

= Southworth House (Cleveland , Ohio) =

The Southworth House is a Classical Revival and Italianate house in Cleveland , Ohio , United States that was built in 1879 . Named for its first owner , W.P. Southworth , a leading resident of late nineteenth @-@ century Cleveland , the house has been used for a variety of commercial purposes in recent decades . One of many historic sites in its eastside neighborhood , it has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984 .

= = Construction = =

The house was built in 1879 by William Palmer Southworth , a Cleveland businessman who established W.P. Southworth Co . , a leading Cleveland grocery , in the 1850s . He and his wife Louise were prominent in Cleveland society ; while she was a leader of the women 's suffrage movement , his store (located in Public Square downtown) was significant enough that its destruction by fire in 1882 prompted a front @-@ page story in the New York Times .

The house is built on a stone foundation with a basement , with walls of brick ; the architect 's name is not known . Its three floors were divided into nineteen rooms , and by 1904 Southworth had installed an elevator . The elevator remains today .

= = After Southworth = =

In August 1906 , a group of Cleveland Baptists incorporated an organization , the Baptist Home of Northern Ohio , to establish a retirement home for elderly Baptists . Ten months later , Southworth sold his house to the organization , which was supported financially by industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller , who was a Baptist . With the aid of local churches , the home was opened on October 16 , 1907 . According to the 1910 census , the Baptist Home served fourteen residents at the end of 1910 , at which time the entire property was worth \$ 15 @,@ 000 . The former Southworth residence was not long a retirement home : the Baptist Home moved to a new location in 1919 and sold the Southworth House in the same year . Since that time , the house has been used for a wide range of purposes .

During the 1950s and 1960s , various businesses had offices in the house , which was then called the " Edymar Building " or the " Accountants Building . " In 1973 , the Southworth House was purchased by Pi Sigma Tau Alpha , a fraternity based at the nearby Cleveland State University ; it later served as the fraternity house for Cleveland State 's chapter of Delta Sigma Phi . The house has changed hands several times since its fraternity days . In 1997 , a health care company bought it ; in 2005 , after the company was found to be fraudulent and the owner imprisoned , a historic preservation company bought the property at auction , and it too has since sold the house . Currently , the Southworth House is the location of offices for organizations such as an actual health care company and a local of the Laborers ' International Union of North America .

= = Preservation = =

The Southworth House is recognized as a landmark both locally and nationally . Along with many other properties along Prospect Avenue , it was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 1 , 1984 as part of the " Upper Prospect Multiple Resource Area . " It was included both for its distinctive combination of Classical Revival and Italianate architecture and for its association with Southworth . As the " Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity House , " it has been designated a Cleveland Landmark by the city of Cleveland . Since being listed on the Register in 1984 , the Southworth House has been the focus of both publicly funded and privately funded historic preservation efforts . In late 1996 , as Sunrise Home Health Care prepared to buy the Southworth House , Cleveland City Council provided over \$ 250 @,@ 000 to help purchase and renovate the property . Architects Scott and Analia Dimit began a restoration of the house for developer Michael Chesler , and continued to guide its restoration when it was purchased by Laborers Union Local 860 in 2005 . The construction

workers made it their union hall , completing the work in October 2007 . In October 2009 , the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized the restoration with its Honor Award . Today , the house features wrought ironwork and a distinctive Italianate facade .