

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.



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