

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 0213-013

HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 5 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 11-369160-3701860 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: None
2. Historic name: Pickford: Charlotte Residence
3. Street or rural address: 917 Benedict Canon Dr.  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210 County Los Angeles
4. Parcel number: 4345-005-009
5. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

### DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Mediterranean
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This symmetrically organized Mediterranean villa is two stories in height, sheathed in stucco and capped by a low-pitched, tiled hip roof. Five bays are defined by projections in the facade and are edged by quoining. The entry, located in the central bay, is framed by pilasters and a frieze executed in terra cotta or cast stone. An elaborately scrolled pediment has been removed. A small square window is centered above the entry on the second story. Originally round-headed casements were located in the lower story bays to either side of the entry; these have been replaced by flat-headed openings. Balconies which rest on double corbels are still in place in the second floor of these bays. The balconies are enclosed by iron railings and are entered via double openings framed by pilasters. Chimneys mark the ends of the central three bays. The north and south bays are set substantially back and are hidden by walls and plantings. Originally entered through a small, balustraded terrace, the house was apparently altered in the 1950s.



8. Construction date: 1926  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual X
9. Architect Neff; Wallace
10. Builder Moller; Karl
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 100 Depth 234  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1986

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_\_ Good ☒ Fair \_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_\_ Densely built-up ☒  
Residential ☒ Industrial \_\_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known ☒ Private development \_\_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? ☒ Moved? \_\_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

In 1926, six years after Mary Pickford had moved to Beverly Hills and established her residence Pickfair as the social center of the film crowd, she surprised her mother Charlotte with a two story Mediterranean residence located on Benedict Canon near her own estate. Mary had collected various art objects to furnish the residence during the family's trip to Europe immediately preceding the housewarming. The completely furnished home was given to Mrs. Pickford as a birthday present upon the family's return. Responsible for the design was Wallace Neff, the architect who had begun to remodel Pickfair and who became known as the "architect to the stars" through the Pickford and other celebrity clients. Neff produced stylish period revival designs and this Mediterranean residence is representative of his work for wealthy clients in Beverly Hills. Mrs. Pickford only occupied the residence for a short period of time, as she died there in 1928. One of Hollywood's most famous "stage mothers," Charlotte Pickford guided the career of her children in the film business. Widowed when Gladys (see continuation sheet)

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

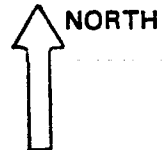
Architecture ☒ Arts & Leisure \_\_\_\_  
Economic/Industrial \_\_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_  
Government \_\_\_\_ Military \_\_\_\_  
Religion \_\_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

City of Beverly Hills building permits  
Beverly Hills Citizen, various dates  
Pacific Coast Architect, September, 1927

22. Date form prepared November, 1986  
By (name) C. McAvoy & L. Heumann  
Organization City of Beverly Hills  
Address: 450 N. Crescent Dr.  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210  
Phone: (213) 550-4881

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



See continuation sheet

CONTINUATION SHEET: 917 Benedict Canon Drive

19. Significance:

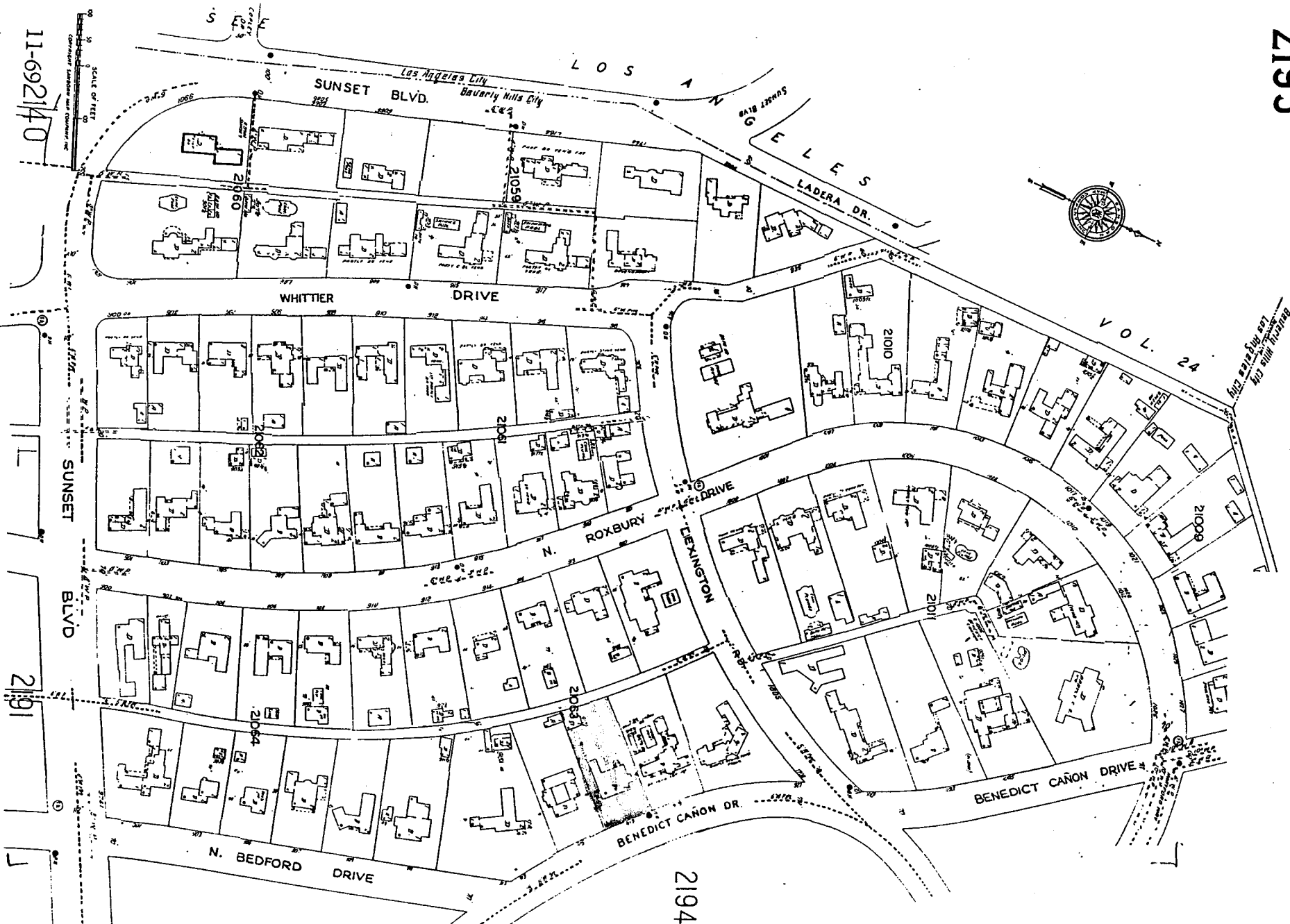
Mary, Lottie, and Jack were small, she guided Mary's career on the stage in their native Canada before meeting D. W. Griffith at Biograph Film Studios in New York. Another producer, David Belasco, suggested that Mary use the name Pickford as a stage name; the whole family then adopted the surname. Said the Citizen upon her death "Mrs. Pickford was not only Mary Pickford's closest mentor, critic, and inspiration, but she was her business partner. She and Mary owned the Mary Pickford Company in equal partnership." (BHC 3-22-28).

2193

BEVERLY HILLS

2194

917 Benedict Canon Dr.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code: 5S3

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or # *Charlotte Pickford Residence*

☐ Continuation ☒ Update

P2. Location: *917 Benedict Canon Dr.*

### B10 Significance:

*This building appears in good condition with no significant alterations visible since the property was last evaluated in the 1985-1986 survey. It remains eligible for local listing or designation.*

P5b Description/Date of Photo: *June, 2004*



*on Dr.*

P8. Recorded by: *Jan Ostashay, Peter Moruzzi, PCR Services, One Venture, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92618*

P9. Date Recorded: *Tuesday, June 01, 2004*