

"Sloanes Give Big Estate to Foundation"

Excerpt from Virginian-Pilot, Jan. 3 1939

Museum and School of Arts and Crafts To Be Established

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Will Be Endowed

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Deep Conveying Property Recorded, Certificate of Incorporation Granted

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Mr. and Mrs. William Sloane have given their estate, "The Hermitage," at 7537 North Shore Road, Lochhaven, and fronting on the north bank of the Lafayette River, to a foundation for the establishment and development of a public museum and school of arts and crafts, which will be known as "The Hermitage Foundation."

Mrs. Sloane has also endowed the Foundation.

The gift includes all of the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Sloane, which embraces approximately five acres, and which is notable for its beauty and design, with a provision that the residence building only is reserved during the life of the donors.

The Hermitage Foundation already has been granted a certificate of incorporation as a non-profit organization by the State Corporation Commission, after approval of the application for a charter by Judge R. B. Spindle, Jr., of the Corporation Court of Norfolk, and a deed conveying the property has been recorded in the office of the clerk of the Corporation Court.

Mrs. Sloane is the president of the Foundation, and there are three other executive officers and eight trustees who will administer the affairs of the organization. C. Wiley Grandy is vice president; Col. James Mann, secretary, and G.B. Stiles, treasurer. The trustees are Mrs. Sloane, Mr. Grandy, colonel Mann, Goldsborough Serpell and John N. Sebrell, of Norfolk; William R. Hoge and C.B. McLaughlin, of New York City, and M.M. Aldis, of Paris, France.

Purposes of Foundation

The purposes of The Hermitage Foundation, as set forth in the certificate of incorporation, are as follows:

"To establish, maintain and operate, or contribute to the establishment, maintenance and operation, of a museum or museums, for the public exhibition or art and of objects of an historical or antiquarian nature; and in connection therewith, to provide for the promotion of art and for the mental and moral improvement of men and women by furthering their education, enlightenment and aesthetic taste, and by developing the

understanding and appreciation of art by the public; to make proper provision for lectures, publications and other public information or instruction in connection therewith, and for scholarships, grants-in-aid and similar contributions in furtherance of such purposes; to acquire by purchase, gift, grant, bequest or otherwise, works of art, including paintings, pictures, engravings, prints, objects of art, books, furniture, and other objects of an historical, antiquarian, or other aesthetic nature, and to provide natural history exhibits, including the establishment of a bird sanctuary."

It was stated in the announcement of the establishment of the Foundation that a definite plan for the development of the museum and arts school would be formulated at a meeting of the officers and trustees at an early date.

The property that goes immediately to the Foundation includes all of the estate's auxiliary buildings- the caretaker's house, stables, a large storage building and the surrounding land. The plans for the operation of the arts center will contemplate utilization of the residence when it becomes available as a part of the Foundation.

To Provide Scholarships

Besides the museum and arts school, the Foundation also will provide scholarships and grants-in-aid in furtherance of its purposes, and will establish a bird sanctuary and natural history exhibits.

For a nucleus of the art center, a fireproof wing of the residence, separated from it by a covered walkway, will be used as a museum and display space. It is planned to open this part of the museum as soon as possible.

The Hermitage Foundation is not connected with the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences, with which Mrs. Sloane long has been associated, but will not be a competitive establishment. Four of the officers and trustees of the Norfolk museum of Arts and Sciences are also serving The Hermitage Foundation in the same capacity, and the new art center will cooperate with the museum of Arts and Sciences in furthering cultural development in this section.

No estimate was given of the value of the property, which long has been recognized as one of the outstanding and most attractive places in the city.