



The seat of the Chamber of Deputies consists of two blocks of old palaces and burgher houses in the Lesser Town, which are delimited by Lesser Town Square (Malostranské náměstí), Sněmovní, Thunovská, Tomášská Streets and Valdštejnské (Wallenstein) Square. In addition, the complex includes the house No. 1 on the opposite side of Sněmovní Street. The buildings with rich history, which is mirrored in different architectural styles, united their fate with the parliamentary development in the 19th century.

The Bohemian land diet held its sessions in the **Thun Palace** from 1861. Neighbouring houses and palaces were then gradually connected for the needs of the land diet and the land commission. They witnessed some major events of the 20th century. The Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed in the assembly hall of the Thun Palace in November 1918. In the era of the First Republic, the Senate of the National Assembly held its sessions there. After the establishment of the Czechoslovak federation in 1968, the Czech National Council convened there. Since 1993, the assembly hall has been used for the sessions of the Chamber of Deputies.

In the 1990s, for instance **Smiřický and Sternberg Palaces** were incorporated into the parliamentary complex again, newly complemented by the **building of the former Jesuit gymnasium**.



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**PALACES
OF THE CHAMBER
OF DEPUTIES**



▲ THE THUN PALACE

The construction of the impressive seat of the Thun family was initiated in 1695 and completed probably already in 1701. In 1794, the palace was fatally damaged by fire and the Thun family subsequently sold it to the Bohemian estates, which adapted the palace to the needs of the land diet and commission. The present-day Classicist appearance of the façade comes from the reconstruction at the beginning of the 19th century as well. Further significant building modifications in the palace were made in the era of the First Republic. The current appearance of the interiors was completed by the reconstruction for the needs of the Czech National Council, reflecting the aesthetic criteria at the end of the 1980s.

► THE SMIŘICKÝ PALACE

The originally Renaissance palace (also referred to as the House at the Montags) originated at the beginning of the 17th century by joining the houses owned by the Smiřický family. After 1763, the palace was reconstructed in Baroque style according to the wishes of the new owner, Jan of Montag. Corner oriels were then complemented by onion turrets. In 1895, the house was purchased by the Land Committee of the Kingdom of Bohemia. After the Second World War, the building was used by the Geological Institute. After the creation of the independent Czech Republic, the palace became part of the seat of the Chamber of Deputies and was thoroughly reconstructed (1993–1996). During the reconstruction, painted beam ceilings and rich sgraffiti were renovated.



◀ THE STERNBERG (ŠTERNBERK) PALACE

The incongruous frontage of the palace indicates that it is composed of two buildings with different history and owners. At the end of the 17th century, both buildings were owned by the Sternbergs, who unified the façade in Baroque style. During the National Revival, Kaspar Maria von Sternberg would invite the representatives of Czech science and culture, such as J. Dobrovský and F. Palacký, there. In 1901, the palace was purchased by the Land Committee. A foot-bridge was built to connect it with the neighbouring Thun Palace (1903). In the 1990s, the palace was carefully reconstructed to meet the needs of the Chamber of Deputies.



► SNĚMOVNÍ 1

This extensive part of the parliamentary complex comprises two buildings. The lower part with the monumental portal was reconstructed in Baroque style by K. I. Dientzenhofer in the 1720s to meet the needs of the Jesuit Order. In the 1770s, after the Jesuit Order was disbanded, the building of the gymnasium was joined with the house of the Bohemian Court Chamber and the extensive complex was used by the gubernatorial office and later the Bohemian Vice-Regency. In the 20th century, the building was utilised by the Ministry of the Interior. In 1994, it was integrated into the complex of the Chamber of Deputies and subsequently underwent a complex reconstruction.



▼ THE AUERSPERG PALACE

The building is also referred to as the Clary-Aldringen Palace, because Johann George Clary-Aldringen joined several houses into one palace complex at the end of the 18th century and unified the façade in the early Baroque style. The interiors of the palace were modified in the styles of Classicism and beginning Historicism after it was purchased by the Auerspergs in 1824. In 1904, the palace was bought from the Auerspergs by the Land Committee. State authorities continued to utilise it in the 20th century. After the Velvet Revolution, it became part of the seat of the Chamber of Deputies.



▲ THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

was modified for the sessions of the land diet in 1861. The appearance of the Neo-Renaissance hall has hardly changed since then.

► THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT of the Chamber of Deputies in the Thun Palace. The rich stucco decoration on the ceilings can be admired to this day because this part of the palace was not destroyed by the fire in 1794.



▲ THE PRESS CENTRE was established in the roofed courtyard of the Thun Palace in 2009.



▲ The monumental **late medieval cellars** below the Sternberg Palace. The vault with the central pillar was probably added to the cellar in the 16th century.



► THE CHAPEL in the Sternberg Palace, whose appearance was designed by the architect Josef Pleskot, was made accessible in 2016. The Body of Christ is the work of the Baroque master Franz Platzer. The ornamental decoration on the windows includes the first ten letters of the Hebrew alphabet, which refer to the Tables of the Law.

