Left: Seal Rock House (left) and Ocean Beach Pavilion (right) as viewed from the Cliff House; *Right:* Seal Rock House in the late 19th century.

Seal Rock House

Seal Rock House was the first resort and hotel in the Ocean Beach area, opening in 1858. In 1875 it was advertised as the only resort near the city that could be reached without paying tolls.

The name was changed to "Long Branch House" after the 1860s, and again in the late 1880s to "Seal Rock Hotel". The Ocean Beach Pavilion was built next door in 1884.

Seal Rock House hosted banquets, musical performances, and billiard games. During the bicycle craze of the 1890s, cyclists would gather at the House during their comings and goings along the road fronting Ocean Beach. In the 1890s and early 1900s many boxers trained at the Seal Rock House gymnasium. Among the pugilists was the legendary Jack Johnson, the first African-American heavyweight champion. The Seal Rock House was closed by 1914.