

South Side: East 39<sup>th</sup> Street - Madison to Park



**24 East 39th Street Tax Block /Lot #868/51**

Two old row houses, No. 24 and No. 26, were joined together and rebuilt (C.P.H. Gilbert, 1904-05, for George and Fanny Haven). George Griswold Haven was a “banker and President of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company, who has been more prominently identified with the Metropolitan Opera House than probably any other man for many years... and at his banking offices, 26 Liberty Street.... He has probably done more for grand opera in New York than any other one man” (NYT). The double house was later converted for use as a private club (Shreve & Lamb, 1924, for the Williams Club). The building’s appearance still suggests its origin as two houses, one wider than the other. The building retains its cornice, brick upper stories, elaborate window surrounds, brownstone-faced first story and basement story, and stoop. “Williams College is proud to have the oldest existing alumni society of any academic institution in the United States. Founded in 1821 when then College President Zephaniah Swift Moore led a group of students over the mountains into the Connecticut Valley to start Amherst College, the Alumni Society was established at a time when many felt the college abandoned. During this crisis, graduates of Williams College came together to form the Alumni Society and protect the future of Williams College. Continuing the tradition of preserving alumni ties with Williams College, a group of Williams alumni in New York City founded The Williams Club in 1913. Originally located on Madison Avenue between 39th and 40th Streets, The Club served as a place for Williams alumni to convene and socialize. In 1924, The Club relocated to a twin brownstone residence on 39th Street” (Williams Club web site). The club has since left the building, relocating to the Princeton Club’s building in 2010. Source: ALT 862-04, ALT 1503-24; NYT 3/19/1908 p.1; Williams Club web site. **Now The William, an extended stay hotel.**