

AFB to sell headquarters

The American Foundation for the Blind has put their headquarters facility on the market for sale. The properties, located at 11-15 West 16th Street and 18-24 West 17th Street, have been the home of the Foundation for several decades.

The properties contain a total of 70,000 square feet and consist of two 3-story buildings on West 16th Street and a four story building, a twelve story building and a vacant lot on West 17th Street with 100 feet of frontage on 16th Street and 125 feet of frontage on 17th Street.

The buildings have been interconnected at several points and have been operated as one facility by the foundation. Massey Knakal Realty Services has been appointed exclusive sales agents by the foundation and, according to Robert A. Knakal, managing director of the firm, "This availability represents an outstanding opportunity for a user group to occupy all or a substantial portion of a tremendous facility. This property lends itself to the prestige and intimacy of an institutional property given the stately frontage on 16th Street."

Knakal explained that although the property has been on the market only a few weeks, the interest in the facility has been very strong.

The American Foundation for the

Blind is a leading national resource for people who are blind or visually impaired, the organizations which serve them, and the general public. A non-profit organization founded in 1921 and recognized as Helen Keller's cause in the United States, the foundation has as its mission to enable persons who are blind or visually impaired to achieve a quality of access and opportunity that will insure freedom of choice in their lives.

AFB is headquartered in New York City, with regional centers in Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. Among a multitude of services provided by the foundation, they record and duplicate approximately 400 Talking Book titles each year under contract to the Library of Congress, publish books, pamphlets, and periodicals about blindness for professionals and consumers, including *The Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, the leading professional journal of its kind.

The American Foundation for the Blind also maintains and preserves the Helen Keller archives, a valuable collection of personal material donated by Helen Keller, who worked at the foundation for over 40 years.

Interested parties can contact Massey Knakal Realty Services for an inspection tour of the property. The asking price is \$5.8 million.