

EAST 38TH STREET *Madison Avenue to Park Avenue (South Side)*



24 East 38th Tax Block/Lot # 867-51

Four-story-and-basement brick front row house (Ware & Van Brunt, 1875-76, for Dr. F.J. Bumstead). In 1885, home to Dr. Fordyce Barker, "attending physician to General Grant" (Los Angeles Times); in 1902, home to George R. Sheldon, Republican nominee that year for New York State lieutenant governor; "The Republican leaders of the State met yesterday afternoon at the residence of George R. Sheldon, 24 East Thirty-eighth Street, for the purpose of getting the best thought of the party on the wisest course of action to be pursued by the Republican State Convention..." (NYT). On April 24, 1908, Mrs. Sheldon hosted a meeting at which the New York Symphony Orchestra was founded, to be conducted by Gustav Mahler, starting with a series of four concerts at Carnegie Hall in the 1909-10 season. The idea "met with such enthusiastic approval, that it has been arranged with Mr. Mahler to give these concerts.... Mr. Mahler is to have the selection of the musicians for these concerts and he has the assurance from the Committee of their support in obtaining the very best material possible" (Zoltan Roman, *Gustav Mahler's American Years*). Converted in 1916 to bachelor apartments, with top two stories "brought out to building line" (ALT), (Dietrich Wortmann and Harry Braun for Edwards Leasehold Co. Inc.). "The house...is within the restricted Murray Hill zone, and its abandonment as an individual residence indicates the changed conditions there" (NYT). Major alterations for conversion for use by the Dartmouth Club, from 1926 to 1938: "Remove section of front wall and rebuild same" (ALT), (Frank A. Moore, 1926, for Harriour Corp). Source: NB 354-75; ALT 280-16, 795-26; Los Angeles Times, March 6, 1885, p. 1; NYT 9/14/1902 p. 1, 2/2/1916 p. 18, NYT 9/19/1926 p. E2,8/19/1938 p. 30; Zoltan Roman, *Gustav Mahler's American Years: 1907-1911*, Pendragon Press, 1989, p. 135. Though much altered, much detail survives. **Restored in 2005 as Oakwood Apartments.**