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A Brief History of the Legendary Greystone Mansion Beverly Hills, CA



In 1926, Edward Laurence Doheny, Sr., the most successful oil producer of his time, gave his son Edward "Ned" Laurence Doheny, Jr. a 12.58-acre land parcel. It was part of the original 425-acre Greystone land parcel, the largest family estate in the history of Beverly Hills.

Construction of Ned Doheny, Jr's estate began in February of 1927. The Mansion was finished one year later, with completion of the estate's grounds taking close to three years, all for a total cost of \$3,166,578. Ned, his wife Lucy, and their five children moved into the Mansion in September of 1928. The home included 55 livable rooms in 46,054 square feet of living space. The estate also included tennis courts, a swimming pool, a green house, a fire station and kennels. Sadly, Mr. Doheny Jr. was murdered in this home, an apparent murder-suicide perpetrated by his longtime personal friend and aid Hugh Plunkett.

In 1955, the largest portion of the property was sold to Paul Trousdale Corporation and became the adjacent residential neighborhood of very beautiful "Trousdale Estates" homes. In 1956, the remaining 18.3 acres of land, including Greystone Mansion, were sold to Henry Crown of the Park Grey Corporation, Chicago, for \$1.5 million, but Mr. Crown never occupied the site.

The Mansion remained vacant until 1965, when the City of Beverly Hills purchased the property from Mr. Crown for \$1.3 million, planning to locate the City's largest water reservoir, a 19-million gallon tank, on the site. In 1971, the entire site, including the mansion, was formally dedicated as a City of Beverly Hills public park. In 1976, Greystone Mansion was officially recognized as a historic landmark and placed on the Registry of Historic Places. It is the site of many civic events, weddings and filming of movies and television programs such as *There Will Be Blood*; *The Witches of Eastwick*; *Spiderman 1, 2 and 3*; *X-Men*; *The Social Network*, *The Mentalist* and *NCIS*.

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In the last several years, the City of Beverly Hills, with the generous support of the Friends of Greystone (FOG), have been working on the restoration of the mansion and grounds. The Greystone Concours d'Elegance and the Design Showcase events were created to raise the funds necessary for these projects.

Historic Greystone Mansion and Park is owned by the City of Beverly Hills and is operated through the Community Services Department, Recreation and Parks Division. For more information please visit www.greystonemansion.org or www.beverlyhills.org/greystone