



The Ocean Shore Railroad was originally intended to be a continuous route along the Pacific shore connecting San Francisco and Santa Cruz, but the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, financial difficulties, and the advent of the automobile caused the line to remain divided into a Northern and Southern Division. Construction began on the railroad in 1905 at both ends (San Francisco and Santa Cruz), but the line was never completed. The 1906 earthquake caused major damage and delayed construction. Construction resumed in 1907, including two tunnels and numerous bridges and trestles. In 1908, the tracks from San Francisco reached south to Tunitas Creek (south of Half Moon Bay) and north from Santa Cruz to Swanton (5 miles north of this location at Davenport). Mainline service was abandoned in 1920. The line north from Santa Cruz was leased to the San Vicente Lumber Company and other sections, including this section, were used periodically until the mid-1980's. All trackage south of Francisco (the entire Northern Division) and the 4 miles of track south of Swanton (northernmost 4 miles of the Southern Division) have been removed.

Southeastward view of the Southern Division of the OS (1908) at Davenport. Note the rusty tracks.



Northwestward view, same location as previous. Pacific Ocean at far left. Note road crossing in the distance; that road is California Highway 1.



Westward view of overgrown track, just north of the road crossing in the previous photo. Highway 1 and Pacific Ocean on the left.



Southeastward view of the OS (1908), 4,000 feet northwest of previous location and just steps from the end-of-track. There is a spur (not visible here) to the cement plant on the left, which must have been the last customer to use the OS trackage.



Northward view, same location as previous. The track ends under the brush; the track was removed north from here 4 miles to the original end-of-track at Swanton.