

PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2018



The Old Korean Legation Museum, located at 15 Logan Circle, NW, Washington, DC is hosting an opening ceremony at 10:30 AM (EST), Tuesday, May 22, 2018, in commemoration of 136 years' of friendship between Korea and USA, and 130th anniversary of establishment of Korean Legation.

The Old Korean Legation Museum building, located in the heart of Logan Circle, used to house the first diplomatic mission of Korea (then Joseon) in the USA from 1889 to 1905. As such, it is a landmark that represents the cradle of the Korea-US friendship. Repurchased and restored to its original beauty after 113 years' of closure, the historic building is reopening as a museum.

With the spotlight on the series of summits between South and North Korea and the US, the museum's opening is a timely reminder of the importance of the Korea-US friendship.

Korea and USA signed their first treaty – *The Joseon-United States Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation*, in 1882. And Korea established its first legation in the USA in February 1888. Since then, until Joseon lost her diplomatic rights to Japan in 1905, the building was used as the central stage of Korea's diplomatic activities for 16 years including preparations to participate in Chicago Expo in 1893.

The ownership of the building was passed over to Japan as Japan annexed Korea in 1910. And, it was sold to an American. Since then, the building had been used as a recreational facility for African soldiers during WW II, an office for cargo transportation union, and as a

private residence. In 2003, Korean American community started a movement to repurchase the Legation building to celebrate 100th year of Korean immigration. In 2012, Korean Government retrieved the ownership of the building.

The Korean Overseas Cultural Heritage Foundation performed a thorough research, and completed a restoration project based on the historical documents and photos. Now, after renovation, it is being turned into a museum.

The Korean Legation is being recognized to symbolize strenuous efforts and autonomous diplomacy pursued by King Gojong of Joseon who wanted to open a broader diplomatic horizon with through USA by overcoming the old order of North East Asia in late 19th century. Also, it has the great cultural and historical value for being the only independent building that keeps its original shape among all the existing diplomatic buildings of Korea. In addition, it holds a great value in the aspect of the U.S. diplomatic history, too. It has been verified as the only building that keeps its original form among all the 19 century's foreign diplomatic buildings in Washington D.C.

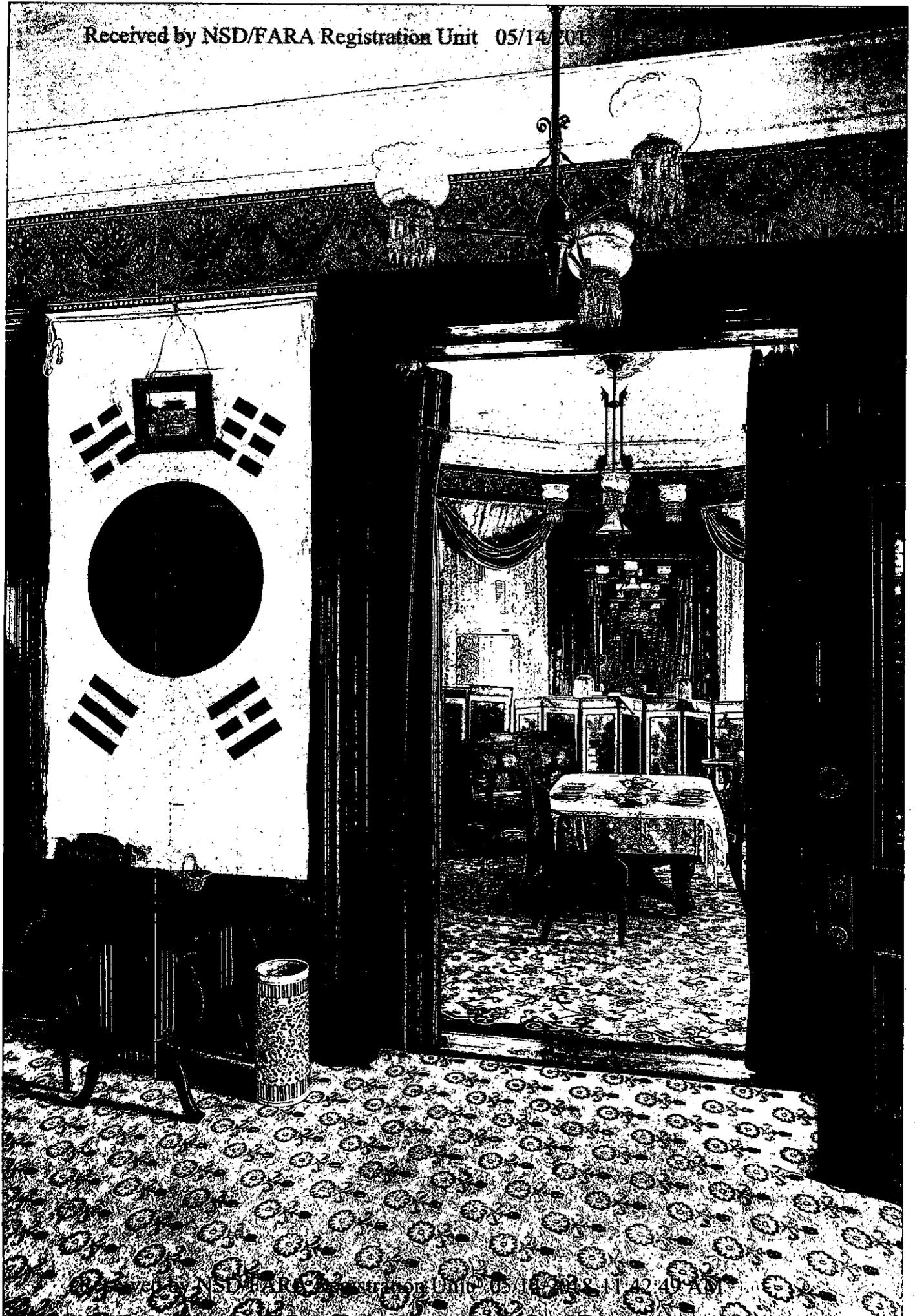
The Museum will be open to public, admission free, 10 AM to 5 PM every day except Monday.

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For further information, please refer to the attached file.

Or, contact Ms. Hyejin YU at 571-338-8880, email jinava1004@gmail.com

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