VESTIGES of Lands End

Tankhouse & Observatory

Adolph Sutro built this tankhouse topped with an observation tower next to his residence at Sutro Heights. The tankhouse was a three story building that enclosed two 15,000 gallon water tanks.

Next to the tankhouse Sutro also built a three story wooden tower with a glass enclosed observatory at the top. The observatory was a highly visible Sutro Heights landmark. Visitors to the nearby Parapet could climb the stairs to the observation platform for a spectacular view of Seal Rocks and the Golden Gate.

The tankhouse and observatory were demolished in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration. Only fragments of their foundations remain today.

Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, W.C. Billington Photo Collection, GOGA-13780.026

The tankhouse and observatory at Sutro Heights, ca. 1894 to 1907.