

佩塔盧馬市歷史唐人街

A GUIDE TO OLD PETALUMA CHINATOWN



Did you know

Between the 1860s and 1890s, there was a thriving Chinese community in Petaluma? Chinese people lived and worked as brick-makers, river dredgers, levee and railroad workers, agricultural laborers, and house servants. The city had Chinese run laundries, medical offices, shops, and residences. There was also a Chinese Freemasons Lodge, a Joss House (Taoist and Buddhist temple), and a Chinese Mission School.

Note: The Brickyard and other places where Chinese people worked are not included in this map.

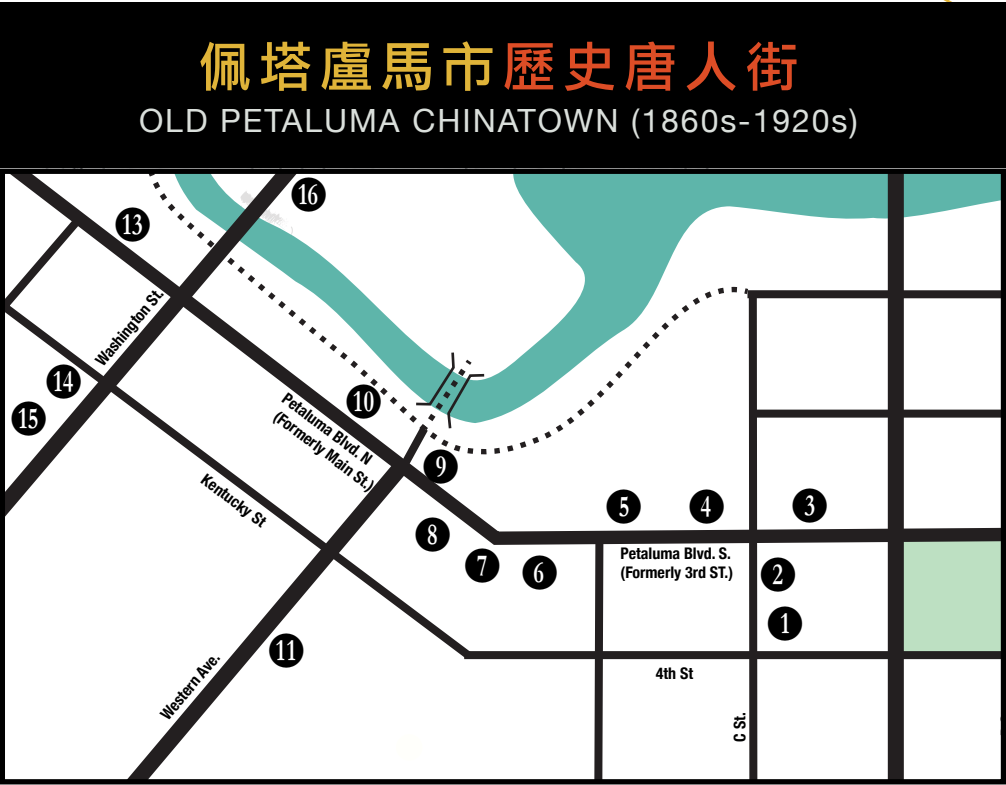
Go To
Dr. Shing Kee,
Physician and Surgeon,
WHO WILL ATTEND TO ALL KINDS OF
Diseases, and warrants speedy cures.
Cures all kinds of Sore Throat.
Office on B street, foot of Main, Petaluma.

JIM KEE
Furnishes reliable Chinese
labor for all kinds of work,
fruit picking, potato digging,
wood cutting, clearing land,
ditching.
Office: 916 Main St., Petaluma, Cal.

New Wash House
WA SING
Has opened a new
WASHING AND IRONING HOUSE
At the foot of Main and B Sts.,
PETALUMA,
And will do all work in
The Best and Neatest Style.
41 cm

WASH HOUSE.
WAH LEE, who was burnt out recently,
has started in business again, and begs to
inform the public, and his old patrons in particu-
lar, that he has
Opened a more Commodious House
—ON—
MAIN STREET,
At the Foot of ENGLISH STREET.
Patronage of the public solicited, and GOOD
WORK WARRANTED.
WAH LEE, Proprietor. 41 10

WAH YENE,
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE
All Kinds of Help Furnished Promptly.
I HAVE ALSO A CHOICE SELECTION OF
Japanese and Chinese Goods. Call and see my
goods and learn prices.
CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY PRESENTS
A SPECIALTY.
No. 31 Main Street, Towne's Building.
42 1m
WAH YENE.



Chinese business office
Doctor Shing Kee
Chinese business office
Chinese lodging



G Ching Hin Tea Merchant
Hei Chung & Co Groceries
Hop Sing Lodging
Dr Wun Lung
San Quong Wa Employment Office



Chinese Mission School



Ciu Kong Wah Clothing Store
Chinese Dwelling
Jim Kee Wash House



Chinese Wash House



Three unidentified Chinese businesses



Hop Sing Lodging
Hei Chung & Co Groceries
Hop Sing Lodging



New York Hotel replaced Chinese businesses



Wah Lee Wash House (1st location)



Wah Lee Wash House (2nd location after fire)
Chinese Wash House
Sing Lee Wash House



Wah Yene Employment and "Chinese/Japanese" Bazaar House



Wash House (unidentified)



Ed Sing Laundry



Wing Lee Laundry



Wah Lee Wash House (3rd location after 2nd fire)

Early Years

... Inquiries numbered 7, 14, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as follows:—

... in the County of Sonoma, State of California, enumerated by me on the 14 day of July, 1870. Alonzo Walker, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sex	Age	Color	Marital Status	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.	Whether born in or naturalized in the United States.
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I employ Chinamen ... my grain was bound and harvested by Chinamen; my vineyards and orchards were planted, pruned and cultivated; ten plowers were driven, and my wine was made by them. At this very moment, 26 Chinese are reclaiming swamp lands.

... They will make good servants and as the law excludes them from citizenship, no matter how many may come, they can have no dangerous influences on our domestic institutions.

Agoston Haraszthy,
Founder, Buena Vista Winery
Excerpt from 1860 State Agricultural Society speech



Photo: California State Library

A.P. White 11/69: "We held about 4000 acres. I can remember, I wasn't more than 4 or 5 years old, we reclaimed the marsh land with Chinese coolie labor. It was among the finest of the reclaimed lands in the Petaluma marches. The China camp was where Helen lives now, about 50 feet down the RR track from Al's shop. The work was done with wheelbarrows and baskets and shovels. About 1888. Between six and eight hundred acres. We were to raise oats and barley there, and later the dredges came in and threw up the levies. "The Chinese were huddled up pretty close together; slept on straw in the Chinese House. They were brought from San Francisco, some 2 or 3 hundred of them, by a head Chinese. The job took at least 6 months."

"Interview with Alden Parsons White (1884-1942)," The White/Durney Family Collection, Petaluma Library"



Photo: Scott Hess

Scapegoating

In the mid-1870s, a local Anti-Chinese League blamed Chinese people as the cause of an economic downturn, though they were a small percentage of the population. Violence, discrimination, and boycotts drove many Chinese away. Nationally, President Chester Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, banning the immigration of Chinese laborers.

Anti-Coolie Meeting.

There will be an anti-Coolie meeting held at Turn Verein Hall, in this city, on Saturday evening next. This will be the first meeting of the kind ever held in Petaluma, and we hope that every man who believes with us, that the Chinese are a curse to the country, and that all honorable and legal means should be used to rid us of that curse, will attend the meeting. Nine-tenths, at

The Petaluma Courier, Dec 13, 1877

ANTI-CHINESE MEETING.

A San Francisco Agitator in Petaluma—Speech of T. A. Ford and others last Saturday Night—"Persuasion and Ballots" first, "Force and Bullets" afterwards—Kearney Extolled—Something about "Hemp."

The tenth weekly meeting of the Citizens' Anti-Chinese Club was held at Turn Verein Hall, last Saturday evening, L. E. Broocke, presiding.

Petaluma Weekly Argus, Feb 22, 1878

ANTI-CHINESE.

An Enthusiastic Meeting Saturday Night—Turners' Hall Crowded—Another Meeting Tomorrow Night.

Petaluma Weekly Argus, Dec 21 1877

ANTI-CHINESE.

THE WORKINGMEN OF PETALUMA AND vicinity are requested to meet at Turner's Hall, Saturday night, December 15th, at 7½ o'clock, for the purpose of taking action in relation to Chinese Cheap Labor. All who are interested in the matter as now agitated by the people of California are invited to attend.

MANY CITIZENS.

Petaluma, Dec. 14, 1877.

Petaluma Weekly Argus, Dec 14 1877



Turners Hall (a.k.a. Turn Verein)
Chinese establishments were on the same block behind the Turners Hall where many Anti-Chinese League meetings were held. Turners Hall once stood in the location of the parking lot on 4th St between B St and D St.

1860

1855 Foreign Miner's Act
Tax imposed on Chinese miners.

PETALUMA

1858
City of Petaluma incorporated.

Anti-Coolie articles from San Francisco begin to be printed in Petaluma's newspaper.

1870

1863 Emancipation Proclamation
Results in loss of free labor. Chinese and South Asian laborers are brought in.

Chinese businesses documented in Sanborn Insurance Maps.

1880

1875 Page Law
Restricts immigration of Chinese women.

1877
T.J. Geary begins his legal practice in Petaluma on Keller St. (Author of the 1892 Geary Act which extended the Chinese Exclusion Act)

Isaac Wickersham hires Chinese laborers to build railroad

1890

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act
A 10-year ban on Chinese immigration. Waves of Anti-Chinese mobs spread throughout California.

1886
A Chinese servant is blamed for the murder of Jesse Wickersham and his wife. 2000 people attend mass protest to drive Chinese people out of town.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORDINANCE NO. 11.
(New Series.)

Regulating and Establishing the Maintenance of Laundries or Wash Houses in the City of Petaluma.

Petaluma City passes Wash Houses ordinance, a thinly disguised regulation, targeting Chinese owned businesses.

1900

1892 Geary Act
Congressman Thomas Geary extends the Chinese Exclusion Act, adding more restrictions.

1892 ~
Chinese people's population declines precipitously.

1898 U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark
Rules, a child born in the United States is a US citizen.

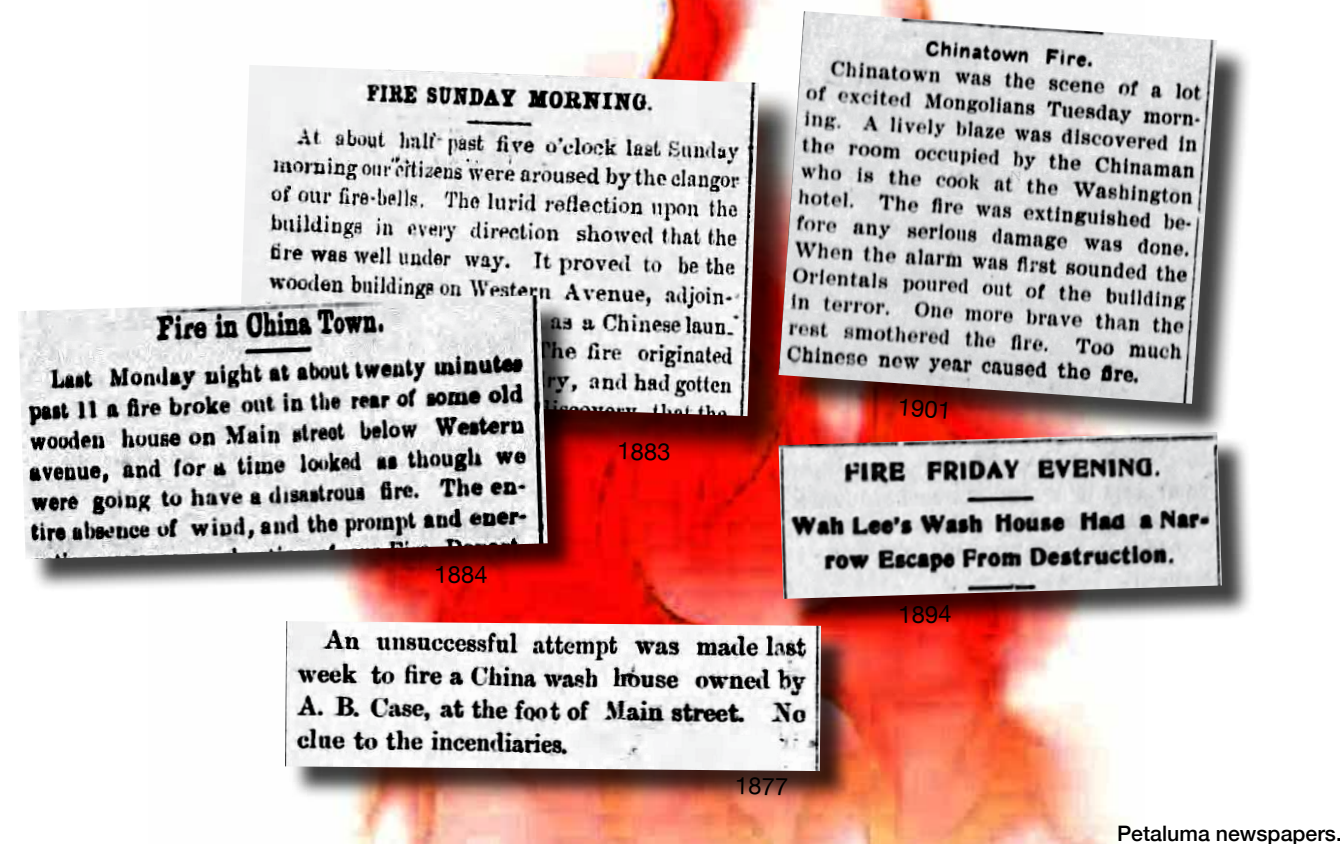
CHINESE DECREASE IN CALIFORNIA

(By United Press)

SACRAMENTO, Aug. 13.—In 40 years there will be no Chinese in California if the present decrease in population continues, board of health statisticians have announced. The Chinese are leaving California at the rate of 500 annually. The excess of deaths over births is 768 annually. The Chinese population of the state has now dwindled to 28,812.

Chinatown Burning

Petaluma newspapers report multiple fires in the city's Chinatown. During this same time period, arsonist burned down Chinatowns throughout California, displacing tens of thousands of residents. By 1900, Chinatown was reduced to the block between C and D streets. The mostly vacant buildings of Chinatown were bulldozed in 1926 by the new property owner.



The Chinese diaspora today

Chinese diaspora make up 24% of the Asian American population, or 5.4 million people. Today, they are thriving members of Petaluma, contributing as parents, farmers, caregivers, healthcare workers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, students, educators, scientists, medical professionals, and more.

Look around. Petaluma Old Chinatown may be gone, but the legacy of the early Chinese contribution to the city lives on in plain sight. It lies in the original road base for the tracks the Smart Train travels on, in the farm fields on reclaimed wetlands along the river, in the brick walls of many historic downtown buildings like the Lan Mart...



Local AAPI community members led a pilgrimage to Petaluma's Chinese places. The photo was taken at the location once considered to be the "Old Chinatown" at the corner of B st and Petaluma Blvd. S. where Chinese Mission School, Chinese Doctor's office, Chinese dwellings and Chinese businesses once stood.

Thank you

To all who contributed their passion, creativity, expertise, and wisdom to create this handout. Co-creators include: Grant Din, Anna Eng, Anne-Marie Harvey, Ph.D, Gwyn Kirk, Ph.D, Lina Hoshino, Gordon Lee, Warren Mar, Terry Park, Antonia Kao, Angelo Sacerdote, John Sheehy, and Phyllis Tajji.

Please contact hoshino.lina@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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1930	1940	1950	1960
1924 Immigration Act Other Asians no longer admitted to the US.	1943 Exclusion Act ends. Immigration restrictions against Asians remain.		1965 Immigration Act Quotas restricting Asian immigration eliminated.
	<p>By 1940, only 5 Chinese people are recorded in Petaluma's Census.</p>	<p>Chinese American families begin to trickle back to Petaluma. Longtime Petaluma resident, Lance Lew's family who ran Petaluma Market, was one of the earliest arrival since Chinese people were driven out during the exclusion years.</p>	



Photo: Courtesy of Anna Eng

Dedication ceremony for the new
St. Helena Chinese Memorial at St. Helena Cemetery.



At the 2024 Walk of Remembrance:
Honoring Monterey Bay's Chinese
Community, the descendants walked
carrying ancestral photos.

Inclusive history for a Just future

Places all over California are celebrating the Chinese people's legacy with plaques, memorials, and a commitment to education. San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose, Pacific Grove, Antioch, have issued an apology to the Chinese community.

"It's just the right thing to do," Mayor Lamar Thorpe from Antioch said to the New York Times. "We have to do our part ... to rectifying our past mistakes."

MEMORIALS DEDICATED TO CHINESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Antioch
Auburn
China Camp
Eureka
Fiddletown
Locke
Los Angeles

Madera
Marysville
Mendocino
Monterey
Oroville
Pacific Grove
Petaluma?

Saint Helena
San Francisco
San Jose
San Luis Obispo
Santa Cruz
Ventura
Weaverville