



Oscar Huldshinsky (1846-1931), a Jewish businessman from Breslau, held a top position in the coal mining and iron industries in Upper Silesia. In 1890/1891 he had a villa built on the site at no. 19 Friedrich-Karl-Strasse (today: no. 33-35 Am Sandwerder) and in 1907-1908 a smaller adjacent villa for his children. Huldshinsky had to sell his Wannsee residence as a result of financial difficulties. The villa was renovated in 1929-30 for the new owner, the banker Georg Schicht, who emigrated to London during the Nazi period.

Upon his death in 1931, Oscar Huldshinsky was buried in the family grave at the Neuen Friedhof in Wannsee where, on his initiative, both Christians and Jews could be buried. His son Paul made his name above all as an interior designer in 1920s Berlin society. After being deported to a concentration camp in 1939, Paul Huldshinsky fled Germany to America, where he worked as an artistic director and set designer in Hollywood.

On April 10, 1942, the whole estate was transferred to the Reich by bill of sale and used by the Reich forestry commission. The Italian ambassador moved into the villa when the embassy building in Tiergarten was destroyed in a bomb attack. The buildings served as a hospital between 1954 and 1995. The small villa is currently undergoing restoration work to be preserved as a historical monument whilst a buyer was found for the main building in 1999.

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