

= Wyntoon =

Wyntoon is the name of a private estate in rural Siskiyou County , California , owned by the Hearst Corporation . Architects Willis Polk , Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan all designed structures for Wyntoon , beginning in 1899 .

The land , sited at two sharp bends in the McCloud River , was named by financial adviser Edward Clark for the local Native American tribe of the Wintun people . Beginning as a humble fishing resort , the land was improved by a series of people , notably San Francisco attorney Charles Stetson Wheeler , his client Phoebe Apperson Hearst , and her son William Randolph Hearst who disputed with his cousin over ownership . Prominent structures , noted for their architecture , have been built on the land , some lost to fire , while other multimillion @-@ dollar buildings were planned , but not built . Famous visitors to Wyntoon include Clark Gable , Charles Lindbergh , Joseph P. Kennedy , Sr. and his son John F. Kennedy .

= = Justin Sisson 's fishing resort = =

The earliest known inhabitants of the area of Wyntoon were the Winnemem Wintu tribe of Native Americans , a subgroup of the Wintun people .

In the 1880s , outdoorsman , guide , hunter and trapper Justin Hinckley Sisson came to the area and established a hotel , restaurant and tavern at the foot of Mount Shasta . He advocated for a railroad line to be extended northward from Redding to his location , and was successful . Construction of the Central Pacific Railroad through the Siskiyou Trail began in the mid @-@ 1880s , and Sisson bought 120 acres (49 ha) in its path . The railroad was completed in 1887 and brought miners , hunters , fishermen , loggers , naturalists and tourists . With his wife , the former Miss Lydia Field , Sisson operated the inn , and he led various groups of hunters , geologists and mountain climbers . With profits from his successful business , Sisson acquired large parcels of land including the tract which would become Wyntoon . He established the town of Sisson surrounding his inn , and he built a fishing resort a half @-@ day 's ride away on the McCloud River , at an elevation between 2 @,@ 700 and 3 @,@ 000 feet (820 and 910 m) , some 16 miles (26 km) distant . Popular with hunters and fishermen , it became known as " Sisson 's @-@ on @-@ the @-@ McCloud " .

Justin Sisson died in 1893 . In 1924 the town of Sisson was renamed Mount Shasta , California .

= = Charles S. Wheeler 's hunting lodge = =

In 1899 , Sisson 's widow sold the McCloud River fishing resort site to Charles Stetson Wheeler , a wealthy attorney from San Francisco . This parcel lay in the Cascade Range of mountains , south by southeast of Mount Shasta . Wheeler called this holding the Wheeler Ranch , and he built a hunting lodge on the river at Horseshoe Bend ? its cornerstone was laid in 1899 . The multi @-@ wing lodge , dramatic with its stone walls and slate roof , was designed by San Francisco architect Willis Polk , and included an 800 @-@ book library with room for hundreds of Native American baskets . Wheeler directed Polk to give the lodge a " fish tower " ? a high study with a view , and two windows which were aquariums containing local trout . A Latin inscription over the entrance indicated this room was a temple to fishing : piscatoribus sacrum . Polk 's design was pictured in July 1899 in The American Architect and Building News which described it as a " California Mountain Home " . Sir Banister Fletcher included the building in a list of Shingle Style architecture . The layout of the structure , a " rambling group of masses " , snaked through the trees , curving to follow the bend in the river , the curve creating a courtyard with a circular drive and a central fountain . The dining room enjoyed a three @-@ sided view of the river , and diners could take the air on a wraparound porch . The porch opened to the river in a flight of wooden steps leading down to an octagonal gazebo pierced and supported by a large tree , overhanging the tumbling waters . Massive fireplaces and heavy timbers gave the impression of a medieval estate interior . Polk 's use of stone and wood on the exterior achieved a sense of compatibility with the land , celebrating the setting 's

primal beauty .

The Wheeler family stayed at the ranch many a summer . In 1900 , Wheeler invited his client Phoebe Hearst to visit Wheeler Ranch with his family for the summer . Hearst asked if she could purchase the land , but Wheeler declined . Insistent , Hearst came to an arrangement whereby she would purchase a 99 @-@ year lease on part of the land , and she also purchased adjoining land held by Edward Clark , her financial adviser , who called it Wyntoon for the local Wintu tribe . Hearst applied the name Wyntoon to the combination of Clark 's former holdings and her new lease , and in 1901 contracted for a magnificent seven @-@ story house to be built . Wheeler was displeased with the extravagant plans , as he and Hearst had previously agreed her building would be modest . However , he did not stop her .

Wheeler retained the part of Wheeler Ranch that was not leased to Hearst , including The Bend . In 1911 , Wheeler invited Austro @-@ Hungarian artist and naturalist Edward Stuhl and his wife Rosie to live on the property ; they made extensive studies of plant and animal life in the area , and collected many hundreds of specimens . Stuhl , an avid mountain climber , published Wildflowers of Mount Shasta from his base at Wheeler Ranch . After Wheeler 's death in 1923 , Stuhl served as custodian of the ranch . William Randolph Hearst bought Wyntoon outright from its 99 @-@ year lease in 1929 , and in 1934 bought all of Wheeler Ranch and The Bend , a combined total of 50 @,@ 000 acres (20 @,@ 000 ha) .

= = Phoebe Hearst 's castle = =

Phoebe Hearst , upon signing the 99 @-@ year lease , decided to build a very grand residence . She hired Bernard Maybeck to design one in the Gothic style of a Rhine River castle . The structure was mainly complete in 1902 , and cost Hearst \$ 100 @,@ 000 . Maybeck hired Julia Morgan to assist in the design .

The castle 's layout was fitted to the slope of the site , and to a semicircle of six tall conifers . Its footprint was 120 by 56 feet (37 by 17 m) ; an underground cellar was 45 feet (14 m) wide , 15 feet (4 @.@ 6 m) high , and ran the length of the building , containing stores and a central heating furnace supplying steam throughout the building . The central tower made of stone reached to a height of 75 feet (23 m) . A plumbed room entered from the outside allowed fishermen and hunters to clean their catch and themselves . Six floors of sleeping rooms were contained in the central tower ; each bedroom entered from landings along the main spiral staircase carved of stone . The exterior of the tower was thick load @-@ bearing crowning wall topped with a steeply angled roof to hold the weight of snow , and to shed excess snow . Glazed Paris @-@ green tile from the Netherlands surfaced the roof , providing " a misty color like the holes between the branches in the trees in the forest . " Bluish @-@ gray basalt volcanic stone was quarried from local lava flows ; it supplied the strength of the massive walls .

The living room , 80 by 36 feet (24 by 11 m) , had at one end an alcove framing a stained glass window , a copy of the 13th century one in Lorenzkirche in Nuremberg , the reproduction fabricated in the Netherlands . The room 's apex was 36 feet high ? a meeting of steeply angled wooden beams resting on 7 @-@ foot (2 @.@ 1 m) thick stone walls . A tall fireplace separated the alcove from the majority of the living room ; a large man could stand in its opening . Another fireplace warmed the other end of the living room . Tapestries hung from the stone walls to add a medieval appearance . Frederick Meyer made furniture for this room , and for all Wyntoon , in European vernacular style .

Maybeck designed a dining hall much like the living room , with Gothic stone walls and high peaked roof , and two opposing fireplaces , but its Gothic tables were unusually placed against the walls leaving the center area open . Benches were provided for diners to sit . The kitchen wing , 40 by 40 feet (12 by 12 m) , adjoined the dining room , connected through a wide butler 's hall . Staff were provided rooms in the kitchen wing . Its foundation of cut stone reached to the top of the ground floor ; the second story 's wall was of rubble stone . The roof was topped by light gray slate . Initial critical reactions to the kitchen wing 's exterior appearance led Hearst to surround it with shrubbery .

Phoebe Hearst also built other structures including The Gables ? a storybook dwelling for overflow guests ? and a " Honeymoon Cottage " . The castle was habitable in 1902 , completely finished in 1904 . It was featured in American Homes and Gardens in 1906 , a three @-@ page spread ; the same space given the house in Architectural Review in 1904 . The writer in Architectural Review criticized the quaint wooden carvings which gave the impression of " pastry and perfume " , but praised the most important aspects of the structure :

" The dark height of the room , the unobstructed archways , the deep blues , reds and yellows of the cathedral window , to which time had given maturity , the tapestries , the little flicker of fire , and the roaring of the river outside ; and you satiated , tired and inspired by the day 's trip among hazel , dogwood , great aged pines , rocks , cascades , great trunks of trees fallen years ago ? a disheveled harmony ? here you can reach all that is within you . "

Hearst summered at Wyntoon and raised her son 's children there when he was not watching them . William Randolph Hearst and his wife Millicent produced five sons from 1904 to 1915 ? each one spent summer months at Wyntoon with grandmother . The boys ' father sent instructions about their upbringing , writing after the eldest boy George Randolph Hearst was nearly washed down the McCloud , that the boys needed " a severe warning about the river " . Hearst occasionally entertained her society friends and acquaintances at Wyntoon , bringing selected guests up north from the Panama ? Pacific International Exposition of 1915 . At her death in 1919 , she willed Wyntoon to her niece Anne Apperson Flint , along with a Cadillac car and \$ 250 @,@ 000 .

Flint moved in with her husband , Joseph Marshall Flint , M.D , a former Yale professor of surgery . During this time , architect Julia Morgan designed four structures which were built at Wyntoon : a superintendent 's residence and a separate servant 's quarters in 1924 , and in 1925 , a stables building holding a caretaker 's house erected near a " Swiss Chalet " which was built for higher @-@ status domestic staff .

= = William Randolph Hearst 's projects = =

From his mother 's will , William Randolph Hearst received the bulk of the family inheritance , including the 270 @,@ 000 @-@ acre (110 @,@ 000 ha) ranch in San Simeon , the 900 @,@ 000 @-@ acre (360 @,@ 000 ha) Babicora Ranch in Mexico , a fruit orchard in Butte County , and various mining and industrial stocks , the whole worth around 5 ? 10 million dollars . Wyntoon , however , was given to his cousin Anne Apperson Flint in his mother 's will , and Hearst was angered over this . He refused to return to Flint any of the art objects from Wyntoon that had been loaned to the Palace of Fine Arts for an exhibit . In 1925 after years of acrimonious negotiation , he bought Wyntoon from Flint for \$ 198 @,@ 000 , but he remained forever embittered toward his cousin .

In the winter of 1929 ? 1930 , Maybeck 's Wyntoon masterpiece burned down , possibly from a kitchen fire . Time magazine reported Hearst 's losses at \$ 300 @,@ 000 to \$ 500 @,@ 000 , including portions of his art collection . In early 1930 , Hearst contracted to have Morgan design an even larger castle as replacement . Morgan was already working for Hearst on Hearst Castle in San Simeon and nearly finished with The Hacienda near King City .

Morgan collaborated with her early mentor and teacher Maybeck on plans for an eight @-@ story Bavarian Gothic @-@ style castle with two great towers and more minor turrets , some 61 bedrooms proposed for Wyntoon 's largest building project . Hearst instructed Arthur Byne , his art agent based in Madrid , to find likely buildings he could purchase for their stonework , to give Wyntoon an ancient air . In December 1930 , Byne discovered Santa Maria de Ovila , a 700 @-@ year @-@ old Cistercian monastery , and Hearst paid \$ 97 @,@ 000 for it . The monastery was taken apart and removed illegally , but the Spanish government was changing hands and was not effective in stopping Hearst 's hired men . Some 10 @,@ 000 stones were shipped to a warehouse in San Francisco at a total cost of about \$ 1 million .

Another old structure removed from Europe was proposed for Wyntoon : the great tithe barn of Bradenstoke Priory in England . Most of the priory had been used by Hearst to refurbish St Donat 's Castle in Wales in the late 1920s , but the tithe barn had been crated and shipped to San Simeon

for possible use there . Hearst proposed that the unused Bradenstoke barn be incorporated into his great castle , and had Morgan study the possibilities .

In the Spring of 1931 , Morgan offered several designs for Hearst 's consideration , all of them using the stones of the Spanish monastery on the ground floor , reinforced by steel girders to take the weight of the upper floors . Portions of the monastery were considered as a library , an " armory " , and a living room . The final proposal from Morgan included an indoor swimming pool constructed from the monastery 's old church . The 150 @-@ foot (46 m) long swimming pool featured changing rooms and lounges in the old side chapels , shallow water for wading in the apse , 11 @-@ foot (3 @. @ 4 m) deep water in the central plunge , and a diving board where the altar had been .

In July 1931 as a steam shovel was making ready to level enough land to accommodate the great castle , Hearst put a stop to all his construction plans . The Great Depression had greatly diminished his income , and he could not pay for his \$ 50 million project at Wyntoon while at the same time indulging his expansion at San Simeon . Abandoning the massive castle idea , Hearst instead asked Morgan to design a " Bavarian Village " with multiple half @-@ timbered buildings in the medieval style of Germany or Austria . Hearst sent Morgan to Europe to study suitable buildings ; she brought fine artist Doris Day with her to investigate architectural inscriptions and painting styles . In 1932 , Morgan put together a master plan for Wyntoon . It described a group of guesthouses with romantic names such as Cinderella House , Fairy House and Bear House , arranged not in a cramped medieval style but symmetrically around a common green in the Beaux @-@ Arts style . These three @-@ story structures with steeply gabled roofs were completed in 1933 . Swiss artisan Jules Suppo and his assistants carved much of the German Gothic decorations . Day painted fine inscriptions and exterior decorative patterns . Hungarian illustrator Willy Pogany painted exterior murals depicting Russian and Germanic fairy tales such as those from the Brothers Grimm , but Pogany 's versions were bright , humorous and cheerful , not dark and grim .

Downstream of the Bavarian Village , Morgan 's plan called for a selection of leisure activities . A swimming pool with a pool house was to be near tennis courts and a croquet lawn , and a dining hall called " The Gables " would be equipped to show films . Though San Simeon could house perhaps 30 to 50 guests , the expanded Wyntoon plan could accommodate 100 for a weekend .

In 1934 , Hearst bought all of Wheeler Ranch . Polk 's structure " The Bend " was torn down except for one wing containing the master bedroom . This wing held the cornerstone engraved " The Bend ? 1899 " . The rest of the building was redesigned by Morgan in Gothic Revival style and rebuilt from 1935 to 1941 using many of its original stones .

On January 1 , 1935 , photographer Peter Stackpole 's images of Wyntoon were published in Life magazine , showing Hearst relaxing at Wyntoon with friends . Hearst 's communications office at Wyntoon was shown in the photos ; it was built next to Bear House to keep him abreast of current events . This office was fitted into a shingle @-@ covered bungalow built to house Joe Willicombe , Hearst 's private secretary . The structure served as the " nerve center " of Hearst 's publishing empire , with three round @-@ the @-@ clock operators minding the telegraph facilities and the telephone switchboard .

In mid @-@ 1937 , Hearst was forced by bankruptcy to sign over all of his holdings to a group of trustees called the Conservation Committee . Wyntoon was included , it was estimated the prior year to be worth \$ 300 @, @ 000 . Headed by New York Judge Clarence J. Shearn , the trustees slashed Hearst 's costs and halted the smaller side projects at San Simeon and Wyntoon which had kept so many contractors busy . Wyntoon was maintained only by a skeleton staff paid for by the Hearst Corporation . Hearst never hosted more than 14 guests at Wyntoon after the bankruptcy . From 1938 to 1940 , Hearst 's art collections were cataloged and sold , including items from Wyntoon . Hearst was made to pay rent out of his allowance when he stayed at any of his properties .

After the December 7 , 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor , blackout conditions were imposed on San Simeon because of its nearness to the ocean and associated likelihood of Japanese shelling , so before Christmas Hearst moved to Wyntoon with his lover , actress Marion Davies . There , the two lived in Bear House at the river 's edge with their pet dachshunds . Davies ' cherished dachshund named Gandhi , 15 years old , fell gravely ill during this time ; a veterinarian was called and the

animal put down by injection . Distraught , Davies raged through Bear House , later writing : " I broke everything I could lay my hands on . " Hearst 's favorite dog Helen died in his arms at Wyntoon ; he buried her on a hillside covered with flowers , the spot marked by a stone inscribed , " Here lies dearest Helen ? my devoted friend . "

During the Wyntoon residency of Hearst and Davies , they received fewer visitors than they had at San Simeon , because it was more remote . They spent much time together , and Davies picked up sewing again after years of no practice . She sewed silk fabric into ties for Hearst . He wrote her a poem or a short note every night , which he slipped under her door for her to see in the morning . Over the 1943 ? 1944 winter , with snow and ice transforming the outdoor scenery , Wyntoon hosted actor Clark Gable , film directors Louis B. Mayer and Raoul Walsh , columnist Louella Parsons , cartoonist Jimmy Swinnerton and his wife , aviator Charles Lindbergh and his family , the former president 's daughter Anna Roosevelt and her husband John Boettiger (who worked for Hearst) , and millionaire industrialist Joe Kennedy who brought his 26 @-@ year @-@ old son " Jack " , the future president . Jack surprised Hearst by swimming in the freezing McCloud .

= = Today = =

Hearst 's trustees reorganized the Hearst Corporation in 1943 , installing Richard E. Berlin as president . Under Berlin , Wyntoon was made to turn a profit ? the old 50 @,@ 000 @-@ acre Wheeler Ranch holding and adjoining parcels adding up to 67 @,@ 000 acres (27 @,@ 000 ha) were logged and replanted with more tree seedlings , the operation generating about \$ 2 million annually by 1959 .

In the late 1980s , architects Blunk Demattei Associates (BDA) began working with the Hearst Corporation to complete the interior of " Angel House " whose construction had been halted in the late 1930s . BDA next began to remodel the one original bedroom wing of Polk 's " The Bend " . There , the second and main bedroom wing (finished in the 1950s in Tudor style) burned down on December 30 , 1992 , and BDA was contracted to rebuild it . Sensitive to the problem of recreating the ambiance , BDA used Sugar Pine paneling in keeping with other rooms on site , wrought iron from Poland and from local blacksmiths , stones quarried locally , and Renaissance @-@ era fireplaces .

Today , the estate is owned by the Hearst Corporation , and is not open to the public . Wyntoon is located at approximately 41 ° 11 ? 21 ? N 122 ° 03 ? 58 ? W. It is north of Lake McCloud , a man @-@ made lake completed in 1965 , and about 9 miles (14 km) due east of Dunsmuir , California . Energetic kayakers willing to endure dangerous rapids can view the estate from the Upper McCloud River during spring and summer snowmelt .

The estate is grandfathered in the law as a " senior rights holder " to use an unlimited amount of water from the adjoining McCloud River .