

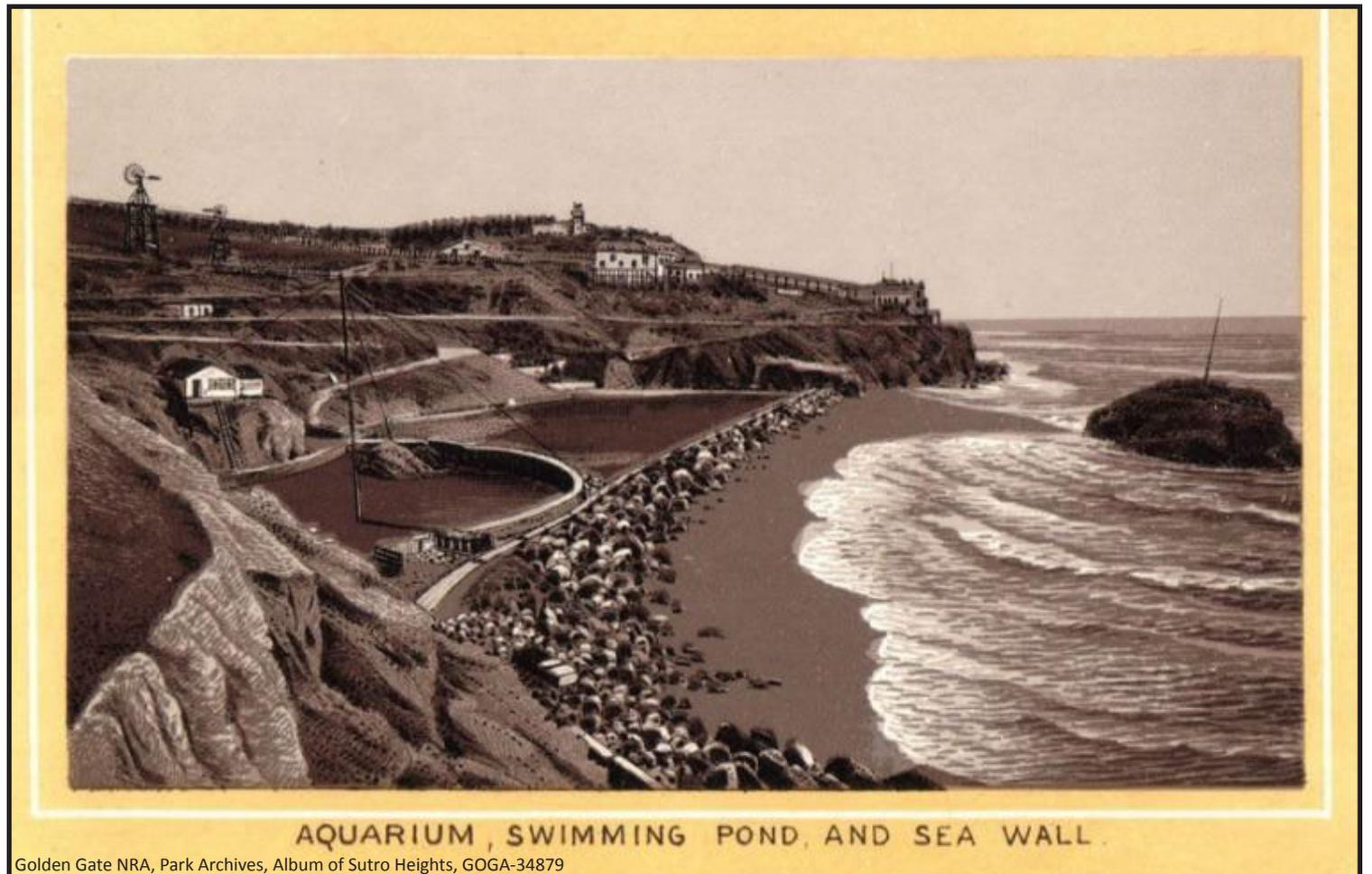
Sutro Aquarium

In 1887 Adolph Sutro began construction of a project he called "The Aquarium". The Aquarium was located in Naiad Cove just north of the Cliff House. It was a giant artificial tide pool built into the cove.

Sutro oversaw construction of a rock and concrete catch basin into the side of Parallel Point to collect sea water and a canal through Parallel Point that transported the water to a second basin -- the aquarium itself -- built on the shore below.

When the tides came in, the aquarium basin would fill with water and any accompanying sea life that was caught up in the flow, allowing the public to view fish and other marine creatures from the safety of the shore. This, at least, was the concept for the attraction. Though the basins were successful in catching seawater, it is not known if the sea creatures that Sutro envisioned -- including sea lions -- were ever transported into the Aquarium.

The Aquarium was a unique example of the engineering feats and creative enterprises at which Sutro excelled. The canalworks of the Aquarium were later incorporated into the Sutro Baths.



Postcard showing Sutro's Aquarium viewed from Point Lobos, ca. 1890.