A history of the official American presence in France

The official presence of the United States in France has been documented over time through the development of the American Embassy in Paris, from before the existence of such an embassy when early envoys performed their duties from their homes, to the creation of an official embassy in a U.S. government-owned building.

One of the more renowned and beloved American envoys to Paris was Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), who left for France on October 22nd, 1776, arriving at the Port of Auray in Brittany on December 3rd of that year. Four days later, Franklin arrived in Nantes where he was received at the Château de la Placelière. On December 20th Franklin arrived in Versailles, where he stayed at the Auberge de la Belle Image at 8 Place de Hoche, but he relocated the following day to the Hôtel d’Entraguet at 2-4 rue de l’Université in the 7ème arrondissement, and there he stayed until January 8th, 1777. For a brief period in 1776, Franklin lived at 26 rue Penthièvre in the 8ème, and for a short time he stayed at 21 rue Neuve-des-Minimes in the 16ème as well. This particular street was even named after him in 1791. Between January 8th and February 28th of 1777, Franklin lived at the Hôtel de Hambourg located at 52 rue Jacob in the 6ème before moving to Passy in the 16ème.

From March of 1777 until July 12th of 1785, Franklin lived at the Hôtel de Valentinois at 62-70 rue Raynouard in Passy. Franklin rented this estate for free from Le Ray de Chaumont, and during his eight years there he welcomed many notable guests, including sea captain John Paul Jones. Between 1776 and 1785, Franklin, along with Thomas Jefferson, John Paul Jones, and the French philosopher Voltaire, was a frequent patron of the Café Procope at 13 rue de l’Ancienne Comédie in the 6ème, and he frequented the Café de la Régence at 161 rue Saint-Honoré in the 6ème as well. During this time period he also visited the house of Madame Helvétius at 59 rue d’Auteuil in the 16ème, where he met prominent French men like Cabanais, Diderot, and the Marquis de Condorcet.

Franklin engaged in many diplomatic activities during his time in Paris. In 1778, he was received by Louis Philippe, the 4th Duc d’Orléans, at the Palais Royal in the 2ème, and on February 6th of that same year he signed a treaty of Franco-American alliance at the residence of Silas Deane at the Hôtel de Coislin, located at 4 Place de la Concorde in the 8ème. On March 20th, 1778, Louis XVI received Franklin, Silas Deane, William Lee, Arthur Lee, and Ralph Izzard at Versailles for the “official recognition of the Treaty of Alliance.” All of the Americans who were in Paris at the time were invited to witness this signing. In 1780, Franklin helped found the Musée de Paris at 16-18 rue Dauphine in the 6ème, and in 1782 he negotiated navigational rights for the Mississippi river with John Jay at Hôtel d’Orléans, located at 17 rue Bonaparte in the 6ème. On October 31st, 1782, Franklin, along with John Jay and John Adams, as well as their British counterparts Richard Oswald and Henry Strachey, discussed a preliminary peace treaty for the Revolutionary War at the Hôtel d’Orléans in the 6ème.

Of note among his many diplomatic acts was the signing of the peace treaty with Great Britain on September 3rd, 1783, at the Hôtel d’York at 56 rue Jacob in the 6ème. This treaty recognized the independence of the United States. Also present were John Jay, John Adams, David Hartley, and Richard Oswald, the latter two being from Great Britain. Hartley and Oswald went on to sign an act by King George III that same day, giving the colonies their independence, at the Hôtel des Affaires Étrangères at 5 rue Gambetta in the 20ème. Franklin left Paris on July
2nd, 1785, and departed for the U.S. from Le Havre on July 22nd. On June 11th, 1790, the Commune of Paris organized a public ceremony on Rue de Viarmes in the 1er to mourn his death.

Among the initial American representatives in Paris was Thomas Paine (1737-1809) who visited for the first time in March of 1781 in order to secure a loan, later returning in 1787 to present an invention to the Académie des Sciences. He stayed at the Hôtel White at 1 rue des Petits-Pères on September 19th, 1792, before moving to 7 Passage des Petits-Pères where he lived until March of 1793; both of these were in the 2ème. From March until December of 1793, Paine rented a house at 63 (now no. 144) rue de Faubourg Saint-Denis in the 10ème, which had previously been inhabited by Madame de Pompadour. In September of 1793 he served as a member of the French National Assembly, and though he was an envoy of the U.S., Robespierre nevertheless imprisoned him for advocating that Louis XVI be banished and find asylum in the U.S. Paine was later imprisoned for his writings, including “The Rights of Man” which advocated overthrowing the government if it is not protecting the people or their interests. Once liberated from prison, Paine lacked financial resources and as a result lived with James Monroe from 1794 to 1796 at the Hôtel Cusset, located in the 2ème at 95 rue de Richelieu. He then resided at 2 rue de l’Odéon in the 6ème from April 1797 to October 1802, before later being recalled to the U.S. by Thomas Jefferson.

Another such emissary was Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), who came to Paris a few years after Paine’s first visit, departing from Boston on July 5th, 1784, and arriving in Le Havre on July 31st, 1784. He traveled to Paris by way of Rouen, Triel, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Marly and Nanterre, arriving on August 6th, 1784. Jefferson first stayed in the 2ème at the Hôtel d’Orléans, located at 30 rue Richelieu, then moved to the Hôtel d’Orléans at 17 rue Bonaparte in the 6ème on August 11th. In 1784 he also stayed at the home of John and Abigail Adams at 43-47 rue d’Auteuil in the 16ème. Then on October 16th of that same year, he signed a lease for a house in the 9ème on Cul de Sac Taitbout Chausée d’Antin, where he hosted many parties for French officers who had fought in the American Revolution. Many American ideas were discussed at these affairs, and Jefferson developed a close association with La Fayette. As a diplomat and representative of the U.S., Jefferson could not advocate the overthrow of the king, but he was a supporter of the Revolution and the Patriot Party often consulted with him.

A year later, on October 17th, 1785, Jefferson moved into the Hôtel de Langeac at 1 rue de Berri in the 8ème where he would live until 1789, paying a rent of 7,500 pounds per year. Also in 1785, Jefferson became the Minister Plenipotentiary, but when asked if he was replacing Benjamin Franklin as the next American Minister to France, Jefferson famously responded, “I merely succeed him, no one could replace him.” During his stay in Paris, Jefferson was a regular guest of Monsieur Chalut de Vérin at 17 Place Vendôme in the 1er. In 1787 he often visited the French Mint at the Hôtel des Monnaies (11 quai de Conti, 6ème) where his good friend and fellow philosopher the Marquis de Condorcet lived. He frequently called on the French writer Abbé Morellet at 229-235 rue Saint-Honoré in the 8ème, as well as the Comtesse de Tessé at the Hôtel de Villeroi (78 rue de Varenne, 7ème), with whom he engaged in political discussions. Jefferson left France on October 8th, 1789, and returned to the U.S. where he became the Secretary of State.
Arriving just after Jefferson’s departure, Gouverneur Morris (1752-1816) also acted as a U.S. representative to France. He left for France from Philadelphia on December 17th, 1788, arriving in Le Havre on January 27th, 1789, as Jefferson’s replacement as Minister to France. On February 3rd, 1789, Morris rented a room at the Hôtel Richelieu, now the Grand Hôtel de Malte, located at 63 rue de Richelieu in the 2ème. Morris dined several times with La Fayette, who had been Jefferson’s close acquaintance, throughout the year of 1789, and in 1795 he even helped to free Madame de La Fayette from prison. However, unlike Jefferson, Morris was a staunch opponent of the French Revolution. On November 10th, 1790, he attended a dinner at the Palais Royal in the 2ème with the Duchesse d’Orléans, and he gave the Duc d’Orléans money to go to America. Morris even drafted a constitution for Louis XVI, but it was never officially written. He also frequented the famous salon of Madame de Staël. For a time he lived at Hôtel Cusset, formerly known as the Hôtel des Patriotes Étrangers, at 95 rue de Richelieu in the 2ème. There he sheltered refugees during the Reign of Terror, and was in fact the only representative of a foreign power who was in Paris during this time period. For two years, from November of 1790 to May of 1792, Morris lived at the Hôtel du Roi on rue de Richelieu in the 2ème. Later in May he rented a house at rue de la Planche in the 7ème.

Two other important American envoys in Paris were John Adams (1735-1826) and James Monroe (1758-1831). The former stayed at the Hôtel de Valentinois, located at 62-70 rue Raynouard in the 16ème. With Benjamin Franklin in 1776. They worked on behalf of American interests from this location, and the owner, Le Ray de Chaumont, was also a sympathizer with the American cause. On April 8th of 1778, Adams stayed at the Hôtel de Valois, 17 rue de Richelieu in the 2ème, and on November 26th of that same year he visited the Palais de Bourbon in the 7ème, now the National Assembly. As representatives of the U.S., Adams, Franklin, and John Jay signed the peace treaty which recognized the U.S. on September 3rd of 1783 at the Hôtel d’York, located at 56 rue Jacob in the 6ème. Later, in September of 1784, Adams, his wife Abigail, and their two children moved into the Hôtel Antier at 43-47 rue d’Auteuil in the 16ème.

James Monroe appeared in France in July of 1794 when he arrived in Le Havre on board the Cincinnatus, moving to Paris on August 2nd of that year as Gouverneur Morris’ replacement as Minister Plenipotentiary. There he lived at the Hôtel Cusset, 95 rue de Richelieu in the 2ème. On the same day that he moved to Paris, Monroe was also introduced at the Tuileries in the 1er, and on August 13th he addressed the National Convention in Paris about the Franco-American friendship. On November 5th, 1794, Monroe secured Thomas Paine’s release from prison, and from 1796-1797, he lived in a pavillon at 24 rue de Vintimille in the 9ème. He was sent to France again by Thomas Jefferson in 1803 in order to negotiate the sale of the area known as the Louisiana Purchase; the sale was concluded by Napoleon for £3,200,000 on May 3rd. Monroe then left France on June 24th, 1803, after the sale was completed.

In September of 1939, when the British and the French declared war on Germany, American Ambassador William C. Bullitt and Counselor Murphy rented part of the Château de Candé in Monts, Indre-et-Loire, which French millionaire Charles Bedaux leased to them for $30 the first year. Embassy secretary Carroll W. Holmes was the first to move into the castle in October of 1939. By May of 1940, the U.S. was operating two volunteer ambulance organizations in France: the American Ambulance Field Service (AAFS) and the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps, with 38 and 65 drivers respectively. A month later, on June 12th, Ambassador Bullitt was appointed mayor of Paris by the departing French government; two days
after this, on June 14th, German troops occupied Paris. Consequently, as of June 26th, the Château de Candé became the location of the temporary offices of the American Embassy. A telegram from June 11th, 1940, reveals that Ambassador Bullitt was advised by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move to the temporary Capital at Vichy, from which the French government was operating, should other foreign Chiefs of Mission move there as well.

On June 30th, Ambassador Bullitt did indeed leave Paris for Vichy, and the American Embassy was set up at the Villa Les Adrets at 56 rue Thermal, which was leased to the U.S. government by Frank and Florence Jay Gould. At the end of June, the Château de Candé was invaded and taken over by German officers for the Wehrmacht, but it was eventually given back to Charles Bedaux, and the Embassy staff was allowed to return. In a telegram from July 4th, 1940, Ambassador Bullitt wrote that the German authorities allowed himself and his staff to move freely in the Paris area and to communicate with American citizens in Paris. He remarked that by and large, American citizens and property had not been mistreated, and that the Embassy had issued roughly 700 certificates for the businesses and residences of U.S. nationals. Despite such apparent kindness, on December 1st of that same year, an American Embassy clerk named Elizabeth Deegan was kidnapped by the German secret police.

When Ambassador Bullitt then left Vichy for Spain, Chargé d’Affaires Maynard Barnes took over at Candé, and on January 20th, 1941, Admiral William D. Leahy became the U.S. Ambassador to France at Vichy. On May 7th of that same year, Chargé d’Affaires Barnes was obliged to close the American Embassy in Paris, and on May 21st the German Foreign Office requested the withdrawal of all remaining American diplomats in Paris by June 10th. A telegram from Secretary of State Hull to the German Chargé d’Affaires stated that if the German government required all American representation to be withdrawn, it would have to assume responsibility and be held strictly to account for American interests by the U.S. Government. At that time there were still roughly 1,400 American citizens in Paris. As of May 30th, fifteen American personnel were allowed to stay at the Embassy and the Consular Section was allowed to remain open. American Ambassador to Poland Anthony Drexel Biddle, Jr. and Embassy Secretary H. Freeman Matthews both fled to France after being exiled from Poland by the Germans. A June 5th telegram from Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared Vichy to be the permanent seat of the American Embassy in France, and on June 10th the U.S. Embassy in Paris was officially closed, although the American Consulate General remained open at 3 rue Boissy d’Anglas in the 8ème.

On November 8th, 1942, the French government of Marshal Petain broke diplomatic ties with the U.S., and German troops seized the American Embassy at Vichy on November 11th. The American diplomats who were at the Embassy were sent to be interned at Lourdes, and without their Embassy, American citizens in France were left without a representative entity. In 1944, former Ambassador William C. Bullitt wanted to fight for the U.S. in Normandy, but Secretary of War Henry Stimson denied him entry. He fought instead for Charles de Gaulle’s First French Army during its battle to recapture Marseille and Toulon. On August 19th of that year, Paris was liberated through the combined efforts of the Americans and the French Resistance movement. On September 8th, 1944, the American Embassy in Paris was reopened. During the Nazi occupation, the American Library of Paris, which was (and still remains) an important link between France and the U.S., was able to stay open, as was the American Hospital of Paris, the
American Cathedral, the American Church on the Quai d’Orsay, the Rotary Club, and the American Chamber of Commerce. The only way that General Aldebert de Chambrun, the president of the American Hospital, was able to save it from closure, was by turning it over to the French Red Cross. It continued to operate under the name of Centre d’Hospitalisation pour Blessés de Guerre Libérés.

An account of the United States’ presence in Paris must of course include the history of the American Embassy in Paris, as well as U.S. legations to Paris. The first American legation in Paris was established by Benjamin Franklin in 1777 at 66 rue Raynouard in Passy, and it remained there until 1785. Subsequent legations included 24 rue de Chantereine (now 44 rue de la Victoire) in the 9ème from 1834 to 1837; 11 rue de Penthièvre in the 8ème from 1851 to 1852; 3 rue de Marignan in the 8ème from 1861 to 1862; 95 rue de Chaillot in the 16ème from 1867 to 1886; 75 avenue Foch in the 16ème from 1870 to 1871; 7 rue Mademoiselle in the 15ème in 1871; 3 Place des États-Unis in the 16ème from 1882 to 1883; 59 rue Galilée in the 16ème from 1887 to 1897; 18 avenue Kléber in the 16ème from 1898 to 1913; and finally 5 rue de Chaillot in the 16ème from 1914 to 1933. In addition, during WWI, the Hôtel Crillon was an annex of the Embassy.

The American Consular Services in Paris started at 30 rue d’Hauteville in the 10ème, and was located there from 1842 until 1844. From 1852 to 1853, the Consulate was situated at 27 Boulevard des Italiens, then for a period of 13 years, from 1873 to 1886, the Consulate found a home at 79 rue de Richelieu; both of these were in the 2ème. However, the Consulate utilized several other places as well during this same time period: 55 rue de Châteaudun and 3 rue Scribe in the 9ème, the former from 1875 to 1880 and the latter from 1880 to 1884, as well as 24 rue du Quatre-Septembre in the 2ème from 1884-1887. Although the Consulate was located at 36 avenue de l’Opéra in the 2ème from 1887 to 1917, starting in 1915, 1 rue des Italiens in the 9ème was also used. In 1919, after WWI, 68 rue Pierre-Charron in the 8ème housed the Passport Bureau of the Consulate.

As of 1775, the current site of the U.S. Embassy on the northwest corner of the Place de la Concorde in the 8ème was occupied by a house built by Mr. Grimod de la Reyniere. In 1816, this building became the Duke of Wellington’s provisional headquarters, and The Cercle de l’Union Artistique moved into the salons in 1877. In 1928, the U.S. Government purchased the property. As the last vacant property on the Place, by law any building built on it had to conform to the architectural style of the other buildings on the square. Congress therefore appropriated $10,000,000 for the reconstruction of the existing building. Though construction began on the Embassy Chancery in 1931, it was not until 1932 that a cornerstone-laying ceremony (the setting of the symbolic ‘first stone’) was held to celebrate it. Several items were placed inside the cornerstone, including a history of the site; the Ambassador’s remarks from that day; a 1932 State Department register; a list of all American officials in Paris on May 25th, 1932; a bronze medal of George Washington; Paris editions of the New York Herald and the Chicago Tribune; one set of U.S. postage stamps; U.S. and French currency; and the building’s specifications. The new building was completed in 1933, and it was later officially opened to the public.

One building that has played an important role throughout the history of the American presence in France is the Hôtel de Talleyrand at 2 rue Saint-Florentin in the 1er, named for Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord (1754-1838). Talleyrand-Périgord was a French
statesman, diplomat, and cleric who promoted church reform, a representative government, and equality for all citizens. The Hôtel itself was completed between 1767 and 1769. It was initially built for the Comte de Saint-Florentin by Chalgrin according to the plans of the architect Gabriel. After the Comte’s death in 1777, the Hôtel de Saint-Florentin became the property of the Duc de Fitz-James until 1784 when it passed into the hands of the Princesse de Salm-Salm, Duchesse de l’Infantado. In 1792, after the Revolution, the Hôtel was the location of the Embassy of Venice, and was then acquired in 1800 by the Marquis d’Almenara.

Talleyrand, having lived from 1797 to 1804 at the former Hôtel de Maurepas on Rue de Grenelle in the 6ème, then bought the Hôtel in 1813, though he lived at the Hôtel de Monaco et de Valentinnois at 55 rue de Varenne in the 7ème from 1812 to 1814. He received foreign leaders and dignitaries at the Hôtel de Talleyrand, including the Czar Alexander I, the King of Prussia, and Lord Wellington of England, with whom he helped negotiate the peace of Europe and restore the French monarchy in 1814. The Hôtel thus developed as a diplomatic site where Talleyrand also welcomed Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry and John Marshall of the US, who came to demand reparations for the seizure of U.S. ships.

After Talleyrand’s death, the Hôtel was purchased on July 3rd, 1838, by Baron James-Mayer de Rothschild of the French banking family. The property remained in their possession until 1950, and during this period, from 1846 to 1857, the Princesse de Lieven lived at the Hôtel de Talleyrand. The U.S. Government acquired the Hôtel de Talleyrand on November 14th, 1950, for the Economic Cooperation Administration, and it was from this space that the implementation of the Marshall Plan was directed until 1955. As of the 1960s, the Embassy’s Cultural and Information Services (USIS), Visa Section, and other U.S. Government offices were housed in the Hôtel de Talleyrand. In 1980, the renovation of the Hôtel was authorized by the U.S. Congress, and between 1981 and 1984, the Department of State Organization of Museums and Public Buildings hired Hugh Newell Jacobsen to restore certain parts of the Hôtel de Talleyrand. From 1985 to 2003, the American Embassy Consular Services, the Public and Cultural Affairs offices, the Benjamin Franklin Center for Documentation, the Bureau for African Regional Affairs, and the George C. Marshall Center were all accommodated at the Hôtel de Talleyrand. The restoration of the George C. Marshall Center occurred between 1999 and 2004, and was funded entirely by private citizens, foundations, and corporations in the U.S. and Europe.

The Ambassador’s residences, including the homes of early U.S. envoys living in Paris, have also had a long and distinguished history, starting back in 1802 with U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary Robert R. Livingston’s abode at 420 rue Auber in the 9ème. In 1804, Livingston lived at the Hôtel Montholon on Boulevard Montmartre, also in the 9ème. From 1806 to 1807, while serving as U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary, General John Armstrong lived at 15 rue de Regard in the 6ème, later moving to 1 rue de Vaugirard in the 15ème where he stayed from 1808 to 1810. In 1811, as Minister Plenipotentiary, Joel Barlow also lived on rue de Vaugirard. From 1814 to 1815, while holding this same position, William H. Crawford lived at rue Saint-Lazare in the 9ème. Starting in 1816, the next Minister Plenipotentiary, Albert Gallatin, lived at 21 rue de l’Université in the 6ème. He stayed for five years before moving to 8 rue de Monsieur in the 7ème in 1822, where he lived for one year. During his tenure as Minister Plenipotentiary, James Brown lived from 1825 to 1826 at 11 rue Laffitte in the 9ème, before moving to rue de Varenne in the
in 1827, where he remained until 1829. The following Minister, W.C. Rives, lived at the Hôtel de Plouville at 82 rue de l’Université in the 6ème from 1830 to 1833, and his successor, Edward Livingston, lived at 44 rue de la Victoire in the 9ème from 1834 to 1836.

General Lewis Cass, who was the next to receive the title of Minister Plenipotentiary, lived there as well in 1837, but in 1838 he moved to 45 rue de Faubourg Saint-Honoré (now no. 33) in the 8ème. The following year he moved to 17 avenue Matignon, the next year to 7 avenue Marigny, the year after to 89 rue de la Boétie, and finally, in 1842, to 19 rue Lavoisier; all of these residences were in the 8ème. William R. King, who inherited the post from Cass, occupied the latter’s final dwelling from 1844 to 1845 before moving to 100 rue Saint-Dominique in the 7ème in 1846. He lived there for a year, moving to 3 rue Matignon in the 8ème in 1847. Between 1848 and 1850, King’s successor (and former Minister Plenipotentiary) W.C. Rives lived at 19 rue Matignon in the 8ème, then moved in 1851 to 30 rue de la Ville l’Evêque in the same arrondissement, where he stayed until 1852. During the year of 1854, the next Minister, John J. Mason, lived at the same rue Matignon residence as Rives had, before moving to 13 rue Beaujon in the 8ème where he lived from 1855 to 1859. The Minister in 1860, Charles J. Faulkner, lived at 49 rue de la Boétie in the same arrondissement as Mason, and his successor, W.L. Dayton, lived at 17 rue Jean-Goujon in 1862, also in the 8ème. The latter then moved to 6 rue de Presbourg in the 16ème in 1863, and lived there for one year. In 1865, the next Minister, John Bigelow, decided to live in the 17ème, and stayed at 80 avenue de la Grande-Armée until 1866 when he moved to 15 rue de Lamennais (then Rue du Centre) in the 8ème. When John A. Dix then took over, he lived in Dayton’s former residence on rue de Presbourg from 1867 until 1868.

The subsequent man to acquire the position was E.B. Washburne, who lived at 59 avenue Marceau (then avenue Josephine) in the 8ème for a brief period in 1869, before establishing himself at 75 avenue de Bois de Boulogne in the 16ème from 1869 to 1877, during the siege of Paris and the Paris Commune. On March 22nd, 1871, 50 Americans gathered at this residence to host a dinner for General Philip Henry Sheridan of the U.S. Army. From 1875 to 1876, Washburne lived at 2 rue Spontini, also in the 16ème, and this is where his successor Edward F. Noyes lived in 1877. Three years later, in 1880, Noyes moved to 45 avenue Marceau in the 8ème. In 1881, Levi P. Morton, who followed Noyes as Minister, set up his home at 65 rue Pierre-Charron in the 8ème, before situating himself at 3 place des États-Unis in the 16ème from 1882 to 1883. He later moved in 1884 to 6 place des États-Unis, which is where Robert M. McLane, the next Minister, stayed from 1885 until 1886, moving in 1887 to 70 avenue Marceau in the 8ème where he remained for two years. From 1890 to 1891, Minister Plenipotentiary Whitelaw Reid lived at 35 avenue Hoche in the 8ème, and the man who inherited his title, Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, lived there as well in 1892. On December 10th, 1898, Reid was one of the American commissioners present at the signing of the Treaty of Peace between Spain and the U.S., which was conducted at 37 Quai d’Orsay in the 7ème.

In 1893, now under the title of “U.S. Ambassador”, the next envoy to France, James B. Eustis, lived at 58 avenue Marceau in the 8ème. He was followed from 1897 to 1904 by General Horace Porter, who lived at 33 rue de Villejust in the 16ème from 1905 until 1907, U.S. Ambassador Robert S. McCormick lived at 12 avenue de Tokyo in the 16ème, and, from 1907 to 1914, McCormick, along with Ambassadors Henry White, Robert Bacon, and Myron T. Herrick, resided at 5 rue de François 1er in the 8ème. During this period, from April 21st through the 28th of 1910, President Theodore Roosevelt stayed at this particular Ambassador’s Residence. The next
Ambassadors, W.G. Sharp and Hugh Wallace, lived at 14 avenue d’Eylau in the 16ème from 1914 to 1919. Later in 1919, Wallace moved to 5 place d’Iéna in the same arrondissement. On June 18th of that same year, former Ambassador White, President Woodrow Wilson, Robert Lansing, Edward House, and General Bliss, all signed the Treaty of Versailles in the Hall of Mirrors at the Château de Versailles in Versailles, Île-de-France, putting an end to WWI.

Feeling that the U.S. government did not provide sufficient housing for its Ambassadors, Ambassador Myron T. Herrick purchased the property at 2 avenue d’Iéna in the 16ème for 5,400,000 Francs (the equivalent of $200,000). There he made his home from 1924 until his death in 1929, and was visited there by Charles Lindbergh on May 21st, 1927. In 1948, Congress allotted $1,900,000 for the purchase of the Ambassador’s Residence at 41 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in the 8ème: it remains the Ambassador’s Residence to this day.
Bibliography


