency of the design. The more important rooms, as in an Italian city palace, are located on the second floor. The importance of this floor is reflected in the exterior design. Its large openings with semicircular arches on impost blocks rise approximately the full limit of the 25 foot height of the rooms. These openings are more elaborately treated than the first story rectangular windows with flat arches. In the spandrels are floral carvings and the arches have elaborate keystones. There is a wrought iron grill on each of the second floor openings. Less ornate grills are found on the first floor windows.

On the entrance pavilion the second floor openings are bordered by paired pilasters with Ionic capitals. The curving northeast pavilion on the second floor contains a false opening flanked by double Ionic pilasters. On the side pavilions single pilasters flank niches which are located on both sides of an arched opening with a larger grill than the other openings. The central bay on the first story of these side pavilions is recessed.

Interior features are extremely rich and the scale is grandiose. The oval entrance hall with marble floors, Caen stone walls, and elaborate lighting fixtures introduces one to the lavishness and monumentality of the interior and acts as a major circulation area. From it monumental marble stairs symmetrically divided into flights lead to the expansive second floor rooms designed for entertaining and from it vaulted side corridors lead to the family living quarters on the first floor. Many of the rooms have curving walls and all have ornate decorations. Walls are covered with gilt, brocade, mirrors, and/or wood or marble panelling. Ceilings are embellished by gilt ornament and there are elaborate chandeliers of gold and bronze with carved rock crystal drops. Some chandeliers have a combination of crystal and amethyst. Handsome marble mantels came from European palaces and in several rooms there are ornately carved marble friezes and trim around openings. Marble or parquet floors are used throughout the house. Woodwork is quarter sawed oak and hardware is bronze.

A particularly outstanding room is the ballroom which extends from New Hampshire Avenue to 18th Street and measures 78' by 33'. It has panelling to the dado and an elaborate frieze of carved oak. The walls are covered with red brocade and a huge round skylight helps to light this large space.

During the Belmonts' residency the basement contained eleven rooms and a squash court. On the first floor was the entrance hall, stairs, two drawing rooms, the library, the family dining room, two guest rooms with dressing rooms, and two bedrooms. The second floor had a circular reception or music room south of the stairway. Two passageways with views of the impressive two story stairwell link it with the ballroom which in turn opened on a salon and the state dining room. Servants rooms were located on the third floor which was reached by an iron back stairs.

The house has been very well maintained and little altered. The exterior retains its 1909 appearance except that a small plaque with the Eastern Star's

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

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symbol has been attached to the balcony on the Corcoran Street facade. At the time of purchase a new roof was put on, utilities repaired or replaced, and the exterior sanded and cleaned. The basement was adapted to be a storage area for documents. Most of the Belmonts' art work and furnishings are no longer in the house. A particular loss is the Venetian paintings which were on the ceiling in the state dining room. The interior architectural decoration is complemented by the furnishings which have been acquired by the Eastern Star since 1935.

8. Significance

dedicated it as their national headquarters on February 24, 1937. Since then the mansion has functioned as the International Eastern Star Temple.

The Eastern Star is the woman's organization associated with the masons.

