

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S REGISTER OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY

The Department of State owns or has under long-term lease over 3,500 properties at 265 posts worldwide. Among these are approximately 150 properties that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. Building types include chanceries, residences, office buildings, staff apartments, a gardener's house, and a guesthouse. The Department also has a significant collection of fine and decorative arts in its inventory.

These seven criteria were used to evaluate properties for listing by the Secretary of State in the register:

- Designation or Acknowledgement by a Government as a Significant Property
- Part of the United States' Overseas Heritage
- Association with a Significant Historical Event or Person
- Important Architecture and/or by an Important Architect
- Distinctive Theme or Assembly
- Unique Object or Visual Feature
- Archaeological Site

The Secretary's Register is similar to the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of State's Register is an important initiative to commemorate our significant international heritage and to promote and preserve American history and architecture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Condoleezza Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "C".

SECRETARY OF STATE



Schoenborn Palace

Prague, Czech Republic



The American Embassy in the Schoenborn 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 were combined together 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 Schoenborn 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, Franz Kafka occupied two rooms "high and beautiful, red and gold, almost like Versailles" in the Schoenborn Palace.

Carl Johann Schoenborn sold the property to Chicago plumbing millionaire Richard Crane, Czechoslovakia's first American diplomat. Then in 1924, the United States government purchased the property from Crane for use as an American Legation.

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

Tangier Old Legation

Tangier, Morocco



The 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 Mulloony in 1836. The treaty, still in force today, is among the most durable in American history.

The Cape Spartel Lighthouse Treaty of 1860, negotiated in the Old Legation, is considered to be the forerunner of the League of Nations and United Nations because it speaks to a broad cooperation within international law.

Located within the ancient city walls, the Legation compound was enlarged during 1927-31. It 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 (OSS) and was the locus of military planning operations in North Africa that led to the landings in France and Italy. When the Consulate General moved to Tangier in 1961 the property became an Arabic language school.

Since 1976 the compound has been leased to the Tangier-American Legation Museum Society. 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. and Moroccan diplomatic relations.

Palazzo Margherita and Twin Villas

Rome, Italy



The Palazzo Margherita, the U.S. Embassy 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 that had been erected in the seventeenth century. The palazzo, later named after the 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 Mussolini's dictatorship, 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. surplus army 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.

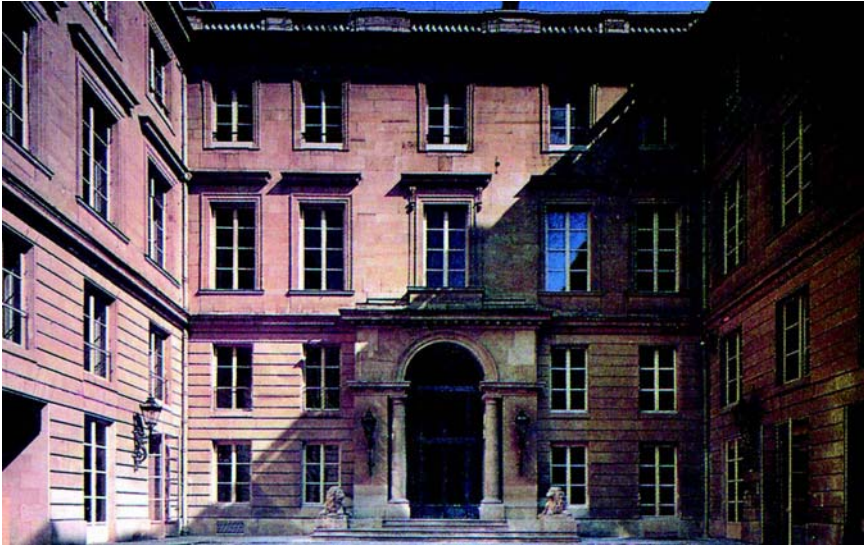
Under an adjacent modern building are 2,000-year-old Roman Imperial fresco paintings preserved in an underground passageway. Recent conservation, supported in part by the World Monuments Fund, has reversed biological damage caused by adverse environmental conditions.

It has been observed that 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.

(Property Nos. X01000, X01001, X01004, X01005, X01006, X01007)

Hôtel de Talleyrand

Paris, France



The Hôtel de Talleyrand is a superb example of eighteenth century French architecture as well as a monument to European and American political and social history.

The hotel'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 interior. 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 the Monuments Historiques et Batiments de France.

Shortly after the establishment of the First Republic this particular hotel became the residence of the French statesman Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, who as Minister of Foreign Affairs, plotted Napoleon's foreign policy and ultimately his fate.

During World War II the Vichy government requisitioned the hotel, as did the Germans following the fall of France. The façade has bullet holes purposely left ragged, and in the basement there are detention cells labeled in German.

Purchased after the war by the U.S. government from Baron Guy de Rothschild, the building served as headquarters for the Marshall Plan. Western Europe came to rely on the plan to "assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there could be no political stability and no assured peace." Winston Churchill described this plan as the most unselfish act in history.

The Hôtel de Talleyrand is currently used for Consular Affairs, the U.S. Information Service, and several other agency offices. The first floor reception rooms are used for cultural events, conferences, and other activities promoting closer ties between the United States and France.

Winfield House

London, England



Situated adjacent to Regent's Park, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James emanates power and grace. Heiress Barbara Hutton built this country manor in 1936. On the recommendation of Lord Louis Mountbatten, she hired the English architectural firm of Wimperis, Simpson, and Guthrie to design her house. Hutton named the red brick Georgian styled house after her grandfather F.W. (Winfield) Woolworth who had founded the stores where any item could be purchased for five or ten cents.

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 to be used as the ambassador's residence for the price of one American dollar.

The residence is among the properties contributing to the Regent's Park historic district established by the commissioners for the Crown Estates. 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 Estates. 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.

(Property No. R04004)

Seoul Old American Legation

Seoul, South Korea



The Seoul Old American Legation, built in 1883 and now used as a guesthouse, is an exceptionally well preserved example of traditional Korean residential architecture. Lucius Foote, the first resident envoy from the West to arrive in Korea, purchased this picturesque house one year after its construction. Among the first American legations, and the first in Korea, this house has been in possession of the United States government longer than any other U.S. residence.

The property was once part of what is now the Duksoo Palace, and is said to be the first property in Korea to have been sold to a foreigner.

Originally serving as both home and office of America's representative, it 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 quietly greets arriving guests.

(Property No. X02014)

Ambassador's Residence

Tokyo, Japan



The residence of the U.S. 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 Ito Hirokuni, son of Japan's first Prime Minister, 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 Burren Magonigle and Czech-born Antonin Raymond designed the residence along with the chancery. Raymond had come to Tokyo to work for Frank Lloyd Wright on the Imperial Hotel. Structural Engineer Tachu Naito from Tokyo University, 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 replanned the garden and driveway to obtain the northwest entrance prescribed by Asian philosophy of Wind and Water for well being.

This residence was among the first houses built by the United States specifically as an ambassador's residence, and 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 Georgia walnut wall panels and Vermont marble flooring, were completed during The Depression at a cost of \$1.25 million dollars.

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 their "living god." Hirohito had renounced his divinity, forever altering how the Imperial family was viewed in Japan.

(Property No. X03005)

Palacio Bosch

Buenos Aires, Argentina



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. After representing his country in Germany, the United States, and France, Bosch was Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Palacio Bosch was built between 1912 and 1917. 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 construction since the architect never actually visited Argentina.

Because of its stylistic unity and contextual relation to its environs, this residence is often considered Sergent's finest work. The façade echoes the small temple opposite in Palermo Park. Grandiloquent interior rooms, around a central stone staircase, overlook the garden.

The building was seminal to Argentine architectural taste. Original drawings of the Palacio Bosch were published in *Revista de Arquitectura*, Argentina's primary architectural magazine of the period. Working again with Duchêne, Sergent designed the Palacio Errázuriz (now the Museum of Decorative Arts) and the Palacio "Sans Souci" in Buenos Aires. Inspired by French 18th century classicism, his buildings can also be found in France, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States.

Bosch sold the residence to the United States government in 1929 following recurrent propositions by U.S. Ambassador Robert Wood Bliss. Some of the furniture preserved in the residence was donated by Ambassador Bliss. The Palacio Bosch is designated historic property by the Buenos Aires municipality and the Argentine Republic.

Ambassador's Residence

Hanoi, Vietnam



The Ambassador's residence in Hanoi 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. LaCollogne, 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 here until 1948. The house was then assigned, until 1954, to the highest-ranking Indochina Tariff Officer

When the French left South East Asia in 1954, Vietnamese government officials moved in. Vice Minister Phan Ke Toai was the last occupant, and at his 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 residence was 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.

Villa Otium

Oslo, Norway



The Ambassador's Residence in Oslo, built in 1911, was designed by renowned Norwegian architect Henrik Bull for Hans Andreas Olsen, the Norwegian Consul General at St. Petersburg and his wife Ester, 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 is stylistically Art Nouveau, or Jugendstyle. The asymmetrical, yet balanced composition is elegantly drafted. 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 represents his most important residence. A significant portion of its furnishings was purchased from Jacques Bodart in Paris. The surrounding garden preserves the connection of architecture and nature even though now reduced in size by three-quarters. The property comprises the old "Otium," or park meant for leisure. Mrs. Olsen sold the property to the United States Government in 1924 — the \$125,000 price reportedly making it the most expensive American residence abroad at the time and requiring Congressional approval.

The Norwegian Preservation Agency has identified the Villa Otium as significant historical architecture.

(Property No. X2002)

Tirana Embassy

Tirana, Albania



Built in 1929, Embassy Tirana is reported to be one of the first American Legations constructed under the 1926 Porter Legislation that established the State Department's ability to provide American government buildings, embassies, and consular buildings in foreign countries.

Originally the ambassador also resided here, conducting business in a domestic setting.

Architects Wyeth and Sullivan were well-respected Washington, DC architects known for their stately Connecticut Avenue townhouses for wealthy clients. Nathan Wyeth (1870 - 1963) had been trained in Paris, receiving a diploma from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts at the turn of the century. Inspiration was drawn from 18th century Virginia tidewater plantation homes such as Mount Vernon. Wyeth also designed the first Oval Office in the White House for William Howard Taft in 1909.

Following World War II, Albania focused inward and during the Cold War the house and quiet landscaped gardens were rented to the Italian Ambassador. There was no American presence until diplomatic relations were re-established nearly thirty years later.

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

(Property Nos. X01000, X01001)

Manila Chancery

Manila, Philippines



The Manila Embassy is the tangible evidence of the American commitment to Philippine independence pledged in 1934 by the U.S. Congress. The Federal Modern building 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 60 feet into the seaside site. Local reporters praised its state-of-the-art construction, and found that its “plain,” “compact,” and “solid” expression embodied “practicality,” “efficiency,” “strength,” and “stability.”

During the Second World War, after the Bataan operations in April 1942, the property was 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. 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 war turmoil and rebuilding, the historical design and building fabric have been preserved. The property retains the simple elegance and its dignified original character. The Manila Embassy’s history, age, battle-scarred flagpole, graceful garden monuments, and interior spaces all bear testament to Philippine-U.S. history, and stand as symbols of freedom and democracy. The Manila Chancery is a designated historic property by the National Historical Institute of the Philippines.

American Center Alexandria

Alexandria, Egypt



The American Center in Alexandria reflects the city's rich cultural heritage and its cosmopolitan character. What is now an active office property was once the home of Alfred de Menasse, a successful banker from a family of Jewish philanthropists and civic leaders. Architect Victor Erlanger, an Alexandrian native but a French citizen, designed the residence in 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 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 to 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 12 years. Its reopening as the American Cultural Center in 1979 underscored the confidence the U.S. had in Egypt and in its commitment to build strong bilateral relations.

Although the U.S. Embassy closed its consulate in Alexandria in 1993, the American Center in Alexandria remains open to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Egypt and the United States through a full range of programs. The rich history of the building is an appropriate backdrop for a strong Egyptian-American relationship based on shared values and mutual respect.

Athens Chancery

Athens, Greece



The Athens Chancery, by architect Walter Gropius, 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. Constructed in 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 facade are clad with Pentelic marble, the famous stone used in the Parthenon, other buildings on the Acropolis and throughout the ancient Mediterranean.

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 (TAC). He said he sought “to find the spirit of 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. The 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. Pericles Sakellarios was the consulting architect. Paul Weidlinger and Mario Salvadori were the structural engineers.

On the lawn facing toward the city is a bronze statue of American 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 the Second World War. 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. As the Athens Chancery approaches 50 years old, it remains a fresh and optimistic bow to the classical ideal.

New Delhi Chancery

New Delhi, India



The New Delhi Chancery, built in the 1950's during the heyday of American foreign building, represents the first major embassy building project approved during the Eisenhower years. It was a time when American foreign policy was aimed to support free people resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities, or by outside pressures.

The Chancery was designed by master architect Edward Durell Stone who captured history and fantasy in a way that made a memorable symbol of 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. Characteristically the chancery expresses the American preference for efficiency and straightforwardness.

Described as “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 1950's. Among his award-winning projects are the original Museum of Modern Art in New York, the U.S. Pavilion at the World's Fair in Brussels, and the National Geographic Headquarters and Kennedy Center both in Washington, DC.

Nehru, one of the country'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 observe the type of consideration afforded historical landmarks, as appreciation for the preservation of modernist architecture grows worldwide.

Truman Hall

Brussels, Belgium



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 Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization 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 27 acres of barren agricultural land into gentle hills and valleys, meadows, and formal gardens. A curvaceous cobbled drive, lined with roses, leads to the tree-lined approach to the residence. The home overlooks a sweeping lawn, towering cedars, English gardens and an herb garden. The lawn pavilion is planted with fragrant honeysuckles, roses, clematis, hydrangeas and wisteria. The original children's playground, giant sequoia circle and maze are still effective landscape elements. Discrete paths wind through sequestered corners for quiet reflection. In 1984 on the anniversary celebrating Truman Hall becoming NATO's official residence, a new garden was created with cobbled circles representing each NATO country.

The Truman Hall residence is constructed of painted brick, grey stone, and has slate roof dormers. Virginia creeper relieves the grey and white stucco, and in the Fall, 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 interiors are humanly scaled with sensible arrangements and elegant proportions. 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 18th century wood paneling.

Truman Hall, graciously welcoming visitors from the 26 NATO nations and Alliance partner countries around the world, was sold 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. "

Byne House

Madrid, Spain



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, and was an antique dealer. The many books the 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 cochere* and a grand interior marble staircase. Since then, the living quarters were enlarged, a kitchen wing added, and fireplace mantels installed. The mantel in the main salon has a 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 (*artesonad*) are part of the Muslim Mudéjar tradition of handcrafting tessellated pine boards. There is a stunning eight-pointed Moorish star on the polychrome ceiling on the second floor landing, eight-pointed ceiling stars elsewhere, raw doors, and black-and-white marble floors. Gracing the dining room is a beautiful 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 guesthouse.

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 internationally exhibited. He won a silver medal at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, and was awarded the Spanish Gran Cruz del Merito Militar. Byne sold artifacts to William Randolph Hearst including the 15th Century Barbastro Ceiling now in the Billiard Room at San Simeon, and the Santa Maria de Ovila Monastery shipped to San Francisco in 1931 for a Medieval Museum proposed by Julia Morgan. The United States government purchased the property from the executor of the Byne estate in 1944. The property is listed with premier status on Madrid's historic register.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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The Cultural Resources Committee serves as a multi-disciplinary working group that identifies historically, architecturally, and culturally significant property, maintains an inventory of significant overseas properties, clarifies protection standards and guidelines, and serves as a resource for the Department.