DEANE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

LANDMARK NUMBER: 16

KNOWN AS: Deane School Buildings, Westmont College

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 955 La Paz Road, Santa Barbara

LOCATION: Westmont College Campus, 955 La Paz Road in Montecito

TYPE OF SITE: Chapel now a music room and study hall; office building now known as Deane Hall; junior dormitory now known as Reynolds Art Gallery, and La Huerta now known as Reynolds Hall

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 79-202; 29-264

LANDMARK DATE: April 9, 1979; May 7, 1979

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Application for Designation as County Historical and landmark submitted by William A. Woollett, retired Santa Barbara architect

PAST OWNERS: See Description

CURRENT OWNER: Westmont College, 955 La Paz Road, Montecito

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: See Description
DESCRIPTION:
In 1907, General Henry Strong purchased 42 acres in Montecito along Palm Avenue and built a large two story shingle house with a nearby chapel to house his Kimball organ. The estate was known as Oakleigh. Strong sold the property to Dr. Ralph Miller in 1911; he, in turn, sold the property to Ralph J. Preston of New Jersey in 1914 for use by the fledgling Deane School, founded by John Deane in 1912. The premises for the boys’ boarding school had recently suffered damages from flood waters. ¹

Mr. Preston also donated funds for two new dormitories designed by local architect Francis T. Underhill and built in 1915 (the same year the main house burned though the chapel survived). They were known as the Junior Dormitory (now Reynolds Art Gallery) and El Encinal (Deane Hall) and housed classrooms and dining halls on the first floor and sleeping porches plus a master’s bedroom on the second floor. ²

Soon the chapel became the music hall, study hall, and assembly room. An infirmary, a small dormitory known as the Cottage, a manual training shop, and a matron’s residence were then added to the campus. Over the years several more buildings were built³

By 1920, Mr. Deane had left and the school was run by two of its teachers, Hewitt Reynolds and Harrison Townsend, an architect. He designed three nearby buildings, including Huerta Hall (now Reynolds Hall) which became part of the complex known as the Deane School Buildings. ⁴

In 1926, Reynolds became the sole headmaster and by 1934, the school was closed. Reynolds rented the Junior Dormitory, El Encinal, and La Huerta to Westmont in the 1950s and 1960s as women’s dormitories. In 1966, Westmont purchased six of the Deane School buildings (the Chapel, El Encinal, Junior Dormitory, La Huerta, the infirmary, and the Cottage) to use as offices, staff housing, and classrooms. Six years later, four of the purchased Deane School buildings were recommended for county landmark status. ⁵

RESOURCES:
Alexandra C. Cole, “Phase 1 Cultural resources Study, Historic Resources,” for Westmont College (March 2001)

John Murray and David Shelton, Westmont College, memo to Members of the County Historical Landmarks Committee regarding The Deane School Buildings (February 8, 1979)

¹ Phase 1 Cultural Resources Study (March 2001)
² Ibid
³ Ibid
⁴ Ibid
⁵ Ibid
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATION OF
THE DEANE SCHOOL BUILDINGS, LOCATED
ON WESTMONT COLLEGE PROPERTY, 955 LA PAZ
ROAD, MONTECITO, AS SANTA BARBARA
COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 16.

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark
Advisory Committee is authorized and directed to act upon applica­
tions for historical landmarks under Santa Barbara County Code
Chapter 18A; and
WHEREAS, the Deane School was founded in 1912 by John
Deane and operated as a prep school until the mid-1930s; and
WHEREAS, in 1920, Mr. Deane sold the school and the prop­
erty to Hewitt Reynolds and Harrison Townsend; and
WHEREAS, in 1926, Mr. Reynolds took full control of the
school and retained the property until 1966 when he sold most of
the remaining property to Westmont College, which is on adjacent
land; and
WHEREAS, Westmont College has made use of the four main
buildings as follows:

The Deane School Chapel, built at an unknown date
prior to 1911 to house an organ, and used by the Deane School
for chapel and assemblies. (It was near the main house and not
damaged by a fire that destroyed the main house in 1915.)

El Encinal, a two story building, built between 1914
and 1915 to serve as a dormitory, dining hall and classroom,
presently called "Deane Hall" and used by Westmont College as
an office building.

The Junior Dormitory, companion and look-alike building
to El Encinal, built between 1914 and 1915, and intended to be
used as an art gallery.

La Huerta, also two stories, built in 1925, serving Westmont College as an office and classroom building, now called "Reynolds Hall."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that
the Deane School buildings, located at 955 La Paz Road, Montecito, has historical interest and is worthy of consideration for perpetration as an historical landmark, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Deane School buildings be designated as Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark No. 16.

This designation shall remain in effect for a period of ninety days from and after the date of this resolution. During this period of ninety days, the Clerk of the Board is directed to set a date for a public hearing in accordance with Section 6061 of the California Government Code.

The Clerk shall advertise the date of the hearing at least ten days prior to the date set for the hearing. The hearing shall determine whether this Board shall confirm or deny the action of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee and this Board of Supervisors in designating the Deane School buildings as an historical landmark.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 9th day of April, 1979:

AYES: DAVID M. YAGER, ROBERT E. KALLMAN

WILLIAM B. WALLACE and HARRELL FLETCHER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: ROBERT L. REDLUND

DAVID M. YAGER

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
ATTEST:

HOWARD C. NEUSEL, COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

By LOIS H. ANGELONI (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Santa Barbara

I, HOWARD C. NEUSEL, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors of and for the County of Santa
Barbara, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate copy of the original thereof remaining on file in my
office.

[Signature]
Deputy Clerk

[Date]
9 April 1979
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE DEANE
SCHOOL BUILDINGS, LOCATED ON WESTMONT
COLLEGE PROPERTY, 955 LA PAZ ROAD,
MONTECITO, IS AN HISTORICAL LANDMARK
WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER ORDINANCE
NO. 1716, AND DESIGNATING IT AS SANTA
BARBARA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO.
16.

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark
Advisory Committee is authorized and directed to act upon applica-
tions for historical landmarks under County Code Chapter 18A; and

WHEREAS, the Deane School buildings, located upon Westmont
College property, at 955 La Paz Road, Montecito, consisting of
four main buildings: the Deane School Chapel: El Encinal; the
Junior Dormitory: La Fuerta; are worthy of consideration for
perpetuation as an historical landmark under Santa Barbara County
Ordinance No. 1716;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors, having duly set a public
hearing for May 7, 1979, has heard all interested parties and has
closed said public hearing;

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares the Deane
School buildings be approved as Santa Barbara County Historical
Landmark No. 16.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 7th day of
May ________, 1979.

AYES: David M. Yager, William B. Wallace, Robert L.
       Hedlund and Harrell Fletcher

NONE: None
ABSENT: Robert E. Kallman

DAVID M. YAGER
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
HOWARD C. MENZEL, COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

By JANET SCHLESINGER (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Santa Barbara

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk Recorder and an officer of the County of Santa Barbara, being duly sworn, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now remaining in my office.

[Signature]
HONORARY CLERK, County Clerk-Recorder

[Signature]
By JANET SCHLESINGER, Deputy Clerk

4/26/79
EL ENCINAL
Built in 1914-1915, now called Deane Hall.
Photograph taken in 1924.
DEANE SCHOOL CHAPEL
Built between 1902 and 1911. Photograph taken in 1926.
LA NUERTA
Built in 1925, now
called Reynolds Hall.
Photograph taken 1927.
JUNIOR DORMITORY
Built in 1914-1916.
Photographed 1924.