Descriptive Summary
Title: Robert C. Gillingham Working Papers
Dates: 1932-1983
Collection Number: Consult repository.
Creator: Gillingham, Robert C. (Robert Cameron), 1896-
Extent: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)
Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
Archives & Special Collection
University Library, Room G-145
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, California 90747
Phone: (310) 243-3013
URL: http://archives.csudh.edu/
Abstract: Robert C. Gillingham was a historian who focused on the South Bay, specifically the Rancho San Pedro, the Dominguez family, and Compton. This collection consists of correspondence, drafts, and manuscript copies related to his work on The Rancho San Pedro and Yesterdays of Compton.
Language: Collection material is in English
Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.
Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Robert C. Gillingham Working Papers, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections.
University Library, California State University, Dominguez Hills
Acquisition Information
Likely donated by Robert Gillingham in the 1970s or 1980s.
Processing Information
Materials in this collection were removed from the Rancho San Pedro Reference Collection and the Compton History Collection. This collection was created in 2006 during the processing of the above collections.
Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of Early Los Angeles/Rancho San Pedro Manuscript Cataloging Project, a CSU Dominguez Hills Library project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project started in 2005. Project Director was Greg Williams. Project Archivists were Thomas Philo and Jennifer Allan Goldman.
Biography
Robert C. Gillingham was born in Michigan in 1896 and moved to Compton, California in 1906. He attended Compton Union High School, earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Pomona College, and served in the first World War. Gillingham later earned his PhD from the University of Southern California and, in 1927, became Dean of Compton Junior College, a position he held for 35 years. During this time, he also spent 17 years as the chairman of the Compton City Planning Commission. His interest in local history led him to write The Rancho San Pedro, first published in 1961 and financed by the Dominguez Estate Company. He also published over sixty articles on Compton history for the Compton News-Tribune, which were later compiled into the book Yesterdays of Compton.
Scope and Content
A majority of this collection is manuscript drafts and copies of sections of The Rancho San Pedro and Yesterdays of Compton. Also included are Gillingham’s notes and correspondence to and from local historians, the Dominguez Estate Company, Compton pioneers, and others.
Arrangement
Arranged in two series:
Series I. Compton, 1932-1960
Series II. Rancho San Pedro, 1944-1983

**Corporate Names**
Dominguez Water Corporation
Dominguez Water Company

**Geographic Areas**
Compton (Calif.)
Rancho San Pedro (Calif.)

**Titles**
The Rancho San Pedro; the story of a famous Rancho in Los Angeles County and of its owners the Dominguez family

**Related Material**
The following related collections can be found in the CSUDH Archives and Special Collections.
- Compton History Collection
- Del Amo Estate Company Collection
- Del Amo Nurseries Collection
- Dominguez Air Meet Collection
- Dominguez Water Company Collection
- Rancho San Pedro Collection
- Rancho San Pedro Reference Collection
- South Bay History Collection
- South Bay Photo Collection
- Watson Land Company Collection

---

**Series I Compton 1932-1960**

**Physical Description:** 6 folders

**Scope and Content Note**
Materials in this series relate to Gillingham’s research and writing on the history of Compton, including correspondence, notes, and a full manuscript of Yesterdays of Compton.

**Box 1, Folder 1**
- **Gillingham's correspondence with pioneers and notes on early Compton history 1932-1941**

**Box 1, Folder 2**
- **History notes, Compton no date**

**Box 1, Folder 3**
- **First City Ordinances of Compton no date**

**Box 1, Folder 4**
- **Notes on Compton businesses and banks no date**

**Box 1, Folder 5**
- **History of Compton Junior College (draft) 1960**

**Box 1, Folder 6**
- **Original manuscripts (3 folders) no date**

---

**Series II Rancho San Pedro 1944-1983**

**Physical Description:** 89 folders (1.75 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**
This series consists of notes, correspondence, and manuscript drafts of chapters and sections in The Rancho San Pedro.

**Box 1, Folder 7**
- **Correspondence from historians, Anita Watson, the Watson Land Company; research requests 1950-1980**

---

**Research and Notes circa 1934-1980**

**Physical Description:** 27 folders

**Scope and Content Note**
Correspondence, notes, and research collected for The Rancho San Pedro.
Box 1, Folder 8  Dominguez Water Company correspondence, statistics and drafts 1944, 1957, 1959
Box 1, Folder 9  Background materials, from Rancho San Pedro book no date
Box 1, Folder 10  Chronology of the Rancho San Pedro and Dominguez Family no date
Box 1, Folder 11  Data and notes on Rancho San Pedro grant no date
Box 1, Folder 12  Data and notes on Rancho San Pedro sources no date
Box 1, Folder 13  "The Estate of Manuel Dominguez" circa 1934
Box 1, Folder 14  Evidence of prior grant of Rancho San Pedro no date
Box 1, Folder 15  Data on Rancho San Pedro floods no date
Box 1, Folder 16  Data on provision for 11-league grants no date
Box 1, Folder 17  Early draft of "Rancho San Pedro" no date
Box 1, Folder 18  Notated list of Los Angeles ranchos, 1889, typed copy no date
Box 1, Folder 19  Notes on legal documents no date
Box 1, Folder 20  Petition of Cristobal Dominguez - source list no date
Box 1, Folder 21  Petition re: Alleged daughter of Juan Jose Dominguez no date
Box 1, Folder 22  Notes on the Dominguez Homesite no date
Box 1, Folder 23  Notes on the Dominguez Homesite, Chronology no date
Box 1, Folder 24  The Story of the Dominguez Homesite no date
Box 1, Folder 25  Data on the Dominguez family and 19th century floods no date
Box 1, Folder 26  Documents on the Dominguez Family (Appendix III) no date
Box 1, Folder 27  Genealogy Notes no date
Box 1, Folder 28  Genealogy notes on Carson family no date
Box 1, Folder 29  Documents list, by year no date
Box 1, Folder 30  Watson Family chronology no date
Box 1, Folder 31  Watson family genealogical index, A-K no date
Box 2, Folder 1  Watson family genealogical index, L-W no date
Box 2, Folder 2  "History of the Watson Family - 4. The Partition of 1885" no date
Box 3  Lecture on the history of the Rancho and the Dominguez Family for slide show (two cassette tapes and one reel-to-reel) 1977

Stories of the Rancho San Pedro no date

  Physical Description: 59 folders
Scope and Content Note
  Drafts of chapters and sections from The Rancho San Pedro.

Box 2, Folder 3  List and foreword to "Stories of the Rancho San Pedro" series no date
Box 2, Folder 4  "Original Setting in California (1)" no date
Box 2, Folder 5  "Original Setting (2)" no date
Box 2, Folder 6  "The Name Dominguez (2)" no date
Box 2, Folder 7  "Spanish Occupation of California (2)" no date
Box 2, Folder 8  "The Name Dominguez (3)" no date
Box 2, Folder 9  "The Laws of the Indies (4)" no date
Box 2, Folder 10  "Rancho Grants in California (5)" - draft and final no date
Box 2, Folder 11  "Early Land Surveys and Records (6)" no date
Box 2, Folder 12  "Settlement of Rancho Titles (7)" no date
Box 2, Folder 13  "Juan Jose Dominguez: Soldado de Cuera (8)" no date
Box 2, Folder 14  "Original Grant of the Rancho San Pedro (8)" no date
Box 2, Folder 15  "Juan Jose Dominguez: Ranchero (9)" no date
Box 2, Folder 16  "The Will of Juan Jose Dominguez (11)" no date
Box 2, Folder 17  "The Career of Cristobal Dominguez (13)" no date
Box 2, Folder 18  "The Re-Grant of the Rancho (14)" no date
Box 2, Folder 19  "The Record of Manuel Dominguez (14)" no date
Box 2, Folder 20  "The Family of Cristobal Dominguez (15)" no date
Box 2, Folder 21  "Early Life of Manuel Dominguez (16)" no date
Box 2, Folder 22  "Manuel Dominguez: Mexican Official (17)" no date
Box 2, Folder 23  "The Argument Over Los Palos Verdes (18)" no date
Box 2, Folder 24  "Mexican War and the Constitutional Convention of California (19/20)" no date

Consult repository.
"Partitions and Sales of Rancho Lands (20)" no date
"Other Sales of Dominguez Lands (23/24)" no date
"The Claim of Nasario Dominguez (25)" no date
"The McFarland Claim to the Rancho (26)" no date
"The Petition for a Patent (27)" no date
"Rancho Boundary Disputes (28)" no date
"The Patent of the Rancho San Pedro (29)" no date
"The Earlier Grazing Era on the Rancho (30)" no date
"The Later Cattle and Sheep Era (31)" no date
"Farming Activities on the Rancho (32)" no date
"Farm Labor and Water Supply (33)" no date
"Rancho Land Valuations (34)" no date
"The Railroad through the Rancho (35)" no date
"Completion of the Railroad (36)" no date
"Interest and Tax Rates (37)" no date
"Later Years of Manuel Dominguez (38)" no date
"The Passing of Manuel Dominguez (39)" no date
"The Estate of Manuel Dominguez (40)" no date
"Later Sale of Dominguez Lands (42)" no date
"The Older Daughters of Manuel Dominguez (43)" no date
"The Family of Maria Victoria Dominguez (44)" no date
"The Del Amo Family (45)" no date
"Maria Jesus de los Reyes Dominguez (47)" no date
"Dominguez Estate Company [and subdivisions] (48)" no date
"Dominguez Water Company (49/52)" - drafts and final copy no date
"Story of Dominguez Hill (50)" no date
"Aviation Meet on Dominguez Hill (53)" no date
"Results of Aviation Meet (54)" no date
"Dominguez Estate Company" no date
"Recent Sales of Rancho Lands" no date
"The Sale of Redondo and Rattlesnake Island" no date
"The Watson Family" no date
"The Old Dominguez Homesite" no date
"The Name: Dominguez (2)" no date
"The Del Amo Family" no date
"The Watson Family (46)" no date
"The Watson Family" no date

Physical Description: 3 folders
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence on the publication of The Rancho San Pedro, including reviews and the second edition/reissue.

Box 2, Folder 62
Copyright, printing, reviews of "The Rancho San Pedro" 1961-1962
Box 2, Folder 63
Correspondence on "The Rancho San Pedro" 1961-1963
Box 2, Folder 64
Correspondence on the reissue of "The Rancho San Pedro" 1981-1983