



A Golden Gate Villa coin “Good For One Drink” found during Merrie Way excavations in 2008.

Golden Gate Villa

The Golden Gate Villa, often referred to as Hagerty’s, was opened in 1892 by Charles Leonhardt and Robert D. Hagerty at Fulton Street and the Great Highway. It was one of several taverns or roadhouses in the Lands End area and was described by a San Francisco newspaper as “furnished rather above the average of its class” and “one of the prettiest resorts on the ocean beach.” The saloon was a popular spot for those who frequented Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park.

Hagerty’s place saw its fair share of bad luck. The establishment was robbed several times including an incident during which Robert D. Hagerty survived being shot by thieves. The saloon met its end in a fire that destroyed the building in April 1898. The saloon went down in a “brilliant blaze” that could be seen from the Cliff House half a mile away.

This engraved token, redeemable for one drink, was found by archaeologists at the former location of the Merrie Way concession stands.