CASA BLANCA POOL HOUSE

LANDMARK NUMBER: 28

KNOWN AS: Casa Blanca Natatorium

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 851 Sand Point Road, Carpinteria

LOCATION: Immediately west of El Estero at the westerly terminus of Sand Point Road and ½ mile west of city limits of Carpinteria

TYPE OF SITE: Pool house

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 90-19

LANDMARK DATE: January 19, 1990

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination submitted by M/M Frank A. Serena

PAST OWNERS:

Albert Isham (1927-1931)
Ralph Isham inherited the property from his son’s estate

M/M Van Rensselaer G. Wilbur (1941)
Mrs. Van Rensselaer G. Wilbur and her new husband Harvey Taylor purchased property surrounding the pool house and gymnasium and built a main house, a guest house and other buildings not associated with the pool house nomination (1941-1975)

University of Southern California received the property as a gift from Mrs. Wilbur (now Mrs. Longstreth) in a life estate who later reclaimed it as the university was not maintaining it to her standards

James H. Powers (1977-1978)


Frank Serena
CURRENT OWNER: Casa Blanca Estates Homeowners’ Association
c/o Bruce and Jane Defnet
210 Penny Lane, Santa Barbara 93108

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: Some interior alterations to the main room

CONDITION: Excellent

DESCRIPTION: The pool house was designed in the Moorish style by architect George Washington Smith in 1927. The exterior is white stucco with tile door friezes, domes, and minarets. Large arches define the large exterior wooden doors with brass stud patterns. Both doors have the original unique 1927 hardware handles and lock mechanisms. The roof is retractable and was installed by General Electric in 1927.¹ The arched entrance into the pool area is covered in tile. Floor tiles are geometrically patterned hexagonal terra-cotta and glazed ceramic tile forms. Square tiles exist near the entrances. The lower walls are tiled to about six feet in geometrical patterns; the northern and southern walls feature two painted tile murals. The northern wall displays an aquarium-like motif of sea life with a tile fountain below the mural. The southern wall contains images of maidens located over the fireplace. Above this mural are three domes with unique multi-colored glass light fixtures.² Dressing rooms adjoin the pool area as do restrooms and showers. Entrance to the pool equipment room is a sliding door with the original 1927 hardware handle. The equipment room contains the 1927 fixtures.³ Deco glasswork decorates the gymnasium entrance’s ceiling. The gymnasium is a large area with a wooden floor.⁴

RESOURCES:
Application for Designation as a Historical Landmark, Santa Barbara County (undated)

¹ Nomination application
² Ibid
³ Ibid
⁴ Ibid
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE 
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION DECLARING CASA BLANCA POOLHOUSE TO BE AN HISTORICAL LANDMARK, DESIGNATED AS SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 28, WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 1716 (CHAPTER 18-A OF THE COUNTY CODE) AND PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LANDMARK

WHEREAS, the Casa Blanca Poolhouse, designed by George Washington Smith and originally owned by Albert K. Isham, located at 851 Sand Point Road, in the County of Santa Barbara, has historical, aesthetic and other special character and interest to the general public as a landmark and worthy of protection and preservation as an historical landmark pursuant to Chapter 18-A of the Santa Barbara County Code (Ordinance No. 1716 of the County of Santa Barbara); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee has by Resolution adopted November 15, 1989, upon application of the owner, determined to recommend that the Board of Supervisors make the said Casa Blanca Poolhouse an historical landmark pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 1716, Chapter 18-A of the Santa Barbara County Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara finds this building to be worthy of protection and preservation as an historical landmark;
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, having duly set a public hearing for January 9, 1990 at 9:00 a.m., has considered all presentations to be made by any interested party wishing to address the Board on the matter of making the Casa Blanca Poolhouse, a portion of Parcel A, Parcel Map No. 12350, as shown on the map recorded in Book 17, Pages 71 to 73 of Parcel Maps in the office of the Santa Barbara County Recorder, more particularly described and depicted on the attached Exhibit A, to be an historical landmark, known as County Historical Landmark No. 28 (Casa Blanca Poolhouse), protected under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1716, and subject to the following conditions:

(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 said Ordinance No. 1716.

(b) No alterations, repairs, 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.

c) No buildings or structures exposed to public view within a distance wherein such will affect the historical setting or the educational value of the landmark, may be placed, erected, moved in, altered, enlarged or removed (other than normal maintenance and repair work) without express approval in writing, with reasonable conditions imposed where deemed necessary, by the
Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 9th of January , by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: Ochoa, Rogers, Wallace, Owens, Miyoshi

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:
KENNETH A. PETTIT
COUNTY-CLERK RECORDER

By Robert Cohen
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAVID NAWI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By Robert W. Pike, Deputy

This is a true certified copy of the original document on file or on record in my office. It bears the seal and signature, imprinted in purple ink, of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Clerk of the Board, Santa Barbara County, California

Date: 7/17/70 By Deputy: Robert Cohen