

Lost LA

Food & Discovery

Incline L.A.: The Lost Residential Railway of Mt. Washington (Episode 2)

By Nathan Masters

July 11, 2013



History & Society

History

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View [Mt. Washington Incline Railway](#) in a larger map

In case you missed it, [watch Part 1 on incline railways in downtown L.A. here.](#)

Mount Washington: a hill more than a mountain, the landform in northeast Los Angeles is home today to leafy streets and artists' bungalows. But just a century ago, Mount Washington remained carpeted in chaparral, its hilltop land inaccessible to real estate developers and homebuyers. Ultimately, it was the simple Edwardian technology embodied in the Los Angeles and Mount Washington Incline Railway that conquered the hill.

Closed more than ninety years ago, the Mt. Washington funicular is one of several Southern California incline railways lost to history, their remains rusting on hillsides or long ago sold for scrap, their memory preserved only in the photographs, films, and maps of the region's archives.

Now, discover the story of this lost residential railway -- and other forgotten funiculars -- through "Incline L.A.," a new video series showcasing L.A. as Subject member collections and the archivists, historians, and experts who care for them.

Collections Featured in Episode Two: Mt. Washington

Automobile Club of Southern California Archives

Los Angeles Public Library Map Collection

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[UCLA, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library](#)

Experts Featured in Episode Two: Mt. Washington

Morgan P. Yates, [Automobile Club of Southern California Archives](#)

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Highlights at the Archives Bazaar: 10 Fascinating Southern California Collections and Historical Organizations

Every year, Southern California museums, libraries and archives come together at the annual Archives Bazaar to exhibit historic items and artifacts. Here are 8 collections and historical organizations whose archives tell a fascinating story of L.A.

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