

Yesterday



Survey Team

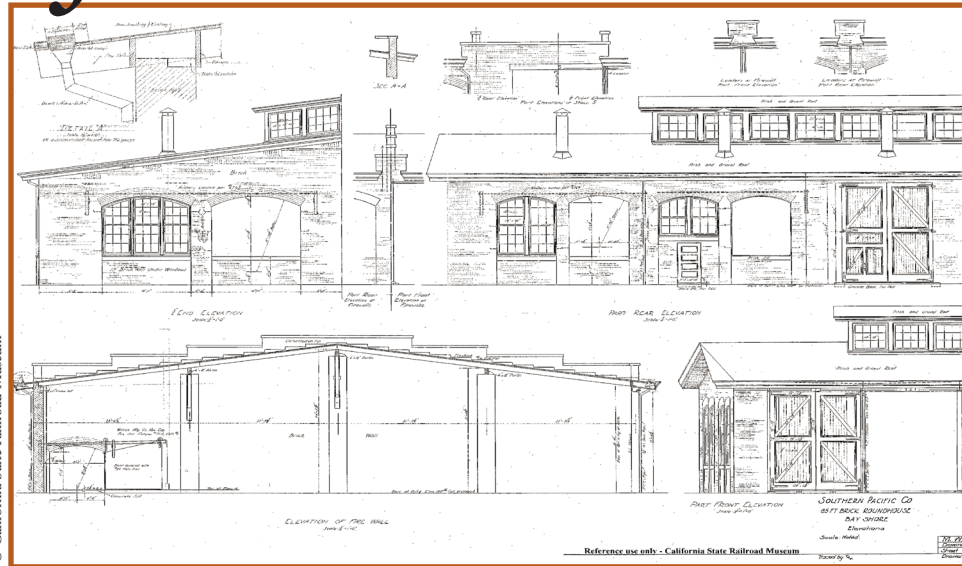


Men standing in front of bricks for the Roundhouse



Men pulling rail tracks out of landfill following 1906 earthquake on the north point of Visitation Point Cut July 2, 1906

Bayshore ROUNDHOUSE



Historical Timeline

- Constructed by the Southern Pacific, *The Bayshore Railroad*, was the most expensive piece of railroad in its time. Five tunnels, fills and trestles brought the cost to one million dollars per mile. The route saved 2-½ miles from the original 1864 rail route to the west side of San Bruno Mountain. The new level grade saved fuel and the need for helper engines on the 2 percent grade from San Francisco to Daly City.
- Originally designed as a 40-stall Roundhouse, only 17 stalls were built under cover, the remaining outdoor tracks were called "Whisker" tracks.
- From 1911 to 1958 the Roundhouse, railyard, track crews and shops employed as many as 3,000 people. During World War II women and men worked the heavy machinery and quarters for "Mexican Nationals" were built next to the Roundhouse.
- In 1941 the turntable was extended to 110 feet to handle the largest steam engines on the line. Steel was salvaged from the Pajaro River bridge to make this improvement.
- Advancements and improvements to rail transportation were designed and engineered at this shop. Bayshore mechanical crews created a 5 percent improvement in locomotive efficiency by cross counterbalancing the drivers of steam engines.
- Southern Pacific employees had clubs, gardens, sports teams from the different divisions. The Bayshore shops were part of the "Coast Division"
- Following the end of Steam power in 1958, the Roundhouse was used for stabling diesel locomotives.
- The workforce was gradually reduced and the shop buildings closed. The last day of work at Bayshore was Monday, October 25, 1982.
- In 1989 the Bayshore yards were sold. In October 2001 a fire started on one side of the Roundhouse, but was contained by the quick action of the Brisbane Fire Department and Brisbane Public Works Department.

Today



Following the closing of the Bayshore Shops, the Roundhouse has been vandalized. Photo above shows graffiti on the east wall of the 17-stall Southern Pacific Bayshore Roundhouse. All that remains of the Bayshore Shops is the abandoned roundhouse and the tender shop.



Birds' eye view of Roundhouse taken on a rainy day in October 2007 showing the damage of the 2001 fire which burned away half of the roof. Today the Roundhouse sits abandoned on the empty land that was once the Southern Pacific Bayshore Raihyard on the southern end of San Francisco.

The Future

Taking a lead from preservation projects around the globe, volunteers have started the nomination for historic registry, enlisting the support of the property owner, local businesses and citizens to provide a dignified future for Brisbane's historical gem — the Bayshore Roundhouse.

Bayshore **ROUNDHOUSE**



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FACTS

- Built between 1907 and 1910.
- A roundhouse is a building for stabling and daily servicing of railroad steam engines. A turntable is used to put the engines head first into the building, and then turn the engines so they would run forward on their next assignment.
- Mainline steam engines were designed to primarily pull trains facing forward.
- Roundhouse, railyard and shops employed 3,000 people.
- Transportation advances in the age of steam at the Bayshore Roundhouse were significant.
- Replacing steam engines with diesels in the 1940s to 1950s meant the roundhouses and turntables were no longer needed. Diesel engines did not need as much maintenance as steam engines and could run in either direction.
- The Bayshore Roundhouse is the last standing brick roundhouse in California. At one time there were over 200 roundhouses in California, including three on the San Francisco Peninsula alone.



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Driving log piles to the bedrock during the Age of Steam



© Ralph Domenici Collection

The First Bayshore Turntable



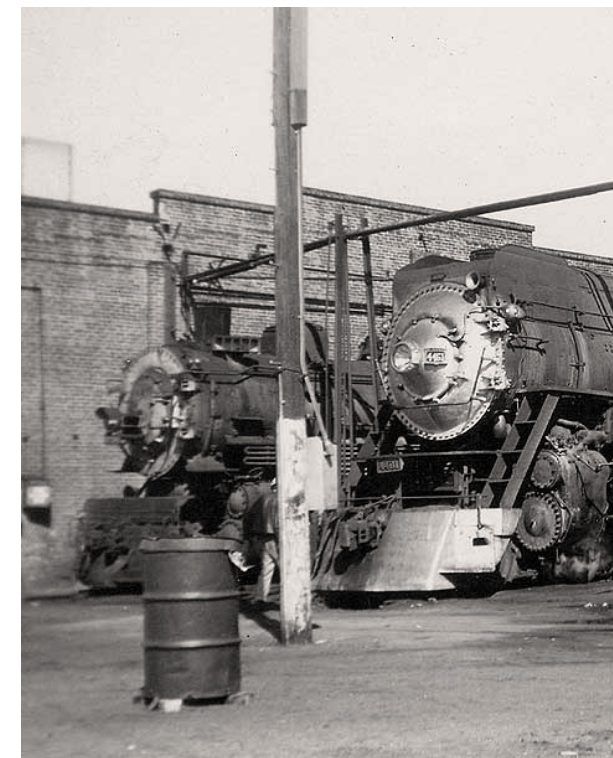
The locomotive back shops (left) and car shops (right) were located just to the north of the Roundhouse. Straight ahead, due west is the Cow Palace arena. The back shops were behind the Roundhouse and handled heavy repairs. In the center are the transfer pit and transfer table for moving cars and locomotives from one stall to another.



For more information on the
Bayshore Roundhouse, contact
Cris Hart, President
San Francisco Trains
223 Mariposa Street
Brisbane, California 94005 U.S.A.
(415) 254-7931
cris@sanfranciscotrains.org
www.sanfranciscotrains.org



Bayshore **Roundhouse**



in
Brisbane, California