

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Courtesy of Western Neighborhood Project



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Left: Point Lobos Toll Road toll gate, looking southeast, ca. 1865; *Right:* Geary Blvd. (formerly Point Lobos Toll Road) looking west from 25th Ave., ca. 1880.

Point Lobos Toll Road

This privately maintained toll road was built in 1863 by Dr. H. Gates. The road started at what is now Geary Blvd. and Presidio Ave. and ran west towards the Cliff House. Toll booths were erected at Geary Blvd. and Presidio Ave., at Sixth Ave., and at the beach.

The road was used by horse drawn carriages and omnibuses, and made Lands End and the Cliff House far more accessible. It quickly became a very popular road for visitors and no sight-seeing trip was complete without a ride over Point Lobos Road to the Cliff House. According to a 1907 *San Francisco Call* article, part of the road was also a favorite racing spot for speedway drivers in the 1860s.

The toll road was turned over to the City of San Francisco in 1877 and became a public thoroughfare. The road was renamed Geary Blvd. (in honor of a former San Francisco mayor) from Presidio Avenue to 41st. Avenue where it becomes Point Lobos Ave.