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Nix
December 11, 1991
AISEMB
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS:

EMBASSY GREETINGS
AMERICAN EMBASSY AUSTRALIA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1992

- Thank you. Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler [Betty]. ((Mel, did you wear that tie just for me?)) // [Sembler is known for wearing very loud ties.] [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]
- Barbara and I are very pleased to be here. We are aware of the hard work that goes into visits like this, especially when a difficult schedule obliged us to come during the holiday season. We truly appreciate your commitment and sacrifice.
- Barbara and I have served in a Mission far from Washington, and we are both aware and deeply appreciative of the work that you do -- both Americans and national staff -- and the personal sacrifices that are often made by your families.
- Our two countries share many similarities in language, history and love of liberty and democracy. We are partners in one of the strongest alliances of this century. We are friends.
- ^{ten}Nearly nine years ago, as a "Coral Sea visitor," I planted a yellow poplar on these grounds as Vice President. I am glad to see that the tree -- as is the relationship between Australia and the United States -- is flourishing.
- It is an honor for me to be the first person to plant two trees at the embassy. My sincere hope is that this pink wisteria will prosper and flower as a reminder of the mutual benefits of Australian-American friendship.
- Thank you for your wonderful work. May God bless you all.

Yes
Per
Embassy's
Robert
Carlson

China

ten
years
Coral
Sea April
30, 1982

Embassy's
Robert
Carlson

Notes on Tree Planting Ceremony

- Ambassador Sembler will introduce President
- Ambassador Sembler is known for wearing very loud ties -- something to tease him about.
- Recognize Ambassador Sembler [wife, Betty] and Admin Officer Herb Shulz
- Tree will be in hole before Pres gets there. Pres will use shovel to throw dirt on the tree.
- Every high level dignitary who's visited the embassy has planted a tree. Bush planted one as Vice President. Dan Quayle planted one in 1989.
- IMPORTANT: Mention the Bush's appreciation for the staff's hard work that has gone into this visit. Many of the embassy staff lost their deposits on their vacations.
- 500 people expected to attend
- The tree planting will be held by the Ambassador's residence
- The Ambassador's residence is 50 years old as are formal Australian-American diplomatic relations.
- "an intimate partnership between two peoples."
- "the front window of the nation"
- Mrs. Roosevelt planted a tree at the embassy.

REMARKS MADE BY VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLANTING OF THE YELLOW
POPLAR TREE. APRIL 30, 1982.

(APPLAUSE)...I AM NOT SURE I NEED THIS (THE MICROPHONE) BUT IN ANY EVENT LET ME TELL YOU HOW VERY, VERY PLEASED WE ARE TO BE HERE AND FIRST TO THANK YOU FOR THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT. A VISIT LIKE THIS JUST REALLY OVERLOADS ALL CIRCUITS AND I, HAVING BEEN IN AN EMBASSY FAR AWAY FROM WASHINGTON, KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT IN THAT REGARD, I EXPECT ALL OF YOU DO TOO, SO THANK YOU FOR THE SUPERB ARRANGEMENTS AND FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FOR A VISIT LIKE THIS.

AND THE SECOND THING I WANT TO SAY IS HOW MUCH CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT I HAVE FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND FOR THOSE WHO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO FOREIGN SERVICE -- WHATEVER CAPACITY. AND ALSO FOR THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE ATTACHED COMPONENTS TO AN EMBASSY. WITHOUT THE PROFESSIONALISM IN EMBASSIES OF THIS NATURE AND WITHOUT THE INTEGRITY OF THE SERVICE IN THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT ARE SUPPORTING THE EMBASSY, THE U.S. WOULD BE UNDERREPRESENTED FOR A GREAT COUNTRY. AND SO, I KNOW SOMETIMES IT SEEMS FAR AWAY AND YOU WONDER IF PEOPLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE REALLY DO CARE ABOUT THE WORK YOU'RE DOING. ALL I WANT TO DO IS TO SAY HERE STANDS ONE WHO IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE FOR IT ALL.

I WANT TO THANK THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS CHARMING WIFE FOR PUTTING US UP AND FOR GIVING THIS VISIT THE PROPER LEADERSHIP. THANKS TO THE BRIEFING PAPERS THAT I AM SURE MANY OF YOU HAD AN INPUT

ON I COME HERE FEELING VERY GOOD ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. EVERYBODY HERE THAT'S FROM THE U.S. -- SOME IN THE EMBASSY ARE NOT OF COURSE -- BUT EVERYBODY HERE I KNOW WOULD ECHO MY SENTIMENTS WHEN I SAY THAT I THINK THIS RELATIONSHIP IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. IT'S ONE THAT'S ENDURED THE TEST OF TIME. WE'RE HERE TO GO UP TO COMMEMORATE, ALONG WITH THIS TREE, THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA. THE RELATIONSHIP WAS IN GOOD SHAPE BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA, ENHANCED BY THE STRENGTH THAT THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA SHOWED AS ALLIES IN THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA AND IT'S ENDURED IN STRENGTH, GOTTEN STRONGER EVER SINCE. SO I'M GOING OFF AT NOON TO TAKE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ON SOME CONTROVERSIAL THING. IF YOU'RE IN THE ECONOMICS SECTION, OR THE TRADE SECTION I KNOW YOU WORRY ABOUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS, AND I DO TOO. BUT OVERRIDING THESE BILATERAL PROBLEMS THAT CROP UP FROM TIME TO TIME IS THE FACT THAT AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED STATES ARE STRAUNCH FRIENDS AND EVERYBODY HERE IN THIS EMBASSY HAS IN MY VIEW DONE SOMETHING TO ENHANCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THAT. SO THIS IS WHAT OUR VISIT IS ABOUT - WE WERE RECEIVED SO GRACIOUSLY LAST NIGHT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, A LOVELY INFORMAL, RELAXED -- FORMERLY ATTIRED -- INFORMAL, DINNER AND THEN PRIVILEGED TO MEET WITH HIM AND THE CABINET TODAY. THEN WE'LL GO ON THIS AFTERNOON TO SYDNEY. I WISH I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL EACH OF YOU PERSONALLY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE IT BUT I WILL FLIP THIS THING AWAY AND AT LEAST GET A CHANCE TO SAY HELLO. THANK YOU ALL FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE.

- 2 -

PRESIDENT. I NORMALLY DON'T DO (THAT) BUT, ON THIS SUBJECT, I WILL. HE HAS GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FOCUS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS TAKING ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS STRONG AND VIABLE. WHERE PROBLEMS EXIST WE CAN SIT IN THERE AND TALK ABOUT THEM VERY FRANKLY ACROSS THE TABLE WITH NO HOLDS BARRED. THAT'S EXACTLY THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. I AM JUST GRATEFUL TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR ALL OF HIS PERSONAL TIME AND THE TIME HIS VARIOUS MINISTERS ACCORDED US ON THIS QUICK VISIT.

THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO SAY IS THAT OUR PRESIDENT HAS INVITED THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MAY 17, (THIS VISIT...) THE PRIME MINISTER AGREEING TO THIS - AND I THINK YOUR (PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S) LAST VISIT, I NOTED, WAS ON JUNE 30 (1981)...SO IT'S MOST TIMELY. THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER. THAT'S IT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH SIR.

Q: PRIME MINISTER, THAT OBVIOUSLY MEANS YOU'LL MISS THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF YOUR PARTY. ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT?

PRIME MINISTER: NO, I WON'T BE MISSING THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF MY PARTY. BUT I OBVIOUSLY VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME OF THE ASPECTS THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS MORNING, WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND ESPECIALLY SO SINCE IT COMES AT A CRITICAL TIME BEFORE THE VARIOUS MEETINGS TAKING PLACE IN EUROPE IN JUNE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT A PARTICIPANT OF THOSE MEETINGS, WE ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY MUCH AFFECTED BY THEIR FINAL OUTCOMES, JUST AS ALL COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE AFFECTED BY THEM. SO I VALUE THAT OPPORTUNITY VERY MUCH INDEED.



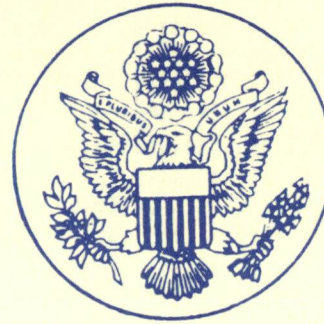
The Embassy Residence

Though eminently typical of Virginia architecture of the time of Washington and Jefferson, the buildings you see here were inspired by those designed by Christopher Wren for Williamsburg, the capital of the Colony of Virginia from 1699 to 1780. The spirit and atmosphere of Williamsburg construction is very evident. Through the architecture of the Embassy buildings the observer is provided a glimpse of the charm and stately beauty of the Colonial Williamsburg that was a fountainhead of liberty and freedom in the life of the new American republic, and ranked with Boston, Philadelphia and Charleston, South Carolina, as a cultural, social and political centre in the New World.

Australian Materials, U.S. Architecture

Excellent examples of the Williamsburg style of architecture, the Embassy buildings represent a unique American design based on English Georgian style.

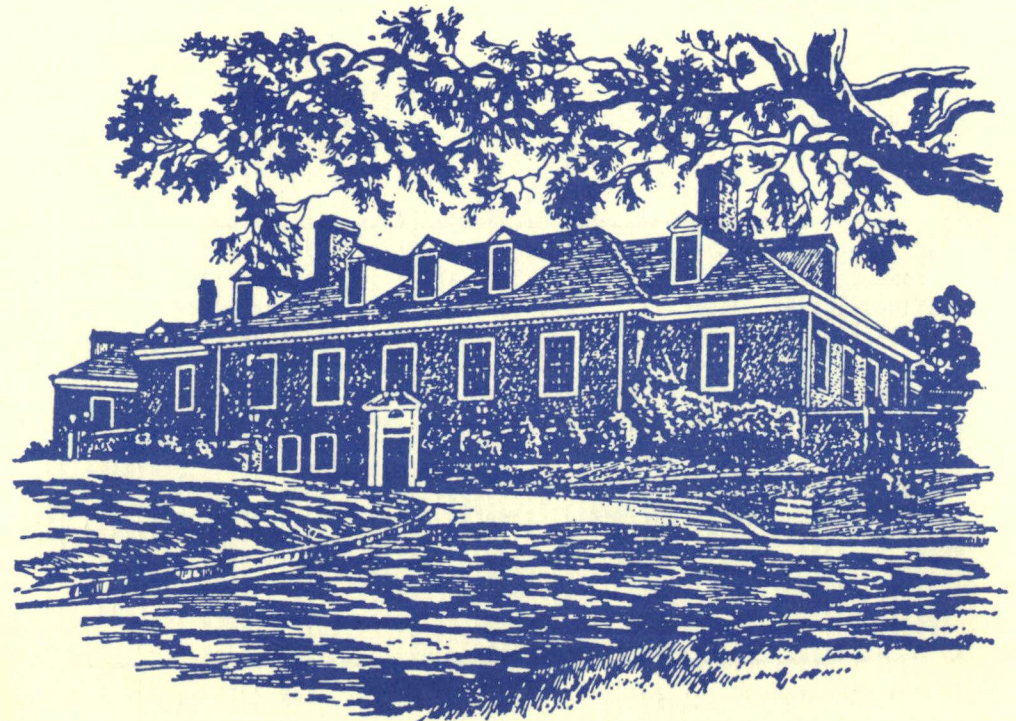
Australian marble in black and white squares, quarried on the south coast of New South Wales and in other parts of Australia, has been used in the main entrance and hallways. Other floors are of Australian tallow-wood. Most of the Embassy bricks were kilned in Canberra but additional bricks from the same source were not available in 1959 when it became necessary to expand the Chancery by construction of the wings on either side of the centre building. When an exhaustive search made it evident that it would not be possible to match the original bricks in Australia, it became necessary to obtain matching bricks from the United States from a source near Williamsburg. As they stand today, the Chancery and Embassy stand as a happy blending of Australian and American materials and craftsmanship.



WELCOME TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This leaflet is designed to tell you something about us, our activities and our buildings.

As the Chancery and other support buildings are devoted entirely to office space and the Ambassador's Residence is private living quarters, we regret that it is not feasible to permit visits through the buildings.



Embassy of the United States of America, Canberra, A.C.T.

The American Ambassador to Australia

The current Ambassador to Australia is Mr. Mel Sembler. Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler are from Treasure Island Florida. The American Ambassador to Australia is the personal representative of the President of the United States. He is accredited to the Queen in her capacity as Sovereign of Australia and resides at the seat of Government of the Commonwealth.

The Ambassador, assisted by members of the Embassy staff, conducts the official business of the Government of the United States of America in Australia. This includes the negotiation of treaties and agreements, the exchange of information on problems of mutual interest to the two countries, and the sending of a flow of information to the United States on various subjects to enable officials and citizens of the United States to understand the attitudes and interests of Australians. He also endeavours to make United States policies better known and understood in Australia. The Australian Embassy in Washington performs similar tasks on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth.

The Embassy Staff

The Embassy staff includes a Deputy Chief of Mission, who acts as the Ambassador's second-in-command and assumes the title of charge d' Affaires ad interim in the event the Ambassador should be absent from Australia.

The United States Information Service is responsible to the Ambassador for information and cultural activities and for the educational exchange programs operated by the United States Government in Australia, is a branch of the United States International Communications Agency in Washington. It is directed by the Counselor for Public Affairs.

The Political, Economic, Public Affairs and Administrative Sections of the Embassy are each in the charge of a Counselor of Embassy. The Ambassador, and the officers of the staff through him, report directly to the Department of State in Washington Army, Naval and Air Attaches, grouped under a Defense Attache, the Counselor for Agricultural Affairs and the Drug Enforcement Agency are responsible to the Ambassador for general guidance in their activities but report directly to their respective Departments in Washington. There is also a Labor Attache and a Regional Resources Officer on the Ambassador's staff. The Labor Attache follows developments in labor-management relations for both U.S. and Australian interests and the Regional Resources Officer reports on minerals energy and petroleum developments in Australia and the southwest pacific, including New Zealand.

Consular Offices

In addition to the Embassy in Canberra, the United States has three Consulates General in Australia - one in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth - and a Consulate in Brisbane. There is also a Consular Agent in Adelaide.

These offices operate under the general direction of the Ambassador and assist the Embassy, especially in its reporting functions. Essentially, however, their purpose is different from that of the Embassy. Whereas the Embassy devotes itself to relations between the governments of the two countries, the Consulates General and Consulate dedicate the major portion of their time to problems of individual citizens, including the issuance of visas for Australians travelling to the United States, the issuance of passports and the performance of other services for American citizens in Australia, and the fostering of commercial relations between America and Australia.

History of Australian - American Relations.

The first United States ship to enter an Australian port was the "Philadelphia" which arrived in Sydney in 1792.

Subsequently, American trading ships, usually bound for China, and American whaling vessels appeared in Port Jackson for trade or for replenishment of supplies. In 1883 American merchants opened trading branches in Australia. This led to increased commercial intercourse and resulted in the appointment of the first Consul in Sydney. Mr James Hartwell Williams, on May 20, 1836. However, he did not arrive to take office until February 19, 1839.

There was a considerable interchange of Australians and Americans during the Gold Rush days of the last century and several thousand Americans arrived in this country during the 1850's. United States consular representation was gradually expanded but official diplomatic relations, which had previously been conducted through the Government of the United Kingdom were not established until January 1940. At the time, the right Honorable R.G. Casey, now Lord Casey, became Australia's Minister to Washington and Mr Clarence E. Gauss was appointed United States Minister to Australia. In July 1946, the rank of the representatives exchanged by the two countries was raised to that of Ambassador. The American Embassy was the first embassy to be established in Canberra.

The architecture of the Embassy

In constructing its Embassy in Canberra the United States Government was anxious to show Australians something typically American which would nevertheless blend well with the atmosphere of Canberra.

The architecture chosen was a Georgian style which was modified and adapted for use in the southern parts of the United States during the Colonial period of the 17th and 18th centuries.

U.S.A. EMBASSY, CANBERRA, F.C.T.

MALCOLM J. MOIR, B.A.R.C.H. (A.) (MOIR AND SUTHERLAND,
CANBERRA), SUPERVISOR OF CONSTRUCTION.

In 1941 the United States Government acquired from the Commonwealth the first of the special sites set aside in Canberra for foreign missions.

Sketches were prepared in Washington by the Foreign Buildings Office of the State Department for an Embassy Residence, a Chancery Building, a Counsellor's Residence and the landscape treatment of the nine-acre site.

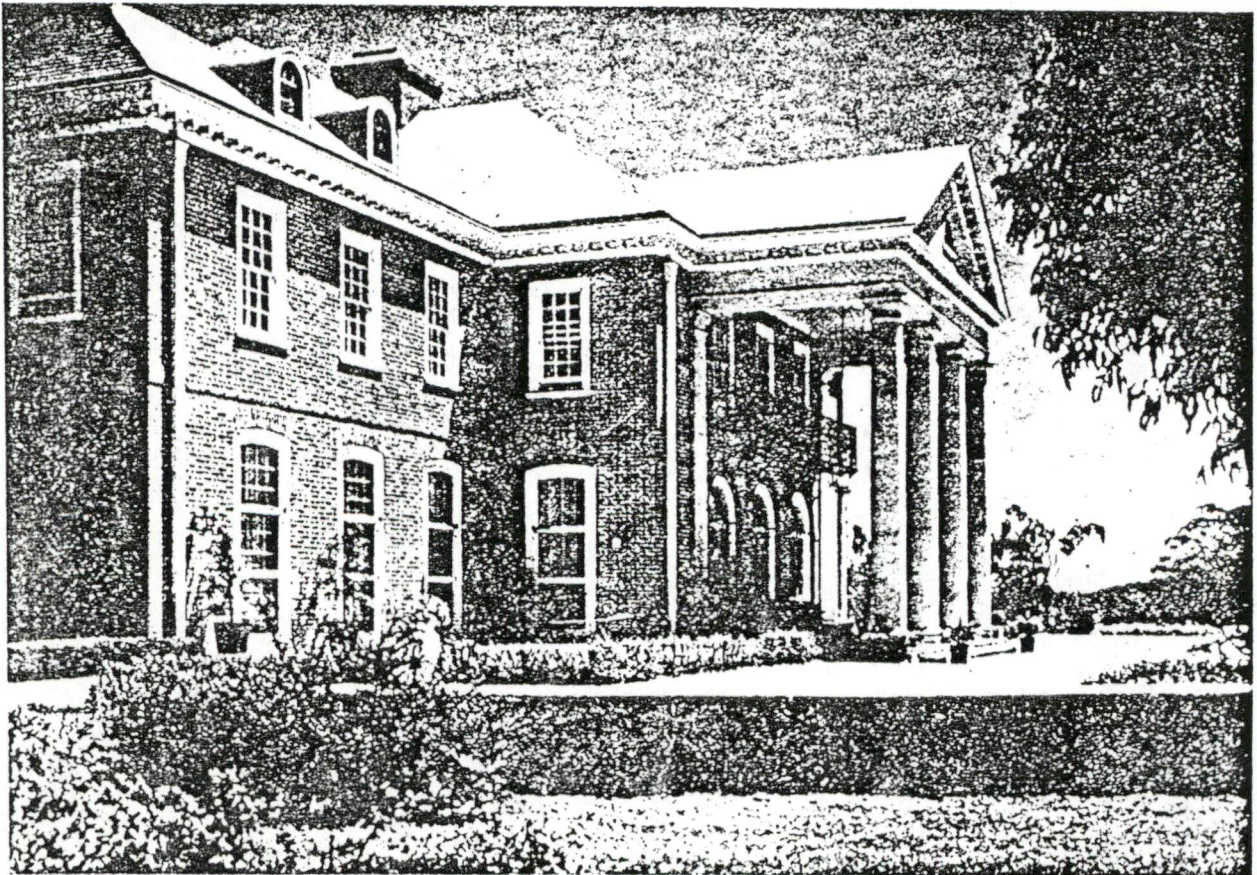
It is the practice to build American buildings in foreign countries in the indigenous style of each; but as Australia has developed none, and as our most cherished buildings are of our Colonial period, it was considered appropriate to adopt the kindred style of Williamsburg, Virginia, to which Sir Christopher Wren contributed the design of the William and Mary College.

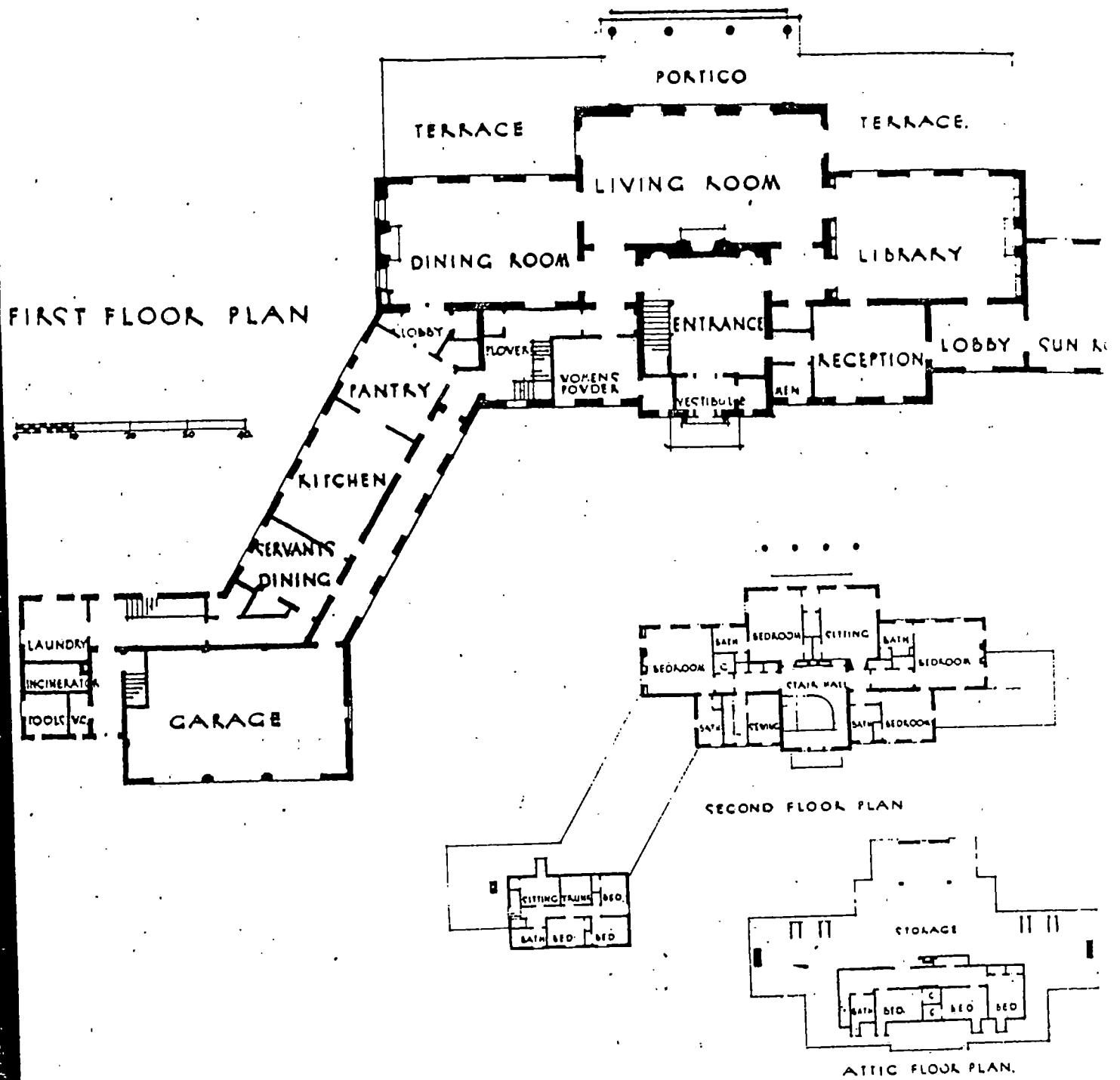
Late in 1941, Mr. Moir became associated with the project, and after some amendments, dictated by site conditions and material availability, had been made to the drawings for the Embassy Residence, specifications were prepared for it in this country, and tenders were called.

The tender of Messrs. Simmie and Co. Pty. Ltd., of Melbourne and Canberra, was about to be accepted when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour.

The first reaction was to abandon the project temporarily, but instructions came from Washington to sign the contract. Excavation commenced immediately. In the meantime, Canberra Government Brickworks set about experimenting in the manufacture of face bricks resembling the sandstocks of Williamsburg which, in turn, had been made to match and supplement English brick brought to Virginia as ships' ballast. The final results were eminently satisfactory; but the manufacture of the requisite number of both hand-made face and common brick in sub-standard size ($8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$) absorbed a considerable time because of the labour shortage that was then acute.

On the fourth July, 1942, the foundation stone was laid jointly by the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin), Senator Collings and America's Minister, Mr. Nelson T. Johnson. War-time shortages of material and labour lengthened the construction time, but the building was occupied by Christmas, 1943.





Every effort was made to avoid expediency in making substitutions of materials and simplifications, so that neither the design nor its permanent character would be impaired; but once the actual building contract was completed no other work of consequence was undertaken on the site until after V.J. Day.

The basic formation of the landscaping scheme proceeded, while native trees were pruned and supplemented and exotic trees and shrubs were planted on the principle that the building should have an immediate setting of species reminiscent of Virginia, but that these should blend quickly with the native red gum, yellow box and other eucalypts of Canberra.

Nix
December 11, 1991
A/SEMB
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: EMBASSY GREETINGS
 AMERICAN EMBASSY AUSTRALIA
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1992

- I want especially to thank Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler for putting us up and for giving this visit the proper leadership.
- We are very pleased to be here. We are aware of the hard work that goes into visits like this, especially in this case when a difficult schedule obliged us to come during the holiday season. We truly appreciate your dedication and sacrifice. Thank you for the superb arrangements and the tremendous support you have provided.
- I would like to express how much confidence and respect I have for the foreign service and for those who devote their lives to serving our nation overseas -- civilian and military. That goes as well for all who represent the various departments and agencies of our government. I also am aware of the sacrifices made by the family members of those employees who leave the United States.
- Without professionalism and dedication at our embassies and consulates and defense facilities around the world, the United States would not have the great country that it is. I know sometimes it seems far away and you wonder if people in the White House really care about the work you are doing. Barbara and I have served in an embassy far from Washington, and I want to say that here stands one who is deeply appreciative for it all.

- Our two countries share many similarities in language, history and love of liberty and democracy. We are partners in one of the strongest alliances of this century. In this context, there are some differences, but we should not let them blind us to the significance of our friendship.
- Overriding the bilateral problems that crop up from time to time is the fact that Australia and the United States are staunch friends and everybody here in this embassy has in my view done something to enhance and contribute to that.
- Nearly nine years ago, as a "Coral Sea Visitor," I planted a yellow Poplar on these grounds as Vice President. I am glad to see that, just as is the relationship between Australia and the United States, the tree is flourishing.
- It is an honor for me to be the first person to plant two trees at the embassy. My sincere hope is that this pink wisteria will prosper and flower as a reminder of the mutual benefits of Australian-American friendship.
- I will make sure this beautiful tree is given some soil, and we will at least get the chance to say hello. God bless you all.

UNCLASSIFIED

EMBASSY TREE PLANTING AND MEETING WITH MISSION
STAFF AND FAMILIES

SCENESETTER

PURPOSE

This will be an opportunity for you to meet with the American Mission family and to carry on the tradition of high-level USG officials' commemorating their visits with the planting of a tree on the Embassy grounds. (You will also meet with Consulate staff in Sydney and Melbourne.)

SETTING

Approximately 500 mission staff and family members will be gathered around the circular garden area in the middle of the residence driveway. Your remarks may be made from a platform located next to the tree in the middle of the garden area. The tree will already be in place, and a ceremonial shovel will be provided to you to throw dirt into the hole. Children will be seated in front. Media coverage by pool.

In addition to Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler, Embassy participants will include approximately 115 American employees including four joint defense facility commanders, along with 185 American dependents, 75 Foreign Service Nationals and their dependents.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

POINTS TO MAKE AT EMBASSY TREE PLANTING

- Barbara and I are very pleased to be here. We are aware of the hard work that goes into visits like this, especially in when a difficult schedule obliged us to come during the holiday season. We truly appreciate your dedication and sacrifice. Thank you for the superb arrangements and the tremendous support you have provided.
- Barbara and I have served in a Mission far from Washington, and I want to say that here stands one who is deeply appreciative of the work that you do -- both Americans and national staff -- and the personal sacrifices that are often made by your families.
- Our two countries share many similarities in language, history, and love of liberty and democracy. We are partners in one of the strongest alliances on this century.
- Nearly nine years ago, as a "Coral Sea Visitor," I planted a yellow poplar on these grounds as Vice President. I am glad to see that, just as the relationship between Australia and the United States, the tree is flourishing.
- It is an honor for me to be the first person to plant two trees at the Embassy. My sincere hope is that this pink Wisteria will grow and flower as a reminder of the mutual benefits of Australia-American friendship.

UNCLASSIFIED

EVENT: MEET MISSION STAFF/FAMILIES-TREE PLANTING,
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1, 1700 (MAY CHANGE SLIGHTLY),
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE GROUNDS, CANBERRA

PURPOSE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE AMERICAN MISSION
FAMILY AND TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF HIGH-LEVEL
USG OFFICIALS' COMMEMORATING THEIR VISITS WITH THE
PLANTING OF A TREE.

SETTING: APPROXIMATELY 500 (OR POSSIBLY MORE -- SEE
BELOW) MISSION STAFF AND FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE
GATHERED AROUND THE CIRCULAR GARDEN AREA IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE RESIDENCE DRIVEWAY. THE PRESIDENT WILL
MAKE REMARKS FROM A PLATFORM WITH A MICROPHONE AND
SPEAKER, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED NEXT TO THE TREE IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN AREA. THE TREE WILL BE IN
PLACE AND A CEREMONIAL SHOVEL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR
THE PRESIDENT TO THROW DIRT INTO THE HOLE. CHILDREN
WILL BE PLACED IN THE FRONT. PRESS COVERAGE BY POOL.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- TO MEET AND THANK MISSION PERSONNEL
- TO PLANT A TREE TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT.

PARTICIPANTS:

- PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH AND RELEVANT MEMBERS OF
THEIR PARTY
- AMBASSADOR AND MRS. SEMBLER
- APPROX 115 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES INCLUDING 4 JOINT
DEFENSE FACILITY COMMANDERS
- APPROX 185 AMERICAN DEPENDENTS
- APPROX 75 FOREIGN SERVICE NATIONALS, AND
- APPROX 125 AUSTRALIAN DEPENDENTS.
- IF MILITARY EXCHANGE OFFICERS ARE INCLUDED, WE
EXPECT ANOTHER APPROX 38 OFFICERS AND 68 DEPENDENTS
(TOTAL 106).

TALKING POINTS:

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE. WE ARE AWARE OF THE
HARD WORK THAT GOES INTO VISITS LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY
IN THIS CASE WHEN A DIFFICULT SCHEDULE OBLIGED US TO
COME DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WE TRULY APPRECIATE
YOUR DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE. THANK YOU FOR THE
SUPERB ARRANGEMENTS AND THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT YOU
HAVE PROVIDED.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HOW MUCH CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT I HAVE FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND FOR THOSE WHO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO SERVING OUR NATION OVERSEAS, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. THAT GOES AS WELL FOR ALL WHO REPRESENT THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. I ALSO AM AWARE OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES

WITHOUT PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION AT OUR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES AND DEFENSE FACILITIES AROUND THE WORLD, THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE THE GREAT COUNTRY THAT IT IS. I KNOW SOMETIMES IT SEEMS FAR AWAY AND YOU WONDER IF PEOPLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE REALLY CARE ABOUT THE WORK YOU ARE DOING. BARBARA AND I HAVE SERVED IN AN EMBASSY FAR FROM WASHINGTON, AND I WANT TO SAY THAT HERE STANDS ONE WHO IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE FOR IT ALL.

I WANT ESPECIALLY TO THANK AMBASSADOR AND MRS. SEMBLER FOR PUTTING US UP AND FOR GIVING THIS VISIT THE PROPER LEADERSHIP.

THANKS ALSO FOR ALL THE WORK ON THE MANY PAPERS YOU PREPARED. THEY SIGNALLED WHAT I COME HERE FEELING -- THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES IS SOUNDLY BASED AND IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. IT'S ONE THAT HAS ENDURED THE TEST OF TIME.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE MANY SIMILARITIES IN LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND LOVE OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY. WE ARE PARTNERS IN ONE OF THE STRONGEST ALLIANCES OF THIS CENTURY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES, BUT WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO BLIND US TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.

OVERRIDING THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS THAT CROP UP FROM TIME TO TIME IS THE FACT THAT AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE STAUNCH FRIENDS AND EVERYBODY HERE IN THIS EMBASSY HAS IN MY VIEW DONE SOMETHING TO ENHANCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THAT.

3

NEARLY NINE YEARS AGO, AS A "CORAL SEA VISITOR," I PLANTED A YELLOW POPLAR ON THESE GROUNDS AS VICE PRESIDENT. I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT, JUST AS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE TREE IS FLOURISHING.

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE THE FIRST PERSON TO PLANT TWO TREES AT THE EMBASSY. MY SINCERE HOPE IS THAT THIS PINK WISTERIA WILL PROSPER AND FLOWER AS A REMINDER OF THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

I WISH I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL EACH OF YOU PERSONALLY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE WONDERFUL HELP AND SUPPORT. I WILL MAKE SURE THIS BEAUTIFUL TREE IS GIVEN SOME SOIL, AND WE WILL AT LEAST GET THE CHANCE TO SAY HELLO. THANK YOU ALL -- BOTH AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS -- FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE.

V. I. P. Visits to the Residence ('Human Interest'):
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Oct. 1966 - Lyndon Baines & Ladybird Johnson - the only President to visit Australia while in office. President Johnson stayed at the Rex Hotel. He also came to Prime Minister Harold Holt's funeral in 1967.

Vice President & Mrs. Hubert Humphrey
Secretary of State Dean Rusk
Actor Charlton Heston

Jan. 1970 - Vice President & Mrs. Spiro Agnew

1976 & 1985 - George Schulz

Vice President & Mrs. Rockefeller
James & Mrs. Michener
Nancy Kissinger
Vice President & Mrs. Walter Mondale
Secretary of State & Mrs. Cyrus Vance
Amb. & Mrs. Andrew Young

Oct. 1981 - Former President Gerald Ford
Apr. 1982 - Vice President & Mrs. George Bush
Feb. 1984 - Former President & Mrs. Jimmy Carter
1984 - Dr. & Mrs. Henry Kissinger
1984 - Shirley Temple Black
1975 & 1986 - Secretary of Defense & Mrs. Caspar Weinberger
Apr. 1989 - Vice-President & Mrs. Dan Quayle

Trees surrounding the Residence:

=====

American Oak	Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt September 1943
Texas Pecan	Gift of Amb. & Mrs. Ed Clark December 7, 1965 planted by Hon. Hale Boggs
Golden Elm	Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson October 22, 1966
Dogwood	Amb Marshall Green July 4, 1975
Michigan White Pine	Former President Gerald Ford October 30, 1981
Yellow Poplar	Vice-President George Bush April 30, 1982
Prunus	Former President Jimmy Carter February 5, 1984
Cherry Tree	Ambassador R.D. Nesen February 22, 1985
Liquidambar	Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Weinberger April 10, 1986
Claret Ash	Chief Justice W.H. Rehnquist August 31, 1988
American Oak	Lady Gowrie (wife of Governor-General) supposedly planted this tree. Plaque added 26 March 1989 dedicated to Minister Nelson T. Johnson, recognizing the contribution he made towards the construction of the Residence and development of the garden.
Scarlet Maple	Vice-President Dan Quayle 26 April 1989

Elm

James Baker
Secretary of State
November, 1989

Box Elder

Robert Mosbacher
Secretary of Commerce
November 6, 1989

Chesnut

Richard Cheney
Secretary of Defense
November 6, 1989

Maiden Hair Tree

Admiral James Watkins
Secretary of Energy
May 11, 1990

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Embassy of the USA
Moonah Place
Yarralumla, ACT 2600
Australia

Phone: (06) 270 5000
INTL (61) (6) 270 5000
Fax: (06) 270 5970
INTL (61) (6) 270 5970
Telex: AA62104 (USAEMB)



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FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

TO: Michelle Nix
White House Speechwriting

FAX NO.: (0015) (1) (202) 456-6218

FROM: Robert Carlson, Political Section

DATE: December 10, 1991

SUBJECT: Tree-planting ceremony

NO. OF PAGES 11
(Including cover sheet): _____

COMMENTS: As we discussed in our telcon yesterday. Regards.

Robert W. Carlson
(Signature)

OFFICIAL PERSONAL

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RESIDENCE HISTORY

Area of Compound: 9.6 acres was leased from the Australian Government for 99 years (cost was 6,210 pounds) for what was then the U.S. Legation.

Ceremonial signing of the lease: December 8, 1941

On the same day the Japanese struck Pearl Harbour and therefore added deeper significance to the ceremony. Authority was given to proceed with building although non-defense building had stopped in both the United States and Australia. This was considered as an act of faith and alliance.

The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1942. The Canberra Brickworks supplied the facade bricks to match samples sent from Colonial Williamsburg. They were made to exact design, color, texture and size. However, for later editions to the Embassy, bricks had to be sent out from Virginia because the original Canberra kiln had ceased operations.

The first family (Minister Johnson's) to move in did so in the latter months of 1944 nearly three years after their arrival in Canberra.

Style of the buildings: Georgian style found in the colonial architecture of Williamsburg, Virginia around the 17th and 18th Centuries. The Australian company awarded the contract was Simmie & Co. who also built the War Memorial and the Institute of Anatomy in Canberra.

Williamsburg architecture was inspired by the contemporary work in London of Sir Christopher Wren (Wren himself designed the William & Mary College in Williamsburg). Some early Australian architecture including St. James Church in Sydney stemmed from the same source.

Residence Miscellaneous:

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In essence, the Residence entertaining area is comprised of a foyer, lounge/drawing room, dining room, library, sunroom, and two bathrooms on the ground floor. Behind the kitchen, there is a staff room, laundry etc. There is also an office on the ground floor which was originally the music room. The first floor is comprised of a Master Bedroom Suite and three other bedrooms, i.e. the Lincoln Room (tangerine), the Blue Room and the Yellow Room.

There is also a large basement and attic area which has been converted for live-in staff. There is also live-in accommodations over the garage for staff.

Fireplaces: Although a fireplace was included for the foyer in initial drawings it was never built. There are however a total of five fireplaces in the Residence (drawing room, dining, library, master bedroom and Lincoln bedroom) - each one is faced with a different marble.

When Eleanor Roosevelt visited in 1943 she declared that the opening of the fireplace in the library was not large enough. After a flurry of telegrams with Washington - it remained the same. She was proven wrong and it works well.

Nearly all the construction materials are Australian. The outstanding workmanship of the Australians in completing the building along with the American design and the exquisite workmanship of the furniture which was shipped in the 1940's is a unique blend and a symbol even then of Americans and Australians working together.

Downstairs floors: Jarrah wood

Upstairs floors: Tallow wood

Library panelling: Australian red cedar

Roof: Bangor slate from Wales

Bathroom fixtures: Imported from the U.S.A. in the 1940's.

Marble: black is Australian
white is Belgian

Cornices: were executed by Jack Tillyard a master craftsman in plaster.

Hardware: Doorknobs and locks etc are solid brass. There was a wartime embargo preventing the sale of brass in the US, so for shipping the maker concealed the goods under a black iron finish.

Portico: Designed to carry the weight of 20 people. Portico columns and other stone trim is Hawkesbury sandstone.

Paints: The US Office of Foreign Buildings (FBO) wanted neutral colors but the acting chief at the time held out for authentic Williamsburg colors, i.e. dark indigo blue, rust, ecru and peach. It is worth noting that the carpet in the dining room, which arrived at the Residence in 1989, reflects these colors.

Furnishings: Most of the furnishings are Mahogany pieces made by Kittinger, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chandeliers also came from Craft House, Williamsburg are made of silver and pewter.

Over the past three years the rugs, draperies and furniture coverings have been all been brought back to the traditional 18th Century style.

Other Buildings

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The stable garage at the foot of the garden was constructed during the term of Ambassador Sebald (1957-1961). The bricks used were 'leftovers' from the building of the Chancery. The building is now known as the Villa which houses offices.

The swimming pool and change rooms were built during the term of Ambassador Rice (1969 - 1973).

Additions to the Chancery were completed in 1960.

The Annex was originally built to house the Political Counselor and was completed in 1950 for a cost of \$361,165.

Between 1985-89 steps were taken to build a high brick wall with iron paling fence and it was subsequently erected with three guard posts to conform to new State Department security regulations. Also built during this period - a communications annex and a support annex (mail area).

Residence Artifacts:

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The majority of the artwork is on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida. It is assembled in the Residence as part of the Art-in-Embassy program. Other pieces are either owned by the Embassy or are on loan from the Art-in-Embassy program.

Foyer -

Italian Carrara marble busts of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were acquired in 1960 after they were discovered in the basement of the New South Wales Museum. They were sculptured by Domenico Menconi, Florence in 1875. They were originally bought for the colony by Sir Henry Parkes before Federation, i.e. pre 1901.

The seat cushions on five chairs were stitched by wives of the Embassy staff in 1974. Their initials and date are worked into the pieces.

Flags are the US flag and the State Department standard.

Bird prints on the stairwell are original engravings (1831-33) by John James Audubon. American naturalist/artist.

Clock is U.S. reproduction.

The open string staircase was turned in Melbourne and put together on the job by Mr. Silvio Cadona, an Italian immigrant in his early 20's. As chief carpenter, he crafted the interior paneling and door pediments.

(The foyer and library pineapples were carved out of plaster and wood and are symbolic of hospitality.)

Dining Room -

The rug was made by the Karastan Company in the United States and reflects the 18th century Turkish/Ushak reproduction carpet. The original, whose dimensions are on a smaller scale, is owned by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Breakfront - Chippendale style with Chinese influence. It's a reproduction.

Two American crystal eagles by Steuben. Elephant pipe holder. Epergne used as a centerpiece with flowers, fruit etc.

The China and crystal glasses used for official dinners all bear the State Department crest.

The painting of George Washington is an oil by Mary Jane Peale. It was painted in 1864 after a Rembrandt Peale painted in 1840.

Fireplace is Australian grey Mudgee marble.

Drawing Room -

Yamaha piano belongs to the Residence.

Fireplace is Pyrenees rose marble.

Peach carpet was made in New Zealand.

The gold clock and candlesticks belong to the Residence. Their origin is unknown.

Library -

All Australian red cedar panels.

Fireplace is French black & gold marble.

Picture over the mantle : America's Cup Winner, 1887 Sloop "Volunteer" by James Buttersworth. Buttersworth is the son of a well-known English painter, Thomas Buttersworth. James immigrated to New York and later became a marine painter.

Aboriginal piece is from the Tiwi tribe from the Bathurst and Melville Islands, Northern Territory.

Patio Garden -

has been redesigned to an 18 Century geometric mode.

Sunroom -

also used for entertaining, childrens' games room etc.

Over the past four decades the Residence has been the home of sixteen Ambassadors.

The present Ambassador - Mel Sembler and Betty Sembler are from St. Petersburg, Florida. They have three sons and eight grandchildren.

The house is staffed by a Butler, Chef, two Housemaids, two Stewards, and Mrs. Sembler's Assistant.