

# 佩塔盧馬市歷史唐人街

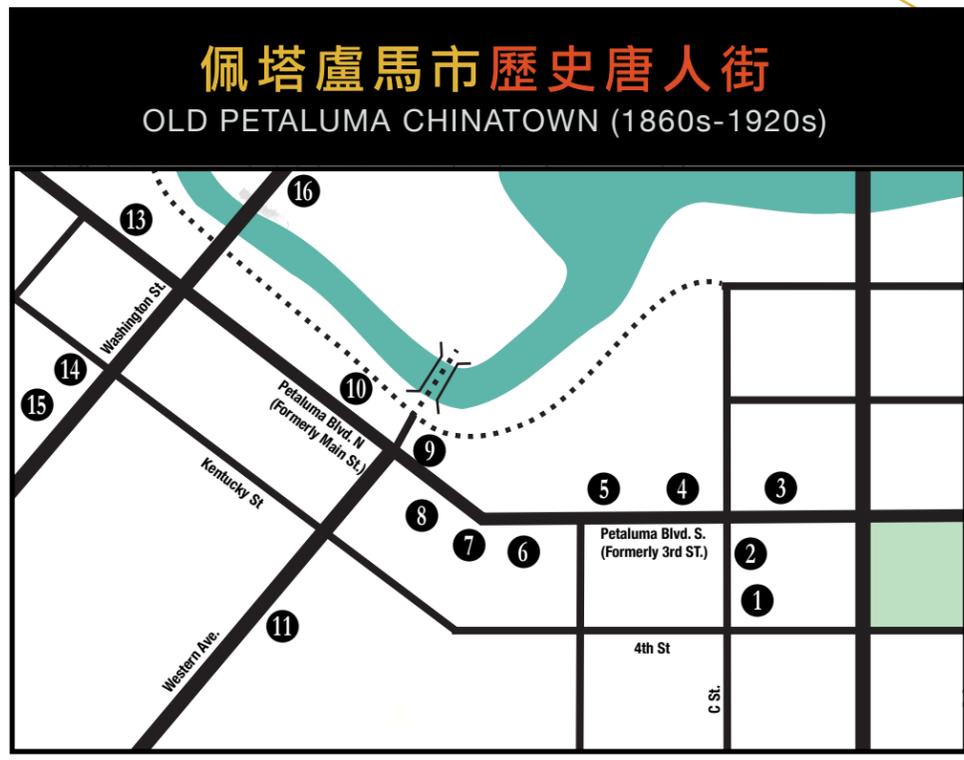
A GUIDE TO OLD PETALUMA CHINATOWN



# 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.



Chinese business office, Doctor Shing Kee, Chinese business office, Chinese lodging



Chinese Mission School



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



Ciu Kong Wah Clothing Store, Chinese Dwelling, Jim Kee Wash House



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



Wash House (unidentified)



Wah Yene Employment and "Chinese/Japanese" Bazaar House



Ed Sing Laundry



Chinese Wash House



Three unidentified Chinese businesses



Hop Sing Lodging, Hei Chung & Co Groceries, Hop Sing Lodging



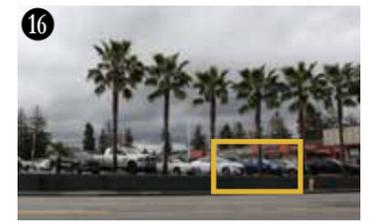
New York Hotel replaced Chinese businesses



Wah Lee Wash House (1st location)



Wing Lee Laundry



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

# Early Years

... Inquire numbered 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are to be answered (if at all) by an affirmative mark, as follows:—

... enumerated by me on the 11 day of July, 1870. *Alonzo Walker, Ass't Marshal*

Name	Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Year of Birth	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S., or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Whether dead and death, which, name or date.														
						10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
21	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
22	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
23	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
24	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
25	m	c	Wash House	1850	China	1														
26	m	c	Wash House		China	1														
27	m	c	Wash House		China	1														
28	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
29	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
30	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
31	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
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67	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
68	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
69	m	c	Laborer		China	1														
70	m	c	Laborer		China	1														

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 least.

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.  
 The next arrangement is the tenth weekly meeting of the Citizens' Anti-Chinese Club, to be held at Turners' Hall, on Saturday evening, at 7 1/2 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 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 7 1/2 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 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	1870	1880	1890	1900
<b>1855 Foreign Miner's Act</b> Tax imposed on Chinese miners.	<b>1863 Emancipation Proclamation</b> Results in loss of free labor. Chinese and South Asian laborers are brought in.	<b>1875 Page Law</b> Restricts immigration of Chinese women.	<b>1882 Chinese Exclusion Act</b> A 10-year ban on Chinese immigration. Waves of Anti-Chinese mobs spread throughout California.	<b>1892 Geary Act</b> Congressman Thomas Geary extends the Chinese Exclusion Act, adding more restrictions.
<b>1898 U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark</b> Rules, a child born in the United States is a US citizen.				

**PETALUMA**  
 1858 City of Petaluma incorporated.  
 Anti-Coolie articles from San Francisco begin to be printed in Petaluma's newspaper.

Chinese businesses documented in Sanborn Insurance Maps.



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

**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.

1892 ~ Chinese people's population declines precipitously.

**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.

Chinese population in Petaluma  
 Source: The US Census.

# 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.

**FIRE SUNDAY MORNING.**  
At about half past five o'clock last Sunday morning our citizens were aroused by the clangor of our fire-bells. The lurid reflection upon the buildings in every direction showed that the fire was well under way. It proved to be the wooden buildings on Western Avenue, adjoining a Chinese laundry, and had gotten away, and had gotten away, that the

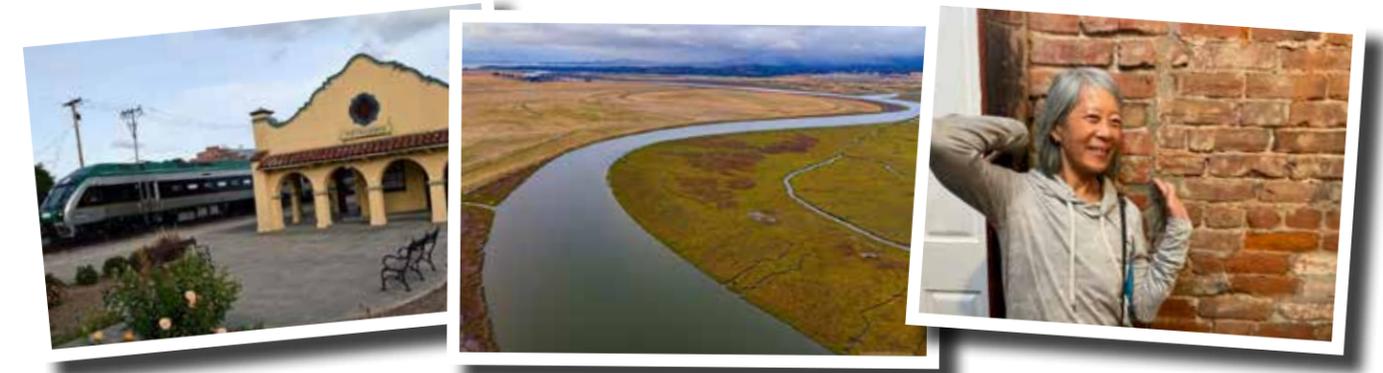
**Fire in China Town.**  
Last Monday night at about twenty minutes past 11 a fire broke out in the rear of some old wooden house on Main street below Western avenue, and for a time looked as though we were going to have a disastrous fire. The entire absence of wind, and the prompt and energetic

**Chinatown Fire.**  
Chinatown was the scene of a lot of excited Mongolians Tuesday morning. A lively blaze was discovered in the room occupied by the Chinaman who is the cook at the Washington hotel. The fire was extinguished before any serious damage was done. When the alarm was first sounded the Orientals poured out of the building in terror. One more brave than the rest smothered the fire. Too much Chinese new year caused the fire.

**FIRE FRIDAY EVENING.**  
Wah Lee's Wash House Had a Narrow Escape From Destruction.

An unsuccessful attempt was made last week to fire a China wash house owned by A. B. Case, at the foot of Main street. No clue to the incendiaries.

Petaluma newspapers.



## 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...



Photo: Angelo Sacerdote

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 Tajii. Please contact hoshino.lina@gmail.com if you have any questions. A Guide to Petaluma Old Chinatown © 2024 by Petaluma Old Chinatown is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

1930	1940	1950	1960
<p><b>1924 Immigration Act</b> Other Asians no longer admitted to the US.</p>	<p><b>1943 Exclusion Act ends.</b> Immigration restrictions against Asians remain.</p>		<p><b>1965 Immigration Act</b> Quotas restricting Asian immigration eliminated.</p>
<p>Library of Congress</p>	<p>By 1940, only 5 Chinese people are recorded in Petaluma's Census.</p> <p>Photo: Petaluma Grocery, 1950s, Sonoma County Library</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.

## *Inclusive history for a Just future*



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

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