



THE PATTERSON MANSION
Washington, D.C.

TTR

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY



A once-in-a-century opportunity to purchase a piece of Washington's history

The Patterson Mansion is the only surviving example of the grand mansions that once graced the capital's Dupont Circle. It exemplifies the neoclassic Italianate style so popular in the Gilded Age of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building's architecture and the family that commissioned it are woven into the fabric of Washington's history and reflect the profound societal and civic changes of that era.

Prominently situated at 15 Dupont Circle, at the intersection of P Street, NW, the 36,470 square-foot, four-story white marble and brick residence occupies a one-third acre site. Patterson Mansion was designed by the renowned architect Stanford White of the preeminent American architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White. It is the only remaining example of his work in Washington. The mansion was built by the Patterson family, owners of the *Chicago Tribune*, and helped to establish their prominent place in Washington society. The mansion represents the dignity and prestige of the city's most beloved historical structures and will continue its legacy of distinction as an embassy, foundation headquarters, association, club or once again as a personal residence.

The elegance of the stunning interiors is immediately apparent in the grand first-floor entrance hall with fireplace, polished terrazzo and marble floors and the impressive marble stairway that rises to a landing with a carved marble fountain. Flanking the entrance hall are a library and a reception room of equal proportions. In addition, an office, cloakroom, kitchen, food-service areas and powder rooms complete the first level.

The principal public areas of the house are found on the second floor *piano nobile* and are organized around a spacious gallery which opens to a balcony overlooking Dupont Circle. It is here that in 1927, President Coolidge, in residence at Patterson Mansion while the White House was under renovation, hosted Charles Lindbergh following his historic transatlantic flight and where they greeted the adoring crowds assembled below. The finely proportioned rooms here include the paneled living room, gracious dining room and stunning ballroom complete with orchestra balcony.

The third floor consists of approximately 5,085 square feet: the Master Bedroom with attached dressing room and oversized bath; the twin Coolidge Bedrooms, which share a bath; and the Lindbergh Bedroom and an adjacent bedroom, which share a bath. Additional rooms on the third floor include a boardroom and two private sitting rooms..

The fourth floor, which is approximately 5,095 square feet, includes a bedroom with adjacent sitting room, three additional bedrooms, five small rooms and a walk-up attic. The 4,650 square-foot lower level includes a bedroom and en suite bathroom, wine cellar and storage and mechanical rooms. An Otis elevator serves all levels.

A separate entrance from P Street gives access to a 1956 addition that offers enhanced entertaining and public areas. These include an entrance hall and banquet hall on the main level; and a reception room and auditorium with stage on the upper level, which connects to the Grand Patterson House Ballroom. Backstage dressing rooms facilitate performances. There are powder room facilities on both levels.

TIMELINE

1871

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins construction of Dupont Circle (then known as Pacific Circle).

1901-1903

Stanford White of McKim, Mead & White designs the Patterson Mansion for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson Patterson.

1923

Nellie Patterson deeds the mansion to her daughter, Eleanor Josephine Medill "Cissy" Patterson.

1927

Mansion serves as temporary home to President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge while the White House is under renovation.

1927

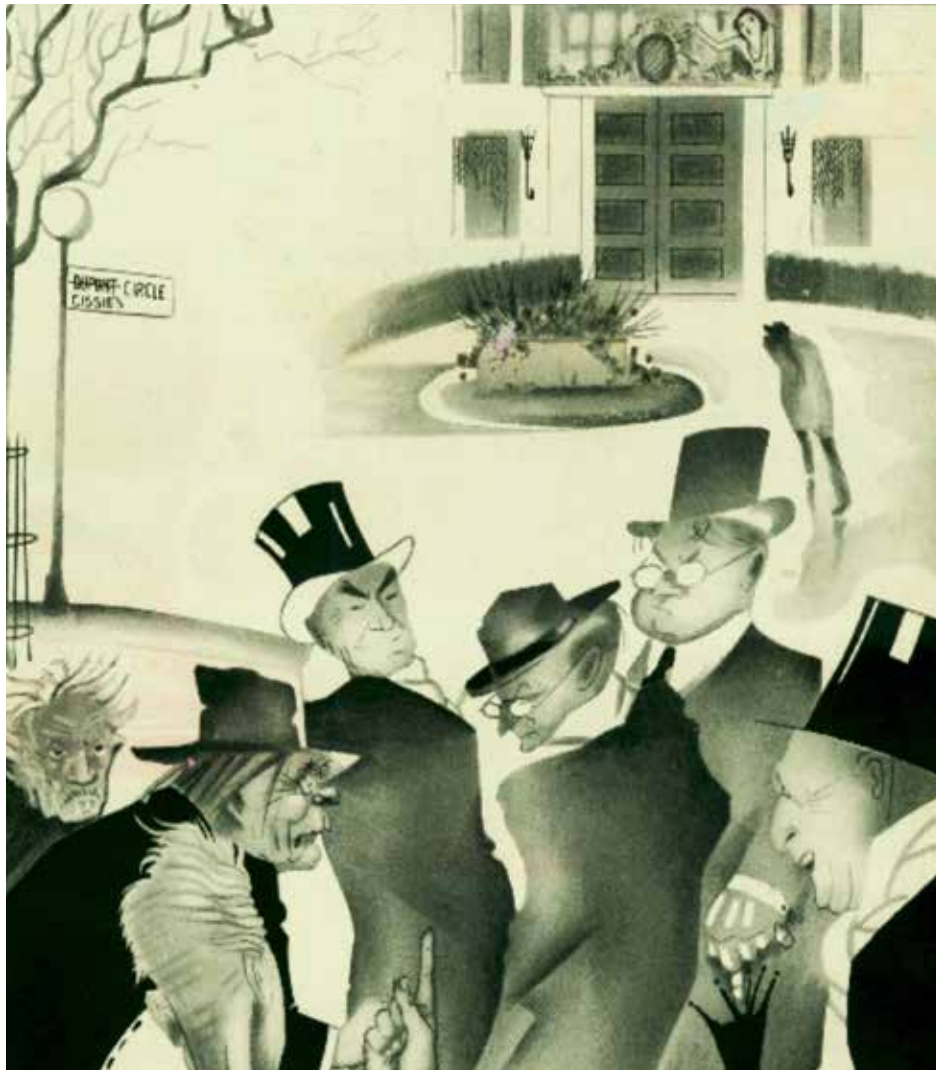
President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge host aviator Charles Lindbergh at the Patterson Mansion following his historic transatlantic flight.

1948

Cissy Patterson dies. She bequeaths the mansion and its contents to the American National Red Cross.

1951

The American National Red Cross sells the Patterson Mansion to The Washington Club.



ABOVE.
A cartoon from the Hearst's 'Town & Country,' April 1935, renaming Dupont Circle 'Cissie's Circle' and declaring 15 Dupont Circle as "the powder house of Dupont Circle." The article continues that "under the leadership of Mrs. Eleanor Patterson its salon has become the most explosive in the capital."

BELOW.

Captain Charles Lindbergh addresses the throngs who came to cheer for him in the wake of his epochal transatlantic flight in 1927. The celebrated aviator was the guest of President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, to whom Cissy, recently remarried to attorney Elmer Schlesinger and living in New York, loaned the mansion during the extensive White House renovations then taking place.



An iconic fixture on the world's stage for more than 100 years

From its debut, the Patterson Mansion became the social heart of Washington, where coveted invitations brought together prominent statesmen, politicians, journalists and industrialists.

Robert Patterson, editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, and his wife, Elinor “Nellie” Medill Patterson, daughter of Joseph Medill, the newspaper’s owner and the mayor of Chicago, sought to establish themselves in Washington’s fashionable social circles. The creation of a such a distinguished residence in such a prominent location in the capital’s most desirable neighborhood would be key to achieving this.

Designed by New York architect Stanford White, a partner in McKim, Mead & White, the residence is one of nearly 1,000 commissions the firm executed between 1879 and 1912. McKim, Mead & White garnered the most prestigious commissions of the era, including 11 branches of the New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Rhode Island State House, The Manhattan Municipal Building, The Brooklyn Museum, The West Wing and East Wing of the White House and campuses of Columbia and New York universities and the Harvard Business School.

The firm’s residential clients included many of the most powerful figures of the Gilded Age – the Vanderbilts, Astors, Whitneys, J.P. Morgan and Joseph Pulitzer, among others – for whom the firm designed sumptuous town houses in New York, Washington, Baltimore and Boston and summer homes in Newport, Rhode Island, Long Island, New York. and the Hudson Valley.

Early in the 1920s, the property passed into the hands of the Pattersons’ daughter, Eleanor Josephine Medill “Cissy” Patterson, whose lavish parties and political connections ensured that her home remained at the epicenter of Washington social life. One newspaper account said, “the thing she liked most was a good argument, and she frequently had guests who were sure of getting into one. At one memorable party, she had six or seven presidential candidates together.”

Cissy followed her father and grandfather into journalism in 1920 by pestering her brother, Joseph, for a job at his *New York Daily News*. She also worked for William Randolph Hearst and published two novels. When Cissy tried to buy Hearst’s two Washington papers – the morning *Washington Herald* and the evening *Washington Times* – in 1930, he declined but agreed to appoint her editor – a first for an American woman. In that role, she hired many women as reporters, encouraged society reporting and made her papers popular with all strata of Washington society, eventually doubling circulation. In 1939, she succeeded in purchasing both papers from Hearst and merged them as the *Times-Herald*. Cissy Patterson was the first women in the nation to lead a major daily newspaper and, in the 1940s *Collier’s Weekly* contended that she “... is probably the most powerful woman in America”.

In the summer of 1927, when Cissy was living in New York, she offered her home to President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge while the White House underwent renovations.

During their residency at Patterson Mansion, the Coolidges hosted aviator Charles Lindbergh following his famous transatlantic flight.

Cissy Patterson died in 1948 and left the property and its furnishings to the American National Red Cross, which then sold it to the Washington Club in 1951. The Club, founded in 1891, was the first women’s organization to be incorporated in the District of Columbia. The Club added the two-story annex that houses the banquet hall and auditorium in 1956.

The Patterson Mansion was designated a District of Columbia Historic Site in 1964, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and became part of the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District in 1974.



Cissy relaxing at 15 Dupont Circle in the late 1940s.





A mansion intended from the beginning to impress the world

When commissioning McKim, Mead & White to design their new home on Dupont Circle, Robert and Nellie Patterson specified an impressive exterior and grand interiors suitable for entertaining on a large scale.

The general character and ornamentation of the exterior evoke the Italian Renaissance. The white walls, decorated with glazed terra cotta, Ionic orders, attic story, enriched bands and garlanded window pediments create a most impressive and elegant façade.

Interior appointments include fireplaces with antique limestone, white marble or sand-cast mantles; cast iron banisters; a white marble fountain on the central landing depicting an eagle with spread wings that is attributed to Augustus Saint Gaudens; crystal chandeliers in the dining room and ballroom, herringbone parquet flooring in the ballroom; maple flooring in the dining room; historic tiger oak flooring in the upper foyer. Stanford White described the design as possessing a “light and rather joyous character.”

A semi-elliptical driveway lined by limestone curbing that links P Street and Dupont Circle completes the exterior grandeur of the mansion. White’s design included the first attached garage in a residence in the District of Columbia. Hedges and a public sidewalk border the west-facing lot, which is landscaped with ivy, spruce, magnolia grandiflora and oak. Presently, there are 10 parking spaces on site.

NOTED WORK OF McKIM, MEAD & WHITE

Washington Arch in Washington
Square Park, New York, 1892

Columbia University’s Morningside
Heights Campus, 1893-1900

The West Wing and East Wing of
the White House, 1903

Pennsylvania Station,
New York, 1910

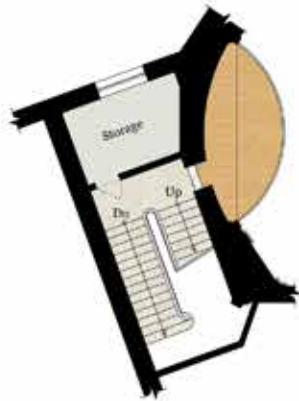
Harvard Business School,
Boston, 1925

National Museum of American
History, Washington, 1964

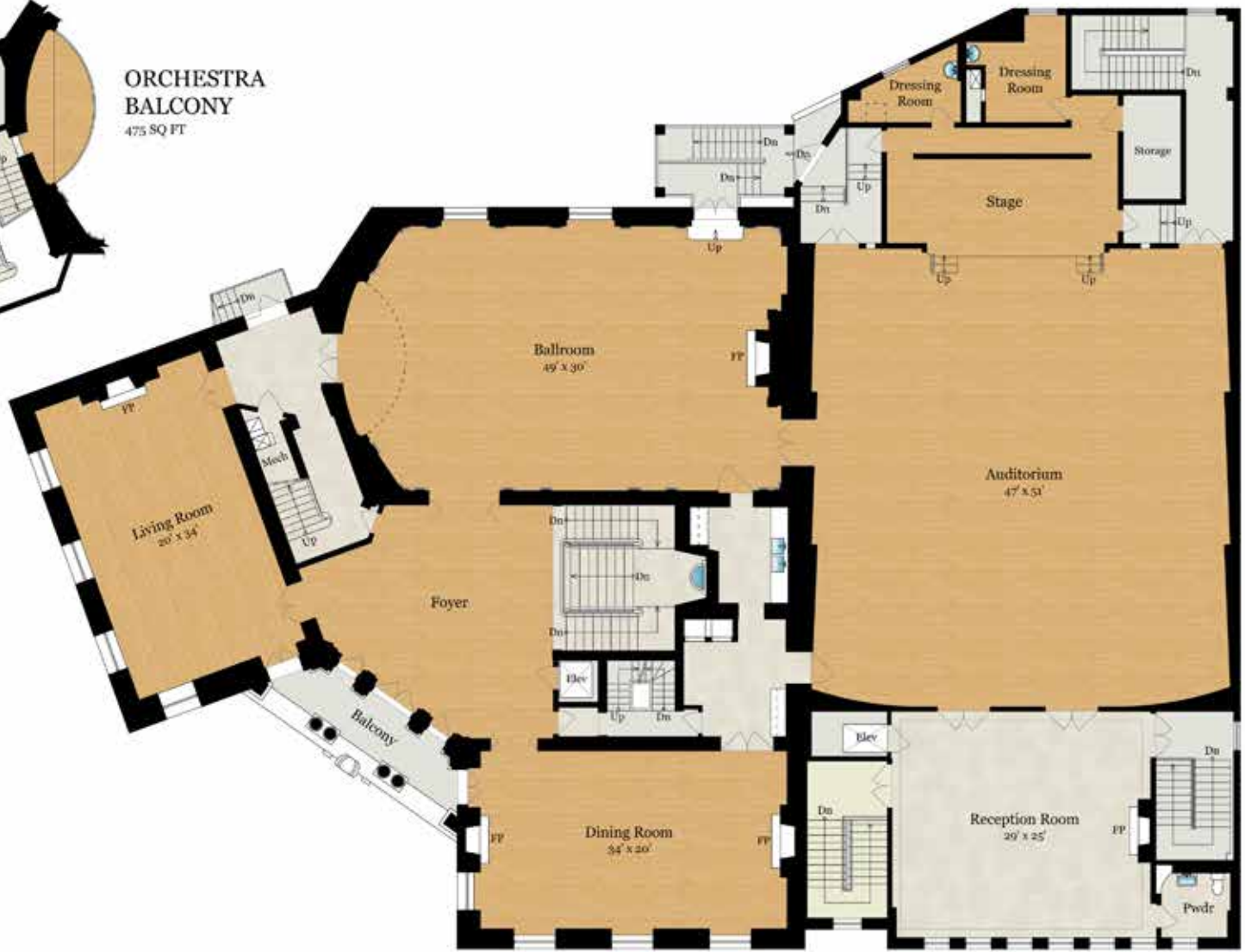


FIRST FLOOR
10,020 SQ FT

Rendering by Floor Plan Visuals.
All measurements are approximate. While deemed reliable, no information on these floor plans should be relied upon without independent verification.



**ORCHESTRA
BALCONY**
475 SQ FT



SECOND FLOOR
10,180 SQ FT

Rendering by Floor Plan Visuals.
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THIRD FLOOR
5,085 SQ FT

FOURTH FLOOR
5,095 SQ FT

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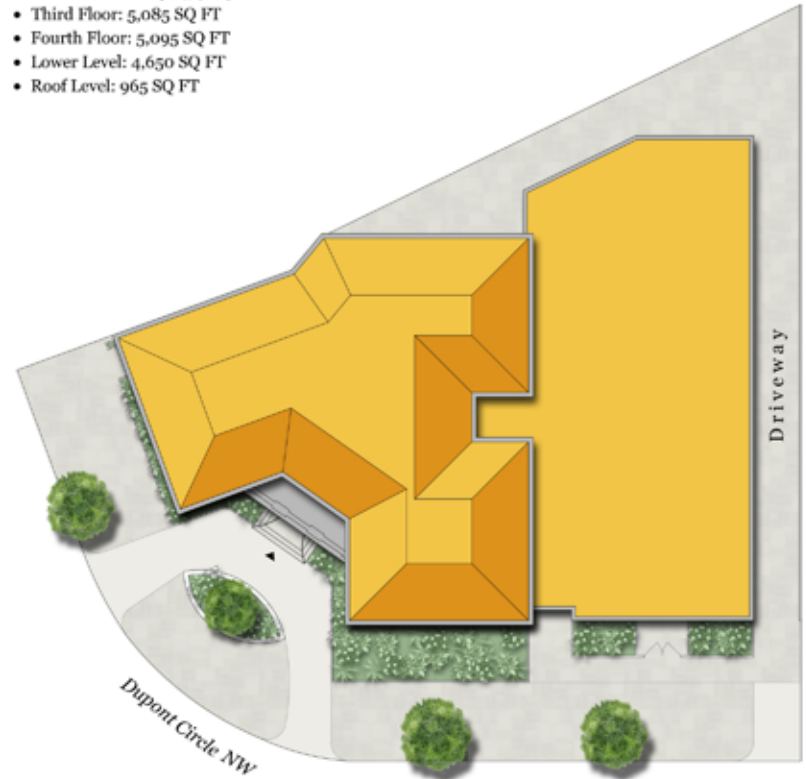


LOWER LEVEL
4,650 SQ FT

Estimated Total Square Footage: 36,470 SQ FT

Calculated from outside face of exterior walls

- First Floor: 10,020 SQ FT
- Second Floor: 10,180 SQ FT
- Orchestra Balcony: 475 SQ FT
- Third Floor: 5,085 SQ FT
- Fourth Floor: 5,095 SQ FT
- Lower Level: 4,650 SQ FT
- Roof Level: 965 SQ FT



SITE PLAN



Rendering by Floor Plan Visuals.
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ABOUT 15 DUPONT CIRCLE, N.W.

- Legal Description: Square 136 Lot 0034
- Zoning: SP 1
- Lot Size: 13,539 square feet
- Interior Square Footage: 36,470 square feet
- Conservation Easement
- District of Columbia Historic Site, 1964
- National Register of Historic Places, 1972
- Massachusetts Avenue Historic District, 1974
- 2 Elevators
- Roof: Slate and Copper
- Dupont Circle Metro
- Parking for 10 cars

Learn more at ThePattersonMansion.com

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