



City of Westminster

Marriot Park Lane

Once a stately apartment building overlooking Hyde Park and Marble Arch, the 5 Star London Marriott Hotel Park Lane is now one of the leading luxury hotel in London.



It was originally the site of Somerset House, Park Lane (built 1769-70, demolished 1915), was an 18th century town house on the east side of Park Lane, where it meets Oxford Street, in the Mayfair area of London, England. It was also known as 40 Park Lane, although a renumbering means that the site is now called 140 Park Lane.

The freehold of the house was always with the Grosvenor family, while the successive owners of the lease were the 2nd Viscount Bateman, followed by Warren Hastings, a former Governor-General of India, the third Earl of Rosebery, the Dukes of Somerset, after whom the house took its longest-surviving name, and finally the publisher George Murray Smith and his widow.

In 1901, a writer in *The Architectural Review* complained that Park Lane's former "casual elegance" was being replaced by a "frippery and extravagance" which looked like converting it into another Fifth Avenue. In 1905 a newspaper noted that "the thoroughfare is becoming a less popular place of residence, eight of the houses being to be let or sold". Soon, there were complaints of noise from motor buses, and by 1909 property values had fallen. These factors led to the demolition of the house in 1915, to be replaced by the first flats built in Park Lane. There was public opposition to the development, but the flats, designed by Frank Verity, were built on the site in 1915–19