

Sutro Heights Parapet

This dramatic curved stone wall was built in 1885 on a natural sandstone outcrop on the high point of Sutro Heights, near Adolph Sutro's residence. Visitors could get to the Parapet by walking up a ramp at the rear wall or along a narrow staircase on the western side.

As its name suggests, the Sutro Heights Parapet looked like a castle battlement. The solid stone wall was topped with statues of classical figures that looked over the ocean.

The Parapet also held a pair of non-firing ornamental cannons, (one apparently aimed at the Cliff House), chairs and benches, a photo studio, and an observation deck.

The stone remains of the Parapet can still be seen on the hillside above the Great Highway. Visitors to the remains enjoy exquisite views of the Cliff House, Seal Rocks, and Ocean Beach.

Top: View of Sutro Heights Parapet from above with the Cliff House below, ca. 1886; *Middle:* Parapet with photo gallery and observation tower, ca. 1880s-1900s; *Bottom:* Statues, cannon, and visitors on parapet facing the Cliff House below, ca. 1880s-1900s.

