

Appendix III

Inventory of 415 Palisades Beach Road, Santa Monica 1938

An important group of documents, left behind in a home once owned by Marion Davies, was given to the Margaret Herrick Library in 1992 by the new owner who found them. The Marion Davies Papers, as they're called, aren't the same as the private Marion Davies Collection that Fred Lawrence Guiles used in his biography *Marion Davies*, published in 1972. The papers in the Herrick Library date mainly from the 1950s, but several items are from the 1930s and 1940s. One such item is the inventory of 1938 that concerns us here.

The formal name of the Beach House appears in the title of the item—"Inventory, 415 Palisades Beach Road"—a document consisting of sixty-six pages; the document is a carbon version of an original typescript whose whereabouts are unknown. The inventory was "taken May 11, 1938 to June 10, 1938," according to words accompanying the title.

Furnishings and moveable art objects are the substance of its pages, but architectural elements ("built-ins" in Hearst parlance) are excluded. An itemized listing is beyond the scope of Appendix III; the subject headings plus their page numbers must suffice here. Compared with inventories of the San Simeon collection, the Beach House compilation has a homemade air about it. There are no inventory numbers. Nor does provenance information accompany the entries, as it often does for San Simeon.

The main value of the document is what it tells us about room names—that along with the number of rooms that existed (for instance, the third floor had five bedrooms). The document is complete within its sixty-six pages. It may have contained further pages, but we'd be hard-pressed to say what those pages encompassed. At least two prominent rooms in the Beach House are absent from the inventory—the Marine Room and the Rathskeller.

Another discrepancy is the repetition on p. 19 of the heading that already appears on p. 17 (Second Floor, West Bedroom).

Armed with this information, which seems plausible and trustworthy in its simple, storybook way, we can look at exterior photos of the Beach House with new eyes. The rooms behind those many windows must have been spacious; and those bedrooms that had sitting rooms (the third floor again) were laid out as commodious suites. The description by Marion Davies from 1951 comes to mind; it appeared in 1975 in *The Times We Had: Life with William Randolph Hearst*: "We had ten guest rooms and a living room with each, so that was twenty rooms." Hearst had also spoken of ten bedrooms in a letter to Julia Morgan on June 15, 1926.

INVENTORY

PAGES	HEADING
1-3	Third Floor West Bedroom
4	Third Floor West Bedroom Bath
5	Third Floor West Bedroom Sitting Room
6	Third Floor West Center Bedroom
7	Third Floor Center Bedroom Sitting Room
8-9	Third Floor Center Bedroom
10	Third Floor Center Bedroom Baths
11	Third Floor East Center Bedroom

PAGES	HEADING
12	Third Floor East Bedroom
13	Third Floor East Bedroom Bath
14	Third Floor East Bedroom Sitting Room
15	Third Floor Hall
16	Third Floor Sun Porch
17	Second Floor West Bedroom
18	Second Floor West Bedroom Bath
19	Second Floor West Bedroom
20–22	Second Floor West Center Bedroom
23	Second Floor West Bathroom Off From West Center Bedroom
23	East Bathroom Off From West Center Bedroom
24	Second Floor East Center Bedroom
24	Second Floor Bath Room—East Center Bedroom
25–26	Second Floor East Room
26	Bathroom—East Room

PAGES	HEADING
27	Second Floor Outer East Room
28	Second Floor Hall
29	First Floor Smoking Room—West End
30–32	First Floor New Library
33–34	First Floor Old Library
35–36	First Floor Gold Room
37	First Floor Reception Room
38	First Floor Main Hall
39	First Floor Small Telephone Room Off Main Hall
39	Powder Room Next To Telephone Room
40–41	First Floor Dining Room
42	First Floor Breakfast Room
43–52	Dishes
53–57	Glassware
58–66	Silver