

# Buildings of Consular Institutions as Part of the Historical Appearance of Dalian (Manchuria)

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**Abstract.** The article is dedicated to the buildings of the consular institutions of the first half of the 20th century in Dalian, China. Architecture and history of the city is of interest to researches since with the opening of consulates—the city has undergone an active foreign influence. The article gives a brief historical description and architectural analyses of objects. Also, the location of buildings in urban development and the periods of existence of consulates in them were revealed. It was revealed that most of the facilities occupy a favorable location in the historical center of the city—Zhongshan District. During the study it was determined that the consulates of 11 countries (USA, Great Britain, Netherlands, Sweden, Russia/USSR, France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Norway and Denmark) were located at 21 addresses during the period under review. The article describes the architectural features of the four surviving consular sites, as a historical and architectural heritage, they belonged to countries: the USA, Russia/USSR, Germany. It was also revealed that the representations of the Netherlands and Sweden were located in the building of the US consulates. The objects in question are monuments of architecture in Dailan.

## 1. Introduction

The article was written by the authors in the process of studying the peculiarities of the architecture of consular institutions in the cities of Manchuria, in particular in Harbin. The theoretical base of the research was the works of Russian and foreign scientists covering certain aspects described in this article. So, the contribution of Russian architects to the architecture of Dalian is considered in the books of N. P. Kradin and S. S. Levoshko [1, 2, 3]. Town-planning aspects are considered in the works of N. E. Kozyrenko [4]. Historical photographs and brief historical information are presented in foreign literature [5, 6].

## 2. Historical information

The first half of 20th century, the period of rapid development of international relations in China, in consequence of which began to be created consular institutions and diplomatic missions [7, 8]. In 1906, after the signing by Russian Emperor Nicholas II of the law ‘On the approval of the states of general consulates in Harbin and Mukden, consulates in Qiqihar, Jilin and Dalniy and vice consulates in Kuanchengtze’, consulates and representations of various states began to open in the city of Dalniy (Dalian) [9, 10]. At that time, foreign missions in Dalian consistently included the United States



(USA), Great Britain, Netherlands, Sweden, Russia/USSR, France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Norway and Denmark. Most of them were closed after World War II [11-13]. The last country that created representation in the city was Denmark (January 1940), and the last to be evacuated was the Soviet consulate (August 1945). In the *Manchurian Yearbook* from 1936, the location of the consulates in Dalian is fixed [14]. During the period under review, the consulates were located at 21 addresses. The location of many consulates during the first half of the 20th century changed several times, for example, the British and German changed three addresses, and the United States—four. Sometimes the building housed several consulates at the same time, for example, Holland and Sweden opened their offices in the US Consulate building [15,16].

### 3. Consular buildings

One of the first consular institutions was opened by the United States (September 10, 1906). In total, four consular objects have been opened, of which only one, built in 1925, located on 61 Yuguang Street, Zhongshan District 'figure 1', not far from Youhao Square, is preserved. The building was built in 1925, and its area was 3646 m<sup>2</sup>. This is a detached, five-story rectangular in plan building with concrete walls for plastering characterized by laconic forms and details inherent in Roman Baroque, with the characteristic features of European eclectic architecture. The researchers note that the elements of the facade of the building are also similar to art nouveau motifs [17].

The main facade has a complex expressive plastic solution achieved by using an arcade in three floors with columns of order system above which space on the fourth and fifth floors is formed by deep loggias. The center-axial symmetry is highlighted by the middle part of the facade opened by an arcade that stands out by massiveness due to the use of columns and high base, which gives the building a special monumentality. The upper storey, on the other hand, looks light, but squat due to a wide interstorey belt and pseudo-balconies with heavy pairing brackets. The entrance portal is raised above the ground level by two meters and is located in the depth of the arcade, flanked by pilasters. Accentuating the projecting cornice and attic curvilinear outline, fixes its place in the ensemble of the street. A distinctive feature of the building is its monumentality and presentable. The building now houses the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC).



**Figure 1.** US Consulate, built in 1925.

In the period under review, US consular offices were located in the historic center of the city and occupied a favorable location in the city structure, so in 1906 the consulate was on the eastern side of Uniting St., north of the Jeegang St., Xigang District, opposite the official residence of the head of the Manchurian Railway, now the Dalian school of shipbuilding technology. From May 15, 1917 to

September 14, 1931, it was located in the western part of the building at 12 Renmin Road, Zhongshan District, it also housed the Dutch (May–August 1919) and the Swiss consulate (June 1920–September 1931). In 1933, this building was transformed into the Dalian branch of the Manchu Central Bank of China, and later demolished.

In addition, the US Consulate (1931, 1939, May 1946–September 1949) was located at 1 Minsheng St., Zhongshan District. The construction of the facility was started on March 15, 1931 and completed on September 30 of the same year. The design was carried out by the architecture department of Mori, the Fortune construction company. The three-storey building with an underground floor was made of reinforced concrete structures and occupied an area of 520 m<sup>2</sup> with a building area of 275.5 m<sup>2</sup>. In the same period, from September 1931 to June 1939, the Swedish Consulate was located. The building is also not preserved.

The British construction bureau in Shanghai, under the leadership of the architect Herbert Ashmead, executed the project of the British Consulate General, built in 1914 and located at the most important place of the city at 3 Zhongshan Square, the building is now lost. The structure had similar stylistic features and planning features with the building of the British consulate in Harbin [18-20]. The peculiarity of these objects can be considered the simplicity of architectural forms and details, sustained in the Edwardian style, inherent in English traditions [11]. Later the Japanese administration allocated a site for the construction of a new building of the British consulate, built in 1924 in Taoyan District at Ligqian St. To date, the site has been lost, as well as the consulate in 8 Huangguan Lane, Zhongshan District.

Tsarist Russia was one of the first to open a consular office in Dalian, so a consulate was established on the Zhigong St. on July 1, 1907, later it moved to 6 Zhongshan Square (not preserved), as well as the Soviet consulate established in 1925 on the Zhigong St., Zhongshan.

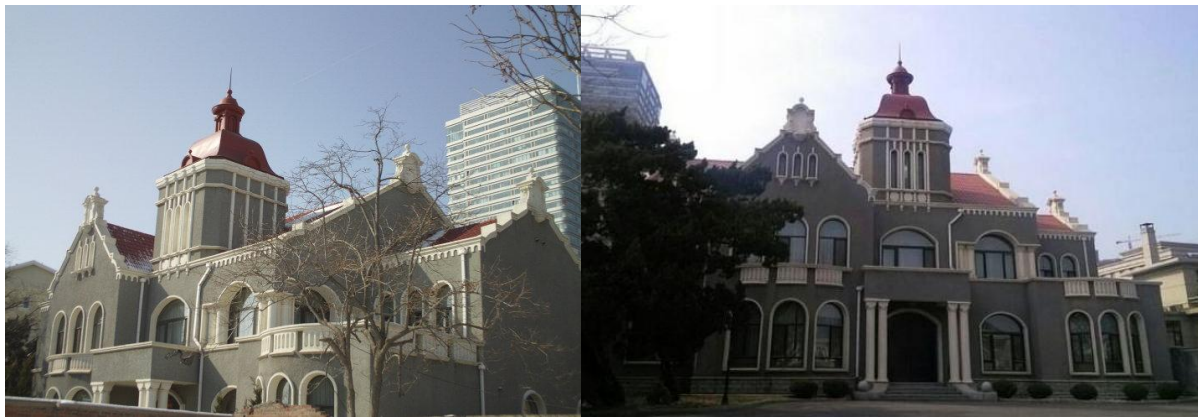
A three-story detached building with a basement located on 2 Lu Xun Road, Zhongshan District ‘figure 2’ has a rectangular plan shape, the area of which is 1430 m<sup>2</sup>. The brick volume of the structure is strict in form and elegant in proportion, sustained in the motives of classicism. The composition of the asymmetrical facade is accented by a bay window in two floors, and the rhythmically grouped windows emphasize the horizontal division, reinforce this effect with window blocks and pediments. The corners of the building are rustic, and the bay window serves as the main ornament of the smooth facade. The central entrance, according to the plan of the architect, was located on the left side of the building and was completed with a small bay window. The pink shade of the facades is in harmony with the gray stone of the corner rusts and the frames of the window openings and the bay window; gently combines the smooth plane of the wall and rough stone. Now the building is renovated in accordance with its original form and is a monument of the architectural heritage of the city.



**Figure 2.** The Soviet consulate, built in 1925.



The German consulate in Dalian was established in March 1926. The first building in which it was located was on the eastern side of the crossing of Xicun St. and 49 West Long St., Hongxing Village, Heishijiao. Built in 1900 as a private home of an Italian merchant 'figure. 3'.



**Figure 3.** Consulate of Germany, built in 1900.

This is a two-storied building with a brick-and-concrete structure, the area of which is 870 m<sup>2</sup>, the consulate was in the period from March 1926 to July 1928. Free grouping of architectural volumes and a dynamic silhouette, inherent in the architectural motifs of the Romantic style with the slender features of Gothic. The area of windows is much larger than the area of the masonry, which is characteristic of modernism. In general, the features of the European eclectic architecture are inherent in the object. The plastic solution of the main facade is determined by the rhythm of the serving volumes. Two large semicircular in the plan protrusion on the flanks of the facade composition, brought to the second floor, the space above which is formed by terraces. The building is crowned with a square tower in the plan with cut corners, which softens the perception of the composition. Large wall planes are decorated with built-up windows and elements. The rugged gable and smooth end walls turn into forceps, on top of which acrothors rise. The structure is distinguished by strictness and laconism of forms with pronounced volume dynamics. From July 2005 to 2006, its reconstruction was carried out.

The second building (1925), which housed the German consulate (from August 1928 to 1930), is located on 30 Fenglin St., Jinzhong District 'figure. 4'. Two-storied building with an area of about 600 m<sup>2</sup> has a brick-concrete structure. The structure is characterized by a complex expressive plastic facade, performed with the use of neoclassicism and elements inherent in the baroque architecture, reflected in the framing of window apertures, attics and decor. The object combines elements of a rich city palace and manor architecture. The angles of the main facade are marked by tower-like volumes. The symmetrical composition of the representative building is underlined by the deep arch of the portal and the built window on the second floor above which the sculptural emblem ends with a torn pediment and a protruding attic with flowerpots creating an expressive vertical on the axis of the facade, shading the entrance. Strengthens the vertical axis of the hipped roof, on top of which is an observation pavilion. The walls of the building are made for plastering, the ground floor is decorated with a rust of stone blocks, in the level of the first floor to the girdle framing rectangular windows, the walls are decorated with a large rust, the rest of the facade is smooth. The windows of the second floor have a circular outline decorated with a garland and completed with a castle stone.

After 1930, the German Consulate was located in a four-storied building on 191 Nanshan St., Zhongshan District. The consulate was in it until 1939, today lost.



**Figure 4.** Consulate of Germany, built in 1900.

The lost building of the French consulate (closed in 1939) was established in April 1932 and was located at 101 Renmin Road, Zhongshan District, now in its place is the hotel.

In addition to the above-mentioned objects, the consulates of Belgium (April 1926), Finland (September 1931), Norway (November 1934), Denmark (September 1919) have not been preserved at the moment.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of objects, the following is revealed:

- the preserved buildings reflect the characteristic features of European eclectic architecture;
- there is a connection between the architectural image of consular institutions in different cities of Manchuria, using the example of Harbin.

During the period under review, the consulates were located at 21 addresses, most of which were opened by Russia. Best preserved buildings in which the German Consulate was located.

Not all countries had their own consular buildings, opening their offices in consular offices of friendly states, such as Sweden and Holland, which were located in the building of the US consulate.

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