Hotel Del Monte was destroyed by a fire in 1887 at a time when the popular resort drew more than 17,000 guests per year.

Charles Crocker quickly built a hotel in nearby Pacific Grove to honor the reservations world travelers had placed months in advance of their travel to Monterey, then rebuilt and expanded his favorite retreat, Hotel Del Monte.

The original Hotel Del Monte was a towering, Swiss Gothic design by architect Arthur Brown, Sr. Set within a 126-acre botanical garden, the resort offered its guests a range of amenities never before provided in one establishment. It quickly earned international acclaim and was called “The World’s Most Elegant Seaside Resort.”
1890-1899
The Gay Nineties

Guests had glowing praise for Del Monte. President Rutherford B. Hayes: “We shall always remember our visit to Monterey as one of the most agreeable episodes of our lives.” Princess Louise: “You have the most beautiful place...that I have ever visited.” Joseph Pulitzer: “Del Monte has no equal.”

California Packing Company, which delivered fresh produce and other products to Hotel Del Monte is given permission to use the Del Monte name for its foods in 1892. Early Del Monte labels included a color lithograph of Hotel Del Monte.
1900-1909
Rise of the Auto

The excitement of technological, social and cultural change raced throughout Hotel Del Monte as the automobile emerged in the early 20th Century.

**Hotel Del Monte** became a mecca for early automobilists as this industrial age transportation captured America’s fancy. The resort’s macadamized scenic roadways, especially its world-famous Seventeen Mile Drive, provided a perfect setting for horseless carriages. Del Monte also modified its race track and auto clubs held competition runs to the hotel and on its track.
1910-1919

Equal Rights for Women

Del Monte became known as a sportsman’s paradise and its legend grew when S.F.B. Morse established Del Monte Properties Company, forerunner of today’s Pebble Beach Company, in 1919. Morse fashioned the resort’s facilities for auto and horse racing, golf, tennis, hunting, fishing, sailing, riding, polo and other outdoor activities into a “sports empire.”

From its opening celebration in 1880, women played a major role in the social and cultural affairs at Hotel Del Monte.

Women gained a more prominent stature in sports and recreation at the resort in the early 20th Century, documented by hotel publications and ephemera.
1920-1929
The Roaring Twenties

Hotel Del Monte was a mecca for Hollywood film legends and famous people. The resort enjoyed great popularity during the Roaring 20’s as American society changed at rapid-fire pace. During this decade, Morse created Game & Gossip magazine to promote the Del Monte experience by featuring the cavalcade of visiting celebrities and dignitaries.

Fire ravaged Hotel Del Monte in 1924, destroying the main building. Undaunted, hotel manager Carl Stanley kept the resort operating while architects and construction crews built a new Del Monte.
1930-1939

The Great Depression

Hotel Del Monte was at its zenith during the Roaring Twenties but patronage dropped dramatically after the American stock market crash of 1929.

This artist’s rendering shows the Spanish Revival Del Monte and its elegant private cottages. The hotel and cottages, designed by architects Lewis Hobart and Clarence Tantau, were a favorite destination for celebrities such as Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, Jean Harlow, Johnny Weissmuller, Charlie Chaplin and many others.
1940-1949
The Navy Era Begins

The Del Monte Pre-Flight School at Navy’s first wartime command at Hotel Del Monte. It was commissioned in February 1943 and prepared 5,000 aviation cadets for combat during its 11-month existence.

Hotel Del Monte’s last guests checked out in 1943 when the Navy established the Del Monte Pre-Flight School. This program was short-lived but was followed by another Navy command, the Naval Technical School Del Monte, which operated while the Navy negotiated a purchase with Del Monte Properties Company. The price: $2,149, 800.
1950 and Beyond

Preservation of a Legacy

Hotel Del Monte’s beauty and allure captured the hearts of many world travelers during its six-decade long existence. Del Monte was a pioneering resort that left an indelible legacy of art, architecture, sports, recreation, and historic tourism and historic preservation for future generations to enjoy.
For more information about Hotel Del Monte’s remarkable history, scan the QR code below or go to the Dudley Knox Library’s website at http://libguides.nps.edu/HotelDelMonte