

## History of 10 Upper Belgrave Street



Belgravia was originally laid out and built by Thomas Cubitt under a special Act of Parliament passed in 1826. Upper Belgrave Street now stands on the site of what was once an open, rural expanse known as the Five Fields. It was part of the Ebury Farm, which came into the Grosvenor family in the 17th century through the marriage of Mary Davies to Sir Thomas Grosvenor.



One historian described how Cubitt set about the task of building Belgravia: The clay he removed and burned into bricks, and by building upon the substratum of gravel he converted this spot from the most unhealthy to one of the most healthy in the metropolis in spite of the fact that its surface is but a few feet above the level of the River Thames at high water during spring tides .



In 1834 the property surfaces in the occupation of a Mrs Lowndes, it was then acquired by Miss Holt in 1839, before it became the home of Sir George Wombwell in 1842. Sir George was an English first-class cricketer with amateur status who played for the Marylebone Cricket Club (M.C.C) in the 1790's.

Before 1844 the property became the home of George Augustus Rawdon-Hastings, 2nd Marquess of Hastings. He died leaving his widow Barbara, Baroness Grey de Ruthyn. Within eleven months of her husband's death she remarried. Her second husband, Henry Yelverton lived with her at the house with her son 3rd Marquess of Hastings and her daughter.



In 1851 the house was inhabited by William Henry Hugh Cholmondeley. He lived at the property with his wife, Maria Emma Georgiana and their three children supported by a staff of ten. He succeeded as the 3rd Marquess of Cholmondeley in 1870. The property although sometimes sublet remained with his descendants for some years more. The London directories for 1866 place it in the occupation of Sir Montague John Cholmondeley like his father and grandfather Sir Montague sat in Parliament for Grantham a seat later held by Margaret Thatcher. He shared the house with his wife, Lady Georgiana Beauclerk, the fifth daughter of William, 8th Duke of St Albans.



Sir Montague was succeeded at the property by his only surviving son, Hugh Cholmondeley, who became the fourth generation of his family to sit in Parliament for Grantham.

In 1897 the property was offered for sale by auction. The building was then subsequently purchased by Vesey Dawson, Earl of Dartrey, formally a lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. He shared the property with his wife and their two children and remained in occupation until shortly after the end of the first world war. The property then became home of John Herbert Dudley Ryder 5th Earl of Harrowby he shared the house with his daughter Lady Frances Ryder.

Before 1928 the property passed into office use with the Institution of Structural Engineers. It continued so until the onset of the Second World War, when the building became occupied by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects until 2013.