



*Redondo Beach Hotel*



*Redondo Beach Pavilion*



*Redondo Beach Historical Museum*



*Prehistoric Artifacts in Room #1*

**Front Room**

On the easel sits a large photo of the grand Hotel Redondo, with 225 rooms, a bathroom on every floor, and an 18-hole golf course. Built by Henry Huntington in 1890, the hotel transformed Redondo into a major resort town, evident in the picture on the wall of the throngs of hotel guests.

Steamships stopped calling on the port of Redondo in 1913, when San Pedro became the new port of L.A. Prohibition dealt the final blow, and the hotel was torn down in 1925. In 1930 a library was built on the former site, which still stands today in what is now Veterans Park.

Look up toward the next room to see a panoramic view of the old Salt Lake and lumber yard, located where the AES power plant stands today. The Salt Lake provided the very first industry in the area, when Johnson & Allanson bought it from the Dominguez' in 1854 and formed Pacific Salt Works.

The cabinets to the left and right hold remnants from early Redondo businesses, like the Plunge, Pavilion, Fox Theater and El Ja Arms Hotel. Moonstones are from the former Moonstone Beach, near the border with Hermosa Beach.



*Artifacts featured in Room #4 of the Redondo Beach Historical Museum*

**Museum Hours:**  
**Wed. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**Sat. & Sun. Noon to 4:00 PM**  
**[www.redondo.org](http://www.redondo.org)**



**Welcome to the Redondo Beach Historical Museum**

**A SELF-GUIDED TOUR**

The RB Historical Museum is located at 302 Flagler Lane at Dominguez Park in the beautiful Heritage Court, adjacent to a living museum called the Morrell House.

The house was built on Garnet in 1904 by J.E. Early, and was later moved to 318 S. Broadway. The City acquired the home in 1989, saving it from demolition, and moved it to the present location. A small room was built onto the back, for added display space.

Also called the Queen Anne House, after its architectural style, the house reflects classic Queen Anne Cottage design in its turned wooden posts and railings, tall narrow windows, open porch, steep roof, boxed cornice and fish scale gable front.

The museum is owned and operated by the City of Redondo Beach, and directed by a City-appointed volunteer Historical Commission. Its collection of photos and artifacts, mainly donated by the community, was formerly housed at Knob Hill & PCH.

**Front Room**

Upon entering the museum, in the display case behind the door, are locally excavated Native American artifacts. The Tongva and Chowigna inhabited this area in teepees before the Spanish arrived. The San Gabriel Mission, founded in 1771, marked the ingathering of coastal Indians.

In a tall display case on the opposite wall are photos of the Dominguez family. Rancho Sausal Redondo was part of a 75,000 acre Spanish land grant in 1784 to Juan Jose Dominguez.

The Rancho was handed down to Manuel Dominguez, who was later one of the signors of the California constitution in 1849. Manuel's daughters and relatives live on in the street names of south Redondo, in alphabetical order, from Catalina to Susana. (Broadway originally was named Dominguez Street.)

Until the late 1880s, Redondo remained largely undeveloped. In 1887 the Redondo Co. bought land from Dominguez' heirs, spanning from the ocean to Prospect and Herondo to Knob Hill. Soon came Wharf 1, the Santa Fe Railroad and booming lumber and tourism industries.



*St. James Stained Glass Panels*

**Room 2**

The first thing you'll notice are three beautiful stained glass panels from the St. James Roman Catholic chapel renovation in 1949. St. James was built in 1892, the same year that Redondo Beach became an incorporated city. Christ Episcopal Church was founded the following year, followed by the Congregational Church of Christ in 1895 and the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1899. These are but a few of the many places of worship in Redondo today.



*George Freeth Exhibit*

Display cases on the left and right contain artifacts that pay tribute to George Freeth (1883 - 1919). Henry Huntington persuaded George to move from Hawaii to Redondo in 1907, to give two daily exhibitions of "standing on the water" for hotel guests. That's how surfing came to California, and it spread from here.

In his short 36 years of life, George Freeth made a big splash. He trained olympic caliber swimmers and divers, won many water polo competitions, and became the first official lifeguard in So. California. George is credited with inventing the first "longboard" used in surfing, and the "torpedo rescue can" used by lifeguards. He also won Carnegie and Congressional medals for lifesaving feats.

Flip charts in the corner depict people and places in Redondo's past, from the Pavilion built in 1907, The Plunge in 1909, the Lightning Racer roller coaster built in 1913 right on the beach, to the storms and a fire that ravaged the pier in 1988.

In the opposite corner is the light that warned Tony Cornero's SS Rex gambling ship in the 1930's when the cops were near and they needed to head back out to sea.

On the wall to the left is a huge aerial view, circa 1967, of the pier looking east over Redondo, before the first phase of the Redondo Village apartments was built.

**Room 3**

On display in this room is memorabilia from Redondo schools past and present. The long case on the left and on the wall above remember the short-lived Aviation High (1959 - 1982). More memorabilia from Redondo Union High (since 1905) is in the case on the opposite wall. The small wooden case contains middle and grade school items, and the larger

wooden case houses yearbooks and other publications from all of Redondo's schools.

On the walls are an old school-house clock, class of 1954 collage, Rose Parade first prize award, and a painting by an RUHS student of the last Pacific Electric RR bridge at Prospect Ave. over Del Amo, demolished in 1970.

The long, low case in the far corner pays tribute to our student athletes. On the wall are pictures of former RUHS athletes, including two who later became known for their comedy routines, the Smothers Brothers.

In the tall narrow case in the far left corner are old police cameras and other equipment, relics of a time before the digital revolution.



*Redondo Beach School Memorabilia*

**Room 4**

The last room houses a diverse collection of artifacts, paintings and maps. The large wall map on the left shows the City's layout in 1953. The case on the right holds memorabilia from local churches, service clubs and

businesses, as well as a manual Remington typewriter.

Past the contents of a Civil Defense first Aid Kit is RBFDF rolling stock built in 1885 by Chief E.J. Morrell. A painting on the wall above depicts the railroad tracks that ran to the end of Wharf 1.

On the floor are signs from former businesses, a carved wooden Indian and more Indian artifacts. To the right are doors salvaged from the Protsch Building that housed Woolworth and other Pacific Ave. businesses, and a rib from the fishing barge Lahaina Rose.

On the walls are photos and drawings of Hollywood starlets of the early 1900s posing as bathing beauties to promote travel and tourism in Redondo Beach.



*Redondo Beach Fire & Civil Defense Memorabilia*

*Feel free to explore the rest of what our museum has to offer about the City's rich and colorful past. Please come again soon!*