

# *HELENA T. DEVEREUX HALL*



**LANDMARK NUMBER:** 27

**KNOWN AS:** Devereux Hall

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:** 7055 Seaway Drive, Goleta

**LOCATION:** Coal Oil Point, Goleta

**TYPE OF SITE:** Administrative building

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 87-443

**LANDMARK DATE:** September 8, 1987

**DESIGNATION  
OBTAINED BY:** Application for Designation as an Historical Landmark  
submitted by Gary Coombs, Institute for American  
Research

**PAST OWNERS:** Colonel Colin and Nancy Leiter Campbell  
Campbell heirs

**CURRENT OWNER:** The Devereux Foundation  
7055 Seaway Drive, Goleta

**CHANGES/  
ALTERATIONS:** See description

CONDITION: Good

DESCRIPTION: Devereux Hall was constructed in the early 1920s as the main house of the grand 500 acre Campbell Ranch of Goleta. The ranch was named for Colonel Colin Powys Campbell, a retired British army officer, and his American wife, Chicago socialite Nancy Leiter Campbell. While still living in England, they acquired land at Coal Oil Point in 1919 as the place to build the family home for themselves and their three children. The family moved to the Santa Barbara area in 1920.<sup>1</sup>

The mile-long winding road leading to the estate was built entirely by hand beginning where Storke and El Colegio Roads meet. Landscaping was extensive and eventually seven acres were ornamentally landscaped. The property was more than a lovely place to visit, it was primarily a working ranch consistent with the Goleta environment. On a return trip from Chicago with his wife, Colonel Campbell suffered a fatal heart attack and died May 11, 1923, 17 days short of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was buried at the tip of Coal Oil Point after an elaborate funeral.<sup>2</sup> The grand home had yet to be built, but his wife followed through with the construction of a Mediterranean-styled home designed by Mary Osborne Craig.<sup>3</sup> Work began on the two story house in March 1924. Its 30 plus rooms, 18 bathrooms, dozens of closets added up to 20,000 square feet. The basement encompassed another 12,000 feet including an ice plant, boilers, refrigerators, and vast storage areas. It would become the "Showplace of the Goleta Valley."<sup>4</sup>

Mary Craig designed the house around a basic quadrangle - four wings surrounding a central courtyard - and modified each side of the quad by adding one or more rooms at the wing ends. The home displayed other characteristics of the Spanish Colonial Revival style - arched window and door openings, hipped roofs covered in red tile, loggias, a mission style bell, classical door surrounds, and wrought iron window grilles with matching ornamental light fixtures.<sup>5</sup> The house was ready for occupancy by the end of 1924. The mansion became a gathering place for the social elite around the globe while the ranch lands produced crops and livestock for both consumption and sale. Nancy died suddenly on a trip to England in 1932 but her ashes were brought back to Goleta and buried next to her husband. The mansion was then lived in by her son and his young family. Finally in June 1941, the house and furnishings were put up for auction. Many of the personal effects were sold, but not the mansion or the ranch which remained in the hands of the Campbell family.<sup>6</sup> During World War II, the ranch was the site of a Coast Guard radar station and placed buildings on the property strategic to the war effort. Union Oil Company also leased part of the ranch for petroleum exploration and development.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Coombs, In the Grand Manor

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Coombs, Devereux Hall

<sup>4</sup> Coombs, In the Grand Manor

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

Then in the early 1940s, Devereux Foundation directors from the east coast came to California to establish a second campus in California. The first Devereux school had been established in Devon, Pennsylvania by Helena T. Devereux to help children with special needs. The first school on the west coast was established in Montecito but the school quickly outgrew the space. The foundation bought the 500 acre Campbell Ranch and grand mansion for \$100,000. The house became the first student residence hall as its separate wings and numerous rooms were ideal for co-educational living. It also housed the dining and recreational rooms, kitchen, pantries, beauty shop, storeroom, offices, reception room, and medical treatment room for the school.<sup>8</sup> An addition was made to the manor's east wing in 1958 to increase residential capacity and the house became known as Campbell Hall, though named for an early physician-consultant for the foundation and not for the family who had developed the estate.<sup>9</sup> In the 1950s and 1960s the foundation sold off much of the ranch acreage for commercial use including 250 acres which became part of the Santa Barbara airport property. UCSB purchased another 220 plus acres including the Campbell family cemetery for future expansion in 1967. The remains were relocated to Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington DC. With this sale, Devereux was left with 33 acres.<sup>10</sup> Eventually the manor house was renamed for the school's founder, Helena T. Devereux who died in 1975 at the age of 90. As the foundation grew and changed, new demands were placed on the aging house. Originally planners had contemplated demolition of the building; instead Devereux Hall ceased to be a residential building and became the branch's administrative headquarters and medical facility in 1987.

#### RESOURCES:

Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen, "In the Grand Manor, the Story of Devereux Hall," Institute for American Research, 1987

Gary Coombs, "Devereux Hall: A Historical Sketch" (undated and attached to the Application for Designation as an Historical Landmark)



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<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE HELENA T.) Resolution No. 87-443  
DEVEREUX HALL TO BE AN HISTORICAL )  
LANDMARK, DESIGNATED AS SANTA )  
BARBARA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK )  
NO. 27, WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER )  
ORDINANCE NO. 1716 (CHAPTER 18-A )  
OF THE COUNTY CODE) AND )  
PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS TO PROTECT )  
AND PRESERVE THE LANDMARK )  
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WHEREAS, the Helena T. Devereux Hall located near the University of California in Santa Barbara County has great historical significance and interest to the general public as a landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee has by Resolution adopted June 1, 1987, upon application of the owner, determined to recommend that the Board of Supervisors make the Helena T. Devereux Hall 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 September 8, 1987, has considered the presentation made by each interested party wishing to address the Board on the matter of making the Helena T. Devereux Hall an historical landmark.

2. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara hereby declares the Helena T. Devereux Hall, more fully described on the attached Exhibit A, to be an historical landmark, known as County Historical Landmark No. 27 (The Helena

T. Devereux Hall), 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 Ordinance No. 1716.

(b) No alterations, repairs, additions or changes (other than normal maintenance and repair work, and work and additions normal to interments) 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 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 such Committee.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 8th day of September, 1987, by the following vote:

AYES: David M. Yager, Thomas A. Rogers, William B. Wallace, DeWayne Holmdahl, Toru Miyoshi

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:  
KENNETH A. PETTIT  
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

By Betsy Sizemore  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
KENNETH L. NELSON  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By Robert W. Pike  
Robert W. Pike, Deputy

William B. Wallace  
William B. Wallace, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION APPROVED:  
DEVEREUX FOUNDATION

By David G. Kaplan  
David G. Kaplan, Director

Exhibit A

The hall, building, grounds and premises located near Coal Oil Point within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Barbara within the area described as follows:

Commencing at the most Northerly point described on Detail "B" of the Record of Survey recorded in the office of the Santa Barbara County Recorder on February 28, 1968, in Book 83 Page 92 of RECORD OF SURVEYS; thence due South 310.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 15° 30" West 265.00 feet to a point; thence South 74° 30" East 280.00 feet to a point; thence North 15° 30" East 265.00 feet to a point; thence North 74° 30" West 280.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

[4433B]