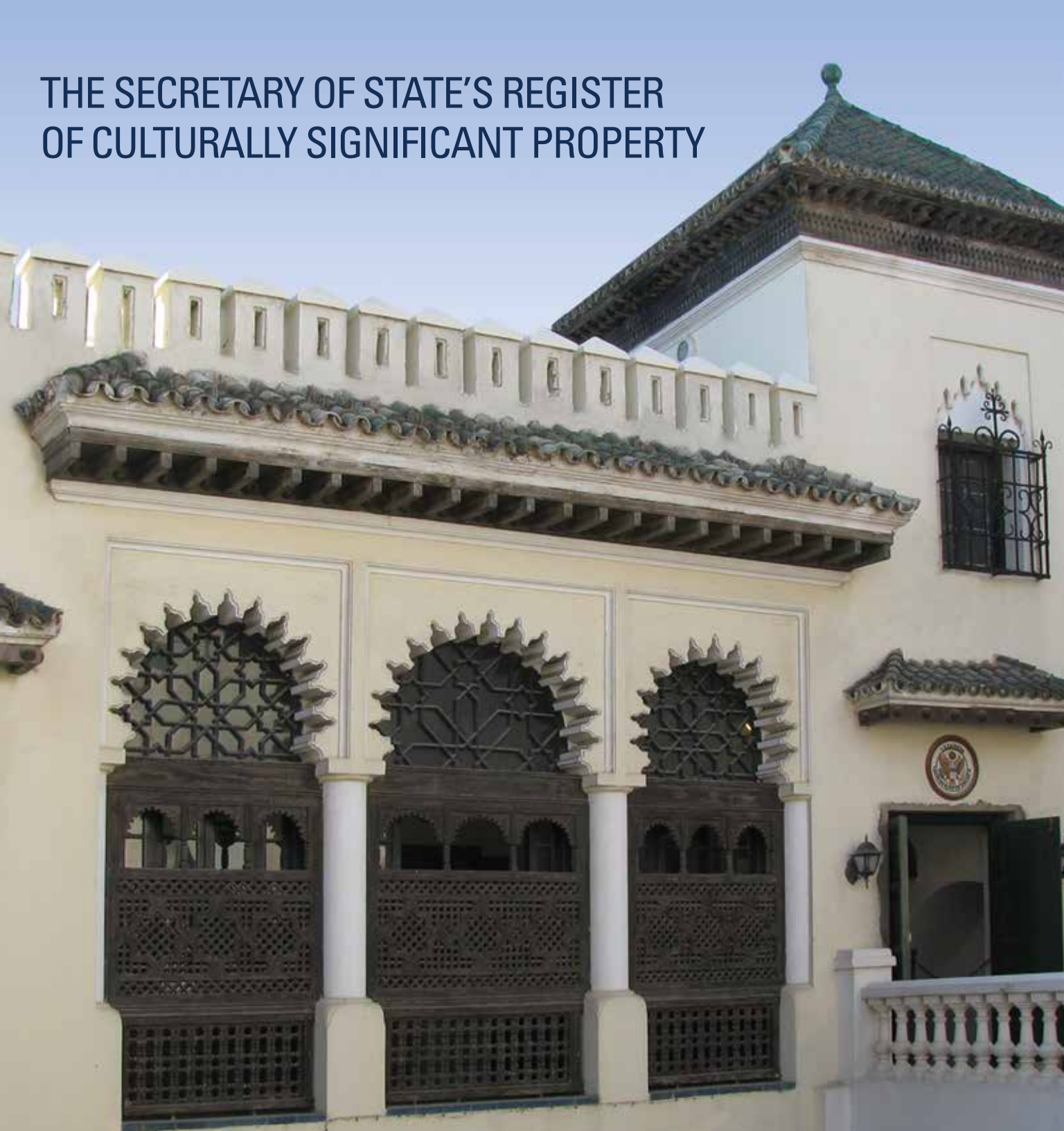
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S REGISTER OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY



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ABOUT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S REGISTER OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY

The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. It is similar to the National Register of Historic Places that is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior for domestic U.S. properties. It is an honorific listing of important diplomatic overseas architecture and property that figure prominently in our country's international heritage. These include chanceries, official residences, office buildings, a museum, a cemetery, and guest homes.

The Department's Register is instrumental in promoting the preservation of American history and architecture. The Department provides professional stewardship, preservation, and maintenance of unique and significant buildings. The Register serves to commemorate this heritage and to promote and preserve American history and architecture.

Currently, there are twenty-six Department properties listed on the Register. Nominations to the Register originate overseas at the U.S. post and are supported by the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Office of Cultural Heritage.
http://www.state.gov/obo

Seven criteria were used to evaluate properties for listing by the Secretary of State in the Register:

- Designation or acknowledgment by a government as a significant property
- Association with the United States' overseas heritage
- Association with a significant historical event or person
- Important architecture and/or designed by an important architect
- Distinctive theme or assembly
- Unique object or visual feature
- Significant archaeological site

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

On behalf of the American people, the U.S. Department of State is pleased to honor our landmark American properties abroad, share their historic value with host countries, and maintain them as catalysts for diplomacy. The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property recognizes the Department of State's worldwide effort to protect our most noteworthy United States properties.

Established in 2000, the Secretary of State's Register commemorates our country's most significant international heritage, and it promotes and preserves architecture and American history.

The Register includes chanceries, official residences, office buildings, a museum, a cemetery, and the most famous guest house in the world—Blair House.

The U.S. Department of State owns or has under long-term lease over 3,500 properties in over 180 countries and 275 diplomatic posts worldwide. Presently, among these properties, twenty-six have been designated as historically, architecturally, or culturally significant.

This publication will introduce the properties and the many fascinating people and events associated with these cultural treasures. I hope you enjoy learning about the Secretary of State's Register and these extraordinary properties.

John F. Kerry
Secretary of State

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
FORMER U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

The former Consulate General in Alexandria reflects the city's rich cultural heritage and its cosmopolitan character and was once the home of Alfred de Menasce, a successful banker from a family of Jewish philanthropists and civic leaders. Architect Victor Erlanger, an Alexandria native but a French citizen, designed the residence in Palladian Neo-Renaissance style in 1922. Erlanger's design incorporated classical decorative elements into the square symmetrical house whose downstairs rooms open onto a central hall. An imposing marble staircase divides into two flights and leads up to the former private apartments.

Lawyer Naguib Ayoub Bey and his wife Mary, descendants of Christian Syro-Lebanese emigrants, took up residence in the house in 1929. Mary's nephew Pierre and his young wife Isabelle moved in ten years later and raised their family of five children in the house. The United States Government bought the property in 1962 in order to relocate its expanding and well-used Thomas Jefferson Library. The once much-loved family home became a window on America. Thousands of Egyptians passed through its doors to learn English, borrow books, and exchange views on regional and international issues. These cultural activities ended, however, with the outbreak of the June 1967 war. The building stood empty for twelve years. Its reopening as the American Cultural Center in 1979 underscored the confidence the United States had in Egypt and in its commitment to building strong bilateral relations. Although the U.S. Embassy closed its consulate in Alexandria in 1993, the American Center in Alexandria remained open as an American Presence Post in order to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Egypt and the United States through a full range of programs.

In July 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton re-inaugurated Consulate General Alexandria and following renovation of the facility, it became the Consulate General and served that function until January 2013.

ATHENS, GREECE
U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY

The Athens Chancery, by architect Walter Gropius, one of the most celebrated representatives of the famed Bauhaus School, is a modern tribute to ancient Greek architecture. The architect designed the building as a metaphor for democracy in the country to which modern democracy owes so much.

Completed on July 4, 1961, the three-story edifice is markedly open. The landscaped courtyard provides a place for discussion and meeting. The white columns and brilliant reflective surfaces of the exterior façade are clad with Pentelic marble, the famous stone used in the Parthenon, other buildings on the Acropolis, and throughout the ancient Mediterranean. Black marble from Saint Peter, Peloponnesus, gray marble from Marathon, and other native Greek marbles are used throughout the building. The beautifully turned wood stair railing was made with Greek pearwood by Greek artisans.

Contemporary architecture magazines described the chancery as "a symbol of democracy at the fountainhead of many old democratic and architectural traditions" by "one of modern architecture's Olympian figures," Walter Gropius, and his associates at The Architects Collaborative. Gropius said that he sought "to find the spirit of [the] Greek approach without imitating any classical means." The podium, quadrilateral plan, interior patio, exterior columns, and formal landscaping were all handled in a thoroughly modern way. Pericles Sakellarios was the consulting architect. Paul Weidlinger and Mario Salvadori were the structural engineers.

The building's climatic response includes ceramic sunscreens, wide overhangs, free-flowing air at continuously slotted overhangs, and a bipartite roof. Upper floors hang from the roof structure. Gropius placed a reflecting pool at the main entrance and fountains in the landscape to create serene settings and cooling from the Greek sun. The floor plan is arranged in a sweeping crescent that embraces a large formal terrace descending to a lawn and garden.

On the lawn facing the city is a bronze statue of American soldier/statesman George C. Marshall, whose aid program helped turn the Greek Civil War away from communism and supported a return to prosperity in Greece at the end of World War II.

The Athens Chancery remains a fresh and optimistic bow to the classical ideal and one of the most prominent Bauhaus buildings in Greece.

In 2013, the Department selected a design firm for a major rehabilitation of the chancery facility and campus at the U.S. Embassy in Athens.

BAGUIO, THE PHILIPPINES
AMBASSADOR'S SUMMER RESIDENCE

William Howard Taft, the first U.S. civilian governor of the Philippines, from 1901–1903, found Manila's climate too oppressive and sought a summer retreat with a more accommodating climate. He selected the highland town of Baguio located on the country's northern Luzon island, which on June 1, 1903, had been declared as the "Summer Capital" by the Philippine Commission. Taft invited American architect and city planner Daniel Burnham to complete a plan for the area. Then, in 1935, when the Philippine government was established and received title to the government buildings in Manila and Baguio, there was a need for new buildings for U.S. personnel. Congress appropriated funds to construct new buildings for its governmental functions there, including a new residence in Baguio.

The structure itself was designed by Department of State architect J. A. Hewitt. It is emblematic of the stylistic initiatives followed by the Department in the decades between the two world wars, often described as streamlined modern and perhaps suggestive of romanticized U.S. Southern plantation houses.

The residence, then called the High Commissioner's House and now the Ambassador's Residence, was finished on April 1, 1940. On December 8, 1941, Japanese forces attacked. By Christmas, and for the next three years, the new building served as living quarters for high-ranking Japanese officers. Following the liberation of Baguio on April 17, 1945, control returned to the U.S. and the Philippines. On September 3, in the living room of the residence, the Japanese High Command signed the Instrument of Surrender.

Following Philippine independence in July 1946, the residence began a different diplomatic role, hosting visiting distinguished U.S. officials, U.S. chief of mission conferences, and bilateral defense meetings.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, TRUMAN HALL

Truman Hall is a traditional Flemish country estate built in 1963 for Côte d'Or chocolatier Jean Michiels. The house is the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is named in honor of President Harry S Truman, one of NATO's founders. The design is the successful collaboration between architect B.A. Jacquemotte and landscape architect René Pechère.

Pechère, one of the best-known contemporary landscape architects in Europe, transformed twenty-seven acres of barren agricultural land into gentle hills and valleys, meadows, and formal gardens. A curving cobbled drive, lined with roses, leads to the tree-lined approach to the residence. The house overlooks a sweeping lawn, towering cedars, English gardens, and an herb garden. The lawn pavilion is planted with fragrant honeysuckle, roses, clematis, hydrangeas, and wisteria. The original children's playground, giant sequoia circle, and maze are still effective landscape elements. In 1984, on the first anniversary celebrating Truman Hall's becoming the official U.S. NATO residence, a new garden was created with cobbled circles representing each NATO country.

The Truman Hall residence is constructed of painted brick and gray stone, with slate roof dormers. Virginia creeper relieves the gray and white stucco and in autumn turns a festive red orange. The plan is designed to capture sunlight—the kitchen/breakfast rooms face east; the dining room is illuminated at lunchtime; and the salons overlook sunsets. The entry hall is paved in the famous "pierre bleu" Belgian black marble. The corridors are wide and inviting, and there is a library with fine eighteenth-century wood paneling.

Truman Hall, graciously welcoming visitors from the NATO nations and Alliance partner countries around the world, was sold in 1983 to the U.S. Government at a reduced price by Mrs. Michiels, who said, "I want you to have it. Your country saved mine in World War II."

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, PALACIO BOSCH

The residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina was designed by French architect René Sergent for Ernesto Bosch and his wife Elisa de Alvear. It was built between 1912 and 1917 upon Bosch's return from representing his country in Germany, the United States, and France to become Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs. André Carlhian, a specialist in traditional French classicism, was responsible for the interiors. Achille Duchêne designed the garden with its sophisticated geometry. Lanús y Hary oversaw the construction, since the architect never visited Argentina. The materials and furnishings all came from France.

Because of its stylistic unity and contextual relation to its environs, the Palacio Bosch is considered Sergent's finest work. The façade echoes the small temple opposite Palermo Park. Grandiloquent interior rooms, around a central stone staircase, overlook the garden. The building was seminal to Argentine architectural taste. Working again with Duchêne, Sergent designed the Palacio Errázuriz (now the Museum of Decorative Arts) and the Palacio Sans Souci in Buenos Aires.

Bosch sold the residence to the United States Government in 1929 following recurrent propositions by U.S. Ambassador Robert Woods Bliss. Bliss, owner of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., also purchased some of the furnishings, which he later donated to the residence. Major renovation of the building was undertaken in 1994. The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' first totally historic restoration thus began, using many Argentine artisans and craftsmen who were direct descendants of the original experts. Thanks to the extraordinary donation of the research of Argentine architect Fabio Grementieri and Robert Carlhian of Paris—André Carlhian's son—an exact restoration was possible.

The effort was an international one, with invaluable contributions from dedicated professionals in France, the United States, and Argentina. Leading experts on historic preservation from thirty countries, who attended the International Conference on Critical Appraisal and Heritage Preservation in Buenos Aires in 2000, were unanimous in their praise for the renovation and restoration of the Palacio Bosch. Copies of Sergent's original drawings (now owned by Grementieri) were published in *Revista de Arquitectura*, Argentina's primary architectural magazine of the period. The Palacio Bosch is designated an historic property by the Buenos Aires municipality and the Argentine Republic.

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO
CONSULATE GENERAL'S RESIDENCE, VILLA MIRADOR

Villa Mirador, built in 1935 on the outskirts of Casablanca, is a residence designed in the French North African colonial style. It was requisitioned by U.S. forces following the American invasion of North Africa in November 1942. The next month President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill exchanged secret telegrams to arrange a high-level Allied war meeting because, in Churchill's words, "we have no plan for 1943 which is on the scale or up to the level of events." What followed was the Casablanca Conference in January 1943.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was directed to plan for the meeting, reported in late 1942 that the neighborhood in which Villa Mirador was located, Anfa, had a hotel "surrounded by a group of excellent villas situated five miles south of Casablanca" which seemed ideal for the meeting. The residence that impressed all as "charming, . . . exactly suited as to what was required," complete with a "nice garden, light and airy," was Villa Mirador, which seemed "top-rate."

Churchill arrived on January 13 and immediately set up his traveling "war room," which was outfitted with updated maps of all theatres of war. That evening he and the British Chiefs of Staff laid the groundwork to pressure the U.S. for an invasion of Sicily rather than the European mainland approach that was the traditional American preference. The British, of course, were ultimately successful in this aim: the Allies invaded Sicily later that year with full American support, paving the way for the fall of Italy and ultimate American and Allied success in Western Europe.

Perhaps the most important legacy of the Casablanca Conference, however, was the bold new policy of an "unconditional surrender." Over the course of consultations and discussions held at the Anfa Hotel and Villa Mirador, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that "Peace can come to the world only by a total elimination of German and Japanese war power." This would mean "the destruction of a philosophy [in these countries] which is based on the conquest and subjugation of other peoples," a policy that would result in "a reasonable assurance of world peace for generations."

On May 2, 1947, Villa Mirador was purchased by the United States from its original owner, Paul André Jules Cauvin. It has since served as the official residence of the U.S. Consul General.

FLORENCE, ITALY
U.S. EMBASSY CONSULATE, PALAZZO CANEVARO

Palazzo Canevaro, the U.S. Consulate in Florence, was designed by Giuseppe Poggi for Marquis Manfredi Calcagnini Estense in 1857—the last of a series of glorious Florentine Neo-Renaissance residences by Florence's most famous architect and city planner.

Calcagnini kept the palace for only a brief time. Then it was occupied by Count Francesco Arese — an important figure in the Risorgimento and bosom friend of Emperor Napoleon III — and later an Italian Senator. At the beginning of 1900, Emanuele Giuseppe Canevaro, Duke of Zoagli, bought the building for his residence. The Canevaros were an important family, busy in both the Italian and Peruvian political worlds. Emanuele Giuseppe's son Raffaele and wife Terry Camperio, a young American heiress, were active in the social life of the city. In the period between the two world wars, Palazzo Canevaro was a center of Florentine society and on innumerable occasions opened its doors to important Italian and foreign dignitaries.

Palazzo Canevaro became a U.S. property on December 30, 1947, when the American Consul Walter Orebaugh purchased it, together with the Annex and the garden. (During the war, Orebaugh had been a prisoner of war of the Fascist government, escaped, and joined the Italian partisans in the hills of Umbria.) The building is protected by Italian law because of its architectural and historic value and its setting on the banks of the Arno. Serving the large resident American population, American business interests, the American university community (over 50 in its district) and the over one million tourists who visit annually, Palazzo Canevaro has played an important role in Florentine life since 1947.

During the disastrous flood of the Arno in 1966, which resulted in the deaths of over 100 Florentines and left 500 families homeless, the Consulate was recognized by the Department for its distinguished service assisting American tourists and residents of Florence. Following the flood, the Consulate played a key coordinating role for the American "Mud Angels"— volunteers, mostly students, who cleaned the city of refuse, mud, and oil, and retrieved priceless works of art, books, and other materials ravaged by the Arno. One of those volunteers was young Edward Kennedy, and in 1996 Senator Kennedy returned to be honored by the City of Florence in an official event honoring the 30th anniversary of the flood. In years following the flood, the Consulate assisted the U.S. Committee to Rescue Italian Art, chaired by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, which sponsored the restoration of damaged artworks around the city.

HANOI, VIETNAM
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

The U.S. Ambassador's residence in Hanoi, perhaps the most architecturally distinguished ambassadorial residence in the city, is genteel and elegantly Parisian. The façade is defined by tall windows, wrought iron balconies, and a high-style slate mansard roof punctuated with dormers. It was designed by M. LaCollonge, Principal Architect and Chief of Civil Construction Service in Tonkin. The house was built in 1921 by Indochina Public Property, part of the French colonial government, for Indochina Financial Governors who lived in the residence until 1948. It was then assigned, until 1954, to the highest-ranking Indochina Tariff Officer.

When the French left Southeast Asia in 1954, Vietnamese government officials moved into the house. Vice Minister Phan Ke Toai was the last Vietnamese resident. He had been Emperor Bao Dai's special envoy, the highest-ranking representative from the royal Hue Court under the Japanese occupation in the northern part of the country. He was assigned to his post when the Japanese seized power from the French in 1940, serving until the Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945. Toai later joined the Viet Minh government, having secretly collaborated with the Viet Minh during the Japanese occupation to protect the Viet Minh from government harassment. At Toai's death the house became the headquarters for the Committee for Foreign Culture Exchange. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs press office was located in the building until 1994.

The United States opened a Liaison Office in Hanoi on January 28, 1995. Diplomatic relations were established on July 11, 1995, and U.S. Embassy Hanoi was established with a Chargé d'Affaires ad interim. On May 6, 1997, former U.S. Air Force pilot Douglas "Pete" Peterson, a former prisoner of war, became the first United States Ambassador to Vietnam. The residence had been included in an exchange of property between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1995. Its recent renovation preserves the property's historical integrity.

This architecturally significant property contributes to the campaign to maintain the ambiance of Hanoi's past and reflects vestiges of a long period in Vietnam's history.

LONDON, ENGLAND
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WINFIELD HOUSE

Situated adjacent to Regent's Park, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James emanates power and grace. The site was originally occupied by Hertford Villa, the largest of the eight villas originally constructed in Regent's Park. Occupants of the villa included the Marquess of Hertford, newspaper proprietor Lord Rothermere, and the American financier Otto H. Kahn. The villa was damaged by fire in the 1930s and was purchased by American heiress Barbara Hutton, one of the wealthiest women in the world. Hutton demolished the existing villa and, on the recommendation of Lord Louis Mountbatten, hired the English firm of Wimperis, Simpson & Guthrie to design her house.

The red-brick Georgian-style mansion was built in 1936 and named after Hutton's grandfather F.W. (Winfield) Woolworth, who had founded the stores where any item could be purchased for five or ten cents. Hutton employed two decorators: Johnny Sieben, an expert on carpets and French furniture, who had renovated the Woolworth town houses in New York, and Sheila Lady Milbank, who had consulted on furnishings, colors, and fabrics for Hutton's London house. The decorators laid oak parquet floors, installed eighteenth-century French paneling, fitted marble bathrooms, and planted several thousand trees and hedges.

During World War II Winfield House was used as a Royal Air Force officers' club and then as a convalescent home for Canadian servicemen. After the war Hutton offered it to the United States Government, for the price of one American dollar, to be used as the ambassador's residence.

The residence is among the properties comprising the Regent's Park historic district established by the commissioners for the Crown Estate. Its twelve-acre private garden within the city limits of London is second in size only to that of Buckingham Palace. A ninety-nine-year lease was negotiated with the landlord Crown Estate and extensive renovations prepared the residence for its new role as a stage for diplomacy.

On their first night in Winfield House, January 18, 1955, Ambassador and Mrs. Winthrop Aldrich hosted a ball for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. In the early 1970s, Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg refurbished the residence in a grand style that included installing eighteenth-century hand-painted Chinese wallpaper in the Garden Room. Winfield House stands as a tangible symbol of the uniquely close relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

MADRID, SPAIN
DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION RESIDENCE, BYNE HOUSE

The residence of the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to Spain is a stately townhouse built in 1885 by Don Manuel Caldero, the Marqués de Salamanca and the principal developer of the neighborhood that now carries his name. American architect Arthur Byne and his wife Mildred Stapley purchased the property in 1931. Byne was a world authority on Spanish architecture and art as well as being an antiques dealer. The many books that Bynes authored on Spanish architecture and interior design have been republished and remain standard textbooks. Original volumes are highly prized by collectors. The house is one of the few original surviving period houses in the neighborhood.

The Bynes transformed their classical residence into a showcase of authentic Iberian artifacts from the tenth through the nineteenth centuries, mixed with reproduction floors, ceilings, fireplaces, doors, and windows. There is an inviting porte cochère and a grand interior marble staircase. Since their occupancy, the living quarters have been enlarged, a kitchen wing added, and fireplace mantels installed.

The mantel in the main salon bears the coat of arms of the Solis family of Salamanca. The seventeenth-century limestone fireplace in the library features carved lilies in a jar, symbolizing the Virgin Mary. The wood coffered ceilings (artesonado) are part of the Muslim Mudéjar tradition of hand-crafting tessellated pine boards. The polychrome ceiling on the second floor landing contains a large, eight-pointed Moorish star surrounded by smaller stars, and there are black-and-white marble floors and raw wood doors throughout the house. The dining room contains a 300-year-old natural pine ceiling supported on medieval stone brackets ornamented with carved human and animal heads. The adjacent carriage house is now a guest house.

Arthur Byne attended the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and studied in Rome. In 1914 he became curator of the Museum of the Hispanic Society of America. His watercolors were exhibited internationally. Byne won a silver medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 and was awarded the Spanish Gran Cruz del Mérito Militar. He sold artifacts to publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst, including the fifteenth-century Barbastro Ceiling, now in the Billiard Room at what became known as Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. Byne also shipped the Santa Maria de Ovila Monastery to San Francisco in 1931 for a medieval museum proposed by Hearst's architect, Julia Morgan.

The United States Government purchased the property from the executor of the Byne estate in 1944. It is listed with premier status on Madrid's historic register.

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES
U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY

The U.S. Embassy in Manila is tangible evidence of the American commitment to Philippine independence pledged in 1934 by the U.S. Congress. The Federal Modern-style chancery, designed by Juan M. de Guzman Arellano and completed in 1940, was initially the residence and offices of the U.S. High Commissioner. Built on reclaimed land, a gift from the Philippine government, the building sits on more than 600 reinforced concrete piles sunk sixty feet into the seaside site. Local reports at the time praised its state-of-the-art construction, finding that its plain, compact, and solid expression embodied efficiency, strength, and stability.

During World War II, Japanese forces entered the city of Manila on January 2, 1942. As the invasion took place, members of the U.S. High Commissioner's staff lowered the headquarters' American flag, burned it, and buried its ashes to prevent its capture. After the Bataan operations in April 1942, the property became the residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Imperial Military in the Philippines. When the Japanese-sponsored Republic of the Philippines was declared a year later, the building was repainted and refurnished as the Japanese Embassy.

During its recapture by Allied forces and Philippine guerrillas in a fierce two-day battle, the building was seriously damaged, but the elegant ballroom and other rooms remained intact. On February 22, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur again raised the American flag. The original table used to sign the surrender of Japanese forces in the Philippines on September 3, 1945, remains in the Ambassador's Residence in Baguio City.

In October 1945, just one month after the war ended, Quonset huts were erected, and the property became known as "The Courthouse," the center of Japanese war crime trials in the Philippines. The ballroom served as the courtroom, and upstairs rooms as holding cells. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines became independent, and the building became the United States Embassy. In spite of the turmoil caused by war and rebuilding, the chancery's historical design and building fabric have been preserved. The property retains its simple elegance and dignified original character.

The Manila Embassy's history, age, battle-scarred flagpole, graceful garden monuments, and interior spaces all bear testament to U.S.-Philippine history and stand as symbols of freedom and democracy. The Manila Chancery has been designated an historic property by the National Historical Institute of the Philippines.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, SPASO HOUSE

Few buildings associated with American diplomacy over the past century carry the same resonance and have played such an important role in the U.S. overseas diplomatic heritage as Spaso House, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow. Since it was first selected as the American ambassador's residence in late 1933, Spaso House has hosted a long list of distinguished guests, from musicians to presidents of the United States and Russian heads of state. Spaso House has been in continual use by the U.S. Government since the United States first established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, as both an ambassador's residence and, occasionally, as a chancery building.

While much of its fame rests upon the legendary diplomatic parties and state dinners that have been held within its confines over the past eight decades, Spaso House has also served as a venue for both traditional diplomatic negotiations and public diplomacy. Social and cultural events hosted at the house have played an essential role in easing tensions and maintaining contact between the United States and Russia, even when official relations were strained. As such, the history of Spaso House provides a unique perspective on the twentieth-century diplomatic relationship between the United States, the Soviet Union, and its successor, the Russian Federation.

The original owner of Spaso House, Nikolay Vtorov, was a renowned Russian industrial magnate. In 1913, Vtorov purchased a lot in the Arbat district from Princess Lobanova-Rostovskaya and hired noted architects Vladimir Adamovich and Vladimir Mayat to design and build his new home. It was constructed in the New Empire style that was popular within Russia's wealthy business class. The interior wall paintings were produced by a well-known artist, Ignatiy Nivinskiy. Fêted by contemporaries as a masterpiece, Spaso House remains one of the best surviving examples of early twentieth-century Russian neoclassicism.

The structure has served as home to some of the greatest practitioners of American diplomacy during the past century: George Kennan, Chip Bohlen, Averell Harriman, Llewellyn Thompson, and Thomas Pickering, among others. What truly defines Spaso House, however, is its status as a symbol of hope for Russian-American amity. Although this hope has often been frustrated, either by the Stalinist excesses of the 1930s or the decades-long superpower struggle of the Cold War, such failures tell but half of the story. The record of Spaso House as a backdrop to the triumphs of the Grand Alliance in World War II, détente in the 1970s, and glasnost in the 1980s proves that the dream of Russian-American friendship is both valid and lasting.

NEW DELHI, INDIA
U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY

The Chancery of U.S. Embassy New Delhi, built in the 1950s during the heyday of American foreign building, was the first major embassy building project approved during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953–1961). It was a time when American foreign policy aimed to support free people resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures.

The chancery was designed by master architect Edward Durell Stone, who captured history and fantasy in a memorable symbol of the United States' commitment to India after its independence. The Embassy is a hallmark example of modernist philosophy by Stone, one of the earliest exponents of the International Style. It is a well-proportioned box formally standing on a podium—a simple isolated object in open space. Internal organization is radial. Smaller enclosed uniform offices ring around a shimmering pool punctuated by floating green islands. The use of water and the open-air central pool recall Mogul gardens of earthly paradise. The exterior glass curtain wall is protected by a vivid and climatically responsive sunscreen. There is an honest use of natural materials (terrazzo, teak, concrete, aluminum) pragmatically fitted together without extravagance. The chancery expresses the characteristic American preference for efficiency and straightforwardness.

Described as a "tour de force" and appearing in the popular press and many architectural journals, the New Delhi Chancery together with Stone's other large portfolio of work had a major impact upon architectural education during the 1950s. Among his award-winning projects are the original Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the U.S. Pavilion at the World's Fair in Brussels, and the National Geographic Headquarters and Kennedy Center, both in Washington, D.C. Nehru, one of India's founding leaders, praised the design. Frank Lloyd Wright said it is the only embassy to do credit to the United States and opined it should be called the "Taj Maria" to give credit to Stone's wife and muse. In India the chancery continues to enjoy the consideration afforded historical landmarks, as appreciation for the preservation of modernist architecture grows worldwide.

OSLO, NORWAY
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, VILLA OTIUM

The U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Oslo, built in 1911, was the first legation building purchased in Europe by the United States.

Considered one of the most beautiful residences in Norway, it was designed by renowned Norwegian architect Henrik Bull for Hans Andreas Olsen, the Norwegian Consul General at St. Petersburg, and his wife Esther, the niece of Alfred Nobel. The building recalls a Russian palace the family admired. Its grand scale and opulent detail speak of the wealth the family acquired in the petroleum business in Czarist Russia.

The three-story villa of some fifty rooms is stylistically Art Nouveau, or Jugendstil. The asymmetrical yet balanced composition is elegantly designed. Bull, who also designed the National Theater and the Historical Museum in Oslo, was Norway's leading architect at the turn of the nineteenth century. The Villa Otium is his most important residence. A significant number of its furnishings were purchased from Jacques Bodart in Paris.

The surrounding garden preserves the connection of architecture and nature even though it has now been reduced in size by three-quarters. The property is part of the old "Otium," or park meant for leisure, which was itself originally part of Frogner Farm, later named Frogner Park.

Mrs. Olsen sold the property to the United States Government in 1924—the $125,000 price reportedly making it the most expensive U.S. residence abroad at the time and requiring Congressional approval. The Norwegian Preservation Agency has identified the Villa Otium as significant historical architecture.

PARIS, FRANCE
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, HÔTEL ROTHSCHILD

No stronger tie between the U.S. and France exists than the U.S. Ambassador's residence at No. 41 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, built by an American, Micaela Almonester Pontalba, who was born in New Orleans in 1795. An arranged marriage for a merger of fortunes brought her to France at sixteen years of age. Separated in 1831, but loving Paris, she bought on this site in 1836 one of the most famous d'Aguesseau houses in the city. After a visit to New Orleans, the newly divorced baroness returned to Paris in 1838, demolished the house, and commissioned the architect Louis Visconti to design a new one for the site. In 1845 she returned to New Orleans, where she built two monumental blocks of houses surrounding the church her father, Don Andres Almonester y Roxas, had funded on the now famous Jackson Square. Her monogram "AP," designed by her youngest son Gaston, is still prominent on the wrought iron balustrades of the city's most celebrated landmarks.

Baroness Pontalba returned to Paris and built the residence between 1852 and 1855. In her quest for grandeur she bought the stately home of the Havré family and installed its treasures in her new home. Among the most famous of these were the chinoiserie panels in one room that became the talk of Paris. The nineteenth-century façade is defined by the famous local buff limestone, a slate mansard roof with dormers, and œil de bœuf lunettes. Her former husband, who had suffered a physical and mental breakdown, was waiting for her when she returned from New Orleans and asked her to take over and manage his affairs, which she did until her death in 1874. According to the Baroness' wishes, the residence passed to her sons to provide pensions for her grandchildren.

In 1876 the Pontalba sons sold the residence to Edmond de Rothschild, one of the brothers managing the famous Rothschild family banking empire. With architect Félix Langlais, the façade was remodeled, roofline raised, and wings extended. The basic original floor plan was maintained and remains today as the entry hall, along with three salons that were adjusted in size but still overlook an expansive garden, one of the largest in Paris. In the main salon, now known as the Samuel Bernard Salon, Rothschild installed intricately carved paneling from the Left Bank home of Jacques-Samuel Bernard.

In 1934 Maurice de Rothschild inherited the residence from his father Edmond, who had sent many of its valuable items to his son James, owner of the palatial Waddesdon Manor in England. World War II disrupted the elder Rothschild's ambitious renovation projects for the residence. The family fled Paris as the Nazis moved in, and Hermann Göring used the mansion for his Luftwaffe officers' club. The residence was never again to be a strictly private home. After the war, the Allies rented it for three years, and in 1948 the United States purchased No. 41 for the U.S. Information Services (USIS). The residence became one of the buildings occupied by individuals working on the Marshall Plan as Averell Harriman began this important endeavor. Prior to this purchase many of the valuable panels in the rooms and other architectural elements had been removed by Maurice de Rothschild.

Restoration undertaken from 1966 to 1970 reclaimed the Hôtel Rothschild's originality and grand residential purpose. Maurice's son Edmond returned the staircase railing and chandelier; some of the removed panels were acquired at auctions and re-installed. Ten of the most valuable chinoiserie panels were found and re-installed in 2000, and the Samuel Bernard Salon finishes were restored in 2006. Historic restoration and curatorial management continue today.

PARIS, FRANCE
GEORGE C. MARSHALL CENTER, HÔTEL DE TALLEYRAND

The Hôtel de Talleyrand is an elegant example of eighteenth-century French architecture, as well as a monument to European and American political and social history. The townhouse's neoclassical design represents collaboration between Jacques-Ange Gabriel and Jean-François Chalgrin. Chalgrin, who was also the architect of the Arc de Triomphe, designed the entrance court wall and the interiors. The limestone exterior is a significant component of Gabriel's grand urban scheme for the Place Louis XV, now called the Place de la Concorde. The exterior is protected by Monuments Historiques et Bâtiments de France.

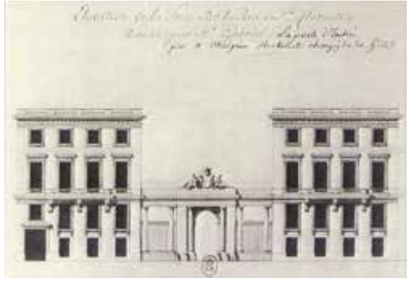
Shortly after the establishment of the First Republic (1792–1804), the townhouse became the residence of the French statesman Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand Périgord, who as Minister of Foreign Affairs implemented Napoleon's foreign policy.

During World War II the Vichy government requisitioned the building, as did the Germans following the fall of France. The façade still has bullet holes purposely left ragged, and in the basement there are prison cells labeled in German. Purchased after the war by the U.S. Government from Baron Guy de Rothschild, the building served as European headquarters for the European Recovery Program known as the Marshall Plan, in which seventeen European nations participated.

The Hôtel de Talleyrand is now home to the offices of World Monuments Fund Europe and a private law firm. The recently restored first floor reception rooms house the George C. Marshall Center and are used for official embassy events such as conferences, receptions, and cultural activities that promote closer ties between the United States and France. The Center also houses a permanent exhibit, *The Marshall Plan: The Vision of a Family of Nations*, which perpetuates the memory of this exemplary international effort after the war.

"Nearly every day I would have a few people to lunch . . . Occasionally, I would have dinner with some of the Americans . . . These were brainstorming sessions . . . without malice or ulterior motives . . . There soon came to be a real climate of friendship, compounded of trust and respect for each other's point of view."

— French Economist Robert Marjolin, General Secretary, Organization for European Economic Cooperation, 1948–55, who forged new working relationships vital to future cooperation



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
U.S. EMBASSY, SCHÖNBORN PALACE

The U.S. Embassy in the Schönborn Palace in Prague has a long and complex history of adaptations to accommodate a wide range of royal, noble, and governmental owners. Today the dominant image dates to 1718, when the Colloredo family renovated the building to the design of the expatriate Italian architect Giovanni Santini.

Five medieval residences and a malthouse had been combined by various owners in the early decades of the seventeenth century. The building's Renaissance past is preserved in the courtyard stair tower, the geometric stucco ceilings, and the entrance portal with its rough stone set in a diamond bossage pattern.

In 1643 Rudolph, Count of Colloredo-Wallsee, purchased the property from Emperor Ferdinand. He carried out a remodeling project that unified the street façade with classical elements, created airy apartment wings behind, and transformed the vineyards on the slope of the hill into a geometrical terrace garden. The garden pavilion, called the Glorietta, was converted from a winepress into an open-air belvedere with majestic views of the city.

Following ownership and renovation by the Colloredos, the Schönborn family inherited the property in 1794. The elegant and romantic English garden is basically unchanged from the first decade of the nineteenth century. During the year before the Republic of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed in 1918, influential international author Franz Kafka occupied two rooms "high and beautiful, red and gold, almost like Versailles" in the Schönborn Palace.

Carl Johann Schönborn sold the property to Chicago plumbing millionaire Richard Crane, Czechoslovakia's first U.S. diplomat. Crane, whose father had introduced Tomas Masaryk—the first president and founder of Czechoslovakia—to President Woodrow Wilson, bought Schönborn Palace with the aid of the Czechoslovak Government. In 1924, the United States Government purchased the property from Crane for use as an American Legation, paying him the minimal price of $117,000.

The view to the Schönborn Palace gardens from the Prague Castle has been an important part of the city character for generations. It has been said that the illuminated American flag, flying atop the Glorietta, provided a beacon of inspiration during times of limited political freedom.

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, VILLA PETSCHEK

The Neo-Baroque residence of the United States Ambassador in Prague was designed and built between 1924 and 1929 by Otto Petschek, a wealthy banker and industrialist. Petschek, the ultimate armchair architect whose design books are still in the building's library, gathered inspiration from many visits to Versailles. He died in 1934, four years after moving into the Villa.

In 1938 the Petschek family escaped the Nazis and settled outside Europe. For most of World War II the house was occupied by General Toussaint, the German military governor of Prague, then by Soviet and Czechoslovakian forces. It was first leased for use by the U.S. Ambassador and thereafter acquired by Ambassador Laurence Steinhardt as part of a war reparations settlement on July 20, 1948.

The Villa's floor plan is a sweeping crescent embracing a large formal terrace overlooking a manicured lawn and flower garden. Parisian salons, particularly the Musée Carnavalet, heavily influenced Petschek and his prominent Czech architect Max Spielman. The scagliola plaster by Italian artisans imitates luxuriant marbles.

The Villa's significant modern technology includes electrically operated glass terrace walls that float into the basement, zinc storage rooms for fur coats, and an airy, open-cage elevator. The residence includes guest quarters, two separate apartments, a separate residence, and a staff building on the grounds. Among the notable ambassadors who lived here was the late Shirley Temple Black. After the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the Villa was the setting of presidential meetings that led to expanding NATO membership. The building is similar to two others in Prague, also built by the Petschek family, now the Chinese Embassy and part of the Russian Embassy.

During the Cold War the residence was a refuge for dissidents and considered a symbol of American support for the anti-communist movement. Writers, poets, and playwrights were invited to dinners, receptions, and concerts. The sanctuary ended at the gate, however—Václav Havel, a leader of the 1989 anti-communist "Velvet Revolution" and later president of the new Czech Republic, was arrested two blocks from Villa Petschek as he was returning home from one of these events.

ROME, ITALY
U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY, PALAZZO MARGHERITA AND TWIN VILLAS

The Palazzo Margherita, the U.S. Embassy Chancery office building in Rome, was designed by Gaetano Koch and built between 1886 and 1890 for Prince Boncompagni Ludovisi. The building incorporated Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi's residence, erected in the seventeenth century on a site once owned by Roman historian Gaius Sallustius Crispus. From the first century A.D. to the early fifth century, it was the summer residence, the so-called Horti Sallustiani, of the emperors. The palazzo, later named after Italy's beloved Queen Mother Margherita who took up residence at the beginning of the twentieth century, remained the center of society in Rome until her death in 1926.

During Benito Mussolini's dictatorship (1925–1943), the spacious royal chambers were partitioned into utilitarian offices for the National Fascist Confederation of Farmers.

In 1946, the United States purchased the palazzo to accommodate embassy expansion, using Italian lire war credits against U.S. Army surplus property. The U.S. Government had already acquired other royal residences in the adjacent Twin Villas for the first American legation in Rome. Between 1949 and 1952, the palazzo was extensively renovated, restoring rooms to their earlier grandeur, modernizing plumbing and heating systems, and increasing office space.

On the chancery site under an adjacent modern building are 2,000-year-old Roman Imperial fresco paintings preserved in an underground passageway. Conservation work carried out in the late 1990s, supported in part by the World Monuments Fund, reversed biological damage caused by adverse environmental conditions. The chancery's main entrance foyer displays Giambologna's famous sculpture *Venus*, c. 1583, one of the U.S. Government's most prized heritage assets abroad.

Palazzo Margherita is protected by the Italian law for cultural heritage. In a city where history is such a visible part of the landscape and so highly valued, the American diplomatic presence has been enhanced by association with this landmark.

ROME, ITALY
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, VILLA TAVERNA

The fifteenth-century Villa Taverna, built by Cardinal Consalvi, was first rented for use by the U.S. Ambassador in 1933. The Villa and its historical gardens are filled with museum-quality art from antiquity through the Renaissance, to the nineteenth century. Among the important objects in the collection are a Baroque fountain, a strigilated third century A.D. Roman sarcophagus, a sixteenth-century statue of Pope Gregory XIII, a nineteenth-century statue of David, thirteenth century cosmatesque altar fragments, ancient Egyptian granite columns with white Luna marble capitals, 300-year-old busts of Roman emperors, and a group of oil paintings.

The property was first mentioned in the tenth century as being in the center of a large farm and vineyard estate owned by the St. Silvester Monastery. Portions of the Villa probably date to the sixteenth century, when Pope Gregory XIII gave the property to the Jesuit German-Hungarian College. St. Philip Neri worked here, "inspiring honest men with Christian wisdom," according to a plaque inside. When the Pope dispossessed the Jesuits of their properties in 1773, the papacy reclaimed ownership.

Throughout the 1800s Roman nobility escaped the summer city heat here. In 1824 Pope Leo XII opened the Papal Seminary College, and for the next one hundred years, many illustrious scholars frequented the well-known center of learning. There are Latin inscriptions inside commemorating the visits of Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 and 1833, and of Pope Pius IX in 1863. In 1920 Milanese aristocrat Count Ludovico Taverna purchased the building and, with his architect Carlo Busin Vici, transformed the rustic country farmhouse into an urban villa.

During World War II the property was protected by the Knights of Malta and served as a convalescent home for the Italian military. Returned to the U.S. Government in 1944, the Villa and gardens were purchased thereafter on March 6, 1948, from Princess Ida Borromeo-Taverna. The Villa was last remodeled in 1970 by Leone Castelli, but there is a continuing program of art conservation.

The beautiful gardens, as well as the Villa, are protected by the Italian law for cultural heritage. To this day, the humanizing dignity of history and art ennobles all who visit and stay at the Villa Taverna—the home of the U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
GUEST HOUSE, SEOUL OLD AMERICAN LEGATION

The Seoul Old American Legation, built in 1883 and now used as a guest house, is an exceptionally well-preserved example of traditional Korean residential architecture that illustrates the long history of Korean-American friendship.

Lucius Foote, the first resident envoy from the West to arrive in Korea, purchased this picturesque house one year after its construction in 1884 from the Min family. Among the first American legations, and the first in Korea, the house has been in the possession of the United States Government longer than any other U.S. official residence abroad.

The property was once within the grounds of Kyongun Palace (now the Duksoo Palace). Although the architect and builder are unknown, the use of makse roof end tiles, reserved for royal or state buildings and for ancestral shrines, makes it likely the builder was a master carpenter in the royal service. Other notable architectural features, from early modifications, are the harmonious use of red bricks and glass windows in a fusion of Western style with traditional Korean residential architecture.

The property was sold to Minister Foote in August 1884 by the aristocratic Min family. The U.S. Congress approved funds for the purchase in 1887, and Foote then deeded the property to the United States. A formal deed was issued in 1888 in Seoul, recording the land as sold "forever." In 1897 a decree by King Kojang granting use of an adjacent road noted that Korea and the United States "have built together in good faith, a friendship most enduring."

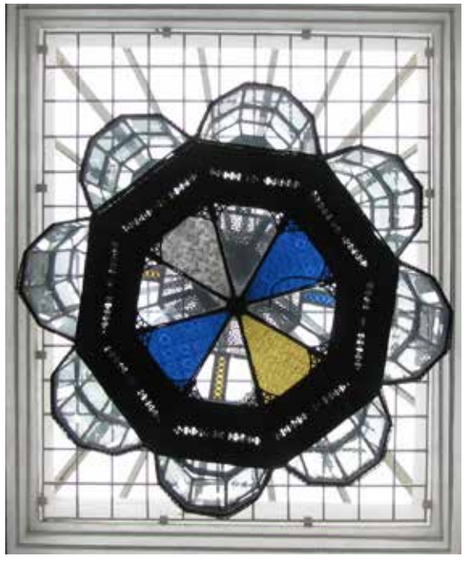
Undamaged during World Wars I and II, the Legation has been acknowledged by the Korean people as a symbol of freedom against aggressors. Situated at the entrance to the Ambassador's stately landscaped residential grounds, the Seoul Old American Legation still quietly greets arriving guests.

TANGIER, MOROCCO
TANGIER OLD LEGATION

Tangier Old Legation, the first property acquired by the United States Government for a diplomatic mission, was presented in 1821 as a gift to the American people by Sultan Moulay Suliman. His generosity was inspired by the success of the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship. This 1786 treaty, with John Adams and Thomas Jefferson as signatories, was renegotiated by John Mullowny in 1836. The treaty, still in force today, is among the most durable in American history. The Legation served as a diplomatic post for a record 140 years. Of special significance in the building's history is the Cape Spartel Lighthouse Treaty of 1860, which was negotiated there. The treaty is considered to be the forerunner of the League of Nations and United Nations because it speaks to broad cooperation within international law.

Located within the ancient city walls, the original structure, an eighteenth-century stone building, was gradually incorporated into an enlarged complex surrounding a picturesque courtyard. United States Minister Maxwell Blake undertook an ambitious program of restoration and renovation from 1927 to 1931. He constructed a Moorish pavilion overlooking a new courtyard, which incorporated antique doors and tiles from different areas of Morocco. Blake also added handsome eighteenth-century lanterns, iron grillwork, and marble mantelpieces. The result is a harmonious blend of Moorish and Spanish architectural traditions. World War II activity included a major U.S. military contribution to the Allied presence in Africa at the strategic entrance to the Mediterranean. The property was used by the then newly formed Office of Strategic Services, and it was the locus of military planning operations in North Africa that led to the landings in France and Italy. When the Consulate General moved in 1961, the property became an Arabic language school.

Since 1976 the compound has been leased to the Tangier-American Legation Museum Society, a public non-profit organization established by a group of American citizens. The museum maintains a collection of engravings, maps, rare books, aquatints, paintings, and other artifacts depicting events in the history of over 180 years of U.S.-Moroccan diplomatic relations. The Legation was listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on January 8, 1981. United States Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt subsequently designated it a National Historic Landmark on December 17, 1982. This listing was the first such designation in a foreign country.



TIRANA, ALBANIA
U.S. EMBASSY CHANCERY

Built in 1929, U.S. Embassy Tirana is reported to be one of the first American legations constructed under the 1926 Porter Legislation. This legislation established the State Department's ability to provide U.S. Government buildings, embassies, and consular buildings in foreign countries. Originally the U.S. Ambassador also resided here, conducting business in a domestic setting.

Architects Nathan C. Wyeth and Francis P. Sullivan were well-respected Washington, D.C., architects known for their stately Connecticut Avenue townhouses built for wealthy clients. Wyeth (1870–1963) had been trained in Paris, receiving a diploma from the École des Beaux-Arts at the turn of the century. Wyeth also designed the first Oval Office in the White House, for William Howard Taft in 1909. Inspiration for the Tirana residence was drawn from eighteenth-century Virginia Tidewater plantation homes such as Mount Vernon.

Following World War II, Albania focused inward and, during the Cold War, the house and quiet landscaped gardens were rented to the Italian Ambassador. Diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania were reestablished on March 15, 1991, after a break of fifty-two years. The U.S. Embassy in Tirana was opened on October 1, 1991. At the 1991 historic ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries, then Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Raymond G.H. Seitz said, "The relationship between our countries dates back to the early years of this century, when President [Woodrow] Wilson extended American support for the young Albanian state. The relationship was never forgotten by the many thousands of Americans of Albanian origin . . . who kept contact with their homeland over all these years."

After recent remodeling and new additions aimed at preserving the property's historical character, the once simple home is fitted out as an efficient and unique office space. Specially designed furniture and other antiques have been refurbished and reused, creating understated yet pragmatic elegance.

TOKYO, JAPAN
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

The residence of the United States Ambassador to Japan, with its spacious reception rooms and large garden, offers serenity in the center of downtown Tokyo.

In 1925 the U.S. Government acquired the estate of Prince Hirokuni Ito, an adopted son of Japan's first Prime Minister Hirobumi Ito, from the Japanese government for $115,000. Two years earlier, an earthquake and subsequent fire had destroyed the prince's residence along with the adjacent U.S. Embassy buildings.

American H. Van Buren Magonigle and Czech-born Antonin Raymond designed the residence along with the chancery. Raymond had come to Tokyo to work for noted American architect Frank Lloyd Wright on the Imperial Hotel in 1919. Structural Engineer Tachu Naito from the University of Tokyo, well known for his work on the Tokyo Tower, advised on seismic protection and fire prevention. The residence is a blend of Moorish and Asian stylistic influences with colonial overtones. Raymond redesigned the garden and driveway to obtain the northwest entrance prescribed by the Asian philosophy of Wind and Water for well-being. The highly ornamented exterior is reminiscent of Wright's influence—the white stucco walls are enhanced with decorative bands of precast stucco as well as colorful mosaic tiles.

This residence was among the first houses built by the United States specifically as an ambassador's residence, and it was one of the first projects of the new Foreign Services Building Commission set up by President Herbert Hoover. Dubbed "Hoover's Folly" at the time, the chancery and the residence, with imported walnut wall panels and Vermont marble flooring, were completed during the Great Depression at a cost of $1.25 million.

During World War II the compound was under the protection of the Swiss government. From 1945 to 1951 General Douglas MacArthur lived in what his staff called "The Big House." On September 27, 1945, Emperor Hirohito came to the residence to speak with MacArthur. The next day a photograph of their meeting in the living room was printed on the front page of every paper in Japan. It conveyed the new, subordinate position of Japan's "living god." Hirohito had renounced his divinity, forever altering how the Imperial family was viewed in Japan. This event is only one of many that exemplify the significance of the residence in American diplomatic history.

TRIPOLI, LIBYA
THE AMERICAN CEMETERY

The Protestant Cemetery in Tripoli, also known as the American Cemetery, holds the remains of heroes from the Barbary Wars (1801–1805), the United States' first overseas war. In September 1804, Lieutenant Richard Somers loaded his ship, the U.S.S. *Intrepid*, with explosives and set out to destroy the Bey of Tripoli's fleet and batter the castle's walls. His objective was to rescue the crew of the captured U.S.S. *Philadelphia*, which the Bey had taken as war prisoners. Somers and twelve volunteers perished in a massive explosion several hundred yards from their target.

With the Bey of Tripoli's permission, the remains of five sailors, which washed up on the shores of Tripoli, were interred at the first Christian cemetery in Tripoli. In 1830, the people of Tripoli moved these remains to the present cemetery.

Today this cemetery is known as the American Cemetery. American and European diplomats established this cemetery to bury members of Tripoli's nineteenth-century diplomatic corps. There are currently fifty-two other graves and tombs in the enclosure, which contain the remains of diplomats and foreign visitors who passed through nineteenth-century Libya. Several U.S. diplomats and their family members are buried here.

The 2004 Normalization Agreement between the United States and Libya established the cemetery as United States property, with the Libyan government agreeing to provide legal protection for the site. In 2010, Libya's Department of Antiquities began restoration of the site in consultation with the U.S. Embassy. The American Cemetery is an important symbol of the long history between the two countries. As Article 11 of the Treaty of Tripoli signed by President John Adams on June 10, 1797, famously states, the United States of America "has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility of Mussulmen [Muslims]," sentiments which have important meaning in today's world as well as when they were written.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
PRESIDENT'S GUEST HOUSE, BLAIR HOUSE

Quietly facing the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, a group of unobtrusive townhouses stands ready to welcome the nation's most important visitors. The President's Guest House, as the buildings owned by the General Services Administration are collectively known, operates under the stewardship of the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Chief of Protocol and accommodates official guests of the United States Government visiting Washington. Four interconnected, nineteenth-century houses comprise the property: Blair House, Lee House, and 700 and 704 Jackson Place.

Since its 1824 construction, Blair House has played a prominent role in Washington politics. It derives its name from its second owner, Francis Preston Blair, who purchased it in 1837. Blair, editor of the local *Globe* newspaper, was an influential advisor to Andrew Jackson and several later presidents. In 1852 he built a neighboring home for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Samuel Phillips Lee. The adjacent Jackson Place properties were built in 1860. The government acquired all the property in 1942 and transformed it into the president's official guest house.

Several momentous events have occurred in Blair House. On April 18, 1861, Francis Preston Blair invited Robert E. Lee to Blair House and presented him with Abraham Lincoln's request that Lee command the Union army. Lee declined and, following Virginia's secession, resigned from the U.S. Army and departed for Richmond to command his state's forces.

When the White House underwent renovations from 1948 to 1952, Harry Truman and his family resided at Blair House. The room now known as the Truman Study was the president's office. Weekly cabinet meetings in the Lee Dining Room carried out his Fair Deal program, recognized the new state of Israel, and desegregated the U.S. armed forces. The house was officially designated as the President's Guest House in 1957.

The President's Guest House consists of four, visually distinct buildings that have been unified on the interior to serve the needs of visiting dignitaries. At over 60,000 square feet, the property contains over 120 rooms, including fifteen guest bedrooms and thirty-five bathrooms, among other functional spaces. The property has undergone numerous exterior and interior alterations since its original construction, yet retains its historic appeal.

In the years spanning 1982 to 1988, Congress recognized Blair House's historic and architectural significance by appropriating $9.7 million for the property's renovation and structural additions. The floor plans of the four houses were joined seamlessly and a two-story garden wing was added. The garden reception room is clad in Ohio sandstone that is stylistically similar to the masonry of the White House. Private citizens joined the Blair House renovation effort, donating $5 million for interior improvements and redecoration. Designers used elements from the houses' many eras to unify interior spaces and create a coherent plan.

SECRETARIES OF STATE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGISTER OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY

Madeleine Albright

Tangier Old Legation Tangier, Morocco (2001)
Winfield House London, England (2001)
Hôtel de Talleyrand Paris, France (2001)
Schönborn Palace Prague, Czech Republic (2001)
Palazzo Margherita and Twin Villas Rome, Italy (2001)
Seoul Old American Legation Seoul, South Korea (2001)
Ambassador's Residence Tokyo, Japan (2001)

Colin Powell

Palacio Bosch Buenos Aires, Argentina (2002)
Ambassador's Residence Hanoi, Vietnam (2004)
New Delhi Chancery New Delhi, India (2004)
Villa Otium Oslo, Norway (2004)
Tirana Chancery Tirana, Albania (2004)

Condoleezza Rice

Former Consulate General Alexandria, Egypt (2006)
Athens Chancery Athens, Greece (2006)
Truman Hall Brussels, Belgium (2006)
Byne House Madrid, Spain (2006)
Manila Chancery Manila, The Philippines (2006)
Hôtel Rothschild Paris, France (2008)
Villa Petschek Prague, Czech Republic (2008)
Villa Taverna Rome, Italy (2008)

Hillary R. Clinton

Ambassador's Summer Residence Baguio, The Philippines (2010)
Florence Consulate Florence, Italy (2010)
Spaso House Moscow, Russia (2010)
The American Cemetery Tripoli, Libya (2010)
Blair House Washington, D.C. (2010)

John F. Kerry

Villa Mirador Casablanca, Morocco (2012)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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