

#19: 90 Pier Avenue - First National Bank of Hermosa Beach

Founded by local businessman Ralph Matteson, who headed the development of many businesses and organizations in town, including the Surf and Sand Club and the Metropolitan Theater. At one time, this bank had permission to print its own money! The building is currently Bank of America.

#20: 53 Pier Avenue, Pier Plaza - The Insomniac

Site of the Insomniac Jazz Coffee House. Bob Hare open his club across from The Lighthouse in 1958. The beatnik generation gathered here to listen to jazz, counter culture comedy by Lenny Bruce, and poetry read by the likes of Alen Ginsburg. It was the birthplace of many talented musicians who became renowned in the jazz field. Drug raids led to closure in 1965.

#21: 11 Pier Avenue & The Strand - Thelen's The Mermaid

During the 1940's, Zucca's Terrace was known as the best place to dine and dance on the water front. Later it became The Mermaid, owned by Boots Thelen, former city mayor. It was considered to be "the watering hole" for old-time Hermosans. It then became Slaters 50/50.

#22: 30 Pier Avenue, Pier Plaza - The Lighthouse Cafe

Howard Rumsey started The Lighthouse in 1950 to bring Jazz to our community. A real rebellious club, it often featured iconic musicians including Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, Miles Davis, Shelly Mann, Etta James, and Canonball Adderly. Still a well-known home for jazz, its notoriety grew again after the film La La Land was released in 2016 showing scenes outside the Lighthouse and on the Hermosa pier.

#23: 26 Pier Avenue, Pier Plaza - Old Hotel at Pier

It is said that Errol Flynn was a regular guest at the old Hotel. For many years it's been a welcome hostel for surfers and international visitors. Now Watermans and the Surf City Hostel.

#24: Hermosa Beach Pier

Hermosa's first pier, built of wood in 1904, washed away in 1913. Replacements since then have been concrete, including the current public fishing pier built in 1965. The L.A. County Fire Department Lifeguard Operations tower is at the foot of the pier. The Tim Kelly Lifeguard Memorial (2005) is nearby.

#25: 11th Street & The Strand - The Berth Hotel

Built in 1907, it was open year around for visitors and diners. New exterior features sea creatures.

#26: 10th Street & The Strand- The Sea Sprite Motel

This site along 10th Street and The Strand was the vacation spot for many a famed personality, the likes of jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente and others who entertained at the former Insomniac Coffee House and the famed Lighthouse. Owned by the Greenwald Family.

Thanks for Taking the Tour!

Become a museum member and steward of history today!

Family memberships start at \$50.

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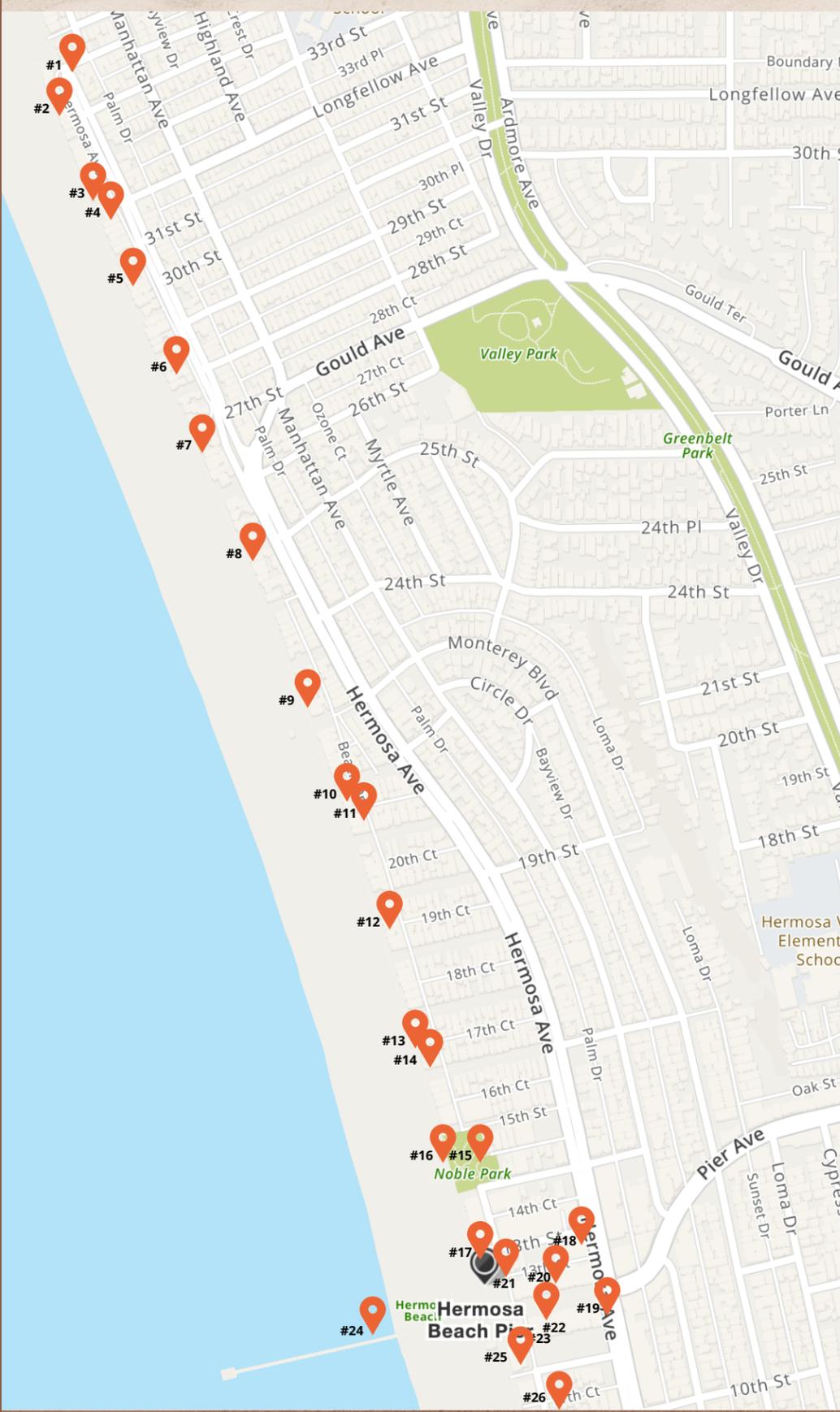


Hermosa Beach The Strand Walking Tour




PRESENTED BY:
Hermosa Beach Historical Society & Museum
Stroyke Properties Group

The Strand began in 1902 as a boardwalk made of Oregon pine planks. Redondo residents called it "a walk to the middle of nowhere". From time to time, high tides would wash sections of it away. This leads to the planks being gradually replaced with cemebt between 1914 and 1926.



#1: 3500 The Strand - *The 90210 House*

Nostalgic fans of Beverly Hills 90210 still make pilgrimages to see and photo this iconic home of the famed TV series.

#2: 3417 The Strand - *Warren Miller House*

The Warren Miller House was built around 1910 by the Barker Brother Family as a summer place. It was later home to Warren Miller, best known for his ski and extreme sports films. His production office was on Pier Avenue for over 40 years.

#3: 3205 The Strand - *The Foot of Longfellow*

Built in 1935, this home of the Stroyke Real Estate family from 1977 to 2012 pays homage to the original Shakespeare Tract development with a sign of a large foot. The Hermosa Beach Historical Society was founded in 1987 by a group of local amateur historians here at the Foot of Longfellow.

#4: 3133 The Strand - *The Ozzie & Harriet Nelson Summer Home*

The Nelson family spent many summers here and could be seen with their sons, David and Ricky, cleaning the beach in front of their home. The family was involved in radio, film, music and television.

#5: 3105 The Strand - *"Farmer John Meats"*

Owned by the "Farmer John" family, their logo is familiar to all who have ever brought home the bacon.

#6: 2806 The Strand - *Seawright House*

Many years the home of the Seawright Family. Roy was the genius behind the camera for Hal Roach Studios, filming Topper, Our Gang, and the Laurel & Hardy series. Many of his early techniques are still used in the film industry today. His wife Bunny made headlines as the first woman in the aquaplane race to Catalina. The family started the Seawright Volleyball Tourney in 1968.

#7: 2601 The Strand - *Woolwine House*

T.L. Woolwine House was famous and infamous in the political history of Los Angeles. Mr. Woolwine was Los Angeles's most energetic district attorney during the early 1900's. This was his summer home, probably built before 1915. More recently known as the home Earl Diller, Hermosa City Manager for many years.

#8: 2440 The Strand - *"Old Hollywood"/ Lee Arms House*

Mae Marsh was a silent-screen star, featured as the beautiful little sister in the D.W. Griffith movie "Birth of A Nation" and later in many films as a Goldwyn Girl. Her husband, Lee Arms, was an editor, sports columnist and publicist. Though Miss Marsh died in 1968, Mr. Arms enjoyed Hermosa life till he was 100!

#9: 2206 The Strand - *Horger House*

The oldest house still standing on The Strand. Built in 1902, it retains its original charm.

#10: 2020 The Strand - *"Pinky" Snyder House*

Meredith Pinxton Snyder served four terms as Mayor of Los Angeles from 1897 to 1921. "Pinky" was nicknamed for his flaming-red sideburns. He died at the Jonathan Club in 1937. The home was built pre-1900 and has been extensively renovated.

#11: 2008 The Strand - *Williams Jennings Bryan House*

This home of the Donohugh family was a frequent retreat for the golden-tongued orator, Williams Jennings Bryan, who first came here not long after his third loss for the U.S. Presidency. He especially enjoyed fishing from the Hermosa pier and shore. Later, for many years, a live parrot entertained onlookers in the house's north window. Today a faux parrot sits on that perch.

#12: 1820 The Strand - *Slim Summerville House*

The famed Vaudeville comedian and entertainer spent summers here. After debut as a 'Keystone Kop', his 30 years of film credits included work in Fatty Arbuckle comedies and with ZaSu Pitts.

#13: 1608 The Strand - *Neutra House*

Even though it is not listed in any catalog of his works, this 3-apartment complex built for Hugo G. Maas is thought to have been designed by the internationally acclaimed architect Richard Neutra.

#14: 1602 The Strand - *Prouty Palace*

Theodore (T.C.) Prouty founded Hermosa Tile in 1922 and Metlox Pottery in 1927. The Palace was designed by T. C. and built in 1928.

#15: The Strand between 14th and 15th St. - *Noble Park*

Former site of Hermosa Biltmore Hotel. In 1924 a group of South Bay Businessmen established an exclusive professional men's club, THE SURF AND SAND BEACH CLUB. In 1929, it was sold to the LA Athletic Association, then later to the Biltmore Hotel Chain. Ultimately the property ended up under City ownership and the long abandoned hotel was demolished in 1969. It is currently Noble Park, and is a welcoming green space where the visitor can sit and enjoy the surrounding beach life.

#16: Across the Strand from Noble Park - *Challenger Memorial*

Stop here a moment to rest and remember the gallant shuttle crew of the Challenger STS-51-L that included Hermosa's Greg Jarvis, engineer and avid Strand bicyclist.

#17: 13th & Strand- *The Bathhouse*

Frank Champagne's Bath House was a Locker Club, a place to change into beach ware. Many Hermosans worked there as towel boys. A secret room on the second level allegedly housed a bookmaking operation for horse race betting! Razed in 1992. It is now the site of the Beach House Hotel.

#18: 1223 Hermosa Avenue - *Metropolitan Theater*

Hermosa's first movie theater opened in 1923. The theater went through multiple rebrandings – Hermosa Theater in 1933, The Cove Theater in 1974, a venue for live punk shows in the 1980s, and finally reopening as the Bijou Theater in 1983. It's last picture show was in 1996.