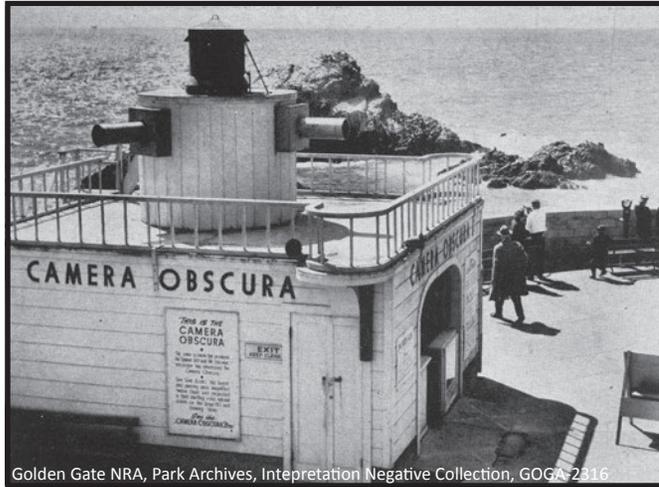


VESTIGES of Lands End



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Interpretation Negative Collection, GOGA-2316



D. Shew 2011



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Interpretation Negative Collection, GOGA-2316

Left: Camera Obscura exterior, 1954; *Center:* Camera Obscura with camera shaped exterior, 2011; *Right:* Camera Obscura interior, 1954.

Camera Obscura

An invention that eventually led to photography, the camera obscura is an optical device used for entertainment and drawing. The device is built using a box or a room with a small hole that lets light in. The light from an outside image passes through the hole and is projected upside-down but in scale as it strikes an inside surface. Oftentimes mirrors or reflective discs can be used to produce a right-side-up image.

The Jennings' Giant Camera Obscura was built in 1946 by Floyd Jennings on the observation deck of the Cliff House. Since then visitors to the Cliff House have been awed by live images of Seal Rocks projected onto the giant parabolic disc that sits in the center of the room.

The camera was built as an extension of Playland-at-the-Beach but remained after the amusement park closed. Its exterior was remodeled in 1957 to resemble a giant camera. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001 as a rare example of its type. The camera is located on the Cliff House balcony and continues to amuse visitors of all ages.