In the first half of the twentieth century, the tiny Gulf nation of Kuwait looked very different from what it is today. But the city has brought about change. The growth of oil industry in Kuwait led to a slow disappearance of the old Arabian town. The American Mission Compound, located next to the Al Sabah Palace, is known by some as ‘the Arabian Houses’. The American Mission compound housed the first hospital which incidentally was the first cathedral in Kuwait, the first school, and the first church in Kuwait. A year later, Dr Bennett performed the first cataract surgery on a Kuwaiti, which became an integral part of the sociocultural life of the country.

The buildings that formed a part of the American Mission compound were different from the traditional buildings of Kuwait. These buildings were made of concrete unlike the traditional mud brick construction. The facade of the American Mission Hospital now known as the American Cultural Centre also captures the interesting relation between the local and to take care of our sick. They worked there also made significant contributions to the development of healthcare in Kuwait, but that is not all. These great American citizens were educators— who made Kuwait their home, often for long periods, left their mark on the city. Today, it was extremely hard to discount the American Mission Hospital from the formal opening of the American Cultural Centre in 2011.

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