



C



B



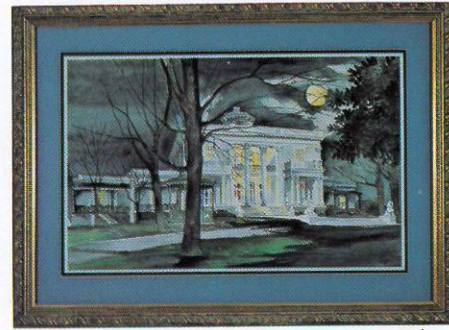
D



E



F



G



A

This set of pictures includes two photographs of Adelia in later life when she was Mrs. W. A. Cheatham (A,C) and pieces of jewelry which she owned—a brooch (B), a locket with the hair and names of the Franklin children inscribed on the back (D,E), and a pin of a horn and hound's head which Empress Eugenie presented to Adelia (F). The painting, *Belmont in the Moonlight*, by John W. Kiser, 1980, portrays Belmont Mansion ready for a party with the time set by Adelia by the almanac for a full moon (G).

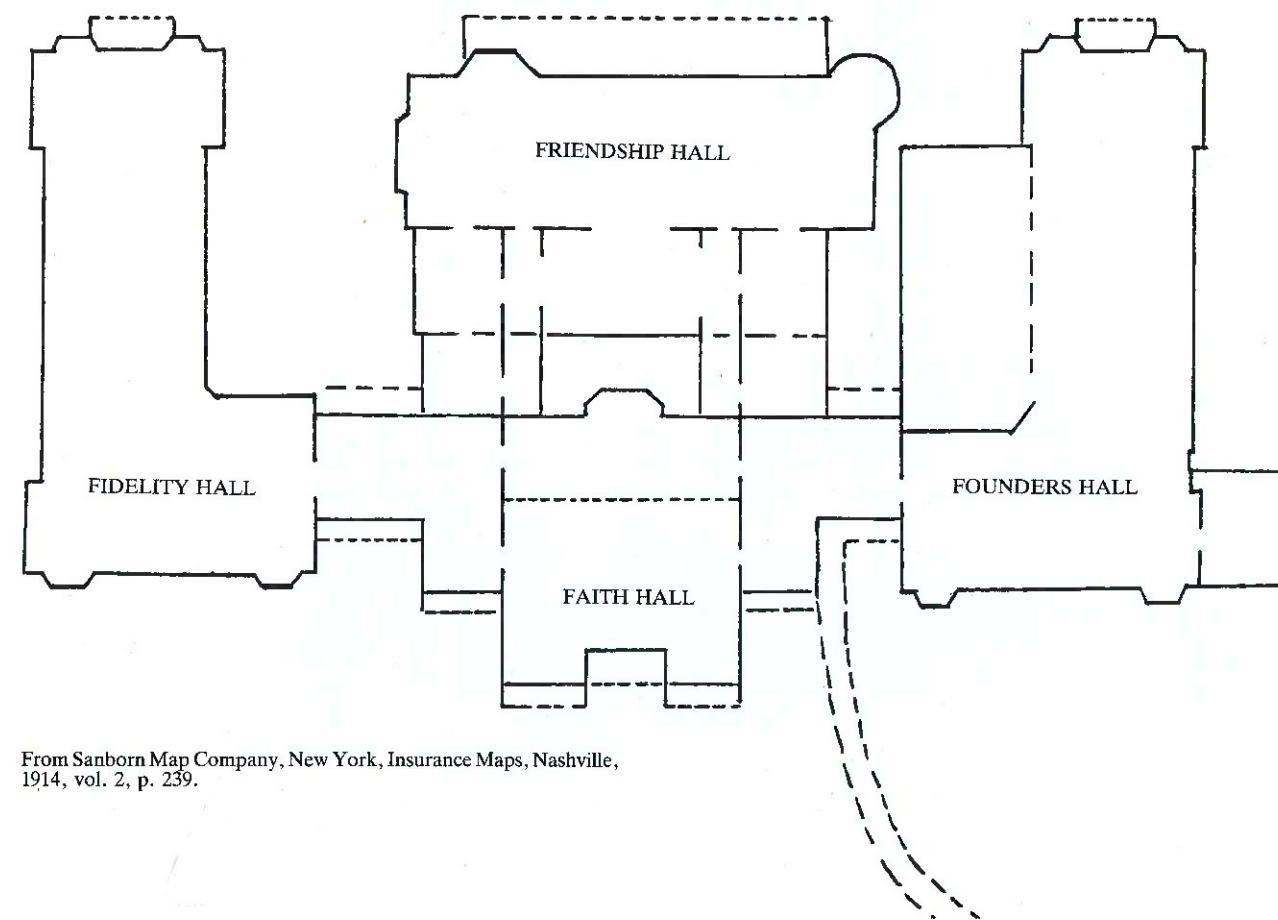
Belmont Estate As A College Campus

With its rich heritage, Belmont Mansion soon appropriately became part of a distinguished school for young ladies. The home of the Acklens has, in fact, become a focal point in the life of three successive academic institutions, each incorporating in some way the name, "Belmont." When one considers that Adelia broke her first husband's will and thereby stopped the establishment of an educational institution, it is ironic that in the end the Belmont estate should benefit the life of three schools.

Before long Lewis T. Baxter began to dispose of the properties he had purchased from Adelia. For instance, in 1890 a syndicate purchased for \$72,000 land to the west of Belmont for lots. But one year before he had already sold to Miss Ida Hood and Miss Susan L. Heron, two ladies who had taught for five years at Martin College in Pulaski, Belmont Mansion with fifteen acres for \$52,000 for a college and preparatory school for women. At first the new owners, following a plan developed by Thomas Lynch Dismukes, considered remodeling the mansion in French Chateau style with Flemish Renaissance details, which incorporated a mansard roof. His

proposal also included the raising of the side wings of the mansion to the height of the center section and the construction of a building of three stories to the north. It was most fortunate the plan was not executed. The proprietors adopted a new plan which retained the outside features of the mansion but remodeled the interior by partitioning the second floor into small bedrooms and providing classrooms, dining hall, and apartments in the basement. The new school which was named, "Belmont College for Young Women," opened its doors on September 4, 1890, with an enrollment of 90 young ladies.

The college added new structures to the original mansion. The first was a building for classrooms and dormitory space on the north. It was attached to the wings of the mansion which extended northward, thereby enclosing the court area between the wings. In 1905 the school added on the west, Fidelity Hall, for its school of music and a dormitory in an L-shape, and in 1909, Founders Hall, a dormitory with beautiful dining room and kitchen facilities in its basement area. In the meantime, the north building, which received the name of



From Sanborn Map Company, New York, Insurance Maps, Nashville, 1914, vol. 2, p. 239.

Diagram of Belmont Mansion (or Faith Hall) and adjacent buildings, 1914.