

Will Rogers Ranch, Guest House  
14253 Sunset Boulevard  
Pacific Palisades  
Los Angeles County  
California

HABS No. CA-2273-B

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
WILL ROGERS RANCH, GUEST HOUSE/GARAGE

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Location: Will Rogers State Historic Park, 14253 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles County, California.

USGS Quadrangle: Topanga Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 11: 3,769,030 m North; 360,430 m East.

Significance: Constructed in 1928 as a companion to the nearby main ranch house, the guesthouse/garage housed the chauffeur and, as a utilitarian structure, automobiles, as well as visitors of the Rogers as the family began to spend more time at the property.

Description: The two-story board-and-batten building is a rectangular plan, 44'-0" x 27'-1", with a dual-pitch gable roof and deep, exposed eaves. The exterior walls, originally painted white with green trim, are articulated by the unobscured braced framing and other structural members. Most of the windows on the second floor are three-light casements, with two-light casements on the first level. A single door is located in the westernmost bay (of four) of the south facade, first floor.

Most of the first floor was built to serve as a garage, with a concrete floor and double doors that open inward. A bedroom and bathroom were installed at one end of this space as the quarters for Rogers' chauffeur. The second floor contained a living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, and a bath. A balcony occupies the full length of the south facade, accessed by three pairs of double doors; a single door is located in the easternmost bay of the north facade.

History: The guest house/garage was erected in 1928 (a year after the ranch house) by builders Sholz, Pickering Evans, according to a design by architect E. Sprout.

John Marcin, the chauffeur who usually drove for Betty Rogers, lived in the first-floor quarters when the family was in residence. Once the three children were old enough to drive, five or more cars would be parked in and around the building. Guests were accommodated on the second floor--in particular actor Fred Stone and his family, who were recuperating from a flying accident. Eventually the rooms were used only for storage.

The interior walls of the upstairs are intact, although the state enclosed the balcony with sixteen bays of four-light sliding sash; this area is used as staff offices. The chauffeur's bedroom has been removed and the space remodeled to serve as a visitor's center and gift shop.

Sources: See **Main House** (CA-2273-A).

Historian: See **Main House** (CA-2273-A).