VESTIGES of Lands End

Sutro Heights Conservatory

The Sutro Heights Conservatory was an intricate greenhouse that sat on a mound at the east end of Palm Avenue.

The conservatory housed Adolph Sutro’s extensive collection of tropical plants that include varieties of ferns, palms, and flowers. Like all of Sutro Heights, the interior of the conservatory displayed many pieces of statuary.

The building was constructed of wood-framed glass panels and surmounted by a central ventilation tower. The impressive structure was one of the park’s central attractions.

Traces of the conservatory’s tiled floor can still be seen on the grassy rise at the end of Palm Avenue.

Top: Sutro Heights Conservatory, 1880s;  
Middle: Arbor Vitae Hedge and Conservatory, ca. 1886;  
Bottom: Interior of Conservatory with statuary and tropical ferns, 1886.