

REAL ESTATE

Sunday, February 3, 2008

Hot Property

Neff is a bargain at \$85 million

Imagine listing a property at \$85 million and not being able to toot its horn as the most expensive residential listing on the Westside.

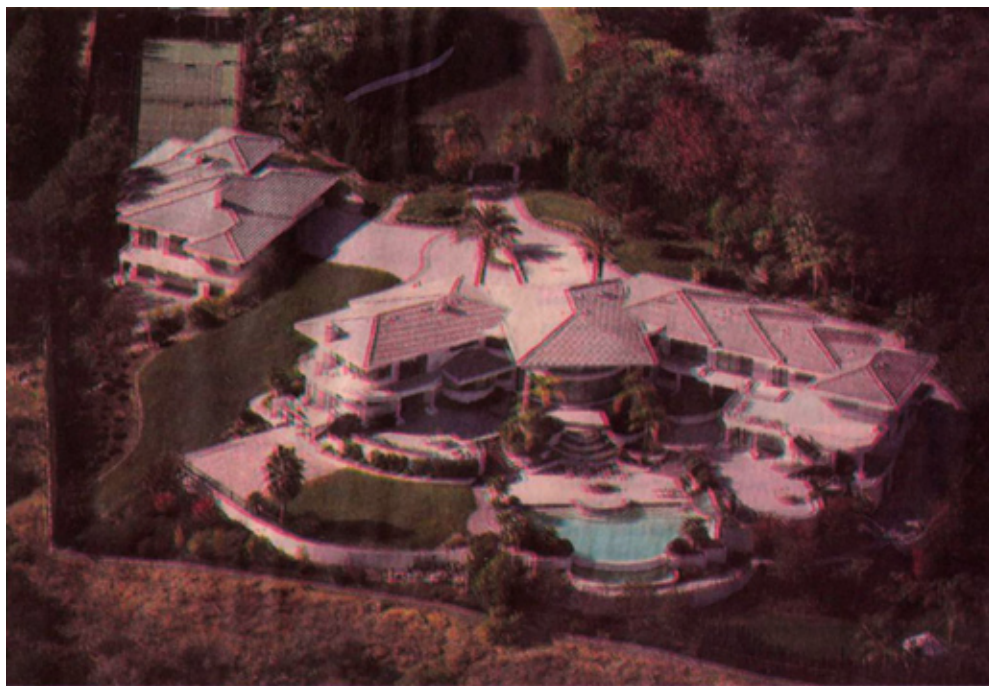
Winner of the highest price-tag aware goes to the 1920s-era Beverly Hills estate that was once owned by newspaper czar William Randolph Hearst and his girlfriend, actress Marion Davies, and is on the market at \$165 million.

But for a mere \$85 million, there is the home once owned by Henry Singleton, co-founder of Teledyne Inc.

It was the last major work of architect Wallace Neff, according to “Wallace Neff: Architect of California’s Golden Age,” compiled and edited by the architect’s son, Wallace Neff Jr. The architect designed an estimated 500 to 600 homes in his lifetime.

The Southern Colonial-style home in Holmby Hills was built in 1970, and this is the first time it has been offered for purchase.

“I hope you won’t sell this house,” the architect’s son remembers telling



VACATION DIGS: The former home of Eddie Murphy and ex-wife Nicole Mitchell Murphy has an 11,000-square-foot main house and sits on 2.5 acres in Granite Bay near Sacramento.

Caroline Singleton, widow of Henry.

“Oh, no,” Neff Jr. recalled her saying, “but it’s awfully big for one lady.”

Her death has prompted her family to put the estate on the market.

The home is on more than 7 acres of gated grounds and has 10 bedrooms and 11 1/2 bathrooms in 15,520 square feet, according to public records. The property has a

motor court to accommodate at least 20 cars, as well as a tennis court and a pool.

The grad entryway has high ceilings and oversized doors and there is a 7,000 square-foot basement, but it’s the yard that prompts Neff’s son to say it’s “awesome because of its large size.”

The listing agents are Danny Harvey and Joyce Essex, both of Coldwell Banker, Beverly Hills North.