



1 CHINATOWN/ INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

In the early 20th century, Chinatown served as the hub for most of Washington's Asian community. Chinese entrepreneurs and investors opened a number of businesses which still stand today. The neighborhood continues to house and celebrate multigenerational families and individuals. Community members within and outside this community continue to fight for the neighborhood's residents, wellbeing, and future.

2 EAST & WEST KONG YICK

The East Kong Yick (now the Wing Luke Museum) and West Kong Yick buildings both served as temporary and permanent housing for many Chinese Americans in Seattle. Both buildings served as commercial and communal hubs with their lower levels housing drugstores, sundries, doctor's offices, and more. They additionally served as anchors for the community and catalysts for the development of Chinatown.

4 PORT TOWNSEND

Port Townsend was the only lumber camp to have an established Chinese settlement and served as the center for all Chinese in the area. Restaurants, gambling houses, stores, and opium dens all served as crucial centers for socialization. Port Townsend's Chinese community was also known for kite contests where intricately decorated kites would "fight" one another and bets were placed on which kite would win.

3 GOON DIP

At the University of Washington in 1909, philanthropist, diplomat, and businessman Goon Dip was appointed the honorary (and later permanent) consul for Seattle. With the development of the Kong Yick Investment Company, Dip was largely responsible for the second wave of Chinese immigration to Seattle. He organized labor for new immigrants and often funded college education for those in need.

7 WHIDBEY ISLAND FARMERS

Chinese farmers and laborers on Whidbey Island's Ebey's Prairie farms were known for their excellence in farming and relationship with white farmers who eventually became allies to fight local anti-Chinese expulsion efforts. With differing emphases on hand or machine labor, the two communities relied on one another to produce some of the most successful potato farms in the state, most of which were owned and tended by members of the Chinese community.

5 TACOMA'S CHINATOWN (LITTLE CANTON)

In the late 19th century Tacoma housed a thriving Chinese community which comprised nearly 10% of the city's population. Local businesses, eateries, laundries, and even a school grew out of the community. Disgruntled white Tacoma residents eventually organized to force the Chinese community out of the city in one of the most infamous displays of anti-Chinese violence the country has ever seen.

6 "HUMBOW NOT HOTDOGS"

In 1968, the construction of a stadium was approved by King County which would displace numerous residents, businesses, and more in the International District. In 1972, activists marched with slogans like "Humbow not Hotdogs" in protest, calling for the city to support the neighborhood rather than destroy it. After years of continuous protesting, the neighborhood was given \$11 million dollars. These funds, along with community organizing, supported public programs, housing initiatives, and health clinics for the neighborhood.

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PHOTO CREDITS

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MAPPING THE

CHINESE

COMMUNITY

OF

WESTERN WASHINGTON

A MUSEOLOGY GRADUATE THESIS

Created by Maddy Lim

Special thanks to Lane Eagles, Stephanie Mohr, Shawn Wong, & the UW Museology Graduate Program

A

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

The first wave of Chinese immigrants known as “sojourners” made up 2/3 of the workforce which constructed the Northern Pacific Railroad (drawn in red) and labored on almost every major railway in the state before 1900. Mostly men, they worked in industries that white society deemed “undesirable” at the time, like railroad construction, logging, and canneries.

B

FRIDAY HARBOR CANNERIES

Canneries employed a number of Chinese laborers and was a sporadic industry. Because of this, shoddy temporary housing known as the “China House” was built for workers. Though it lacked basic necessities, it was made more homely with a community-run garden. Following increased mechanization, many workers were laid off and moved elsewhere.

C

TACOMA MILL COMPANY

In the late 19th century the Gold Rush sparked a surge in lumber production, one of which was the Tacoma Mill Company. As one of Washington’s largest industries at the time, it was also one of the big three industries that employed a large portion of Chinese laborers. Eventually due to rising anti-Asian sentiments, many mills laid off their Chinese workers.

INTRODUCTION

The Chinese community is one of the oldest and most established communities on the West Coast. As one of the most **influential communities in establishing current day Washington** state’s landscape, economy, and historical businesses, it’s impossible to deny the violence, racism, and othering that this community has and continues to face today.

In Western Washington, the Chinese community is largely concentrated in the Seattle area, but originated with immigrants who settled all across the Pacific Northwest in the mid-late 19th century. With China becoming increasingly unstable, famine wrecked the country and people were forced to flee. Those who came over were forced to work long hours in physically demanding jobs for little pay, which they often saved to send back to their families in China.

This map seeks to highlight a small portion of the expansive history of the Chinese community across Western Washington. Discover the impact and history of this community through historic neighborhoods, businesses, and key individuals. If you can, check out these places for yourself!

