



The councillor of commerce Paul Richard Herz was born in Berlin in 1853 as the son of Wilhelm Herz and his wife Cäcilie Herz née Marckwald. He came from an old Jewish merchant family.

The villa of the oil mill owner Paul Herz at no. 52-54 Am Grossen Wannsee was built in 1891/92 by Wilhelm Martens, a pupil of Martin Gropius. In 1926, the chocolate manufacturer Nelson Fassbender bought the villa from Ida Herz and had a riding arena built on the site. In the early thirties, he planted an oak tree in the garden of the villa in honour of the "Führer" Adolf Hitler.

In 1936, Fassbender sold the villa to the "Deutsche Arbeitsfront" (German Workers' Front). In 1937, he moved into the "aryanised" villa of the Czapski family at no. 1-3 Strasse zum Heckeshorn. In 1945, the old Nelson Fassbender took up the production of his chocolates again in the Czapski villa.

After the war, the Red Cross used the house to put up refugees there. Eventually the US Army established a cafe in the villa. In 1950 the authority of Greater Berlin, took over the property, which now served as a guest house. Later the building and a part of the garden were used as a youth recreation centre of the district Berlin-Tiergarten. In 1972 the district of Zehlendorf rented part of the land to the Seglerverein Alsen e.V.

Now the villa is privately owned and often serves as a set for film and television productions.

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