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THE ONCE-BELOVED HOBART PAST LOTS

In early 1928, Hamilton Hobart, the 1900 Washington native who founded Hobart Manufacturing Company, moved into his new home at 2720 Woodley Road NW, a Colonial Revival mansion designed by Appleton P. Clark, Jr. Hobart's wife, Edith, died in the house in 1931, and Hobart lived there with his second wife, Ethel, until his own death in 1948. After the latter's death, Hobart's estate sold the property to the Washington Post Company, which razed the house in 1950 to make room for its new printing plant. The Post's plant, in turn, was demolished in 2008 when the paper moved to its current location in downtown Washington, D.C. (1150 15th Street NW). Today, the site is occupied by a condominium complex, Hobart Park.

Hamilton and Edith Hobart at their home, 2720 Woodley Road NW, circa 1930

Hobart's fortune was made in the manufacturing of commercial dishwashing machines. Born in Washington in 1869, Hobart began his career as a salesman for the Arctic Refrigerating Company, a maker of refrigerated display cases for meat markets. In 1897, he founded the Hobart Manufacturing Company in Troy, Ohio, which soon became a leading manufacturer of commercial meat-cutting machines. Hobart's meat-cutting machines were widely used in butcher shops and grocery stores across the country, and the company's success made Hobart a wealthy man. He was also a prominent philanthropist, donating generously to a number of charitable causes, including the Washington Home for Incurables, the Washington Orphan Asylum, and the Washington Humane Society.

The mansion in 1928, shortly after it was completed

Hobart's Woodley Road mansion was designed in the Colonial Revival style, which was popular among wealthy Washingtonians in the early 20th century. The house was situated on a large corner lot and featured a symmetrical facade with a central entrance flanked by two wings. The exterior was clad in brick, and the roof was covered with slate shingles. The interior of the house was equally impressive, with a grand foyer, a formal dining room, a library, and a sunroom. The house also had a number of modern conveniences, including a central heating system, electric lights, and a telephone system.

The mansion's rear facade, facing the Washington Post printing plant, circa 1950

Hobart's mansion was one of the largest and most elaborate homes in the Woodley Park neighborhood, which was developed in the early 20th century as a streetcar suburb for wealthy Washingtonians. The neighborhood's proximity to the National Zoological Park and Rock Creek Park made it a desirable location for those who wanted to escape the city's hustle and bustle. The neighborhood's architecture was also varied, with a mix of single-family homes, apartment buildings, and commercial buildings.

The Washington Post Company's decision to purchase the Hobart property in 1948 was driven by the need for a larger printing plant. The Post's existing plant, which was located at 1515 L Street NW, was cramped and outdated, and the company was looking for a new location that could accommodate its growing circulation. The Woodley Park neighborhood was chosen because of its proximity to the Post's downtown offices and its access to public transportation.

The Washington Post printing plant on Woodley Park, circa 1950

The Post's printing plant was designed by the prominent Washington architect Harry Wardman. Wardman was known for his work on a number of large-scale commercial and residential projects in the city, including the Wardman Park Hotel and the Wardman Court apartments. The printing plant was a modern facility that was equipped with the latest printing technology. It had the capacity to print up to 100,000 newspapers per hour, and it employed a staff of over 1,000 people.

The construction of the printing plant began in 1949 and was completed in 1950. The project was not without controversy, however. Some residents of the Woodley Park neighborhood objected to the plant's location, arguing that it would disrupt the quiet residential character of the area. The Post Company responded by promising to minimize the plant's impact on the neighborhood, and it also agreed to provide a number of amenities to the community, including a new park and a playground.

The Washington Post printing plant on Woodley Park, circa 1950

The Post's printing plant operated for more than 50 years, but it was eventually outgrown by the company's growing circulation and its need for more modern facilities. In 2000, the Post Company announced that it would be moving its printing operations to a new facility in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Woodley Park plant was closed in 2001, and it was demolished in 2008 to make way for the condominium complex that now occupies the site.

The Washington Post printing plant on Woodley Park, circa 2000

The Hobart mansion and the Washington Post printing plant were two significant landmarks in the history of Woodley Park. The mansion was a symbol of the wealth and prosperity of the early 20th century, while the printing plant was a symbol of the city's growth and development in the mid-20th century. Both buildings played an important role in the neighborhood's history, and their demolition was a loss for the community. However, the construction of the condominium complex has also brought new residents to the neighborhood, and it has helped to revitalize the area.

The condominium complex that now occupies the site of the Washington Post printing plant, circa 2010

The Hobart mansion and the Washington Post printing plant are now part of the history of Woodley Park. They are reminders of the neighborhood's past, and they are also reminders of the city's ever-changing landscape. The mansion was a symbol of the wealth and prosperity of the early 20th century, while the printing plant was a symbol of the city's growth and development in the mid-20th century. Both buildings played an important role in the neighborhood's history, and their demolition was a loss for the community. However, the construction of the condominium complex has also brought new residents to the neighborhood, and it has helped to revitalize the area.

The condominium complex that now occupies the site of the Washington Post printing plant is a modern development that includes a number of amenities, such as a fitness center, a swimming pool, and a rooftop terrace. The complex also has a number of retail stores and restaurants on the ground floor. The condominium complex has been successful in attracting new residents to the neighborhood, and it has helped to revitalize the area.

The Hobart mansion and the Washington Post printing plant are two examples of how the city of Washington, D.C. has changed over the years. The mansion was a symbol of the wealth and prosperity of the early 20th century, while the printing plant was a symbol of the city's growth and development in the mid-20th century. Both buildings played an important role in the neighborhood's history, and their demolition was a loss for the community. However, the construction of the condominium complex has also brought new residents to the neighborhood, and it has helped to revitalize the area.

The condominium complex that now occupies the site of the Washington Post printing plant, circa 2010