

## **Brief history of the Building that houses the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany:**

Matson -Roth Houses, built 1918 and circa 1924 Arch: Walter Bliss

This sophisticated pair of orange brick Georgian Revival townhouses forms a U that shelters an elegant court. The two were built by the widow of Swedish-born shipping magnate William Matson. Matson forged a great shipping company, Matson Navigation, and also developed California oil fields and had extensive investments in Hawaii. After his death in 1917, Mrs. Mason built 1960 Jackson Street, the larger house to the left of the court for herself. About 1924, she built 1950 Jackson Street for her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. William P. Roth. After Mrs. Matson's death and the Roths' purchase of Filoli, the William Burn estate on the San Mateo Peninsula, the twin houses were sold. For some time they were the Swedish Consulate. In 1987 they were bought by the German Government, restored to its old splendor, and adapted for the German Consulate. It is a beautiful and fitting location for the German Consulate, which is the oldest consular representation on the Westcoast dating back to 1849 when the free city of Hamburg installed a Consul here. The building enjoys fine views over the bay and is a landmark on Jackson Street in Pacific Heights