LANDMARK NUMBER: 17

KNOWN AS: Wulff’s Windmill

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: None

LOCATION: 1245 Fredensborg Canyon Road, Solvang

TYPE OF SITE: Windmill

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 80-149

LANDMARK DATE: April 7, 1980

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination by an informal committee of interested community members: Florence L. Jensen, Audrey M. Farmer, June G. Christensen, and Leslie Zomalt (owner of the property at the time of nomination)

PAST OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. J.C. (Charles) Wulff

CURRENT OWNER: Ernest and Leslie Zomalt
1245 Fredensborg Canyon Road, Solvang

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: Repaired only

CONDITION: Excellent
DESCRIPTION: Wulff’s Windmill was built by J.C. (Charles) Wulff and completed in 1922. Mr. Wulff and his wife came to the Santa Ynez Valley in 1911 as one of the original Danish families though he had immigrated to the United States a few years earlier. The windmill was originally built 200 yards west of its present site on Fredensborg Canyon Road, and was moved using skids in 1924 when the first well on the property went dry.¹ Its design appears to be a mixture of European and American design elements. While most of the structure is wooden, the sail, gears, and many of the braces and brackets are metal. The four long blades measure approximately 15 feet and the rear sail measures about 12 feet. This feature seems to be Wulff’s own adaptation of the American windmill which was developed for use on the plains and prairies. Even after the windmill fell into disuse in the 1930s, the rear sail continued to turn the arms into the wind until the winter of 1977-78 when it finally broke off in the heavy rains.² Wulff Windmill fell into sudden disuse after Mr. Wulff’s untimely death in 1936. He had fallen from a tree while helping ready preparations for Solvang’s 25th anniversary celebration in the community’s amphitheater at the mouth of Fredensborg Canyon.³ This windmill was the first of Solvang’s European-type windmills and pre-dates the others by at least twenty-five years. It was used to pump water and grind grain for the livestock and poultry on Wulff’s 270 acre farm.⁴ Shortly after the windmill was moved, Mr. Wulff, an amateur geologist and archeologist, discovered that with some new equipment and a few internal adjustments he could put his noisy machine to a third use – cutting and polishing rocks. Some of his work is now in collections at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution.⁵

RESOURCES:
Letter written to the Board of Supervisors by Earl Culvert, Chairman of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee (March 4, 1980)
History of Wulff’s Windmill by Leslie M. Zomalt (May 1979)

¹ History of Wulff’s Windmill (Zomalt)
² Ibid
³ Ibid
⁴ Earl Culvert letter to the Board of Supervisors
⁵ Zomalt history
WHEREAS, Wulff's Windmill located at 1245 Fredensborg Canyon Road, Solvang, has great historical significance and interest to the general public as a landmark and reminder of early days in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1980, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee declared Wulff's Windmill to be an historical landmark pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 1716 of the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara deems Wulff's Windmill to be worthy of protection and preservation as such historical landmark;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors, having duly set a public hearing for April 7, 1980, has heard all interested persons, and has closed said public hearing, adopting the conditions set out in Paragraph 2 of this Resolution.

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares Wulff's Windmill to be an historical landmark pursuant to Ordinance No. 1716 and hereby imposes the following conditions on Wulff's Windmill pursuant to said ordinance:

   a. Demolition, removal or destruction, partially or entirely, is prohibited unless express consent in writing is first had and obtained from the Santa Barbara County Historical
Landmark Advisory Committee. Such consent may impose all reasonable conditions deemed appropriate by the Committee to accomplish the purposes of Ordinance No. 1716.

b. No alterations, additions or changes (other than normal maintenance and repair work) shall be made unless and until all plans therefor have first been reviewed by the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee and approved or modified, and reasonable conditions imposed as deemed necessary and that all such work shall be done under the direction and control of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee or other qualified persons designated by it.

3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Ernest Zomalt, 1245 Fredensborg Canyon Road, Solvang, CA 93463.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 7th day of April, 1980, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ROBERT L. HEDLUND
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
HOWARD C. MENGEL, COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

By JANET SCHLESINGER (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk