

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
530-274-7118

21 April 2023

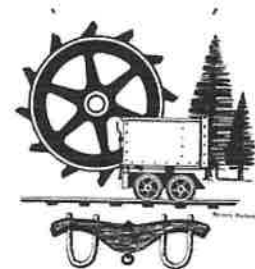
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the Chinatowns of Truckee be approved. The applicant is the Truckee-Donner Historical Society. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 23-02.

The landmark will commemorate the Chinese community of Truckee, which contributed significantly to Truckee's growth and sustainability. Chinese businesses supported both its Chinese residents and Truckee's population. Their contributions to Truckee's development made in the face of continued discrimination are to be appreciated and acknowledged.

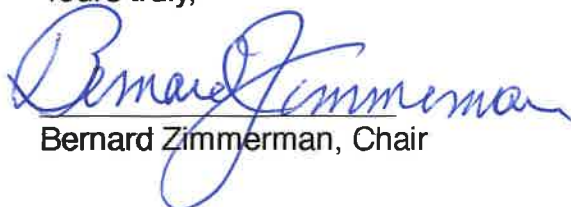
The research and documentation which accompanies the application has been reviewed by several Commissioner for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.



If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

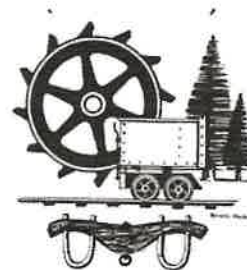
If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

cc: Truckee-Donner Historical Society



County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark The Chinatowns of Truckee, California

Location Old Downtown Truckee, an Historical District (Lord, 1981, p. 7)

Name of applicant Truckee-Donner Historical Society (TDHS)

Address P.O. Box 893, Truckee, CA 96160

Home or work phone (530) 582-0893 cell phone same

Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark

Is located, if owner is not applicant_

Old Truckee Jail Museum, owned by TDHS (see Appendix A)

I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site.



Landowner signature

APRIL 2, 2023

Date

Gregory P. Zirbel, President TDHS

Brief history and description of proposed landmark (attach additional sheets as necessary)

The purpose of this Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission application is to obtain public recognition of Truckee's Chinatowns, 1867-1886. Long overdue, there should be public honor and recognition of the Chinese community for many contributions of those who lived and worked in Truckee.

Evidence of the two Truckee Chinatowns will be documented by residential/business dwellings, recreated period maps, census records, and fires as reported in newspapers and deed records. Census data from the United States Census of 1870, 1880, and 1900 were reviewed. (The 1890 Census data were burned.) Additionally, archaeological findings, individual accounts, and family memories demonstrate there were Chinese residents in the two geographically separated Chinatowns.

Findings

From 1867 to 1886, there were two Chinatowns in Truckee. The first Chinatown was located on the northside of the Central Pacific Railroad tracks in Truckee. The second Chinatown was located south of the railroad tracks and across the Truckee River.

The First Truckee Chinatown

The first Chinatown residential and commercial buildings were scattered among Caucasian dwellings and business located in the area bounded by Front Street (Commercial Row / Donner Pass Road today), Jibboom Street (which became East Main Street for a time before it turned back to Jibboom St.), and what was then called West Street did not exist until after the fire of May 1875 (now Spring Street) [[Sanborn 1885 map, p. 1](#), and [Sanborn 1990 map, p. 2](#)]. Most unfortunately, there are no extant maps of Truckee's first Chinatown. **See *Truckee Republican*** newspaper articles of "The New Chinatown"

1875 June 2. "All the efforts that have been made to have our Chinese element removed to the other side of the Truckee river are of no avail, but there is a very good prospect now of having the limits of Chinatown well defined by broad streets and obtaining for them as well as the white portion of our population something approaching to protection against fire. At one of the recent meetings of the citizens, it was deemed best to send for the Town Site Agent, D.H. Haskell, since but few lots were owned by Chinamen, and an effort could be made to prevent their getting possession of others. It appears, however, that the Chinamen had rented their lots of the Agent and taken receipts for this year's rent. This gave them possession for the year at least, and the price at which the lots were offered to the citizens in case they would buy them was such as to put the purchase of them out of the question. It was then decided that nothing better could be done than to open a wide street across the upper end of the Plaza, extending up to intersect with High street, about one hundred and ten feet in width, and another

cross street **fifty feet** [emphasis added] in width three hundred and sixty feet further up. Thus, will confine Chinatown proper within reasonably narrow limits as regards the frontage, and give them all the lots they have owned, except a few which it is proposed to purchase. The plan is to have no more Chinese houses built on Second street, below this street, and to have none built on the south side of the street at all. None were owned on the south side. They will be allowed to extend their town back on the hill as far as they find it necessary, and the land given to them at reasonable rates. It has been suggested to them to construct a water tank and provide a number of buckets in readiness for fires, and it is thought that they will act favorably upon it. They have also state that they are willing to keep a force of twelve watchman to guard against fire. The question seems to be amicably settled at present, and, however desirable it may be to have them removed, taking all things into consideration, we believe the citizens will have reason to be satisfied providing these terms are carried out."

and the following article, also *Truckee Republican*, 1875, just 3 days later:

1875 Citizens' Committee Report Truckee Republican

1875 June 5. "To the Citizens of Truckee. Your Committee appointed to confer with D.H. Haskell, Esq., Town Site Agent, and the Chinese residents of Truckee relative to rebuilding Chinatown and laying out streets for greater security against fire, respectfully submit the following report. That they have conferred with D. H. Haskell, Esq., in regard to opening a street ninety-six feet wide through Chinatown, commencing at a point 17 feet east of the stone building known as Fong Lee & Co's store, and extending east 96 feet along Main street, and running northerly, 96 feet in width beyond High street. Nearly the entire ground included in this proposed street is donated to the town by Mr. Haskell.

That Mr. Haskell, on the part of the Railroad Company, has agreed to open another street on the west end, or line, of Chinatown, commencing at the east line of Mrs. Working's yard fence, and extending easterly therefrom **fifty feet** [emphasis added]. That Mr. Haskell has agreed with your Committee not to sell or rent any of the lots on Main street east of the newly laid out street that are now vacant, to any Chinaman, for any purpose. That they have conferred with the owners of lots purchased from the C.P.R.R. Co. lying on Main street east of the 96 feet street, and that such owners have agreed to sell to the town of Truckee all ground owned by them, amounting to 72 feet fronting Main street, for the sum of \$650.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that the offers made by D.H. Haskell, Esq., agent of the Railroad Company, to lay out the street mentioned be accepted. We further recommend that the offer of the owners of the lots on Main street east of the 96 feet street, for the sale of such lots to the town, be also accepted, and that the money required for purchasing such lots be raised by assessment on the property owners of Truckee, or such parties as are willing to contribute to raising such necessary fund. Your Committee hereby tender their warmest thanks

to D.H. Haskell, Esq., for his courtesy to the Committee, and for his valuable assistance rendered in effecting our arrangements with the Chinese residents, and very liberal and generous offers to our citizens.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E.J. Brickell,

H.W. Roberts,

Chas. Dunn.

The above report was accepted and adopted at a meeting of the citizens on Thursday, the 3d instant. On motion the Committee were authorized to appoint one man to act as assessor and collector, to assess and collect the amount of money necessary to purchase the lots in question. Mr. Richmond was duly appointed. After some consideration it was deemed best to instruct the assessor to see what could be done toward raising the money by private subscription, since in that case fewer persons would then have an interest in the property. This was done with no great trouble, only one firm that was solicited refusing.

The names of the subscriber and their amounts are as follows:

Joseph Marzen, Sr	\$100
F. Burckhalter	\$100
F. Pauson	\$50
Sisson, Wallace & Co.	\$50
B. Brickell	\$50
J.N. Payne	\$25
F. Rabel	\$25
F.P. Stevens	\$25
S.B. Weller	\$25
J.F. Moody	\$25
W.J. Shinn	\$25
W.H. Hurd	\$25
Adolph & Lewison	\$25
Lee (or Bee?) Jones	\$25
G.W. Harrison	\$25
Grazier & Stoll	\$25
Andy Johnson	\$25
H. Davis	\$25
S. Long	\$25

The money has all been paid in and the lots purchased. This settles that part of the question, and our citizens are in hopes to see the Chinese element confined to their own quarter. At present there are many living on Main, or the back street, but it is very probable that they will remove as soon as it is possible for them to get buildings of their own put up in Chinatown. It is more than probable that they

will remove, since there is a determination on the part of our citizens not to have them there, and their will is frequently respected.”

Additionally, there are first person accounts that attest to the existence, location, and condition of “Chinatown.” In a March 19, 1869 *New York Tribune* article, the author recounted: “Truckee appeared to be a city of John Chinaman ... There were **long streets** [emphasis added] of Chinese laundries, barber's shops, tea stores, peanut stands, and nondescript booths, all as ___ two peas externally, little wooden barracks ten feet square, and adorned with big sign boards, persuasive, no doubt, to the Celestial mind, but impenetrable to us.” Another personal account was published in 1870 by [Crofutt](#), of a train ride heading west to Truckee which reflects the area behind main Front Street that attests to the location of the first Chinatown. “A narrow, crooked, muddy street separates the first row of buildings – the business portion of the town – from another string of carelessly arranged houses, which stretch along the foot of the mountains.” This recounting is consistent with physical evidence of Chinese artifacts found in the area. Additionally, originally published in 1879, Isabella L. Bird's letters to her sister are recounted in her book "A lady's life in the Rocky Mountains". Ms. Bird took the train in 1873. [Ms. Bird](#) wrote: “My horse was so excitable that I avoided the centre of Truckee, and skulked through a collection of Chinamen's shanties to the stable...”

Attached as **Appendix B** is a 1901 W.W. Waggoner survey map of Truckee which shows Front Street is called Commercial Row and Jibboom Street was then known as Main St. East, and the western area, Main St. West as part of the McGlashan Addition. Note too on this recreated 1901 map Spring Street is shown where the name West Street was in the two earlier Sanborn 1885 and 1890 maps. Compare this map with **Appendix B-1**, an earlier 1890 Central Pacific Railroad map which does not have the triangular area above the northwest side of Main St. East.

With assistance from Town of Truckee’s Engineering staff attached as **Appendix C** is a recreated Waggoner 1901 property map *with dimensions* which shows in greater detail the geographic first Chinatown areas along Spring Street. A zoomed-in screenshot is appended. Attached as **Appendix D** is a reprint of the 1901 Waggoner map and the overlay which shows in **green** the current property lots. The green triangular area, bounded by High and Spring Streets is where Truckee’s first Chinatown predominated, spreading north towards High Street, south towards Jibboom Street, and west towards West Main Street. [Truckee Property Records](#).

The first Chinatown area existed in this general area bounded by the three named streets. Truckee fires frequently occurred: in 1868; January, March, and July 20, 1871; a destructive May 29, 1875 fire starting in Chinatown; an October 31, 1878 fire also started in Chinatown; and two more starting in the “New” Chinatown, January 3, 1883, and June 17, 1886. [Note that the 1883 and 1886 fires were strictly Chinese losses.] These fires damaged dwellings and businesses, but the fire of May 1875 was the most damaging. [[Truckee Republican](#), May 29, 1875, p. 3, col. 2]. The fire was discovered in a back cook house in Chinatown. Damages sustained by the Chinese in that fire totaled nearly \$50,000. Attached as **Appendix E** are transcribed excerpts of newspaper articles attesting to these various fires.

Although several authors and sources claim that there were three Chinatowns, there were only two Chinatown *sites*. The [NPS Park History](#) site, for example, claims that there were three Chinatowns, but the evidence supports only two Truckee Chinatown locations. After the devastating 1875 fire, Truckee's first Chinatown was rebuilt on the northwesterly corner of the original Chinatown, with some notable exceptions. For fire protection purposes, limits of "the New Chinatown" area were well defined. [[Truckee Republican](#), June 2, 1875]. In addition, a December 2020 Brickelltown Streetscape Archaeological Monitoring Project report of its 2016 findings, in consultation with consulting archaeologist Susan Lindström, related the location of collected Chinese artifacts, clustered around Spring Street and areas immediately westward along Donner Pass Road. This documents this locale as one of Truckee's early Chinatowns.

Truckee's Second Chinatown

Even after the disastrous 1875 fire when Chinatown was rebuilt, there were additional Truckee fires. Because of the concern for safety of all Truckee residents and businesses, a town appointed a Safety Committee who purchased the lots owned by the Chinese in the original Chinatown area on Spring and Jibboom Streets. Chinese were paid to relocate on the south side of the railroad tracks, across the Truckee River. Attached as **Appendix F** is the three page deed recording this transaction. [Nevada County records, Book 56, pp. 252-4. A transcription of the deed is included]. Attached as **Appendix G** is a map showing "New Chinatown" or "South Truckee", with the specific lots so noted in the 700 x 400 feet plan. The notation on the left side of the map was taken from the named deed. [South Truckee Committee Journal.]

To better understand the development of the two Chinatowns, attached as **Appendix H** is a Timeline which encompasses newspaper articles extracted from a number of local publications. This may help to facilitate the timing of the "Chinatowns" development.

Truckee's Early Years

Truckee was not named "Truckee" until after August 1867 when Central Pacific Railroad renamed it from Coburn's Station. (1867-08-03 [Sacramento Bee](#)). To better grasp an image of what Truckee's Front Street area looked like in its early years, attached are several photos which may help to understand locations. **Photo 1** is a photograph believed to be in 1868, a quiet time in Truckee along Front Street (Commercial Row) [FTS0003](#). One can clearly read the business signs like Kennebec Hotel, Wells Fargo, and Burckhalter store. **Photo 2** is Truckee photograph [FTS0001](#), taken on Front Street's east end circa 1869, looking northwest. **Photo 3** shows Truckee in July after the third 1871 fire, [FTS0005](#). This photograph was taken from the railroad tracks looking eastward toward the devastation. Note the first few buildings on the left are notably brick, obviously more fire proof than the adjacent wooden buildings. Attached as **Photo 4** is an 1879 photograph which shows in the lower left the Chinese Herb Shop on the corner of the bridge and Truckee River [OVR1001](#). Noted photographer [Alfred A. Hart](#) also took a photograph of early Truckee after the 1868 fire. Notice also the small wooden buildings behind Front Street (Commercial Row) on the hill, above East Main Street / Jibboom Street.

Attached as **Appendix I** is a first-person account by a New York correspondent traveling with Vice 2014 rev.

President Schulyer Colfax in **1869** who traveled towards Truckee on the train looking west, but before reaching the Truckee Train Depot. The author commented on the east end of then East Main Street (now Jibboom Street) had what appeared to the writer to be lean-tos/shanties/crowded wooden structures, Truckee's earliest and first Chinatown area. While in Truckee, Colfax attended a Chinese wedding and escorted a young Chinese bride down the aisle. A local attending judge married the Chinese couple at the Truckee Hotel [one report states Campbell's Hotel]. A year later the census record reveals a child born of this couple whom they named "Colfax" in his honor. See *Grass Valley Morning Union*, volume 6, number 889, [October 3, 1869](#), p. 3, col. 1; September 22, 1870 *Nevada Transcript*, [New National Era](#), Washington, District of Columbia, p. 3, col. 1.

In a February 4, 1870 article from the [Hartford Courant](#), there is a detailed accounting of the Chinese family Wo Lee and his "kinfolk" further indicating the breadth of the Chinese businesses in Truckee in 1870.

We stopped a day at Truckee over in Nevada, and got up an appetite for breakfast by taking a long stroll through the Chinese section of that wild and bustling village. We found the Lee family largely represented: Hop Lee did washing and ironing, and so did Tae Lee; Quong Lee had a lottery shop on one side of the street and Sam Lee had a similar shop on the other side; Ah Lee kept a rice store on one block, and Yang Lee dealt in tea and dried fish on the next block; while Guy Lee and Angle Lee were rivals in the medical profession; and How Lee sat sedate and serious on [paper folded, unreadable] appear to be wholly desirable members of the community, and one of the doctors had such an air as I fancy belongs to adepts in the black art; but otherwise the Lees and their neighbors looked like worthy and industrious persons, - taking down their shutters, sweeping out their shops and stores, putting things to right on the sidewalks, and generally going about their business as though they meant business.

I asked one of them where he was at work "Where me workee?" he answered, repeating the question as is the Chinaman's habit when he speaks but little English. "Yes, where do you work? what do you do?" Me cuttee-choppee-cuttee," said he pointing toward the forest across the river. "What wages do you get - how much money do they pay you a month?" He repeated the question, and when I bowed assent, replied, "Thirty-five dollar." Then I inquired if that was enough - if he was satisfied; and he said he was. In my six weeks on the Pacific coast, I didn't meet any white man who owned that he was entirely satisfied with the rate at which he was getting rich. [Atlantic Monthly, for February]". Please note that this is exactly as it was written in 1870.

An additional recounting appears in W.F. Edwards 1883 *Tourist Guide Directory of the Truckee Basin* about "incidents" in Truckee worth mentioning. A second [Chinese wedding](#) occurred in Truckee July 25, **1874** and J.J.L. Peel, Justice of the Peace, married two Chinese in Burckhalter & Co.'s store:

“A CHINESE WEDDING. – As it is the first recorded instance where the officiating Justice kissed a Chinese bride, and the event happening in Truckee, it is thought worth of a place among the incidents of Truckee life.

J.J.L. Peel, Justice of the Peace, telegraphed to Nevada City for a license to marry a celestial man and woman. The license was promptly granted, as will be seen by the following answer: NEVADA CITY, July 24th.

J.J.L. Peel: License issued to celestial. Tie them tight; and kiss the bride.

JOHN PATTISON

The following notice of the marriage that appeared next day in the Truckee Republican, evidenced that Judge Peel carried out the instructions to the letter:

G.AH OCK – MEE HOE – In F. Burckhalter & Co.’s store, July 25th, 1874, by J.J.L. Peel, J.P., G. Ah Ock to Mee Hoe -both of the Flowery Kingdom.

[Bride kissed by officiating Justice, in behalf of County Clerk, as advised.]”

Lastly, attached as **Appendix J** are compilation summaries of the 1870 and 1880 census records which support the geographic location of the first Truckee Chinatown residents. Although the 1870 census records do not list street names, researchers can determine the general locale of the residents. Also included in a summary of occupations for the 1880 census.

In light of the subsequent Chinese Must Go! Boycott efforts trying to economically force the Chinese out of Truckee altogether in 1885-1886, (nine weeks), many of the Chinese residents did leave. However, not all of the Chinese left the Truckee Tahoe Basin area. Many were still found working in the timber/lumber industry in remote or rural areas into the early 20th Century. At least eight Chinese remained in Truckee after the 1886 Fire of Chinatown and were not asked to leave until there was an incident with a Native American being sold opium and alcohol by someone still living in the Chinese Quarter.

We have intentionally avoided discussions of racial tensions, the Chinese Must Go! boycotting efforts, and incendiary incidents like Trout Creek. We also intentionally did not mention the immeasurable Chinese contributions to the Transcontinental Railroad Summit Tunnels and “China Wall”.

Summary

Long overdue, the recognition of Truckee’s Chinatowns should be acknowledged publicly. While important, single focus on just the Chinese Herb Shop as the only remaining evidence of Chinese residents in Truckee is woefully deficient. This submission to Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission is to recognize and publicly honor contributions that the Chinese made to Truckee’s viability and sustainability. Besides railroad laborers, Census records reflect such occupations as wood choppers, merchants, cooks, bookkeeper, teamsters, mill laborers, domestic servants, “chambermaid”, gardeners, grocers, miner, washman, doctors, agent, butcher, prostitutes, fish peddler, and launderers. Without such businesses to support the Chinese population and Truckee’s residents, Truckee may not have survived and thrived. The Chinese deserve due honor to be a recognized part in the history of Truckee’s development.

Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark

The landmark plaque is to be located on the Old Truckee Jail Museum site on Jibboom Street on TDHS property. The Old Truckee Jail sits on two lots 32 and 33, address 10142 Jibboom Street (APN 019-102-004 000), sites of some of the first Chinatown dwellings. (APN = Assessor's Parcel Number). The bronze-like plaque is planned to be inset-mounted in a granite rock at a waist-high level in the Old Truckee Jail Museum front yard area to be seen by all. [A [similar mounted plaque](#) was installed at the Truckee Veterans Memorial Building in November 2021 celebrating the National Register Historic Places designation.]

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

Erecting the Truckee Chinatown plaque will be visible by this method and sensors and text alerts will be sent to the TDHS President or designee. The Museum has a 24-hour surveillance system in place, including outside remote cameras. Daily site-visits are done by TDHS members as well as Town of Truckee Police Department patrols.

Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark.

Books and articles:

Literature Review for Truckee's First Chinatown Description

Barrett, Doug (1982, September 30). *My place in The Sun: The trials and tribulations of Ah Too. Sierra Sun.*

"In the beginning, Truckee was as Chinese as white. Our first census in 1870 showed we had almost as many on one as the other. The Orientals then lived in a ghetto in an area between West Main and High Street, above and a little east of the Truckee Lumber Company plant in what became Brickelltown." Page 12.

Bird, Isabella L. (1882, 7th ed.; 1st published 1879). *A lady's life in the Rocky Mountains.* New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. OCLC No. 1626355.

"My horse was so excitable that I avoided the centre of Truckee, and skulked through a collection of Chinamen's shanties to the stable..."

Chang, Gordon H. (2019). *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: the Epic Story of the Chinese who built the Transcontinental Railroad.* Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. ISBN 9781328618573

"Others enjoyed the safety and comfort of the China Hotel [sic] in the middle of town. Some operated stores, groceries, and other establishment that catered to Chinese."

Cheung: Calvin Cheung-Miaw & Roland Hsu (2019) Before the "Truckee Method": Race, Space, and Capital in Truckee's Chinese Community, 1870–1880, *Amerasia Journal*, 45:1, 68-85, DOI: [10.1080/00447471.2019.1605712](https://doi.org/10.1080/00447471.2019.1605712) Assessed December 11, 2022

"Figure 1. A rough, speculative sketch of the major streets in Truckee, CA, ca. 1872, based on information from Marilou West Ficklin, *Early Truckee Records*, 3rd edition (Grass Valley: Marilou West Ficklin, 2003). The authors are not aware of any extant maps of Truckee from that time. Image 2014 rev.

courtesy of Kayan Cheung-Miaw. Notes: Sites noted on this map are Susan Baldwin, Chinese Wash House, Fong Lee, Cary Hotel, Chinese Wash House, and White and Chinese Businesses.”

Chinn, Thomas W. (editor), Lai, H. Mark, and Choy, Philip P. (associate editors) (1969). ***A history of the Chinese in California: a syllabus***. San Francisco, CA: Chinese Historical Society of America. © 1969. Chinese Historical Society of America.

“By 1870, San Francisco had the largest concentration of Chinese in California—24.4 percent of the state’s Chinese population.” Page 23

Chung, Sue Fawn (2015). *Chinese in the Woods: Logging and lumbering in the American West*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press. ISBN 978-0252039447.

Crofutt, G. A. (1870). *Great trans-continental tourist's guide ...: from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean ...*. New York: G.A. Crofutt & Co.

Edwards, W.F. and Irons, Chas. D. (1883). ***W.F. Edwards’ Tourists’ Guide and Directory of the Truckee Basin***. Truckee, Cal.: “Republicans” Job Print.

Page 15 Edward’s cites the Chinese in Truckee but does not describe where they are living.

Page 19 “On May 29th, ’75 came the Chinatown fire.”

Page 19 “On Nov.18th, 1878, the citizens dreading another holocaust from Chinatown resolved to drive them to another quarter of the city, and after much trouble, talk and a final meeting of resolute citizens, who, with all the order possible upon such an occasion, tore down the new houses, Chinatown was removed to the opposite side of the river. On January 3d, 1883, a fire destroyed the one-half of the town, but the loss was wholly among Chinese.”

Page 20 1882 “...bring over the Chinese and put them to work on the engines.”

Directory have no Chinese names. Last page advertisement last entry is for Quong Sing Lung Co. for Chinese General Merchandise, Truckee, Cal. (No specific address)

Page 114 recounting of a July 25th, 1874 Chinese wedding in Truckee, officiated by J.J.L. Peel, Justice of the Peace

Ficklin, Marilou West (2003). ***Communities of Nevada County: Chinese of Truckee***. Nevada County, CAGenWeb <http://www.cagenweb.org/nevada/ncchin.html> Accessed December 11, 2022

The whole section “1. Early Chinatown” addresses the physical Chinatown site, probably the best of all that have been reviewed.

Goldstein, Michael Andrew (1988). ***Truckee’s Chinese community: from coexistence to disintegration, 1870-1890***. Master’s Thesis, University of California Los Angeles.

Chapter Two: Truckee’s Development and the Chinese 1870 pages 10-26, especially pages 13-14 and 18-21.

Hagaman, Wallace R. and Cottrell, Steve F. (2004). ***The Chinese must go! The anti-Chinese Boycott, Truckee, California 1886***. Nevada City, CA: The Cowboy Press. ISBN 1-887694-55-2

Jimenez, Corri (2019, Jun 21). *A City within a City: Truckee’s Chinatown*. ***Sierra Sun***.

“Truckee’s first Chinatown was located on the corner of Spring Street and Jibboom Street, behind Front Street in a triangular area.”

Lew-Williams, Beth (2018). *The Chinese must go: violence, exclusion, and the making of the alien in America* (first edition). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0674976016.

“63. Some city maps, like that of Truckee, California, did not include the area of town where Chinese resided. ...” Page 325

Lindström, Susan, December 2020 Brickelltown Streetscape Archaeological Monitoring Project report of its 2016 findings.

Lord, Paul A., Jr. (editor) (1981). *Fire & Ice: a portrait of Truckee*. Truckee, CA: Truckee Donner Historical Society. © 1981 Truckee Donner Historical Society. Section: *The Chinese in Truckee* by Patricia Shiu, pages 15-19.

“The first Chinatown was located in the middle of Truckee, across a narrow street behind Front Street. The residents inhabited a congregation of tightly packed wooden shanties. One wealthy Chinese man, Fong Lee, owned a brick store on Front Street, but he was not the typical Chinatown dweller.” Page 17 Note: Page 16 has a Gage picture 1875 in front of Sisson, Wallace & Company.

Meschery, Joanne (1978). *Truckee: an illustrated history of the town and its surroundings*. Truckee, CA: Rocking Stone Press. © 1978 author.

“For the most part, Truckee’s Chinese community stayed to itself, constructing a town that stretched behind Front Street.” Page 69

National Park Service Park history,

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/5views/5views3h61.htm

NPS 10-900 (2009), Hall, Duane, Commercial Row / Brickelltown Historic District National Register Application, pp. 21-22. <https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1067/files/Truckee%20NR.pdf>

Pfaelzer, Jean (2007). *Driven out: the forgotten war against Chinese Americans* (first edition). New York: Random House. ISBN 9780520256941.

Has the Chinese located in Truckee but does not describe their specific business or residential locations.

Richards, Gordon (2005). *Flying lead in Truckee’s old Chinatown*. *Sierra Sun*, November 28, 2005.

“Unrest and court cases in December of 1872, Chinatown was located along West Main Street, now Donner Pass Road, just west of Downtown Truckee and extended up the hill toward High Street.”

Richards, Gordon (2006). *Life for Chinese in Truckee not easy in 1870*. *Sierra Sun*, November 28, 2006.

“Truckee’s first Chinatown was located just west of Commercial Row, from the railroad tracks extending up the hill. Chinatown was a densely packed scene of shanties and hovels. Scraps of lumber were used to construct warm shelters to survive the brutal winters.”

Sandmeyer, Elmer Clarence with forward and supplementary bibliographies by Roger Daniels (1939, 1991). ***The anti-Chinese movement in California***. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. ISBN 0-252-06226-4.

Chinese are in Truckee but no description of physical locations.

Saxton, Alexander (1966). “The Army of Canton in the High Sierra,” *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 35, pp. 141-152.

Saxton, Alexander (1975). ***The indispensable enemy: labor and the anti-Chinese movement in California***. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-02905-4

Chinese are in Truckee but no description of physical locations.

Thompson, Thomas Hinckley, and West, Albert Augustus with Jackson, W. Turrentine, introduction 1880, reproduction 1970). ***History of Nevada County with illustrations 1880 (1970)***. Berkeley, CA: Howell-North Books. LCCNo. 77-114841 ISBN 0-8310-7001.

P. 76 of the original 1880 edition. “Chinatown, then situated in the heart of the place [Truckee], and just across a narrow street from the row of business buildings on Front Street, had always been a menace to the town. A lot of dry, closely packed wooden shanties, among which a fire had only to be started to become uncontrollable, and insure almost certain destruction of the town, it is no wonder that the citizens watched them with anxious eye.”

Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)

South Truckee Deed Book 56, pp. 252-4

Map of South Truckee identifying specific lots

1870 Census Records

1880 Census Records

Deed and Property Books as reported at this site,

https://westerly-journeys.com/Truckee/data_top.html

<https://www.cagenweb.org/nevada/ncchin.html>

Sanborn maps [1885](#), [1890](#), loc.gov

Nevada County Accessors Map

<https://www.cagenweb.org/nevada/Truckee%20Chinatown.pdf>

[Town of Truckee proclamation](#) May 5, 2022 Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

California Digital Newspaper Collection newspaper articles, cdnc.ucr.edu

Newspapers.com, subscription-based collection

Newspaperarchive.com, subscription-based collection

Ancestry.com, subscription-based collection, used mostly for 1870 and 1880 records

Genealogy.com

Library of Congress, Chronicling of America

CPRR.org

Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)

See next page for Index to Photos and Appendices

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Appendices

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- Appendix B** 1901 Waggoner survey map of Truckee, p. 19
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Photo 1 FTS0003 – believed to be in 1868, a quiet time in Truckee along Front Street (Commercial Row)



Photo 2 FTS0001, Truckee, circa 1869



Photo 3 FTS0005 – after the third 1871 Truckee fire, in July; photo circa September 1871



Photo 4 – OVR1001, late 1879. Note the Chinese Herb Shop is located in this image in the lower left corner at the intersection of the bridge and the Truckee River, on the southeast side.



Henry P. Zittel
Applicant's signature

APRIL 2, 2023
Date



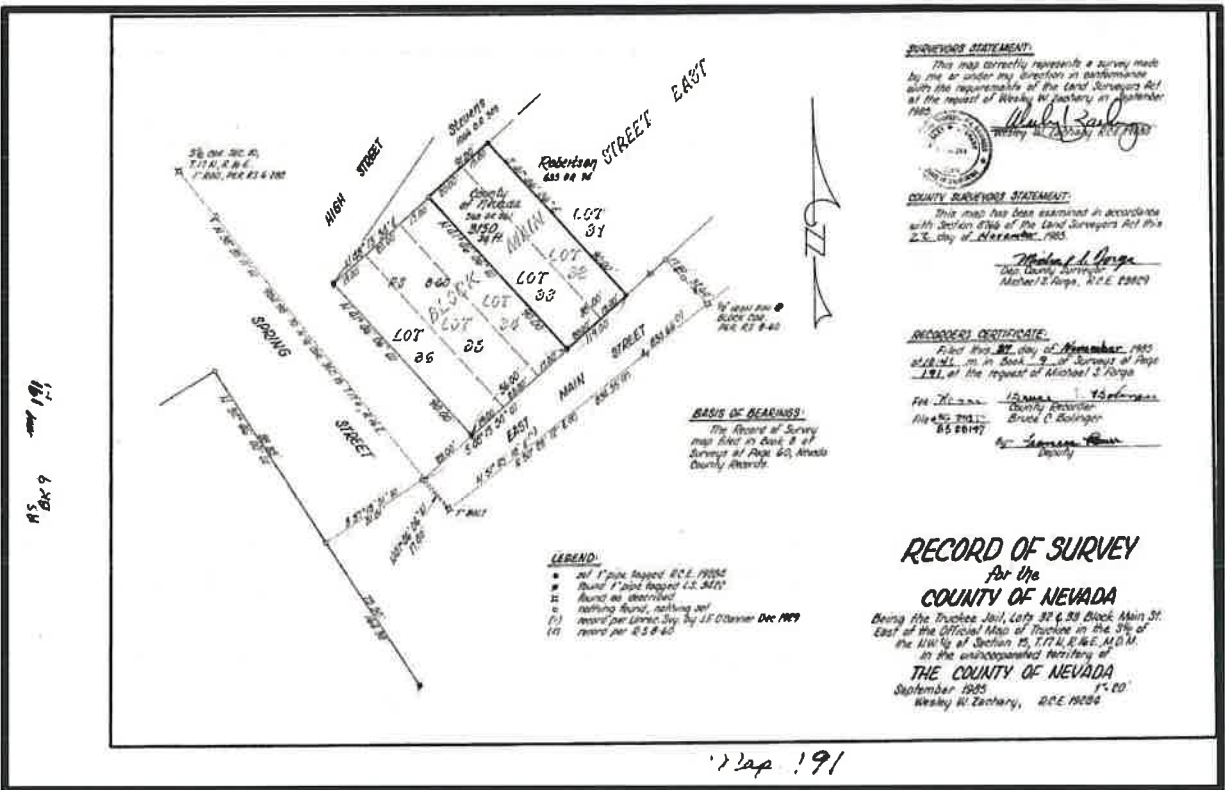
This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Attention: Chairman
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

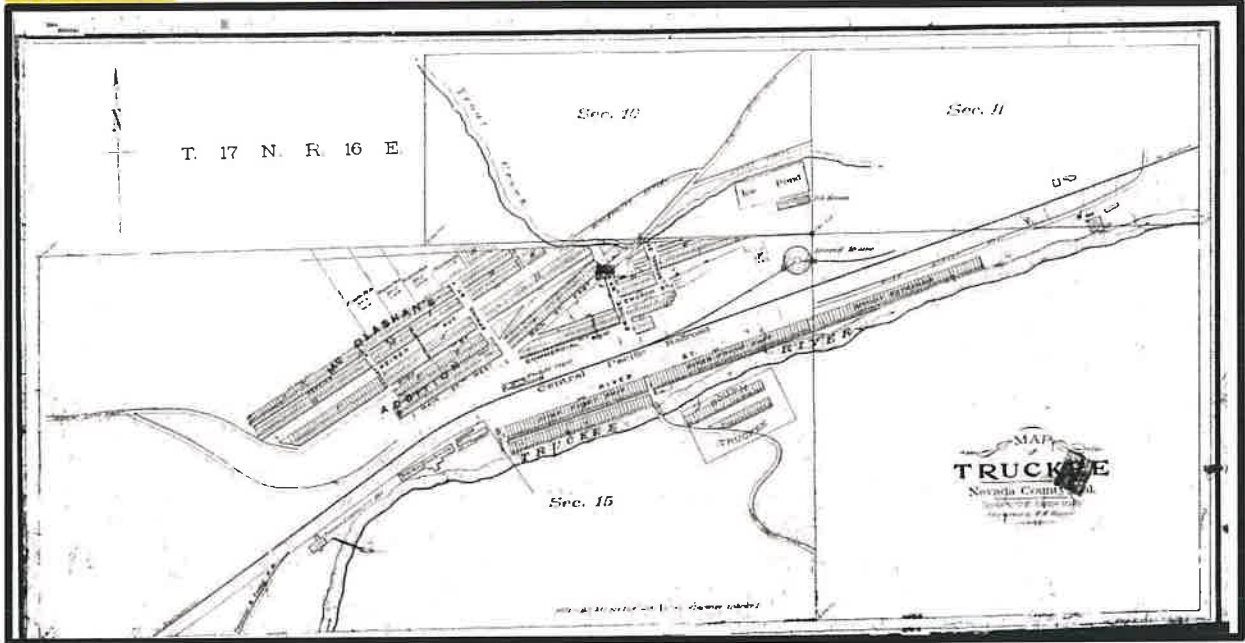
An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other non historical reasons.

An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

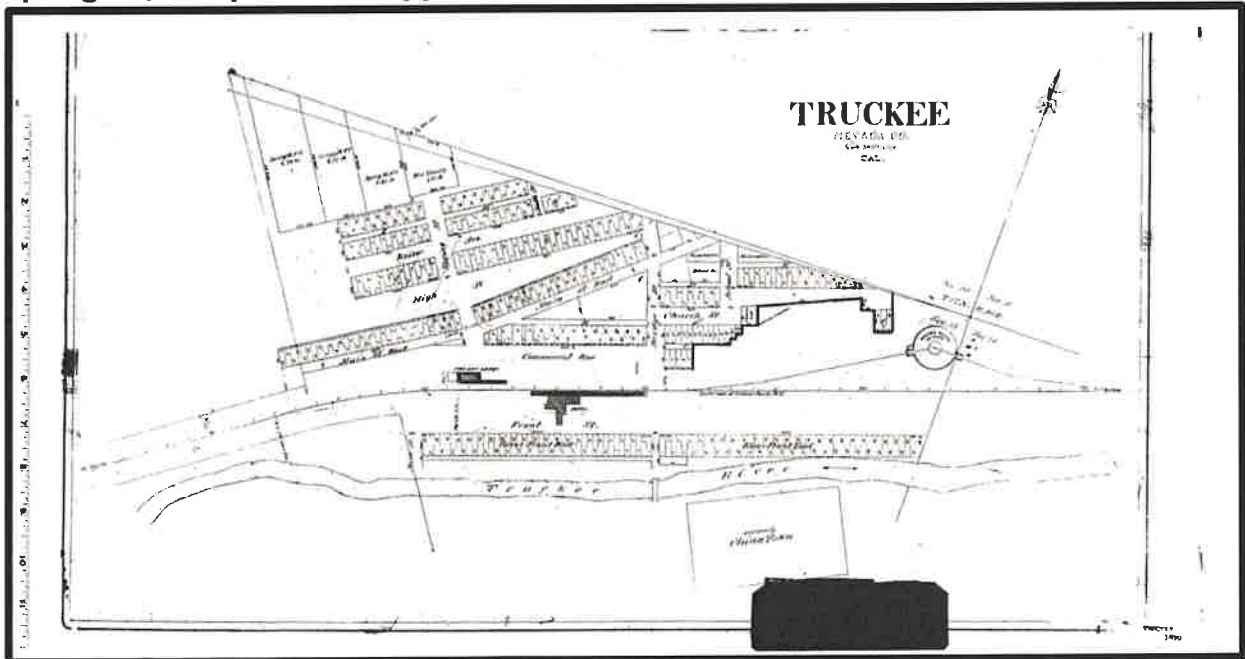
Appendix A – Sept. 1985 Record of Survey of the County of Nevada map showing Old Truckee Jail, Lots 32 and 33



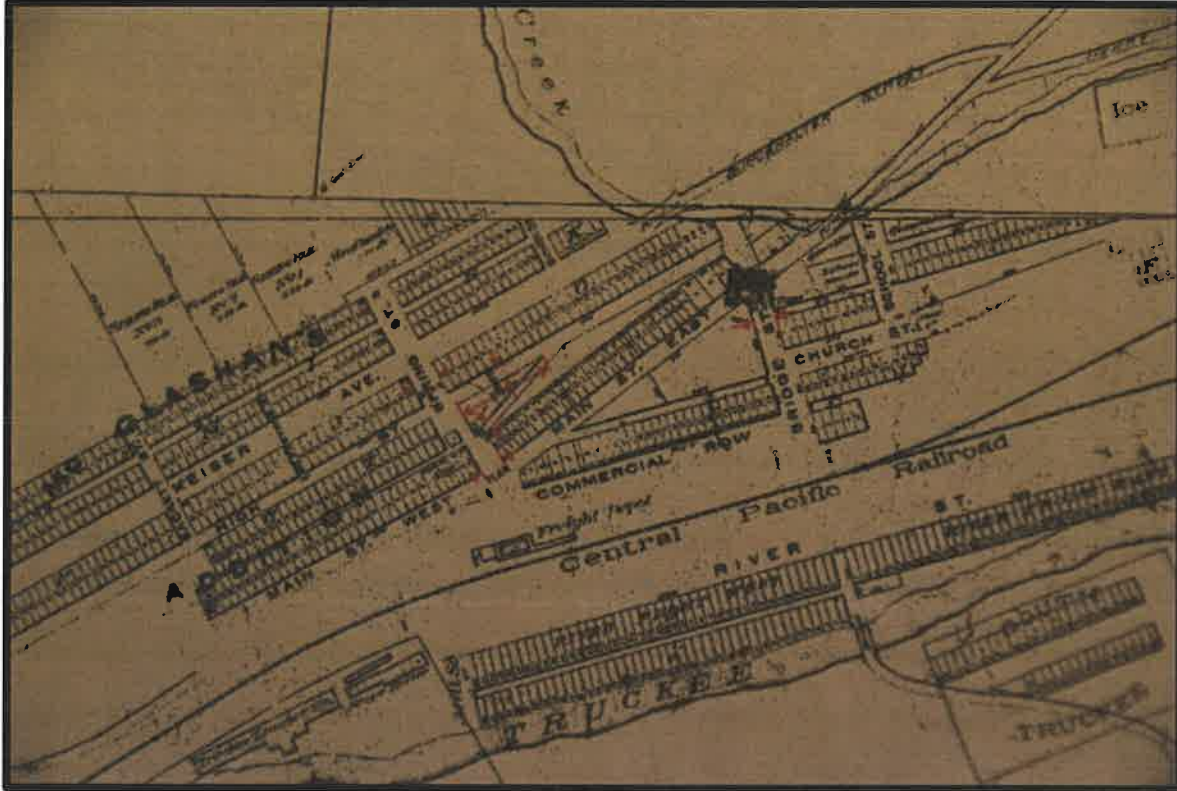
Appendix B - 1901 Waggoner Survey Map



Appendix B-1 – an earlier 1890 Map by Central Pacific Railroad clearly shows that there was no triangular area above the northwest side of Main St. East abutting Spring St.; compare with Appendix B above



Appendix C - Recreated 1901 Waggoner map by Town of Truckee Engineering Department showing area of Truckee's first Chinatown. Note that the **red** arrows on the right side of the image indicate street width measurements only. The **red** arrows on the left indicate Chinatown's development after the 1875 fire, particularly in the triangular area so indicated by arrows.



A close up of the same image above, 1901 Waggoner map with area in red indicating the development of Chinatown after the May 1875 fire



Appendix D – 1901 Waggoner map with an overlay of current property lots in green



Appendix E - Newspaper articles reflecting fires in Truckee

1867-08-03 Sacramento Bee, Pg 2, Col 2 (for background information)

Truckee is the name given by the Central Pacific Railroad Company to the point where the railroad first meets the Truckee river. This will take the place of Coburn's Station, by which it has formerly been known. The town of Truckee is fast becoming a place of importance. Stores and dwellings are rapidly going up, and it promises to be the center of a great lumber trade. Four saw mills are already in operation and several more are projected.



1869-05-16 Sacramento Bee, Pg 2, Col 2¹

FIRE PROOF BUILDING

- The correspondent of the Sacramento Bee is speaking of Truckee says there is not at present a single fire-proof building in the town. This is a mistake; at this time there are three fire-proof buildings completed, Sisson, Egbert & Co.'s, Weller & Morris and Fong Lee's and one, Burckhalter & Co.'s nearly completed-*Truckee Tribune*



1871 January 21, Auburn Placer Herald, Vol 19, No. 22, Pg 6, Col 2

Fire At Truckee.-

- On Tuesday last [Jan 17], says a dispatch, about 11:45 this morning a fire broke out on Front Street, in the Donner House, kept by James Grant, destroying that and nine other buildings on Front Street, consisting of stores and saloons, also five buildings on the back street consisting of private dwellings and saloons. A snow storm has just set in. Thermometer 34.

1871 March 30, Daily Alta California, San Francisco, Vol 23, No. 7677, Pg 1, Col 7

The Town of Truckee Burned Down.

- Truckee, March 29th.—About half-past one this afternoon, the Kennebec Hotel, situated on Front Street, was discovered to be on fire, and in less than ten minutes half of Front Street was in flames. Mr. Hill, the proprietor of the Kennebec, lost his youngest child, about three years old. When found, it was nothing but a mass of charred flesh. The fire raged fiercely until 5:20p.m. One Hundred and fifteen or twenty house were totally destroyed. Wilbert's boot and shoe store was totally destroyed; a small portion of the stock was saved. It was fully insured in the Home Mutual. Shinn's drug store was totally destroyed, but most of the stock saved; no insurance on the stock or building. The stock in Weller's fireproof building was slightly damaged; no insurance on the building, which is badly damaged. Burckhalter and Sisson, Wallace & Co. lost nothing but the woodwork of buildings, which was fully insured. Canavan's blacksmith shop was entirely destroyed. All Chinatown was burned. The Central Pacific freight house was burned to the ground, and a number of other business houses. The loss was very heavy, and the town has received a very severe blow. Some of the buildings burned were lately put up on the site of others burned in January Last.

1871-07-24 Daily Alta California, Vol 23, No 7793, Pg 1 Col 9

Losses by the Truckee Fire

- Truckee. July 22d. — In the fire here on the 20th instant (says a telegram to the Bulletin) the following parties were insured: G.W. Harrison, stationery, Yankee notions and news depot, loss, \$2,500; insured for \$1,500. Frank Rabel, saloon, building and stock; loss, \$2,500; insured for \$1,000. Payne & Dodge, saloon, building and stock; loss, \$3,500; insured for \$1,000. Frank Pauson, dry goods, clothing building and stock; loss, \$500; no insurance. Turner Hall, owned by Turner, Ellen & Co.; loss, \$5,000; no insurance. L. Derr, saloon, stock, and

¹ Copies of all listed articles are maintained by TDHS in the Digital Folder Under Chinese_Articles by Year or in the Fire Folder under Articles by year.

building; loss, \$1,000. Webber House, owned by J. Keyser; loss, \$4,000; no insurance. Robert Bell, groceries, and liquor Stock, \$10,000, total loss ; insured. W. E. McFarland, saloon, stock, and building; loss, \$2,000; no insurance. T. P. Stovens, tinner, stock, \$15,000; no insurance. J. Wilbert, boot and shoe dealer, stock and building, total loss, \$2,000; no insurance. 8. Heyman, saloon stock ; loss, \$15,000 ; no insurance. Hurd & Orecley, variety store ; loss, \$2,000 ; no insurance.

The post office was burned, together with the Eastern and Western mail.

Most of the parties will rebuild fire-proof buildings. The Masonic and Odd Fellows' Hall, owned by Ellen & Wilbert, was also destroyed, together with most of the furniture, etc. The insurance was nominal:

J. Sweeney, butcher, lost his building and stock, to \$1,500. No insurance.

J. Mason, butcher, lost building and stock, amounting to \$2,000. No insurance. Campbell b Burke, livery stable, loss, (4,000. No insurance.

Workmen are busy putting up temporary buildings in which to store goods.

This morning, about eleven o'clock, a fire occurred in Chinatown, which bid fair to finish what little was left of town, but by good luck and hard work, was extinguished before any material damage was done.

1871-09-24 Morning Union Grass Valley, Pg 2, Col 1

TRUCKEE.

J.R. Cross has been down from Truckee and he says that town is being rebuilt in the most rapid and substantial manner. The Truckee town of the hereafter will be of brick and fireproof. There will. Be no trouble about the water supply, and there will be an entire independence of insurance companies. Truckee does not mean to be burned out again, and therefor brick and stone are being used as building material.



1874-07-30 Truckee Republican

CHINATOWN INSECURE AGAINST FIRE

- It is claimed by those who have an opportunity to know that a number of the dwelling houses in Chinatown are very insecure against fire. As a destructive fire in the Chinese quarters would endanger the business portion of town, it would be a matter of prudence to have a committee [sic] of two or three citizens appointed to inspect the stove pipes in Chinatown and see if greater precautions are necessary. A reasonable amount of vigilance at this time may prevent a serious conflagration.



1875-May 29 Truckee Republican

CHINATOWN FIRE

- This morning at about a quarter to three o'clock a fire was discovered in a back cook house in Chinatown. The alarm was given at once and in ten minutes almost the whole population was aroused to action. As was natural from the circumstances of the case, considerable time was wasted in getting our meager fire department in working condition. Men were running hither and thither in search for what was not easily found, but in the course of half an hour the Sampson, which was standing below town on the long side-track, came up and commenced to play on the fire. At this time the main part of Chinatown was a mass of fire which was rapidly making headway to Front street and down Second. The Samson first played on the Virginia saloon building, the first on the street, and made a desperate effort to save it and also the next building to it, which was occupied by Cruther's cabinet shop, but these attempts failed and both buildings were laid in ashes. The contents of both were, however, saved. The livery stables and Paschen's meat market suffered in like manner.

The next building was the store of Sisson, Wallace & Company, which was thoroughly fire-proof, having passed through the ordeal several times before the hose was next turned on this and the roof drenched, but it was of no avail and the roof was burned entirely off. A safe check was given to the flames at this point, and beyond this no damage was done to Front street. While these attempts were being made on Front street, a party of men were working desperately to save the buildings on Second Street and prevented the fire from getting a start in the rear ends of the stores. After some difficulty the hose was attached to the water pipes and a powerful stream checked the flames on the building next above the St. Louis Brewery, and saved the combustible rear ends of the stores on Front street. The water-pipes belonging to George Schaeffer did excellent work on Second street, and to this must be credited the saving of the buildings on this street and in a great measure those on Front. The Samson did good work and prevented the fire from extending down the street. The fire-train was called down from the Summit, with its tanks filled with water. The trip was made in twenty minutes, and when it reached Truckee, commenced work without hesitation or delay. Its arrangements were complete and the work was done satisfactorily and well. These three means of throwing water saved the whole town from ashes. At the time of the fire there was scarcely a breath of wind and the flames shot directly upward, thus making the saving of the town a comparatively easy task. At about half-past three a very light breeze started up from the east which also made the work easier. Had there been even a moderate wind - as much as generally blows here - the chances of saving anything would not have been worth mentioning. All the business men on the street put their houses in order, either to move out on a moment's notice or let them stand and take it. Several persons got their entire outfit in the street, and as soon as the fire was checked at Sisson, Wallace & Co.'s store, they carried them back again, and were not in so much of a hurry, either. Large sparks were carried upward by the current of heated air and fell in different parts of the town. A close watch was kept on the outside to prevent a new out-break. The fire originated in a cook-room at the rear end of a row of hovels. This was one of the places visited by the committee some weeks since, when the stove pipe was torn down and instructions given for the safer erection of another; these were being followed out when the committee left. The fire is thought to have caught from the stove in which a fire had been burning about eleven o'clock. The fire was not extinguished when the Chinaman went to his repose. When it was first discovered a few buckets of water would have extinguished it, but the Chinaman seemed to be panic stricken and struck out for the street. Another theory is that the fire originated at a Chinese gambling table, but this does not seem to be well supported.

→ **THE LOSSES**

→ The losses will undoubtedly foot up considerable more than \$50,000. It is impossible at this time of writing to get more than estimates. Loon, Tung, Cheong & Co.'s. estimated loss is \$30,000, in stock and accounts; Ah Chow, \$800; Hi Chung, \$2,000; Gee Sing, \$1,100 [??]; Quin Ling Lung, \$2,000; Ah Look \$1,000; Wing Choi, \$1,000; Ah Mon, \$1,000; Me Heng, \$1,500, Ah Hrug [???], \$1,000. The losses on Front street will amount to \$5,000, a portion of which is covered by insurance. Sam Long's is about \$1800; B. Cruthers' \$400; Grazen & Stoll, \$1,000; Paschen & Kirby. \$600; Sisson, Wallace & Co., \$1,500. Other small losses in Chinatown will make the footing about \$50,000.



1876-06-17 Daily Nevada State Journal Fire Protection

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE. –

The condition of Truckee, should a fire occur, is thus described by the Republican. The fire fiend has seen to bear an especial grudge against that town, and the citizens should take the proper measures, without delay, to protect themselves, from its future ravages, while they have the opportunity. The Republican says: Truckee has suffered from fire until she had a right to be timid. Stovepipe committees are appointed each Spring, to inspect the flues and stove pipes of every house in town, and repair such as are defective. Pipe and hose and hydrants are constant objects of interests during the heated season and are kept in thorough repair. The Truckee Lumber Co. have large tanks filled with water, and have hose to carry the water to every portion of their yards and buildings. The Railroad Co. have the main water tank and the tanks of the fire train constantly full of water, and have recently put in a new pipe extending along the track to a point opposite the Truckee Hotel. Many of the private houses have a special fire extinguishing apparatus. Take it all in all, the town is tolerably well guarded. In one or two places, however, streets and alleyways have been blocked up by frame

buildings and sheds that in case of fire would cause great loss. This is notably the case in regard to the alley behind Front street. Buildings on Front street that are considered fire-proof, will be almost certain to be destroyed in case of a fire, on account of the frame structures erected in the alley. Again, the street at the upper end of Chinatown, **fifty feet** [emphasis added] wide, is completely blocked up with little shanties and sheds. This street separates Chinatown from upper Truckee and was intended as a barrier to fires. The works of the Truckee Lumber Company and the valuable residences opposite are always in danger when a fire occurs in Chinatown, unless this street is kept open.



1878-March 12, Reno Gazette Journal.

Fire in Chinese Washhouse.

Reno Gazette Journal. Fire starting in a Chinese wash house in area of Bridge and Church Streets.

Destroying large amounts of Bridge and Church Sts.

*Adding to animosities against the Chinese being in the "Truckee Proper" area.

1878-10-31 Reno Gazette Journal, Pg 3, Col 5

TRUCKEE'S CHINATOWN DESTROYED

- Last Evening Chinatown at Truckee, consisting of about twenty-five shanties, was burned to the ground, and now the heathen of that wicked hamlet are homeless, and as good at cursing as their whiter neighbors. It is said that the firemen were not particularly active in staying the spread of the flames and treated the panic-stricken celestials to free baths whenever the opportunity offered. It is to be hoped that will prove to be untrue. The loss is estimated to be between \$6000 and \$8,000.

1878-10-31 Sacramento Daily Union

CHINATOWN DESTROYED BY FIRE AT TRUCKEE

- Truckee, October 30th.-A fire broke out in the Chinese Quarter at this place at 6pm this evening, and notwithstanding the combined efforts of the three fire engines and bucket brigade the whole of Chinatown was consumed. The balance of the town was saved by great exertions.



1883-01-03 Reno Gazette-Journal, Pg 3, Col 3

FIRE IN TRUCKEE

- A fire broke out in the Chinese quarter of Truckee this morning about 3 o'clock, and about one-half of the shanties were burned. Most of the Chinese merchants saved their stocks. White folks did not afford the Celestials much assistance, choosing rather to look on and see things burn.

1883-01-04 The San Francisco Examiner, Pg 3, Col 7

FIRE IN TRUCKEE

- Truckee, January 3.—At an early hour this morning fire was seen issuing from the house of Hoy sing, situated in the heart of our Chinatown, and the flames communicated to the neighboring stores and warehouses, which soon crumbled to ashes. The entire north half of the district, comprising some twenty-five buildings, mostly occupied as general merchandise stores, is totally destroyed. Quong Sing, Lung Wing, Chung Sing and one or two other of the leading Chinese merchants, whose wares were heavily insured, saved some of their property, but the small storekeepers lost everything. The Chinamen are very reticent about the origin of the fire, but from what little can be gathered it is supposed to have started from a defective chimney. The total loss is variously estimated at about \$18,000, a small part of which is covered by insurance. The street that divides the quarter is **fifty feet** [emphasis added] broad, and the hordes of Celestials, by a free use of snowballs, succeeded in saving the south-side buildings, although the majority of these structures were on fire from time to time. The thermometer, at the time the fire broke out, marked five degrees below zero, and the half-clothed Celestials who had been aroused from their slumbers, suffered intensely from the cold. For

some time, no efforts were made to check the progress of the flames, the residents turning their attention to carrying out clothes, etc., and the household goods. The buildings, with one exception, were of wood, and so closely packed together that it was evident from the first that the buildings on the northside were doomed. Fortunately, a few inches of snow lay on the roofs and the awnings, which kept the flames from making very rapid headway.

1883-01-04 Eureka Daily Sentinel, Pg 2, Col 3

ANOTHER FIRE AT TRUCKEE

- Truckee (Cal.), Jan. 3.—A fire broke out in Chinatown this morning, burning 25 buildings. The loss is about \$18,000.

1883-01-06 The Napa Register Weekly, Pg 3

- At Truckee Wednesday Twenty-Five buildings in Chinatown were destroyed.



1886-06-18 Evening Mail, Stockton, CA, Pg 2, Col 4

A BLAZE IN TRUCKEE

The Chinese Quarter in ashes and two Highbinders suffocated.

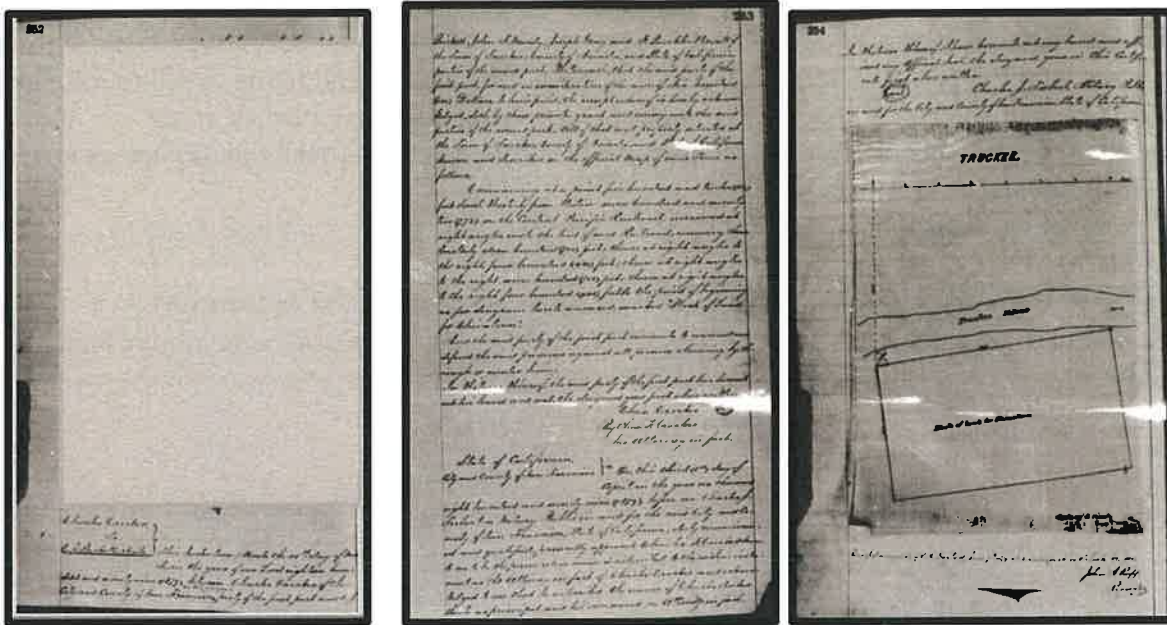
- Truckee, Cal., June 17.—A little after noon to-day a fire broke out about the central portion of Chinatown, on the opposite side of the river from Truckee, and nearly the whole of Chinatown, including the Joss house, was destroyed, only one of the three fire proof buildings withstanding the flames. The wind was blowing a gale and the flames swept everything before them. Piles of ashes are all that indicated where Chinatown existed. Since the departure of the Chinamen many of the houses have been deserted, and as they were mere shells they succumbed readily. The fire originated from an exposed stovepipe extending through the roof. A couple of Chinamen, whom their fellow countrymen had refused food and lodging, went into a house to cook something and built a hot fire in the stove. It is supposed that the cobwebs hanging on the pipe and rafters in the attic were ignited. Once the house was on fire, despite the efforts of the fire department, all were consumed in less than one hour. It was only by persevering efforts that the bridge was saved. Two highbinders who were confined in the cellar of the Tuck Chuck Tong by the Chinamen were suffocated. The firemen by great effort took the men out, and all possible means were used to resuscitate them, but without avail. The Coroner's jury, at a late hour tonight, has not yet concluded its deliberations. The Chinamen have been busy ever since the fire abated, with shovels digging up their buried treasure. Once heathen dug up \$500 in gold coin and several other smaller amounts. The people managed to save some \$50 worth of property from the burning building of one Chinese Merchant. F.A. Taft, the manager for M.E. Burkhalter, offered the burned out Chinese quarters at Clinton, where their mill is located.

1886-06-19 Evening Mail, Stockton Pg 2 Col 4

THE TRUCKEE FIRE

- Truckee, June 18.—The Coroner's jury called to hold an inquest over the bodies of two Chinamen found dead in the cellar in Chinatown yesterday brought in their verdict to-night, which was that they died from suffocation. A large number of witnesses were examined, and they were unanimous, even the Chinamen, that the fire originated from a red-hot stovepipe. It is claimed and believed by many that the two Chinamen were imprisoned there by their countrymen. Chinatown is now a waste. The investigation of the officers still continues and new developments will probably occur. Permission has been granted by the boycott Committee for the use of teams to bury their dead tomorrow. The few Chinamen left here are packing up their effects and getting ready to leave.

**Appendix F – Three-page deed recording for Truckee’s 2nd Chinatown, Nevada
County Book 56, pp. 252-4**



Transcription of above South Truckee deed

Charles Crocker to E.J. Brickell, et al.

This Indenture, made the 25th day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy nine <1879> between Charles Crocker of the City and County of San Francisco, and State of California, party of the first part and E.J. Brickell, John F. Moody, Joseph Gray and F. Burckhalter, all of the Town of Truckee, County of Nevada, and State of California, parties of the second part. Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Six hundred <600> Dollars, to him paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, doth by these presents, grant and convey unto the said parties of the second part, all of that real property situated at the Town of Truckee, County of Nevada, and State of California known and described on the official map of said town as follows,

Commencing at a point five hundred and twelve feet South Westerly from Station seven hundred and seventy two <772> on the Central Pacific Railroad, measured at right angles with the line of said Railroad, running thence Easterly seven hundred <700> feet; thence at right angles to the right, four hundred <400> feet; thence at right angles to the right seven hundred <700> feet; thence at right angles to the right four hundred <400> feet to the point of beginning as per diagram hereto annexed, marked "Block of Land for Chinatown:

And the said party of the first part covenants to warrant and defend the said premises against all persons claiming by the rough? or under ? him.

In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Chas. Cocker
By, Chas. F. Crocker
his attorney in fact.
State of California

City and County of San Francisco. On this third <3rd> day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine <1879> before me Charles J. Torbert a Notary Public in and for the said City and County of San Francisco, State of California, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared Chares F. Crocker, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the written instrument as the Attorney in fact of Charles Crocker and acknowledged to me that he subscribed the name of Charles Crocker thereto as principal and his own name as Attorney in fact.

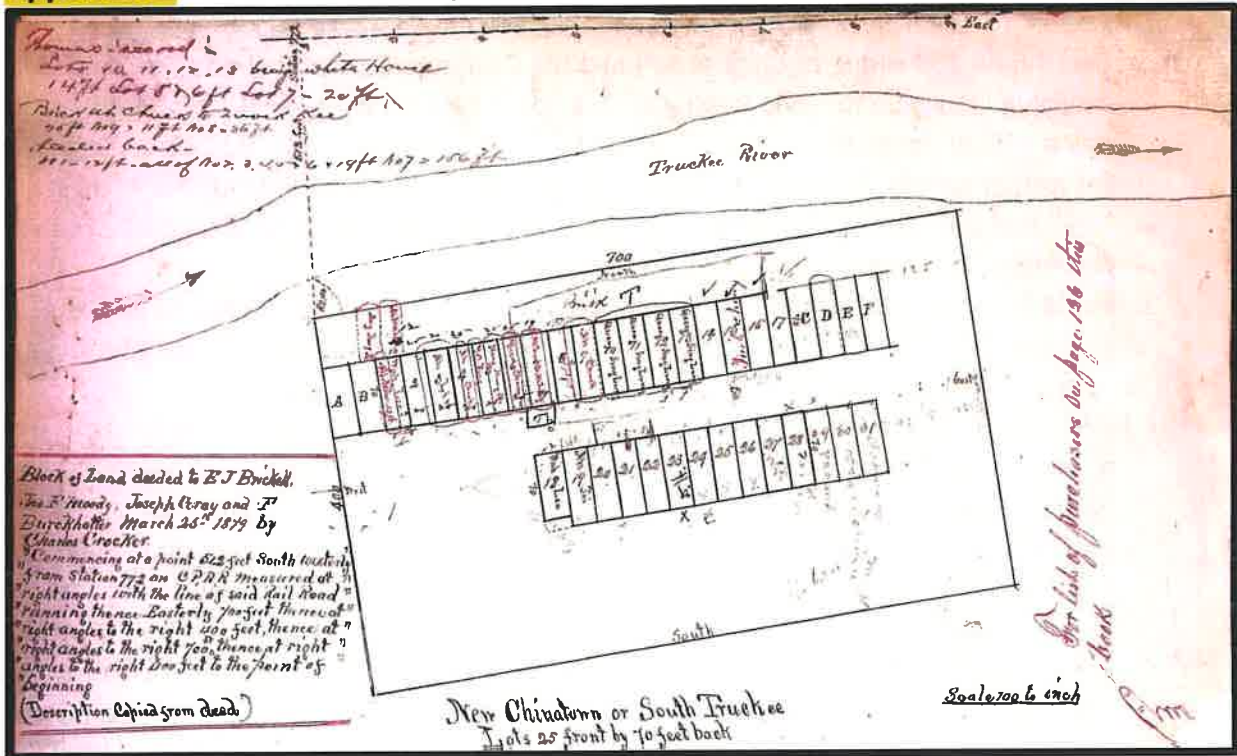
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affix my Official Seal, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Charles J. Torbert, Notary Public, in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

[Map showing Truckee River, and block of land labelled "Block of land for Chinatown".]

Recorded at request of E.H. Gayor, June 7th, 1879, at 2 min. past 10 o'clock a.m. John A. Rapp, Recorder.

Appendix G - New Chinatown / South Truckee map



Appendix H – Timeline

1. One of the earliest records of Chinese Labor Force is in **1858**, Sacramento Union article dated June 15. Hiring of Chinese to build the California Central Railroad due to a lack of available labor due to many leaving for the gold fields of the Fraser River and the Chinese being denied claims after a specific date. 50 Chinese were hired for this work. *See article for further details. *Sacramento Daily Union*, June 15, 1868 *TDHS Digital File Chinese.
2. CPRR had only 300 workers at the winter of **1864**, by **Jan 1865** their financial burden had been lifted and they advertised for 5,000 workers.²
3. By **1865**, after the beginning of construction, 50 miles of running rack had been laid down. J.H. Strobridge needed 5,000 laborers but the largest that could be mustered during the Spring of **1865** was 800.³
4. E.B. Crocker, brother of Charles Crocker, was one of the first to suggest was to use Chinese as labor force.⁴ Time of recession in the mines, Chinese miners looking for work. Willing to work at low wages. Strobridge was initially against the idea but was forced into agreeing and in February 1865 he hired 50 Chinese but only to do simple work as filling dump carts. Due to the adeptness of the Chinese, they were soon given new duties of driving the carts. As they proved to be reliable more duties were added.
5. Due to the Chinese ability to adapt and prove their reliability, Strobridge began to hire Chinese in earnest, by the fall of **1865** there were 3,000 on the payroll. These numbers increased to 10 or 11 thousand and until the spike was laid at Promontory out of every 5 men hired 4 were Chinese. Once the supply of local Chinese was exhausted, they then started recruit from the Far East. "The Chinese soon set an example of diligence,⁵steadiness and clean living," few fights, no blue Mondays, etc.⁶
6. By **1866** CPRR would show 12,000 on the payroll.⁷ A news article ⁸ gives the statement by Leland Stanford: "*A large majority of the white laboring class on the Pacific Coast, find it more profitable and congenial employment in mining, and agricultural pursuits, than in railroad work.*" This was told to the President of the US as to why the Chinese were being hired.
7. May 10, **1869** completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, Promontory Summit, Utah.

² http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Laborers.html *Source listed in article

³ http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Syllabus.html *Source listed in article

⁴ http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Syllabus.html *Source listed in article

⁵ http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Laborers.html *Source listed in article

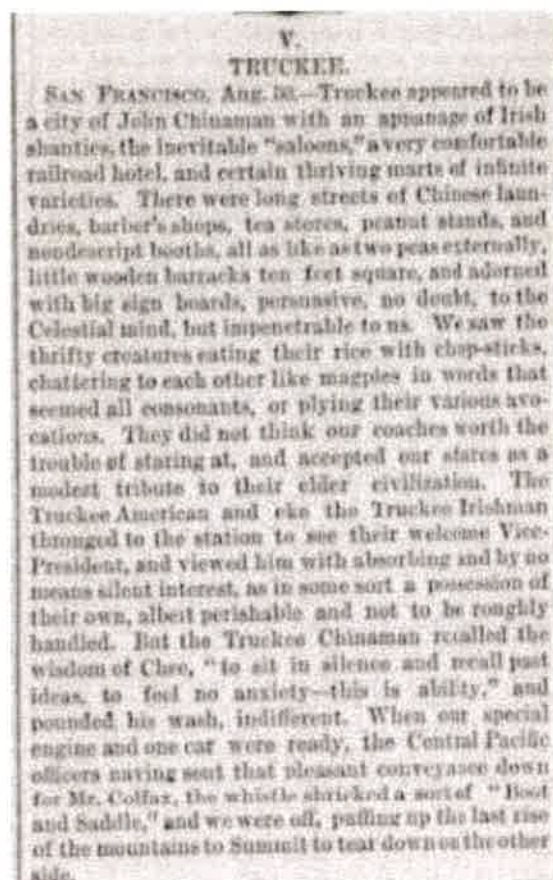
⁶ http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Syllabus.html *Source listed in article

⁷ http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese_Laborers.html *Source listed in article

⁸ 1866 Jan 7, Grass Valley Union, Vol III, No 56, Pg 2, Col 2 (cdnc.ucr.edu)

Appendix I - Schuyler Colfax's March 1869 trip to Truckee, description of Truckee's "Chinatown"

Descriptive article regarding Truckee. **March 19, 1869.** *New York Tribune.* This would seem to be a description from a passenger train as it contains information regarding the arrival of "Vice-President" Colfax. The writer calls Truckee "a city of John Chinaman with an appendage of Irish Shanties." Goes further to describe "long streets of Chinese laundries, barber's shops, tea stores, peanut stands, and nondescript booths, all as like as two peas externally, little wooden barracks ten feet square, and adorned with big sign boards persuasive, no doubt, to the Celestial mind, but impenetrable to us. We saw the thrifty creatures eating their rice with chopsticks chattering to each other like magpies in worlds that seem all consonants or plying their various avocations. They did not think our coaches worth the trouble of staring at and accepted our stares as a modest tribute to their elder civilization. The Truckee American and eke the Truckee Irishman thronged to the station to see their welcome Vice President and viewed him with absorbing and by no means silent interest, as in some sort a possession of their own, albeit perishable and not to be roughly handled. But the Truckee Chinaman recalled the wisdom of Chee, "to sit in silence and recall past ideas, to feel no anxiety - this is ability." Note the newspaper clipping is dated May 29, but the notation is Aug. 30.



Timeline of Vice President Schuyler Colfax 1869 California Visit

March 4, 1869

Schuyler Colfax, 17th Vice President of the United States- assuming office
Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States - assuming office

March 19, 1869

New York Tribune, descriptive articles regarding Truckee, Truckee history, Chinese and Chinatown.

May 10, 1869

Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. President Grant and Vice President Colfax did not attend.

October 3, 1869

Grass Valley Morning Union, volume 6, number 889, 3 October 1869
Chinatown wedding in Truckee, Mr. Colfax witnesses the affair in the Truckee Hotel.

September 22, 1870

Nevada Transcript, son of Chinese couple married in Truckee at the Truckee Hotel where Vice President Colfax gave away the bride, named a baby boy, Colfax. (See 1870 Census records to verify.)

Appendix J - Census records summary 1870 and 1880

Specific to Truckee Enumeration Districts:

1870:

Nevada County Enumeration Districts, 1870 Census

Nevada	Chinese Residents	Areas Covered
• Bloomfield	47	Post Office: North Bloomfield, Lake City, Columbia Mile
• Bridgeport	306	Post Office: North San Juan, San Juan, Sweetland, French Corral, Cherokee, Birchville
• Eureka	339	Post Office: Nevada
• Grass Valley	389	Post Office: Grass Valley
• Little York	127	Post Office: Nevada, You Bet, Little York
• Meadow Lake	402	Post Office: Truckee , Boca, Cisco
• Nevada	667	Post Office: Nevada, Nevada City
• Rough and Ready	182	Post Office: Rough and Ready
• Washington	147	Post Office: Washington, Omega, Emigrant Gap

Truckee area: Meadow Lake Township: 402

Truckee Post Office: 401

Boca: 0

Cisco Grove: 1

Nevada County Enumeration District: Truckee Area, 1880 Census

Banner Mill	Listed with In or Near Truckee	16
Boca	Listed as Boca	0 (Two Japanese Listed)
Bronco.....	Listed with Prosser Creek.....	0
Clinton.....	Listed as Clinton	32
Cuba	Listed as Cuba.....	0
Martis Creek	Listed with Mystic	9
Mystic	Listed as Mystic	0
Meadow Lake	Listed with Clinton.....	1
Prosser Creek.....	Listed with Boca	0
Truckee	Listed as Truckee	30
In or Near Truckee	Listed as In or Near Truckee	209

Total Chinese Residents for 1880 in “Truckee Area” = 297

1880 Census

Sample images from 1880 Nevada County, Meadow Lake Township, Truckee, or "in and near Truckee"

Note p. 19 Nevada County, Truckee 1880 Census June 15, 1880 shows residents of Front Street and their occupations

Received August 18, 80 210

The Census Year began June 1, 1880, and ends May 31, 1880.

Those 21-64 persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children UNDER 21 June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

Male C-Children 15, 16, 17 and 18 are not to be added in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Truckee, in the County of Nevada, State of California
 enumerated by me on the 16th day of June, 1880.
Geo. A. Giffert Enumerator

Name	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Occupation	Place of Birth		
					State	Foreign	Foreign
R. A. Saburov	M	30	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	28	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Arthur	M	6	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Ann	F	31	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Chas. B.	M	31	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	29	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	28	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	27	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	26	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	25	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	24	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	23	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	22	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	21	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	20	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	19	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	18	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	17	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	16	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	15	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	14	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	13	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	12	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	11	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	10	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	9	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	8	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	7	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	6	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	5	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	4	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	3	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	2	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	
Wife	F	1	Wife	Michigan	Sweden	Sweden	

Note p. 21, below, dated June 16, 1880 for Truckee, far left column shows address is "In and near Truckee"

Received August 16, 80 220

The Census Year begins June 1, 1880, and ends May 31, 1881.
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children born since June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

Page No. 21
 Supervisor's Dist. No. 22
 Enumeration Dist. No. 68

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Truckee, in the County of Nevada, State of California
 enumerated by me on the 16th day of June, 1880.
 Geo. A. Coffer, Enumerator

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Marriage			Education			Literacy		
						Married	Single	Widowed	Years	Months	Days	Years	Months	Days
1	Quong Soel Ah Soel	M	26 27		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper	1			1			1		
June 17th 1880														
2	Ah Ming Boy Hee Ah Hee	M	19 21 22		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper							1		
3	Ah Sing Sung Tin Ah Heung Ah Hee	M	19 21 22 23		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper							1		
4	Ah Hee Ah Sing Ah Hee	M	24 25 26		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper							1		
5	Ah Ming Ah Heung Ah Cheung	M	21 23 24		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper							1		
6	Ah Soe Ah Soe Ah Chee	M	31 32 33		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper Wood Chopper							1		
7	Book Heung Ah Hee Ah Sing	M	31 31 32		Wood Chopper Sawyer Sawyer							1		
8	Ah Hee Ah Sun Sun See	M	32 33 34		Sawyer Sawyer Sawyer							1		
9	Bo Heung Heung Sing Gei Wai	M	34 35 36		Cook Cook Cook							1		
10	Sung Mow Boo Cheung Ah Heung	M	36 37 38		Mill Sawyer Mill Sawyer Mill Sawyer							1		
11	Ah Hee Book Mow Sun Cheung	M	38 39 40		Mill Sawyer Mill Sawyer Mill Sawyer							1		
June 18th 1880														
12	Chung See Ah Sun Mau Hee Sun	M	40 41 42		Mechanic Book Keeper Sawyer	1			1			1		
13	Ma Sung Ah Ah Sun Dwan Ah	M	44 45 46		Cook Sawyer Sawyer	1			1			1		
14	Dwan Ah Chin Hee Ah Sei Sun	M	48 49 50		Sawyer Sawyer Wood Chopper	1			1			1		
15	Boy Cheung Ma Sun	M	51 52		Wood Chopper Wood Chopper	1			1			1		

Summary of Chinese occupations from the 1870 Census.

Meadow Lake (Truckee, Boca, Cisco)		
At Home	1	
Butcher	1	
Chamber Maid	1	
Clerk, Grocery Store	1	
Cook	21	
Gambler	6	
Gardener	8	
Grocer	10	
Jeweler	1	
Keeping House	2	
Laborer	147	
Laborer, Farm Hand	1	
Laborer, Railroad	76	
Miner	1	
Opium House	3	
Pedler [sic]	2	
Physician	4	
Prostitute	22	
Scavenger	1	
Wash Man	22	
Wood Chopper	71	
		402

And a summary of the occupations of Chinese in the 1880 Census clearly indicates their continued presence in Truckee long after the completion of the Transcontinental Road.

1880 US Federal Census Nevada County, Occupations of Chinese Residents			
District	Occupation	Totals	Full Count
Banner Mill	Agent	1	
	Cook	1	
	Helper	1	
	Mill Laborer	12	
	Wood Chopper	1	
		16	
Boca			Two Japanese at Boca, both Cooks
		0	
Bronco			
		0	
Clinton	Cook	2	
	Piling Lumber	30	
		32	
Cuba			
		0	
Martis Creek	Cook	1	
	Piling Lumber	8	
		9	
Meadow Lake	Cook	1	
		1	
Mystic		0	0
Prosper Creek			0

Truckee						
Agent	1					
Attends School	4					
Cook	1					
Merchant	1					
Servant	1					
Wood Chopper	22					
			30			
In and Near Truckee						
Agent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Book Keeper	0	1	0	0	0	0
Butcher	0	0	0	1	1	
Cook	0	4	4	2	0	
Doctor	0	0	1	1	0	
Gambler	0	2	6	1	0	
Helper, Laundry	0	0	0	0	1	
Laborer, General	0	5	6	2	1	
Laborer, Mill	0	6	5	0	1	
Laborer, Railroad	0	0	0	0	27	
Laundry	0	0	0	0	1	
Merchant	0	1	1	0	0	
Pedler, Fish	0	1	0	1	0	
Pedler, General	0	0	0	0	1	
Servant	0	1	0	0	0	
Teamster	0	1	3	3	1	
Washman	0	0	1	0	0	
Wood Chopper	34	21	23	24	13	
	34	43	50	35	47	

Original compilations of the above summaries are available if requested.

Appendix K – Archaeological Studies with Chinese Artifacts Findings – indicating geographic areas of the first Chinatown

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Individual accounts/family memories

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Kearney Family remembering Truckee letter about the 1880 Snowstorm, Chinese workers cleared the railroad tracks and their relative became the bookkeeper of the Chinese laborers’ time records. (Letter in TDHS files.)

Spring 2022, McGlashan Springs and the Bucknam Tract hikes sponsored by Tahoe Donner Homeowners Association, found on two separate hike dates by TDHS members, Chinese pottery shards (reported with pictures to Tahoe Donner Forestry Department, as part of the USDA Forestry Land). [McGlashan-Bucknam-Article-2013.pdf \(benjaminfortd.com\)](#) accessed March 1, 2023

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Libraries Consulted:

Doris Foley Library for Historical Research, Nevada City
Nevada County Assessor's Office
Truckee Branch Library
UC Berkeley East Asian Library

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