



THE
DUKE-SEMANS
MANSION

1009 FIFTH AVENUE

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*Built 1899-1901 • Landmarked 1974
Interior Renovated 1920, 1963, 1994, 1996
Exterior Restored 1982-1985*

This handsome Beaux Arts mansion was completed in 1901 and is prominently sited on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and East 82nd Street. Designed by Alexander M. Welch of the architectural firm of Welch, Smith & Provot, the builders were S. W. and T. W. Hall. It is one of the last survivors of the grand residences that once lined Fifth Avenue.



THE DUKE-SEMANS MANSION



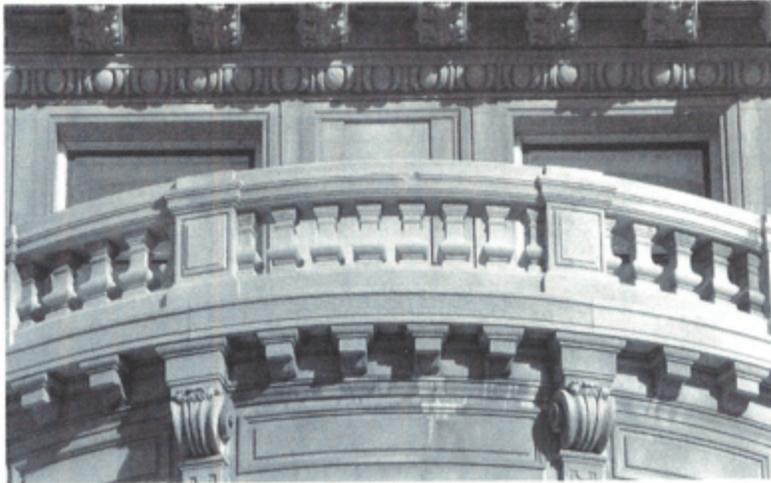
BENJAMIN NEWTON DUKE

Born in North Carolina in 1855, industrialist, entrepreneur and philanthropist Benjamin Newton Duke was a primary benefactor of Trinity College in Durham, later renamed Duke University. He also was the principal link between the Duke family and the college and university until his death in 1929. While his father, Washington Duke, and his brother, James Buchanan Duke, received extensive publicity for vital, substantial donations, "Mr. Ben," as he was affectionately known, quietly supported the growing institution in innumerable ways. Benjamin Newton Duke bought 1009 Fifth Avenue on New York's fashionable "Millionaire's Row" just after the house was completed in 1901. He and his family lived there until they later moved into a new house at 2 East 89th Street. At that time, Benjamin sold 1009 Fifth Avenue to his brother, James, who occupied the house until moving with his family to East 78th Street. 1009 Fifth Avenue then stayed empty until the marriage of Benjamin Duke's son, Angier, to Cordelia Biddle. Their first child, Angier Jr., was born there. Later, Mary Lillian Duke, Benjamin's daughter and Angier Duke's sister, purchased 1009 Fifth Avenue from her uncle, James Buchanan Duke, at the time of her marriage to Anthony Biddle. Mary Duke Biddle owned 1009 Fifth Avenue until her death in 1960, at which time her daughter, Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, purchased the house from her estate.



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The eight-level limestone and brick mansion's Fifth Avenue side façade is dominated by a broad, curved bay extending from the English basement through the fourth floor. The 82nd Street front façade is symmetrically composed: two slightly projecting corner pavilions flank a central four-story curved bay, a tripartite composition very typical of Beaux Arts design. The roof, with two towers rising above the ends of the main block of the house, is covered with red tiling and crowned by handsome, boldly scaled copper crests and finials. The restored roof cornice is crowned by a balustrade behind which appear dormer windows with richly adorned arched pediments. Intricate surface ornamentation, in the form of carved cartouches, wrought-iron railings, belt courses, and carved brackets, embellish the surface.



MARY LILLIAN DUKE BIDDLE

Mary Lillian Duke Biddle was born in 1887 in Durham, North Carolina, the only daughter of Benjamin Newton Duke and Sarah Pearson Angier Duke. Mary Duke Biddle took an early interest in the arts, frequently traveling with her parents to New York City to attend the theater and the opera. She became an accomplished singer and musician and in her youth was invited to tour South America. In 1915, she married Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr. The couple purchased 1009 Fifth Avenue from Mary's uncle, James Buchanan Duke, and their two children, Anthony Biddle III and Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, were reared there. Most of 1009's interior decors are the result of 35 years of Mary Duke Biddle's decorative eye. Mary Duke Biddle died in 1960 at the age of 73, leaving behind a personal legacy of service to others, and a permanent institution for the benefit of the people of New York and North Carolina. To date, that institution, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, has awarded grants totaling more than \$28 million in support of the goals she endorsed and the values she exemplified.

BUILDING SPECIFICATIONS



MARY DUKE BIDDLE
TRENT SEMANS

The corner lot of 1009 Fifth Avenue comprises 2,700+/- square feet, 27 feet along the east side of Fifth Avenue and 100 feet along the south side of East 82nd Street (Block 1493/Lots 1251-1253). The lot is improved with a seven-story historic mansion directly across the street from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The mansion contains approximately 19,628+/- square feet. There is currently a 13,500+/- square foot residence on the first through the fifth floors, accessible through the original front entrance, and with its own elevator. A 3,700+/- square foot upper duplex Penthouse residence with a second private entrance and elevator is located on the sixth and seventh floors. The English basement is configured as a Doctor's Office with approximately 2,428+/- square feet, accessible through a third private entrance and elevator.

The Duke-Semans Mansion is the corner masterpiece and sole survivor of a group of four mansions at 1006-1009 Fifth Avenue. It is a superior example of the Beaux Arts style. It is also positioned at the head of East 82nd Street, the best single block in all of New York for Beaux Arts architecture.

Alterations to the mansion began almost immediately upon the Duke family occupancy. Benjamin Duke engaged C.P.H. Gilbert to design the marquee at the front entrance. Alterations were performed by the Duke owned and operated Durham Realty Co., which also built the Duke addition to the St. Regis Hotel. The major interior renovation was undertaken in 1918 by Mary Duke Biddle, who initially worked with Margaret Gould, Elsie de Wolfe and Rose Cummings. Later, and from then on, Mrs. Biddle worked with a comrade whose discretion matched his distinction, Karl Bock. Linden Court at Tarrytown, Casa Sarmiento in Palm Beach and Pinecrest in Durham, each a seasonal home to Mary Duke Biddle and family, were graced with the teamwork of Bock and Biddle. 1009 was occupied each year from Christmas through the opera season. During the spring and summer, it was worked on. The black marble and mirrored bathroom, as well as the closet (now laundry), and the magnificent Nick Biddle closet, were all the production of Karl Bock. More recent decorative touches by Robert Bray on the first through the fifth floors, David England in the Penthouse, as well as Robert Couturier in the Doctor's Office, have continued the tradition of design with distinction at the mansion.

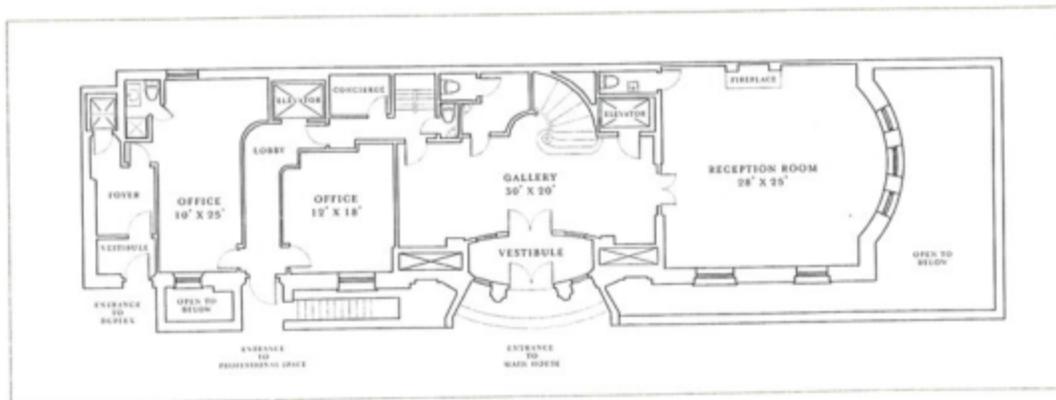
1009 Fifth Avenue can easily be restored to a single family residence or remain in its current configuration. Alternatively, it can be renovated for a variety of private or public sector purposes. The existing zoning is R-10.

Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans was born at 1009 Fifth Avenue in 1920, the only daughter of Mary Duke Biddle and Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr. She grew up in the house until the age of 14, when she moved to Durham, North Carolina to live with her grandparents and later enrolled at Duke University at age 15. In 1939, she married Dr. Josiah C. Trent, who died ten years later after the couple had four children. Mary Duke Biddle Trent then married Dr. James H. Semans in 1953, and the couple had three children. Well known and respected for carrying on the Duke University founding family's legacy of philanthropic contributions and social responsibility to the community, Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans has become one of North Carolina's tireless champions of the arts, nurturing the North Carolina School of the Arts, as well as steering the Biddle Foundation to seed the development of artists showing promise. Music was a highlight of her childhood, and her family invited everyone around to her piano recitals. Although Mary's childhood in New York City helped her appreciate the arts, her move back to Durham to begin college at Duke University helped her appreciate other races and cultures. During the Great Depression, she developed her first sense of the terrible need that existed, although she and her family were not affected severely. From then on, she felt an obligation to share her wealth with those less fortunate, and she believes that others who are affluent have a responsibility to do the same.

THE PLANS

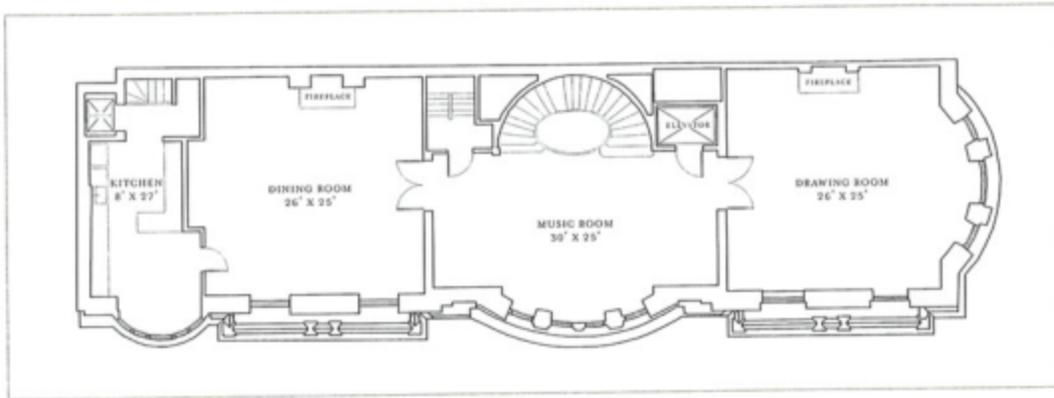
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

After entering under a petal design glass and iron marquee, the Gallery contains original marble flooring, ornate moldings, a powder room, the primary elevator and an elegant central curving staircase connecting the entire main house. The Reception Room is located to the west and has floor to ceiling decorative wood panels and another powder room. To the east are two offices and separate entrances, both with elevators, to the Doctor's Office below and to the upper Penthouse duplex.



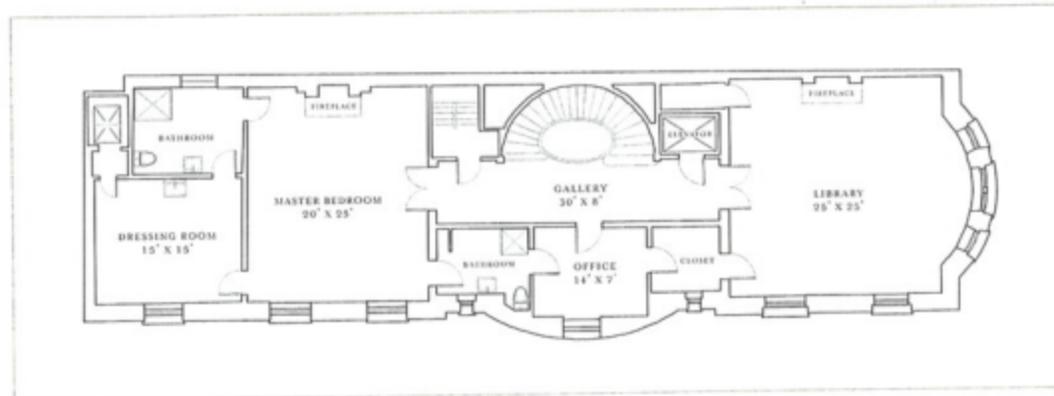
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

This is the grand main public space of the house. The staircase ascends to what has become the Music Room, due to a rich history of music performed in the house. The Drawing and Dining Rooms to the west and east respectively are adorned with traditional detailing, fireplaces and high ceilings. Most details are 18th century, incorporated into these rooms by Mary Duke Biddle. There is a professional kitchen just off the Dining Room.



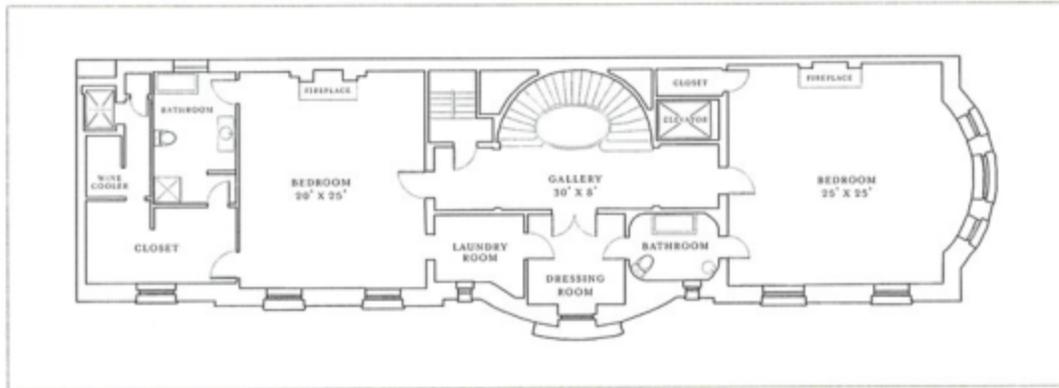
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

The scale and detailing of the central Gallery start to become more intimate on this floor. To the east are the Master Bedroom, bathroom and dressing room and to the west the Library, both with fireplaces and detailed moldings. An office and a separate bathroom are located between the two primary rooms.



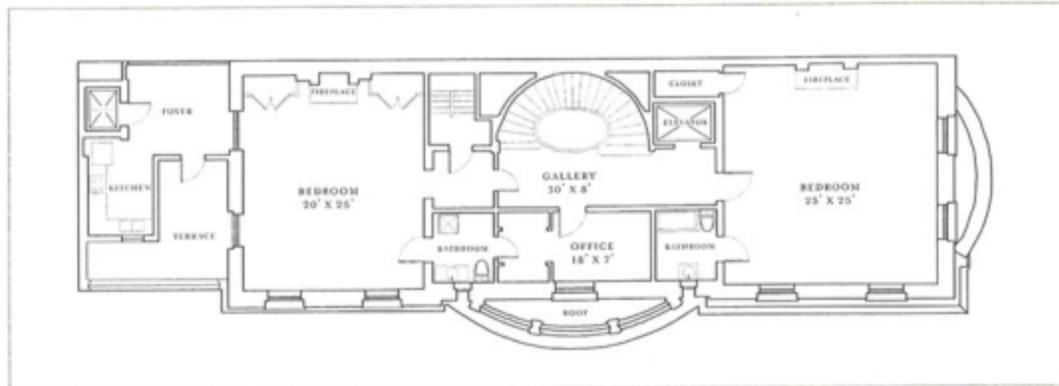
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

The two Bedrooms located on this floor have paneled walls, fireplaces and beautiful wood flooring, each with bathrooms en suite and walk-in closets. In between are a laundry room and a dressing room currently configured as a computer room.



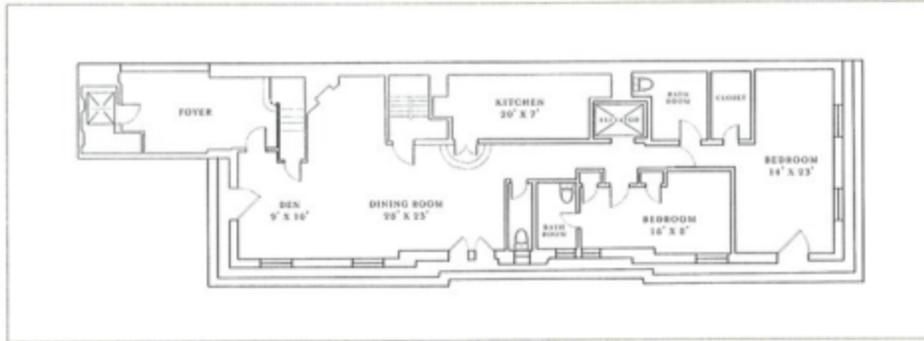
FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

The top floor of the main part of the house incorporates a self-contained apartment to the east with kitchen and terrace used by the house staff. To the west is a floor-to-ceiling paneled Bedroom with bathroom en suite. Off of the central Gallery are an office and another separate bathroom.



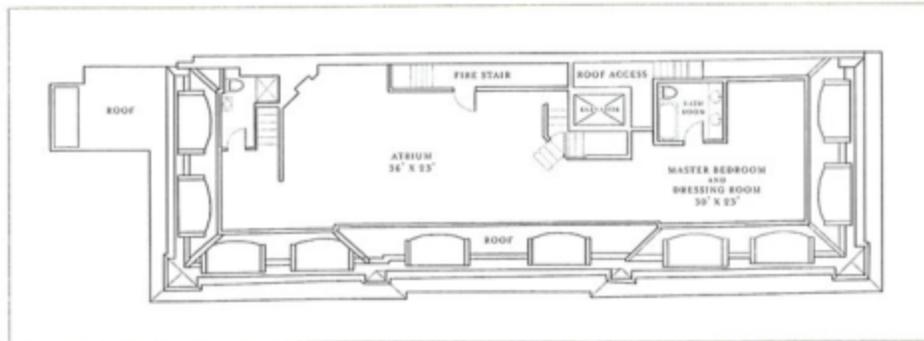
SIXTH FLOOR PLAN

This first level of the separate duplex Penthouse is accessed via a private elevator with its own entrance on the east end of the house. The Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, two Bedrooms, two bathrooms a powder room and kitchen are located on this floor. The duplex underwent a full restoration a few years ago.



SEVENTH FLOOR PLAN

The top floor of the house includes the Master Bedroom suite for the duplex. A large skylight that connects the two roof towers offers excellent light to the entire floor. A private staircase leading from the top floor provides access to the two private roof decks located on the top of each individual tower.



ENGLISH BASEMENT

There is a separate entrance leading to the elevator going down to the professional space, which is currently utilized as a Doctor's Office. Natural light is brought into the offices from the sunken garden on the Fifth Avenue side that wraps along the 82nd Street front as well.

