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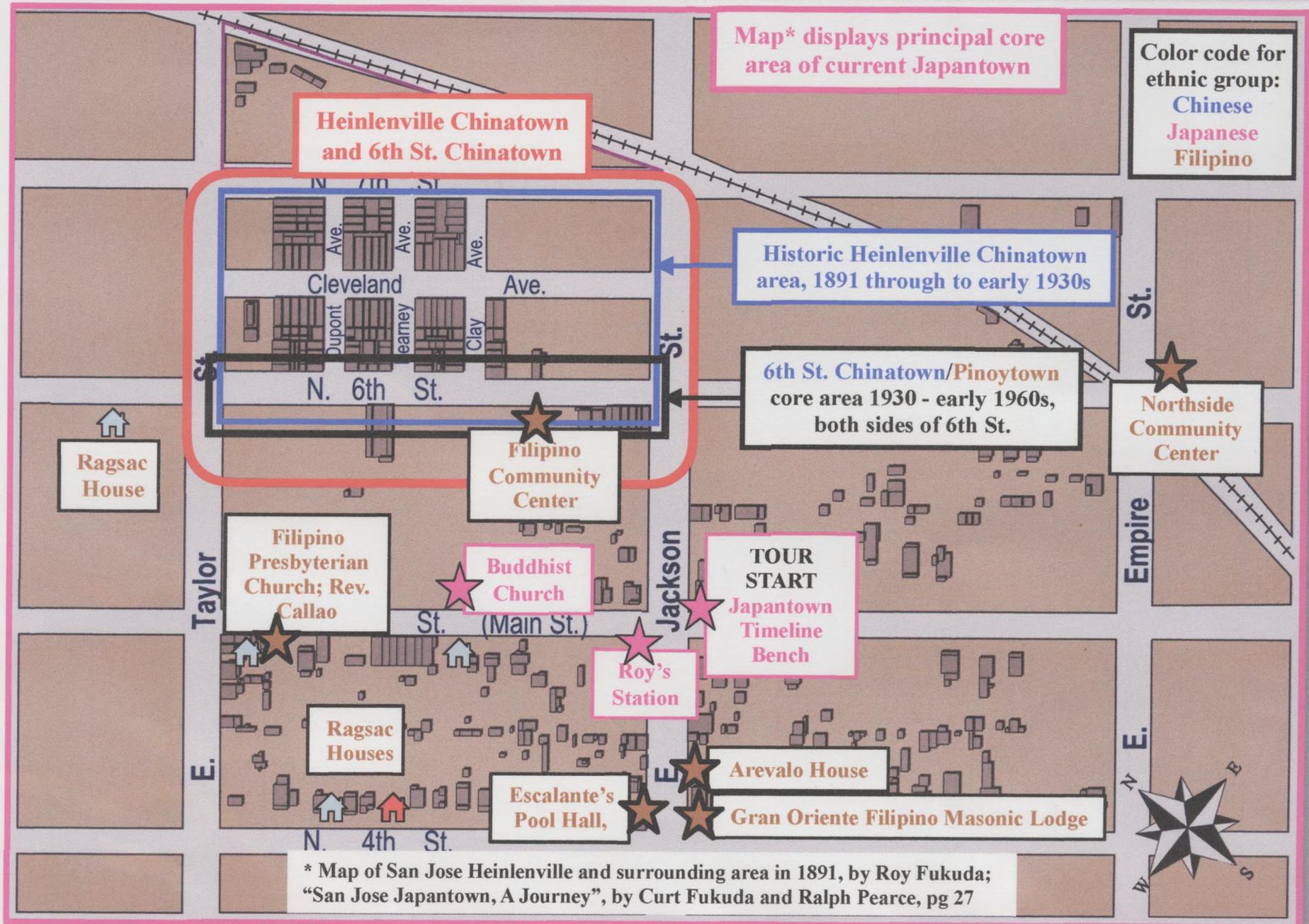
A Tri-Cultural Milieu of “Sixth Street”: Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos

*An Exploration of the Sixth Street Neighborhood
during the
“PINOYTOWN” Era: 1931 to early 1960s*

*Robert V. Ragsac, Sr.
July 2020*

© *Robert Ragsac, Sr.*
July 2020

Today's Japantown Subsumes Old *Heinlenville Chinatown*, *6th St. Chinatown*, and *Pinoytown*

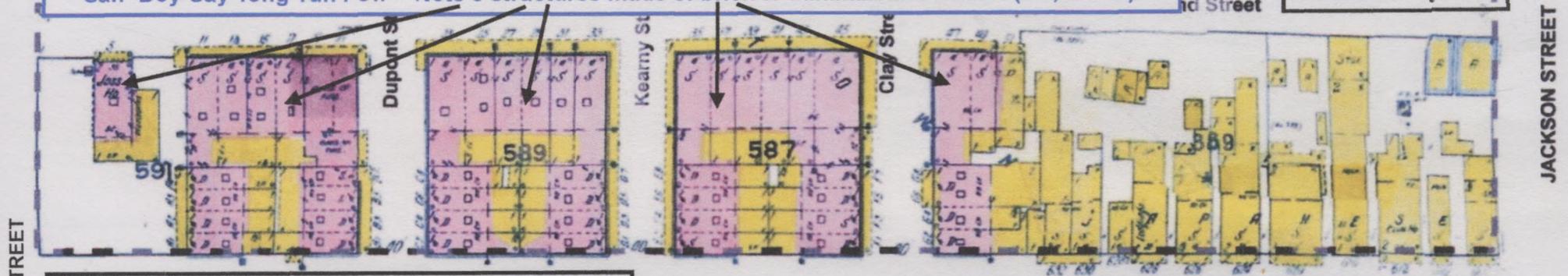


THERE WAS A COLORFUL ETHNIC MILIEU DURING THE “SIXTH STREET” ERA

The location and names of businesses, residents, buildings in 1931 to early 1960s imply there must have been an intermingling of the three major minorities in the “Sixth Street Chinatown” area that owes its existence to “Heinlenville Chinatown”.*

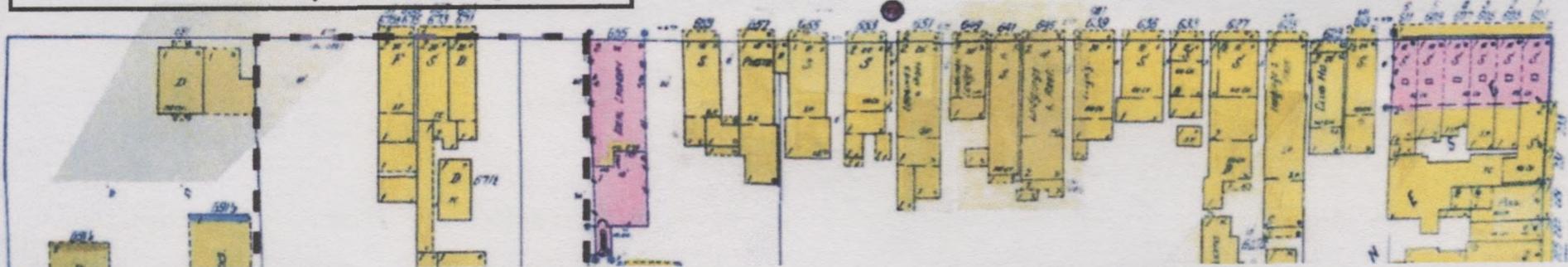
Heinlenville was also known as: “Sixth Street Chinatown,” “Cleveland Avenue” and by Chinese locals, “San-Doy-Say Tong Yun Fow”** Note 5 structures made of brick to minimize fire hazard (i.e., arson)**

Wood frame structures in yellow.



The identification and location of businesses and dwellings are based on the record of properties from the Polk City Directories as obtained by Curt Fukuda, April 2020

N. SIXTH STREET SIXTH STREET SEGMENT OF HEINLENVILLE CHINATOWN

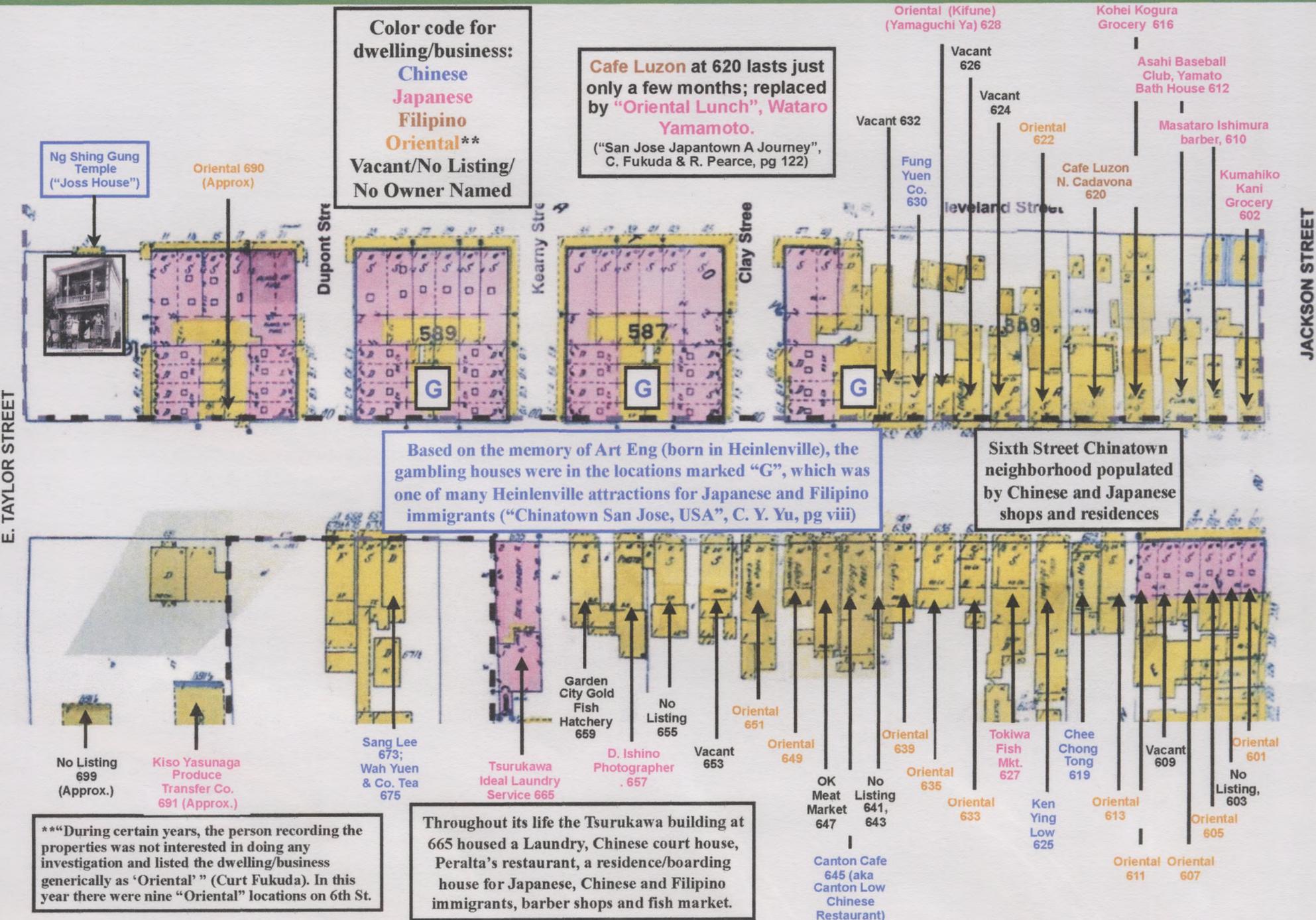


1930 Sanborn map** used as basic background for locating Chinese, Japanese and Filipino businesses, dwellings and shops in the 1931 to early 1960s period, the estimated lifetime of “Pinoytown”; the area was known as “Sixth Street”.

*The history of Chinatowns in San Jose and the origin of Heinlenville Chinatown is presented in “Chinatown San Jose, USA” by Connie Young Yu.

** 1930 Sanborn map, pg 31; “Historical Context & Archaeological Survey Report: Heinlenville/San José Corporation Yard Archaeological Project, San José, California” Prepared by Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, April 2008

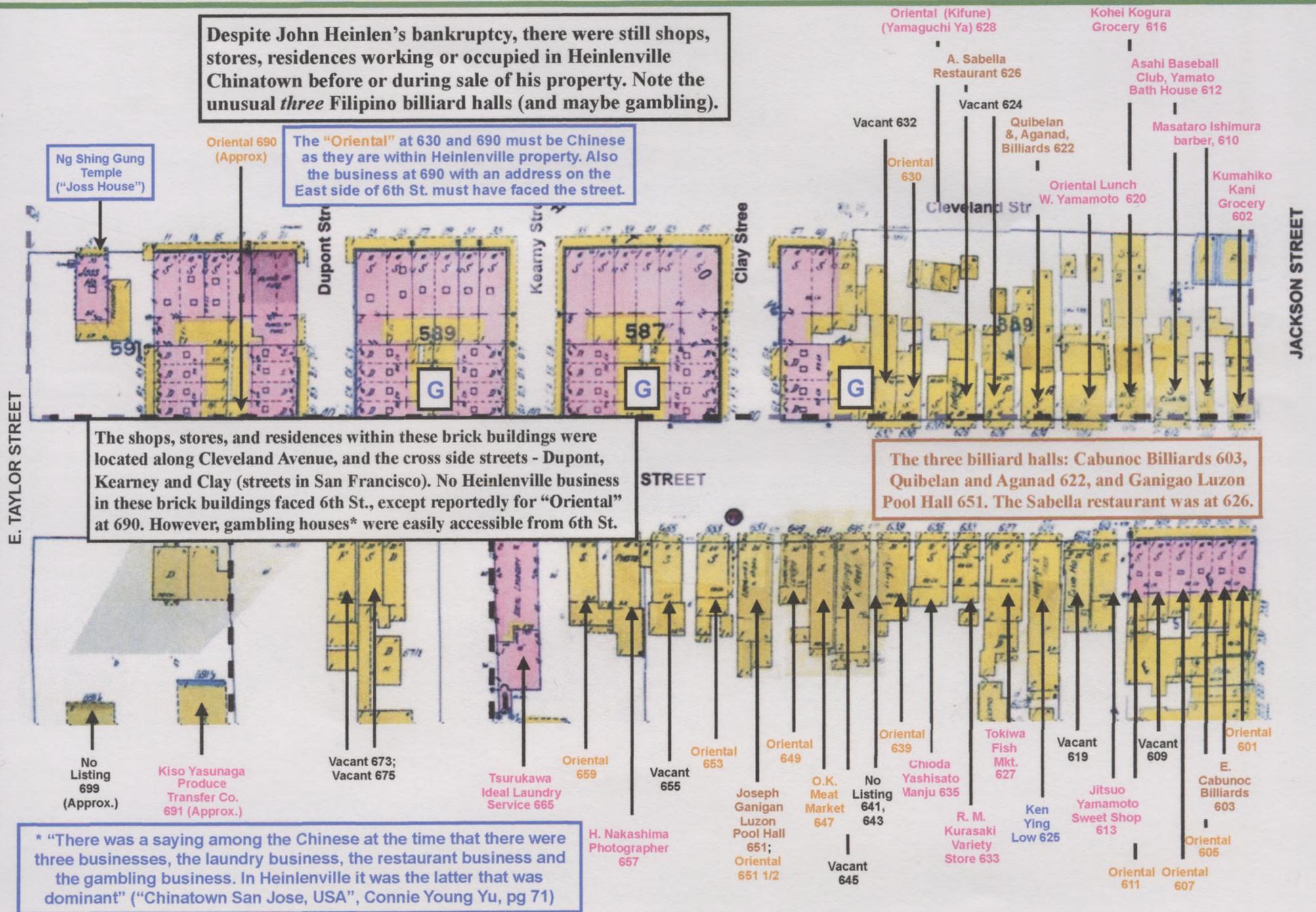
SIXTH STREET-1931: First Filipino Business: "Cafe Luzon" Nicodeme Cadavona*



SIXTH STREET-1932: Four Filipino Businesses - 3 Billiards and 1 Restaurant

Despite John Heinlen's bankruptcy, there were still shops, stores, residences working or occupied in Heinlenville Chinatown before or during sale of his property. Note the unusual *three* Filipino billiard halls (and maybe gambling).

The "Oriental" at 630 and 690 must be Chinese as they are within Heinlenville property. Also the business at 690 with an address on the East side of 6th St. must have faced the street.



Ng Shing Gung Temple ("Joss House")

Oriental 690 (Approx)

Oriental (Kifune) (Yamaguchi Ya) 628

Kohei Kogura Grocery 616

A. Sabella Restaurant 626

Asahi Baseball Club, Yamato Bath House 612

Vacant 632

Vacant 624

Quibelan & Aganad, Billiards 622

Masataro Ishimura barber, 610

Oriental 630

Oriental Lunch W. Yamamoto 620

Kumahiko Kani Grocery 602

Cleveland Str

JACKSON STREET

E. TAYLOR STREET

The shops, stores, and residences within these brick buildings were located along Cleveland Avenue, and the cross side streets - Dupont, Kearney and Clay (streets in San Francisco). No Heinlenville business in these brick buildings faced 6th St., except reportedly for "Oriental" at 690. However, gambling houses* were easily accessible from 6th St.

The three billiard halls: Cabunoc Billiards 603, Quibelan and Aganad 622, and Ganigao Luzon Pool Hall 651. The Sabella restaurant was at 626.

STREET

No Listing 699 (Approx.)

Kiso Yasunaga Produce Transfer Co. 691 (Approx.)

Vacant 673; Vacant 675

Tsurukawa Ideal Laundry Service 665

Oriental 659

Vacant 655

Oriental 653

Oriental 649

Joseph Ganigan Luzon Pool Hall 651; Oriental 651 1/2

O.K. Meat Market 647

No Listing 641, 643

Vacant 645

Oriental 639

Chioda Yashisato Vanju 635

R. M. Kurasaki Variety Store 633

Tokiwa Fish Mkt. 627

Ken Ying Low 625

Vacant 619

Jitsuo Yamamoto Sweet Shop 613

Vacant 609

Oriental 611

Vacant 603

Oriental 607

Oriental 601

E. Cabunoc Billiards 603

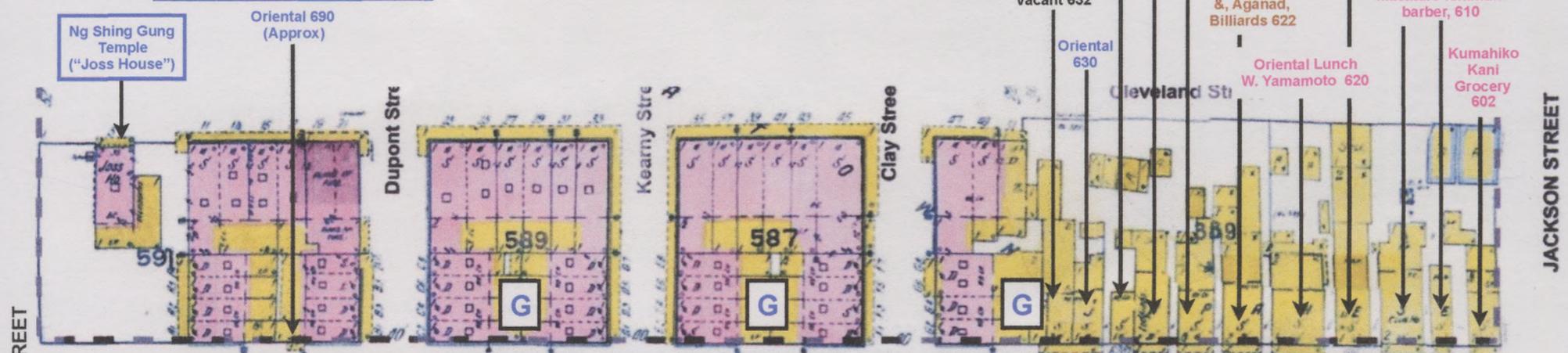
* "There was a saying among the Chinese at the time that there were three businesses, the laundry business, the restaurant business and the gambling business. In Heinlenville it was the latter that was dominant" ("Chinatown San Jose, USA", Connie Young Yu, pg 71)

SIXTH STREET-1933: Businesses Established in the Midst of the Depression

This "Oriental" at 690 is listed here until 1944, implying that some Heinlerville businesses could have operated up to near the end of World War II

The shops and stores on 6th St. most likely also contributed to the decline of Heinlerville Chinatown businesses, however some of them and residents could have moved over to 6th.

Oriental (Kifune) (Yamaguchi Ya) 628
 Kohei Kogura Grocery 616
 A. Sabella Restaurant 626
 No Listing 624
 Quibelan & Aganad, Billiards 622
 Asahi Baseball Club, Yamato Bath House 612
 Masaturo Ishimura barber, 610
 Kumahiko Kani Grocery 602



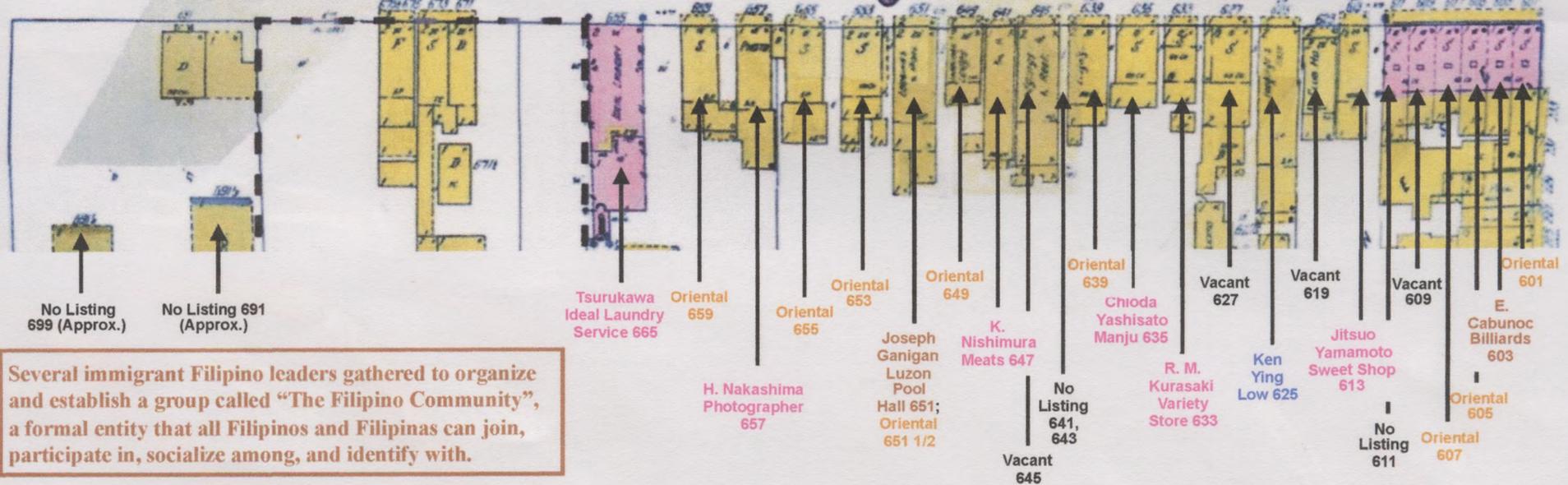
* Many times the Filipino boys would have us Pinoy kids mark the lottery tickets, and it was always for "8 spot".

Some gambling games played in Heinlerville ("G") were: fan tan (buttons), pai gow (dominoes), and lottery tickets* (modern keno). ("Chinatown San Jose, USA", Connie Young Yu, pg 71)

The Ramon Quibelan & Andy Aganad Billiards at 622, and Joseph Ganigao Luzon Pool Hall, last only two years

E. TAYLOR STREET

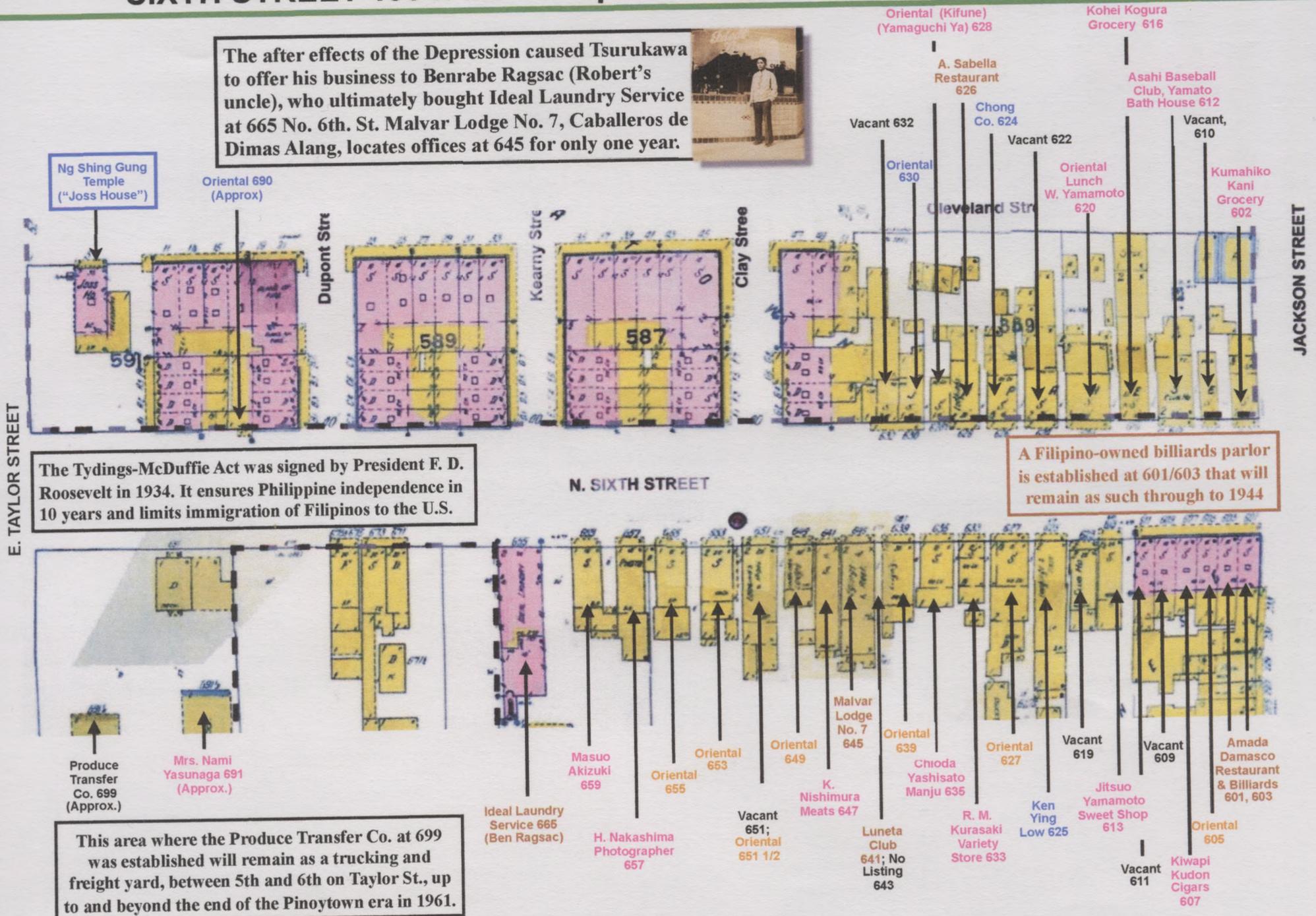
JACKSON STREET



Several immigrant Filipino leaders gathered to organize and establish a group called "The Filipino Community", a formal entity that all Filipinos and Filipinas can join, participate in, socialize among, and identify with.

SIXTH STREET-1934: More Filipinos Come to Sixth Street Chinatown

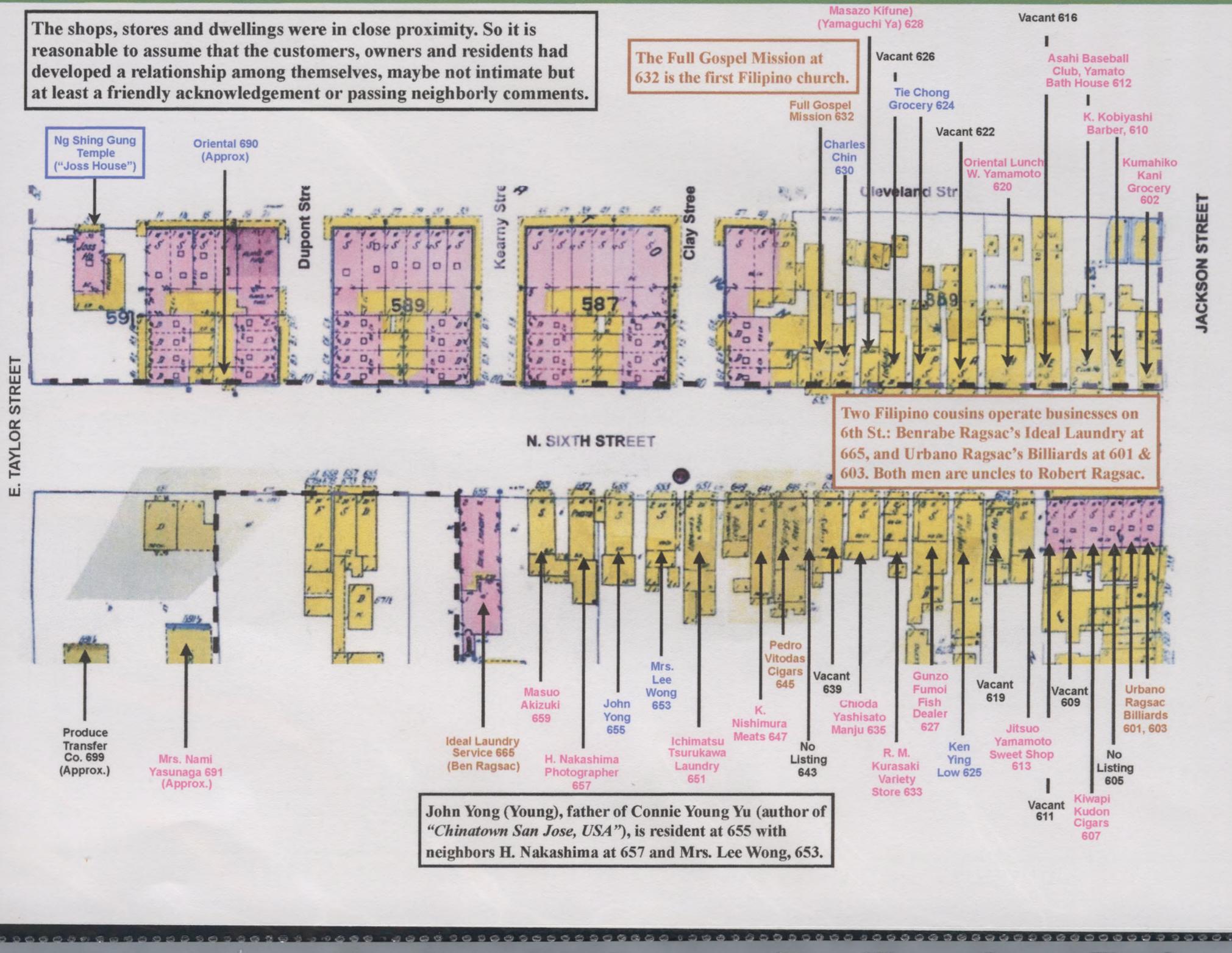
The after effects of the Depression caused Tsurukawa to offer his business to Benrabe Ragsac (Robert's uncle), who ultimately bought Ideal Laundry Service at 665 No. 6th. St. Malvar Lodge No. 7, Caballeros de Dimas Alang, locates offices at 645 for only one year.



This area where the Produce Transfer Co. at 699 was established will remain as a trucking and freight yard, between 5th and 6th on Taylor St., up to and beyond the end of the Pinoytown era in 1961.

SIXTH STREET-1935: Chinatown's "Rainbow Neighborhood" Begins to Form

The shops, stores and dwellings were in close proximity. So it is reasonable to assume that the customers, owners and residents had developed a relationship among themselves, maybe not intimate but at least a friendly acknowledgement or passing neighborly comments.



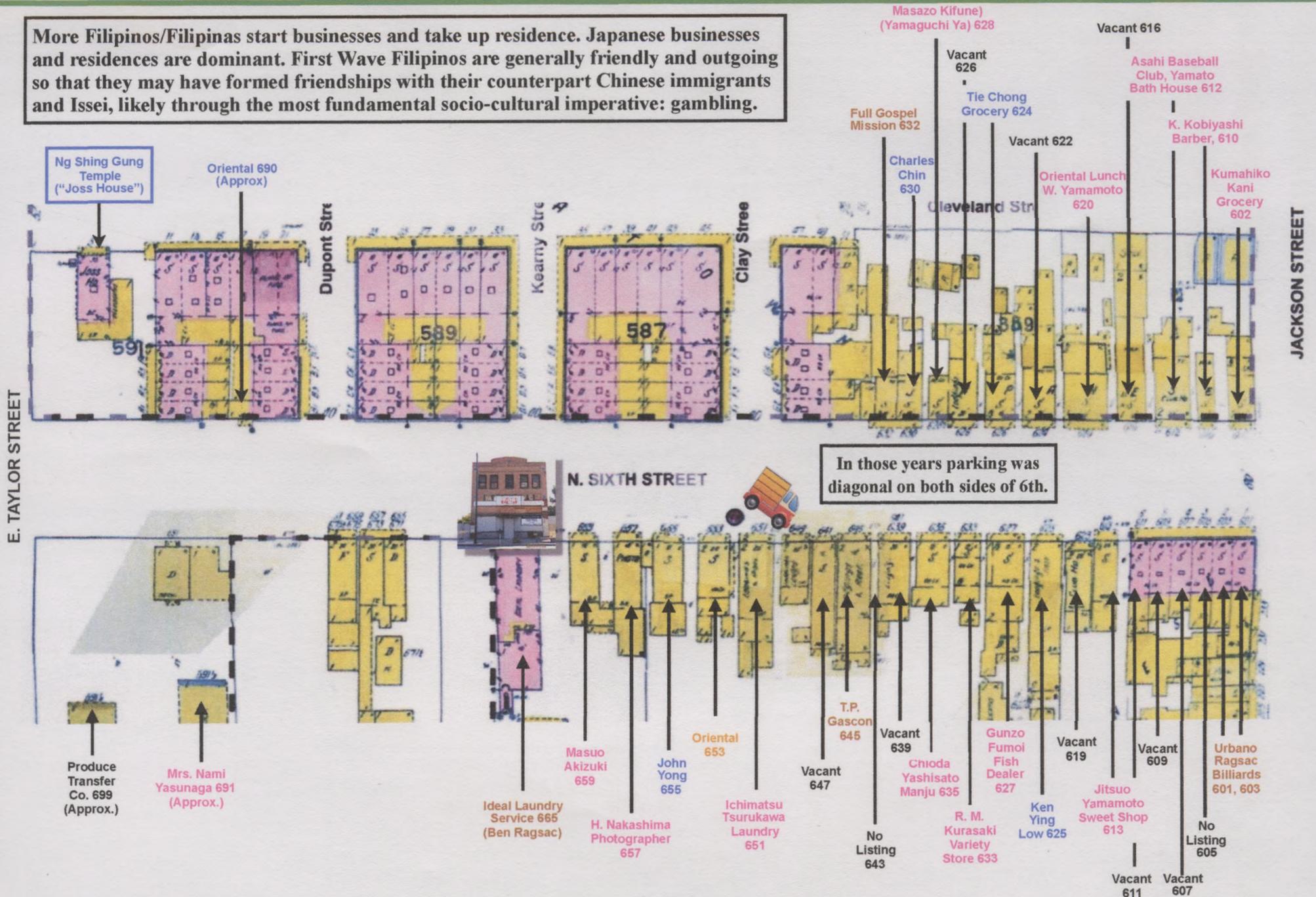
The Full Gospel Mission at 632 is the first Filipino church.

Two Filipino cousins operate businesses on 6th St.: Benrabe Ragsac's Ideal Laundry at 665, and Urbano Ragsac's Billiards at 601 & 603. Both men are uncles to Robert Ragsac.

John Yong (Young), father of Connie Young Yu (author of "Chinatown San Jose, USA"), is resident at 655 with neighbors H. Nakashima at 657 and Mrs. Lee Wong, 653.

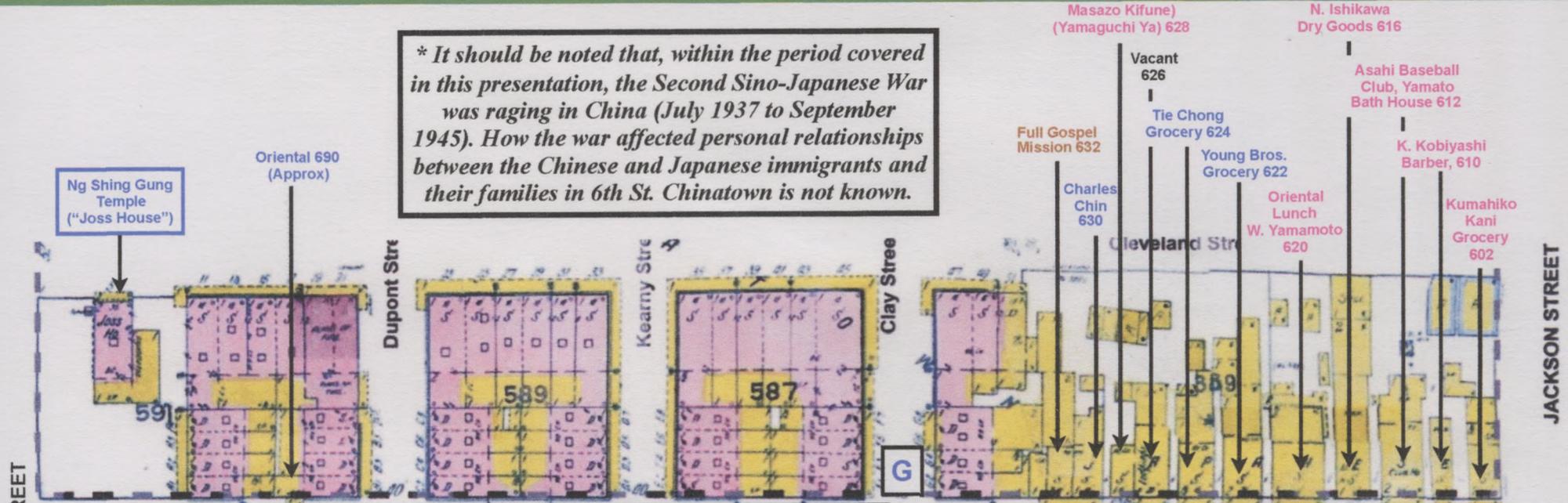
SIXTH STREET-1936: Growing to Become An Identifiable and Unique Cultural Enclave

More Filipinos/Filipinas start businesses and take up residence. Japanese businesses and residences are dominant. First Wave Filipinos are generally friendly and outgoing so that they may have formed friendships with their counterpart Chinese immigrants and Issei, likely through the most fundamental socio-cultural imperative: gambling.



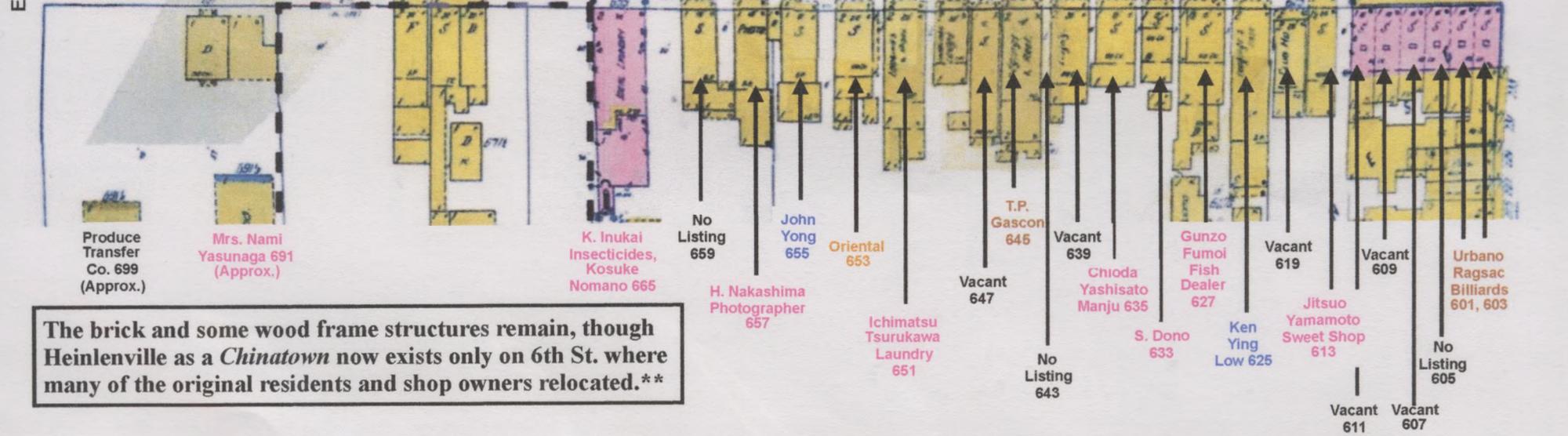
SIXTH STREET-1937: Remnant of Heinlenville is Now "Sixth Street Chinatown"*

* It should be noted that, within the period covered in this presentation, the Second Sino-Japanese War was raging in China (July 1937 to September 1945). How the war affected personal relationships between the Chinese and Japanese immigrants and their families in 6th St. Chinatown is not known.



"In 1937 the Chinese gambling racket officially ended in the city. A gambling house on Clay Street ["G"] operated by Young Duck was raided by the police on the orders of Chief John Black." ("Chinatown San Jose, USA", Connie Young Yu, pg 109). Yes "officially", but those enterprising and driven Chinese and Filipinos would... (RVR)

Benrabe Ragsac closes Ideal Laundry at 665, pending move to 611. Last year of Urbano Ragsac's Billiards at 601 & 603, possibly because of a notorious knife fight where Urbano killed two Filipinos in an argument near the billiard parlor.

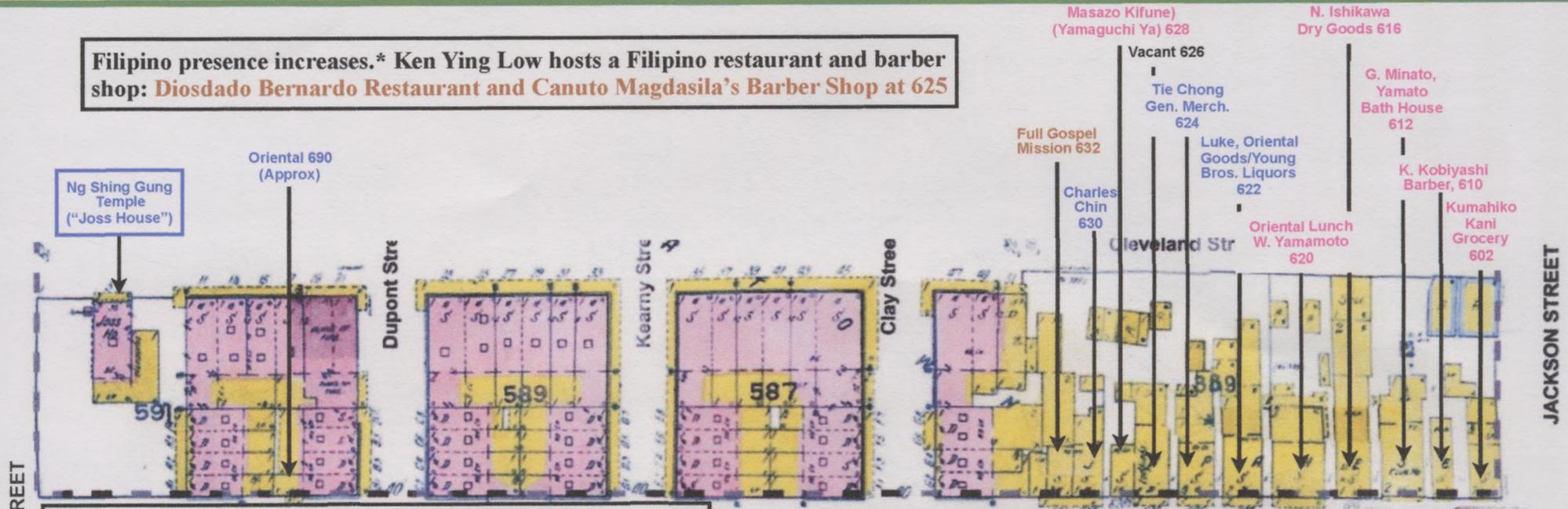


The brick and some wood frame structures remain, though Heinlenville as a Chinatown now exists only on 6th St. where many of the original residents and shop owners relocated.**

** 1930 Sanborn map, pg 31; "Historical Context & Archaeological Survey Report: Heinlenville/San José Corporation Yard Archaeological Project, San José, California" Prepared by Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, April 2008

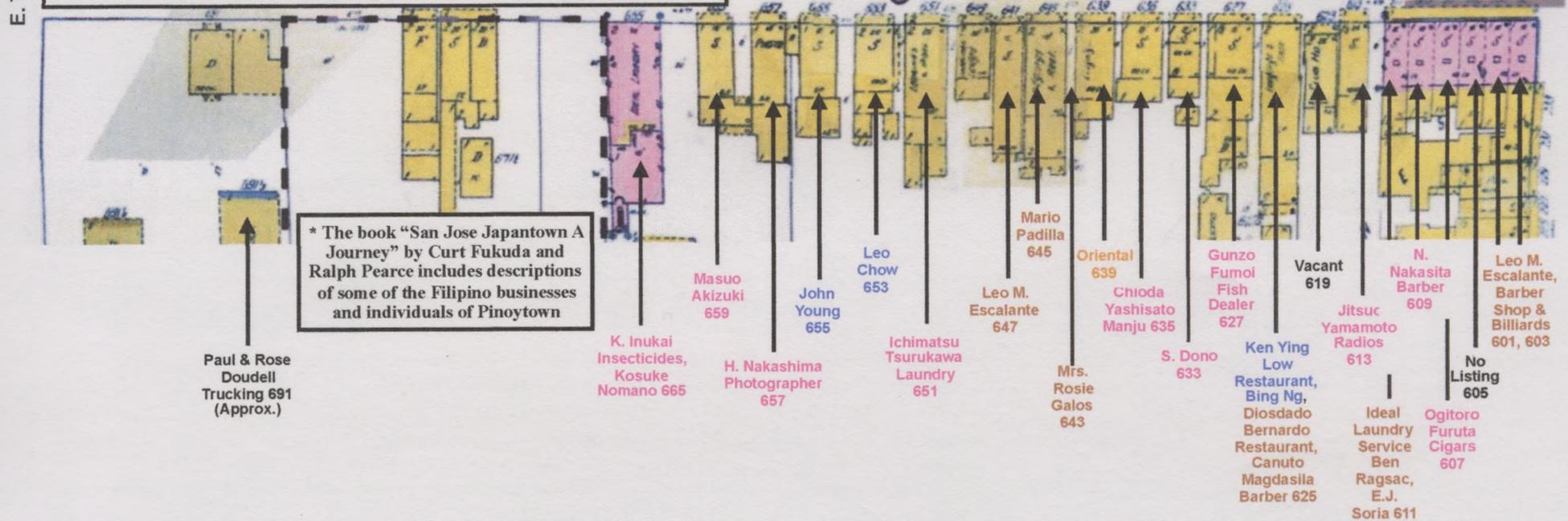
SIXTH STREET-1938: Many Turnovers in the Commercial/Residential Buildings

Filipino presence increases.* Ken Ying Low hosts a Filipino restaurant and barber shop: **Diosdado Bernardo Restaurant and Canuto Magdasila's Barber Shop at 625**



As seen by the many businesses here, the harsh effects of the Great Depression appear to be over. This includes gambling; despite the police raid of Young Duck's gambling house on Clay St. in 1937, it is known that the games covertly moved somewhere within or outside of 6th St.

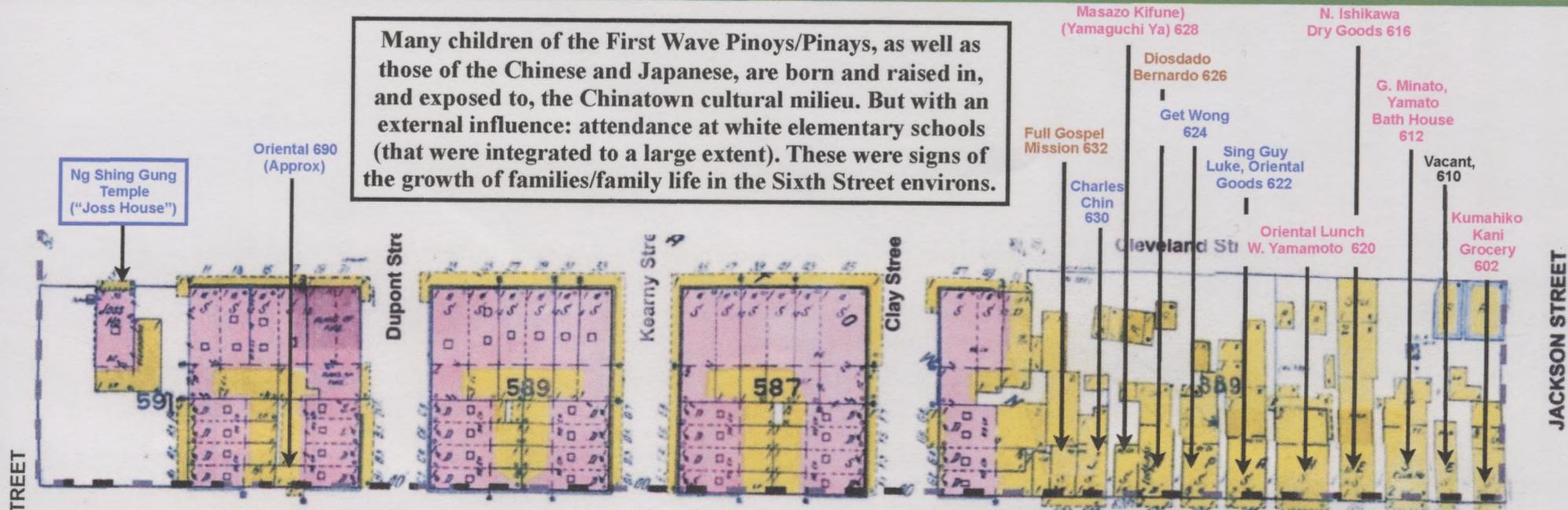
After about a year of absence, Benrabe Ragsac locates his laundry service at 611. Leo Escalante becomes a resident at 647, takes over billiards and barber shop at 601 and 603



* The book "San Jose Japantown A Journey" by Curt Fukuda and Ralph Pearce includes descriptions of some of the Filipino businesses and individuals of Pinoytown

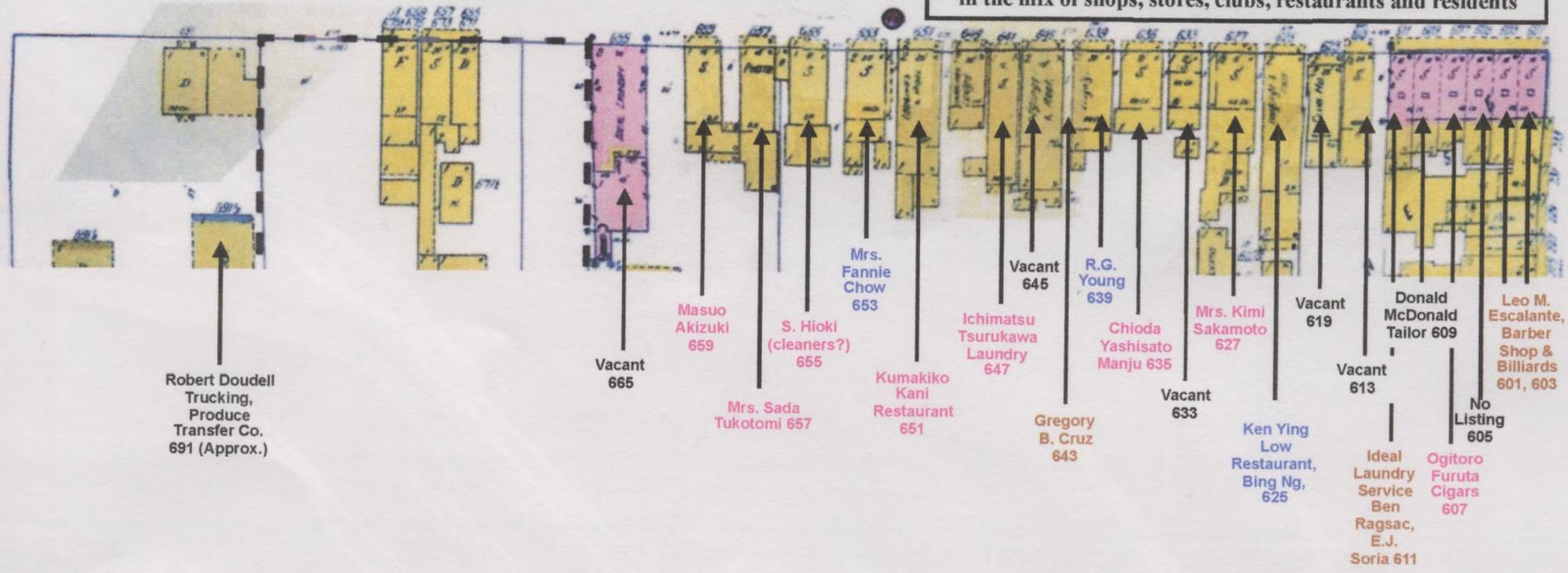
SIXTH STREET-1940: Chinatown Poised for Growth - Diversity Naturally Occurs

Many children of the First Wave Pinoys/Pinays, as well as those of the Chinese and Japanese, are born and raised in, and exposed to, the Chinatown cultural milieu. But with an external influence: attendance at white elementary schools (that were integrated to a large extent). These were signs of the growth of families/family life in the Sixth Street environs.



E. TAYLOR STREET

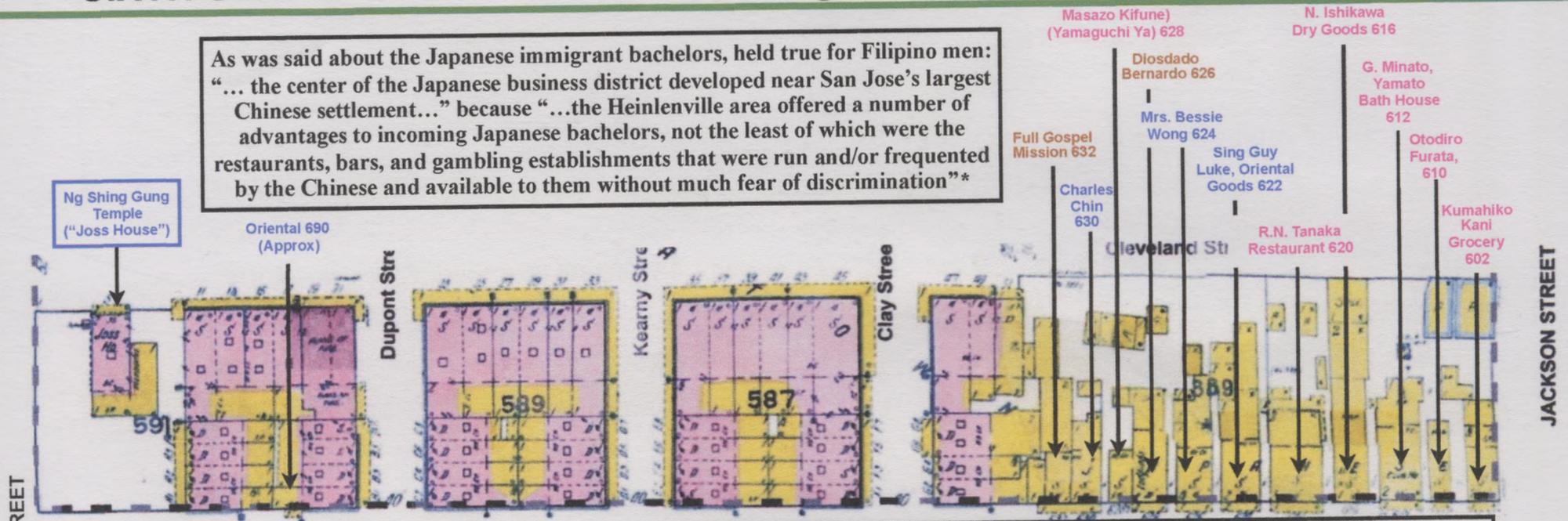
Sixth Street is on the verge of being a true Asian cultural *Rainbow Neighborhood* with its "colorfulness" showing clearly in the mix of shops, stores, clubs, restaurants and residents



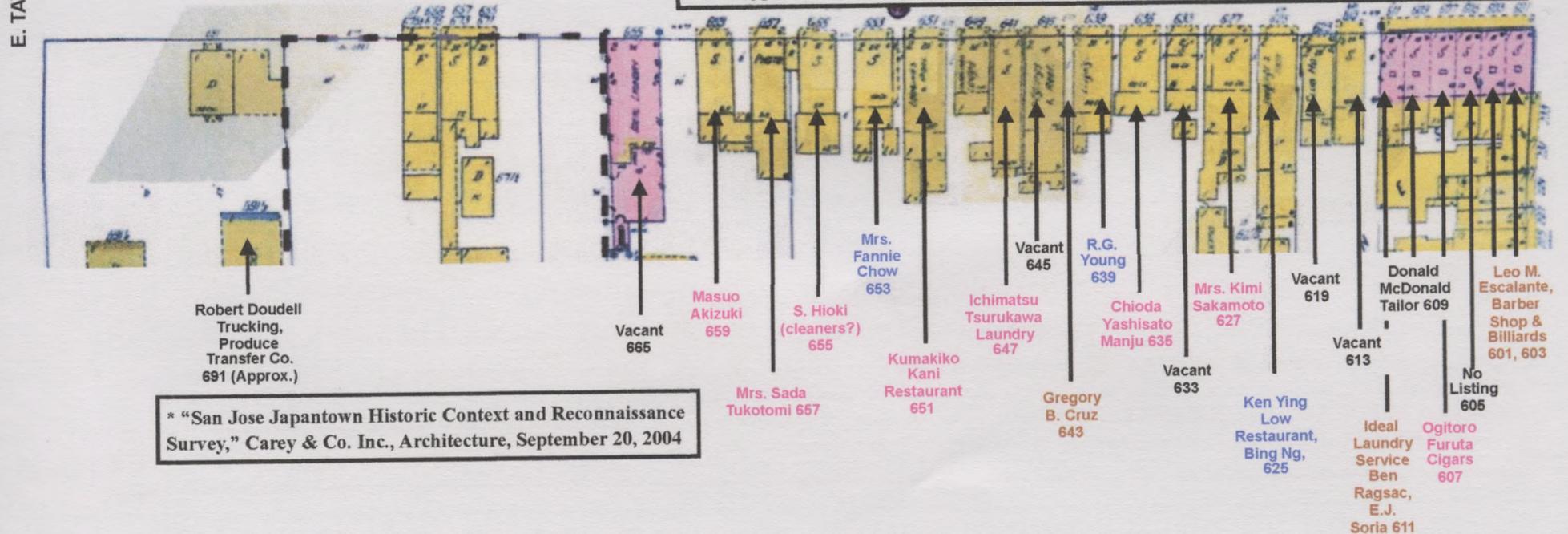
JACKSON STREET

SIXTH STREET-1941: The "Rainbow Neighborhood" at its Most Colorful Year

As was said about the Japanese immigrant bachelors, held true for Filipino men: "... the center of the Japanese business district developed near San Jose's largest Chinese settlement..." because "...the Heinlerville area offered a number of advantages to incoming Japanese bachelors, not the least of which were the restaurants, bars, and gambling establishments that were run and/or frequented by the Chinese and available to them without much fear of discrimination"*



As the Chinese and Japanese did before them, the Filipinos would come to Sixth Street for entertainment, talk story with town mates, shop and make connections for farm work. It was a type of way station, as afterwards the Pinoy would then return to their "campos".



* "San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey," Carey & Co. Inc., Architecture, September 20, 2004

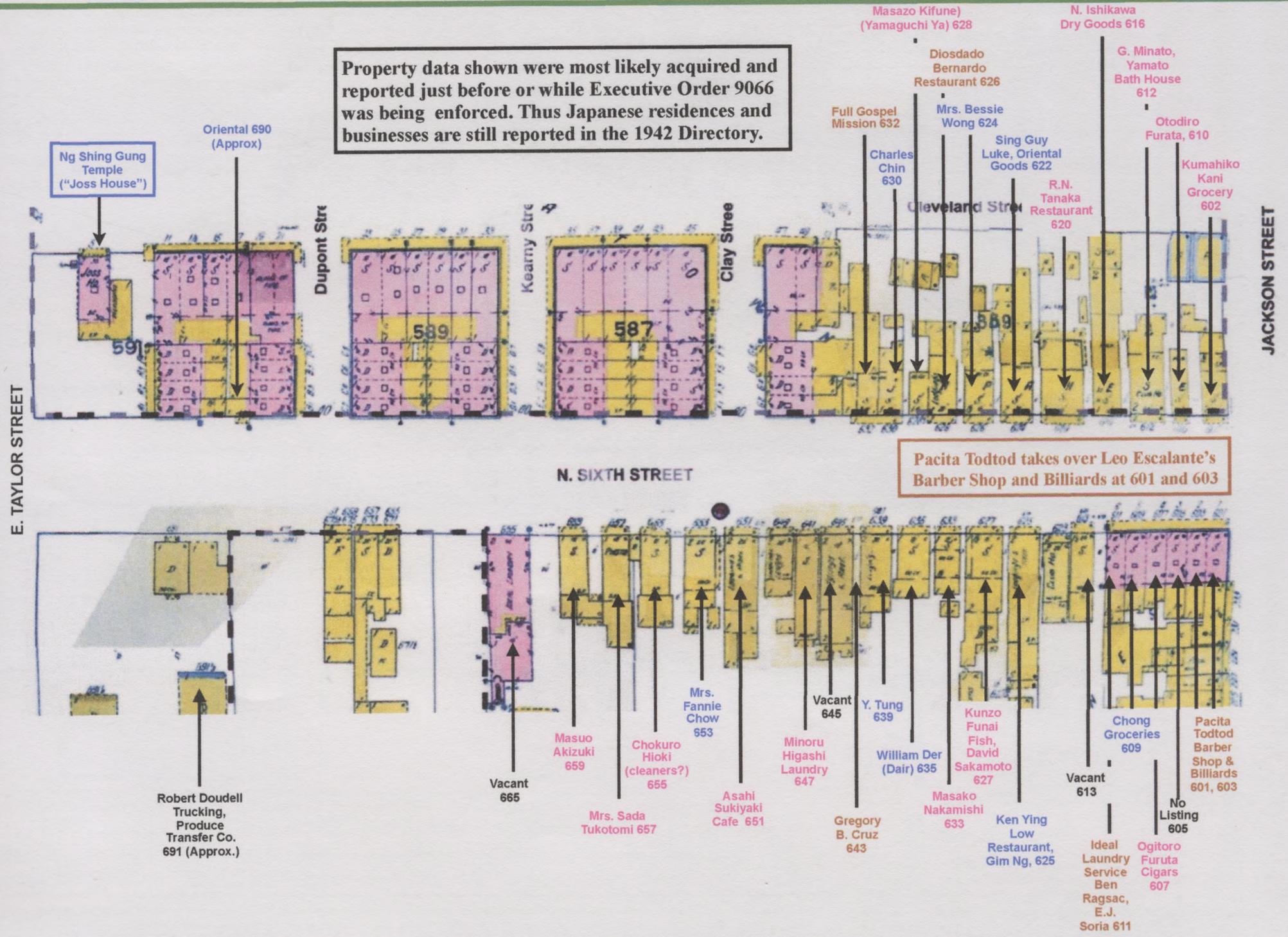
SIXTH STREET: 1931 to 1941, A Decade of Growth and Socio-Cultural Interaction

Remember: "6th St." is a street, but "Sixth Street" is the ethnic tri-cultural milieu of that street

- In the 1931 - 1941 decade, "Sixth Street" emerged from the Depression as a dynamic, vibrant cultural milieu of Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos going about shopping, dining, relaxing, gambling, and other social imperatives, in mutually supportive commerce, without the prevailing anti-Asian discrimination outside Sixth Street
- Because Heinlenville Chinatown offered many of the shops, foodstuffs, bars, restaurants, groceries, and gambling that the early Japanese (Issei) and later Filipino (First Wave) single men were looking for, the business district of Sixth Street (Heinlenville's successor, also called "Chinatown") owes its existence to that old and vanished Chinatown
- The proximity of the buildings and the mix of businesses ensured at least an acknowledgement of, if not personal interaction among, the people of the three major minorities of Sixth Street
- This "Rainbow Neighborhood" by its very nature attracted and became a destination for Asians from outside the "Sixth Street" environs - indigenous diversity without design
- One only needs the imagination and ethnic sensitivity to "hear" the chatter of different languages being spoken, "smell" the cooking odors from the restaurants, "feel" the hustle and bustle of people, and "see" Sixth Street in all its social/cultural uniqueness of those years
- The existence of the 1930s-1960s Pinoytown and the now larger Japantown district can be traced to the socio-cultural/economic mix serendipitously fostered by Heinlenville Chinatown, its businesses and residents
- The next two decades witnesses the decline of Sixth Street, its Chinese, Japanese and Filipino businesses and people, to be ultimately subsumed into the emerging and officially named "Japantown" in the 1950s
- There were many reasons why this metamorphosis came about; the major cause - Imperial Japanese naval forces attack U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, and U.S. Army Air Corps airfields on Oahu on the 7th of December 1941

1942: The Ethnic Milieu Just Before Its Dramatic and Painful Transformation

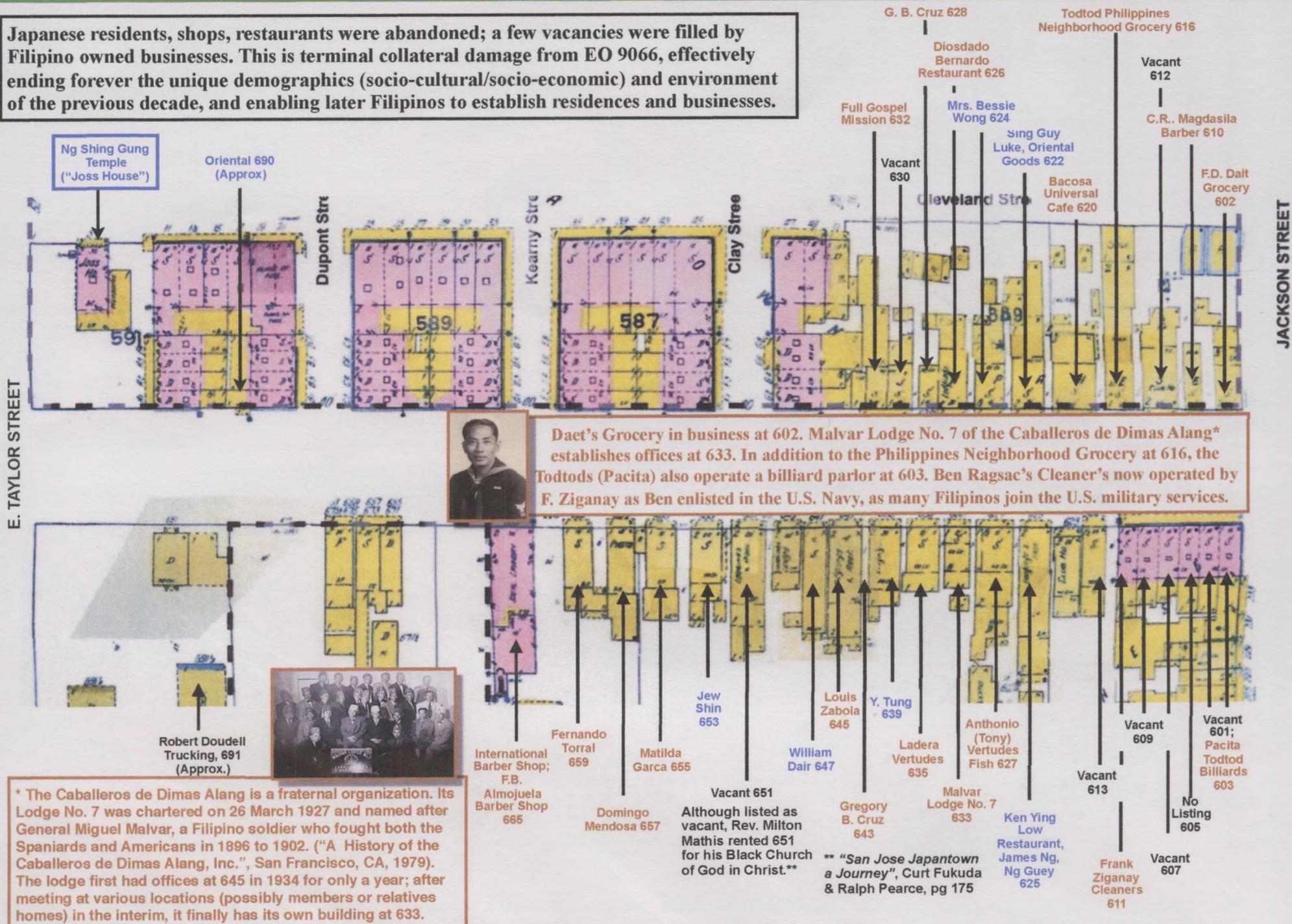
Property data shown were most likely acquired and reported just before or while Executive Order 9066 was being enforced. Thus Japanese residences and businesses are still reported in the 1942 Directory.



Pacita Todtod takes over Leo Escalante's Barber Shop and Billiards at 601 and 603

1943: One Year After EO 9066 Enforced; An Era Ends, Another Begins

Japanese residents, shops, restaurants were abandoned; a few vacancies were filled by Filipino owned businesses. This is terminal collateral damage from EO 9066, effectively ending forever the unique demographics (socio-cultural/socio-economic) and environment of the previous decade, and enabling later Filipinos to establish residences and businesses.



Daet's Grocery in business at 602. Malvar Lodge No. 7 of the Caballeros de Dimas Alang* establishes offices at 633. In addition to the Philippines Neighborhood Grocery at 616, the Todtods (Pacita) also operate a billiard parlor at 603. Ben Ragsac's Cleaner's now operated by F. Ziganay as Ben enlisted in the U.S. Navy, as many Filipinos join the U.S. military services.



* The Caballeros de Dimas Alang is a fraternal organization. Its Lodge No. 7 was chartered on 26 March 1927 and named after General Miguel Malvar, a Filipino soldier who fought both the Spaniards and Americans in 1896 to 1902. ("A History of the Caballeros de Dimas Alang, Inc.", San Francisco, CA, 1979). The lodge first had offices at 645 in 1934 for only a year; after meeting at various locations (possibly members or relatives homes) in the interim, it finally has its own building at 633.

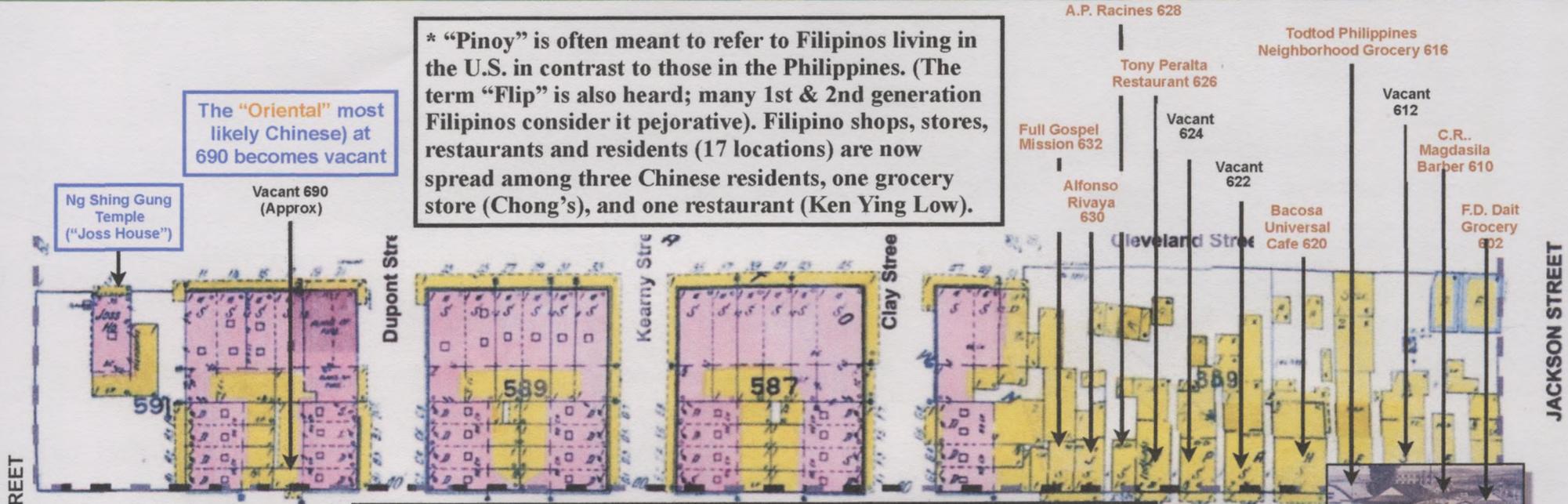
Although listed as vacant, Rev. Milton Mathis rented 651 for his Black Church of God in Christ.**

** "San Jose Japantown a Journey", Curt Fukuda & Ralph Pearce, pg 175

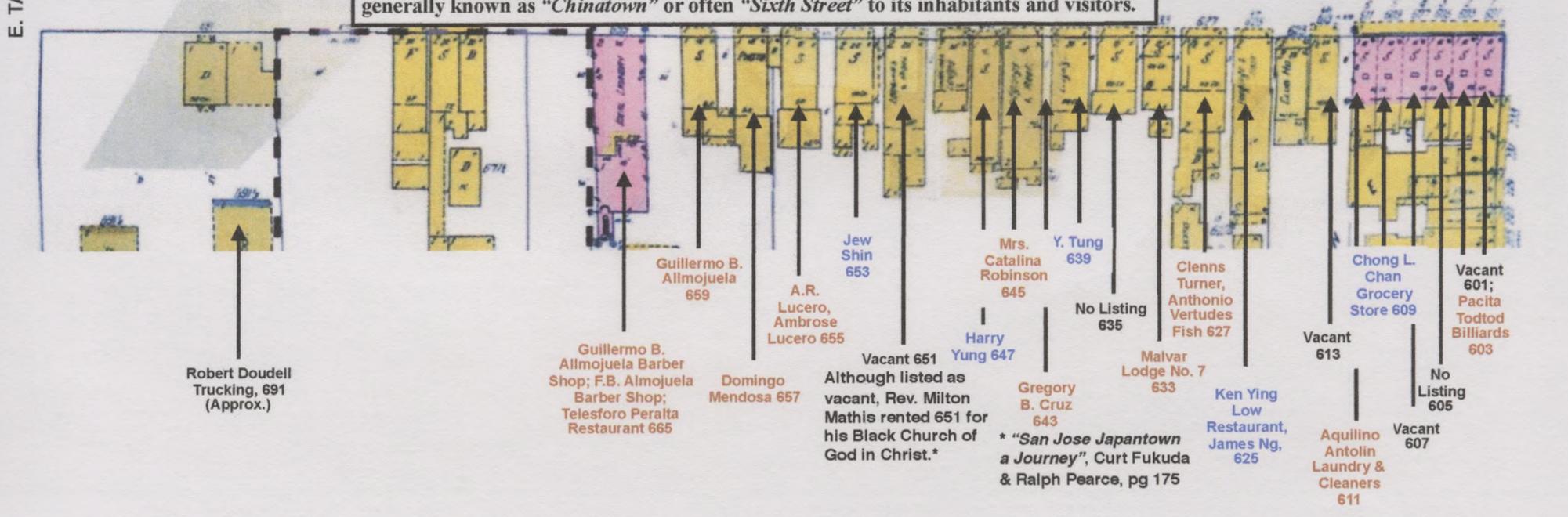
1944: Height of World War II - An Emerging Filipino (Pinoy*) Town

* "Pinoy" is often meant to refer to Filipinos living in the U.S. in contrast to those in the Philippines. (The term "Flip" is also heard; many 1st & 2nd generation Filipinos consider it pejorative). Filipino shops, stores, restaurants and residents (17 locations) are now spread among three Chinese residents, one grocery store (Chong's), and one restaurant (Ken Ying Low).

The "Oriental" most likely Chinese) at 690 becomes vacant

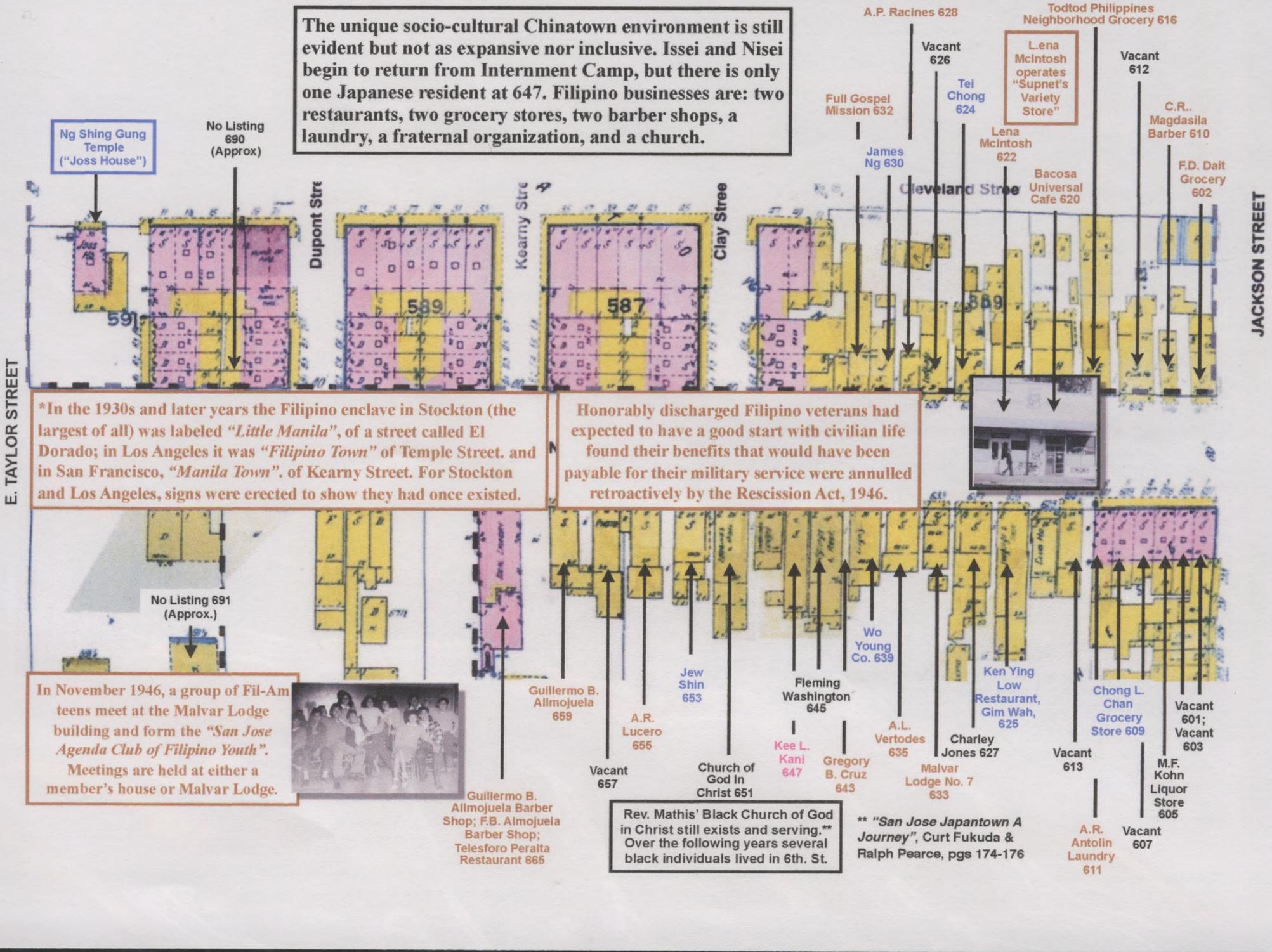


The term "Pinoytown" was coined only recently when documentation of the Filipinos on 6th St. began. It is a way of identifying the diffuse Filipino residents and businesses. During the years the enclave was growing and while it was in existence, the area was generally known as "Chinatown" or often "Sixth Street" to its inhabitants and visitors.



1945: Still Called "Chinatown" But Now an Identifiable Filipino Enclave*

The unique socio-cultural Chinatown environment is still evident but not as expansive nor inclusive. Issei and Nisei begin to return from Internment Camp, but there is only one Japanese resident at 647. Filipino businesses are: two restaurants, two grocery stores, two barber shops, a laundry, a fraternal organization, and a church.



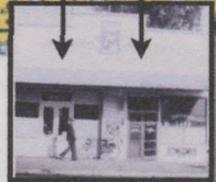
Ng Shing Gung Temple ("Joss House")

No Listing 690 (Approx)

A.P. Racines 628
 Vacant 626
 Full Gospel Mission 632
 James Ng 630
 Tei Chong 624
 Lena McIntosh operates "Supnet's Variety Store"
 Lena McIntosh 622
 Bacosa Universal Cafe 620
 Vacant 612
 C.R. Magdasila Barber 610
 F.D. Dait Grocery 602

*In the 1930s and later years the Filipino enclave in Stockton (the largest of all) was labeled "Little Manila", of a street called El Dorado; in Los Angeles it was "Filipino Town" of Temple Street, and in San Francisco, "Manila Town". of Kearny Street. For Stockton and Los Angeles, signs were erected to show they had once existed.

Honorably discharged Filipino veterans had expected to have a good start with civilian life found their benefits that would have been payable for their military service were annulled retroactively by the Rescission Act, 1946.



No Listing 691 (Approx.)

In November 1946, a group of Fil-Am teens meet at the Malvar Lodge building and form the "San Jose Agenda Club of Filipino Youth". Meetings are held at either a member's house or Malvar Lodge.



Guillermo B. Almojuela Barber Shop; F.B. Almojuela Barber Shop; Telesforo Peralta Restaurant 665

Guillermo B. Almojuela 659
 A.R. Lucero 655
 Vacant 657
 Church of God in Christ 651
 Jew Shin 653
 Fleming Washington 645
 Kee L. Kani 647
 Gregory B. Cruz 643
 A.L. Vertodes 635
 Malvar Lodge No. 7 633
 Charley Jones 627
 Ken Ying Low Restaurant, Gim Wah, 625
 Chong L. Chan Grocery Store 609
 Vacant 613
 M.F. Kohn Liquor Store 605
 Vacant 601; Vacant 603
 A.R. Antolin Laundry 611
 Vacant 607

Rev. Mathis' Black Church of God in Christ still exists and serving.** Over the following years several black individuals lived in 6th. St.

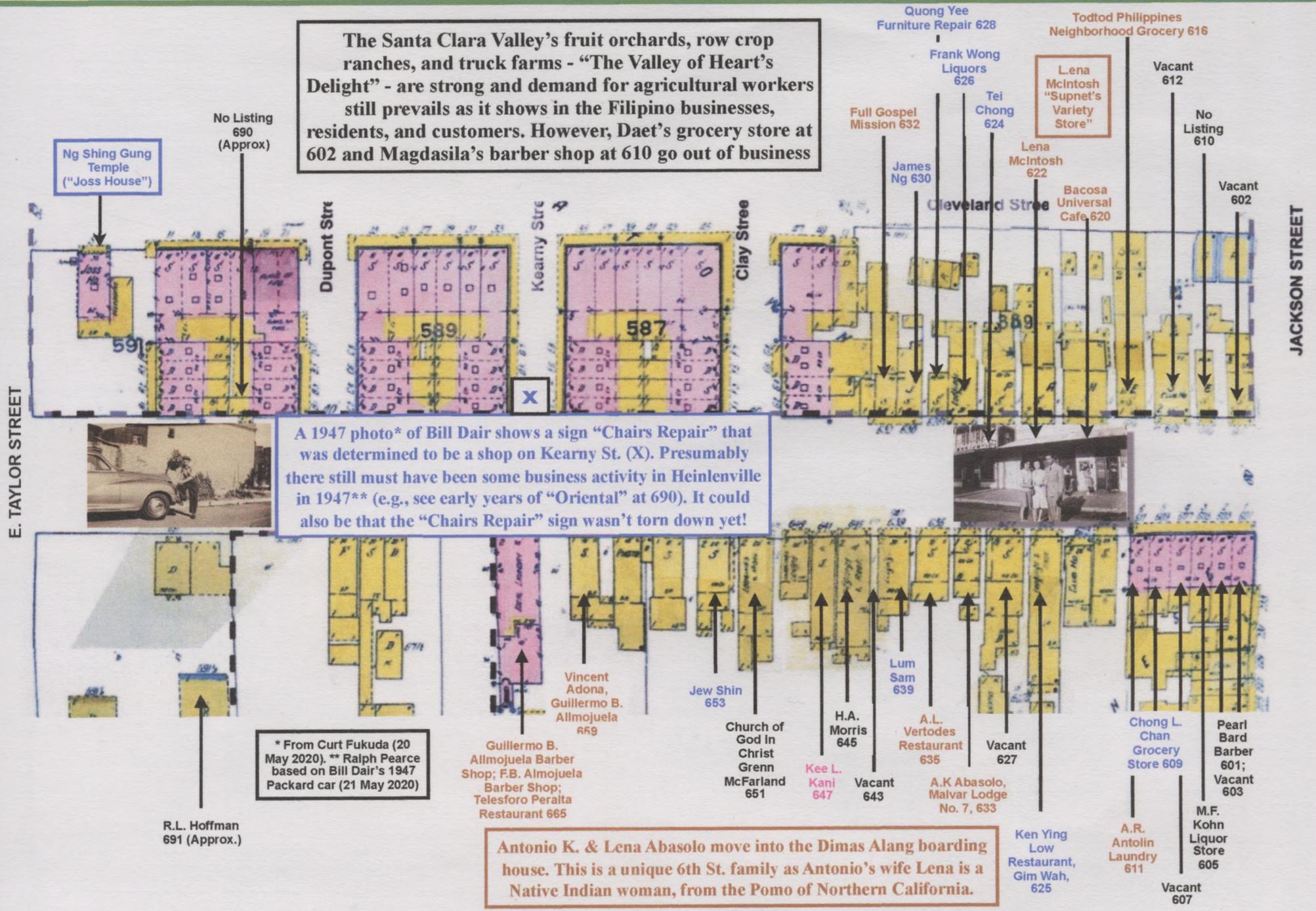
** "San Jose Japantown A Journey", Curt Fukuda & Ralph Pearce, pgs 174-176

E. TAYLOR STREET

JACKSON STREET

1947: Post-World War II Enthusiasm..., But A Coming Cloud Over Sixth Street Chinatown

The Santa Clara Valley's fruit orchards, row crop ranches, and truck farms - "The Valley of Heart's Delight" - are strong and demand for agricultural workers still prevails as it shows in the Filipino businesses, residents, and customers. However, Daet's grocery store at 602 and Magdasila's barber shop at 610 go out of business

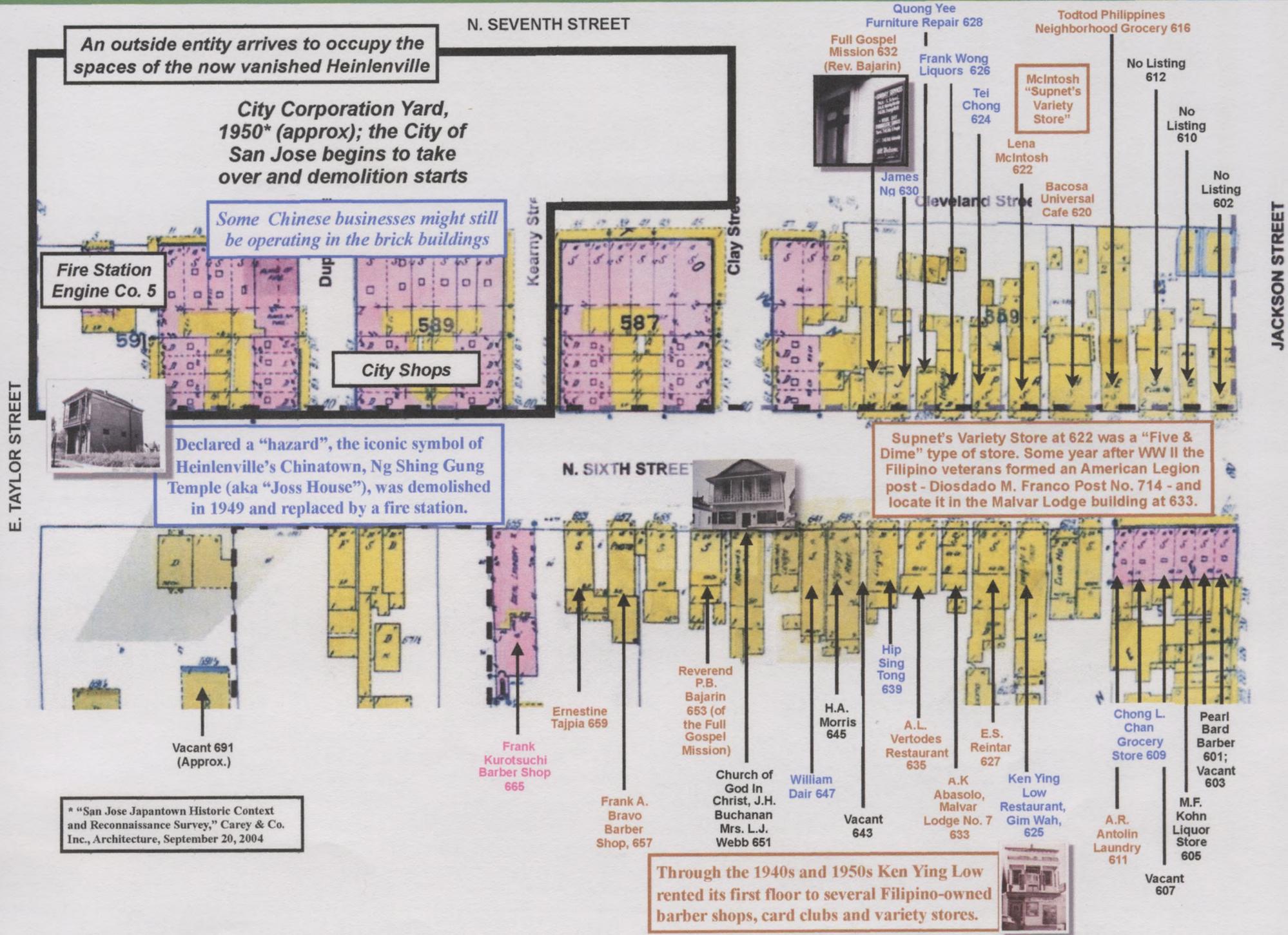


A 1947 photo* of Bill Dair shows a sign "Chairs Repair" that was determined to be a shop on Kearny St. (X). Presumably there still must have been some business activity in Heinlenville in 1947** (e.g., see early years of "Oriental" at 690). It could also be that the "Chairs Repair" sign wasn't torn down yet!

* From Curt Fukuda (20 May 2020). ** Ralph Pearce based on Bill Dair's 1947 Packard car (21 May 2020)

Antonio K. & Lena Abasolo move into the Dimas Alang boarding house. This is a unique 6th St. family as Antonio's wife Lena is a Native Indian woman, from the Pomo of Northern California.

1949 to 1950: Last Symbol of Heinlenville Chinatown's Culture Demolished



An outside entity arrives to occupy the spaces of the now vanished Heinlenville

City Corporation Yard, 1950* (approx); the City of San Jose begins to take over and demolition starts

Some Chinese businesses might still be operating in the brick buildings

Declared a "hazard", the iconic symbol of Heinlenville's Chinatown, Ng Shing Gung Temple (aka "Joss House"), was demolished in 1949 and replaced by a fire station.

Through the 1940s and 1950s Ken Ying Low rented its first floor to several Filipino-owned barber shops, card clubs and variety stores.

Supnet's Variety Store at 622 was a "Five & Dime" type of store. Some year after WW II the Filipino veterans formed an American Legion post - Diosdado M. Franco Post No. 714 - and locate it in the Malvar Lodge building at 633.

* "San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey," Carey & Co. Inc., Architecture, September 20, 2004

N. SEVENTH STREET

N. SIXTH STREET

E. TAYLOR STREET

JACKSON STREET

Quong Yee Furniture Repair 628

Todtod Philippines Neighborhood Grocery 616

Full Gospel Mission 632 (Rev. Bajarin)

Frank Wong Liquors 626

McIntosh "Supnet's Variety Store"

No Listing 612

Tei Chong 624

Lena McIntosh 622

No Listing 610

James Ng 630

Bacosa Universal Cafe 620

No Listing 602

Fire Station Engine Co. 5

City Shops



Ernestine Tajpia 659

Frank Kurotsuchi Barber Shop 665

Reverend P.B. Bajarin 653 (of the Full Gospel Mission)

H.A. Morris 645

A.L. Vertodes Restaurant 635

E.S. Reintar 627

Chong L. Chan Grocery Store 609

Pearl Bard Barber 601; Vacant 603

Vacant 691 (Approx.)

Frank A. Bravo Barber Shop, 657

Church of God In Christ, J.H. Buchanan Mrs. L.J. Webb 651

William Dair 647

Vacant 643

A.K. Abasolo, Malvar Lodge No. 7 633

Ken Ying Low Restaurant, Gim Wah, 625

A.R. Antolin Laundry 611

M.F. Kohn Liquor Store 605

Vacant 607



1952: An "Intruding" New Resident - Major Contributing Factor in Chinatown's Demise

The City Corporation Yard will ultimately occupy the entire Heinlerville area and lead to the destruction of the historic cultural sites on the East side of 6th St.

City Corporation Yard, 1950* (approx)

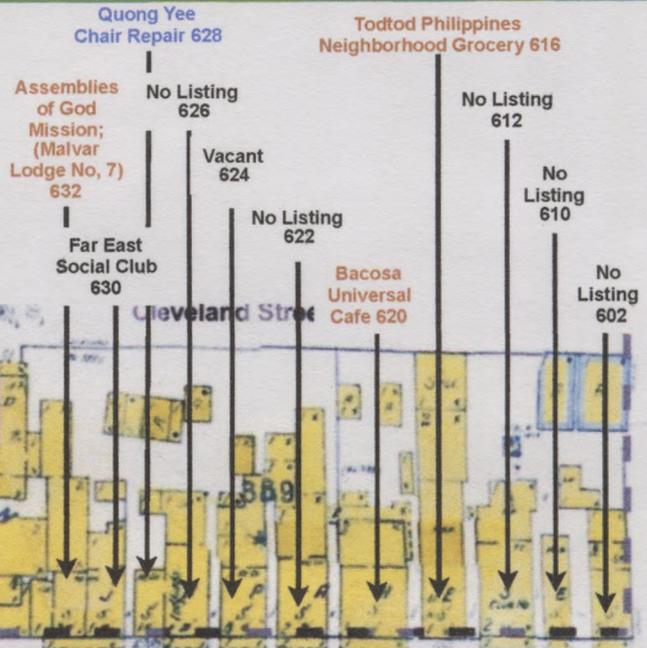
Some Heinlerville buildings still stand and a number of Chinese businesses and residents move to 6th St.

Fire Station Engine Co. 5

City Shops

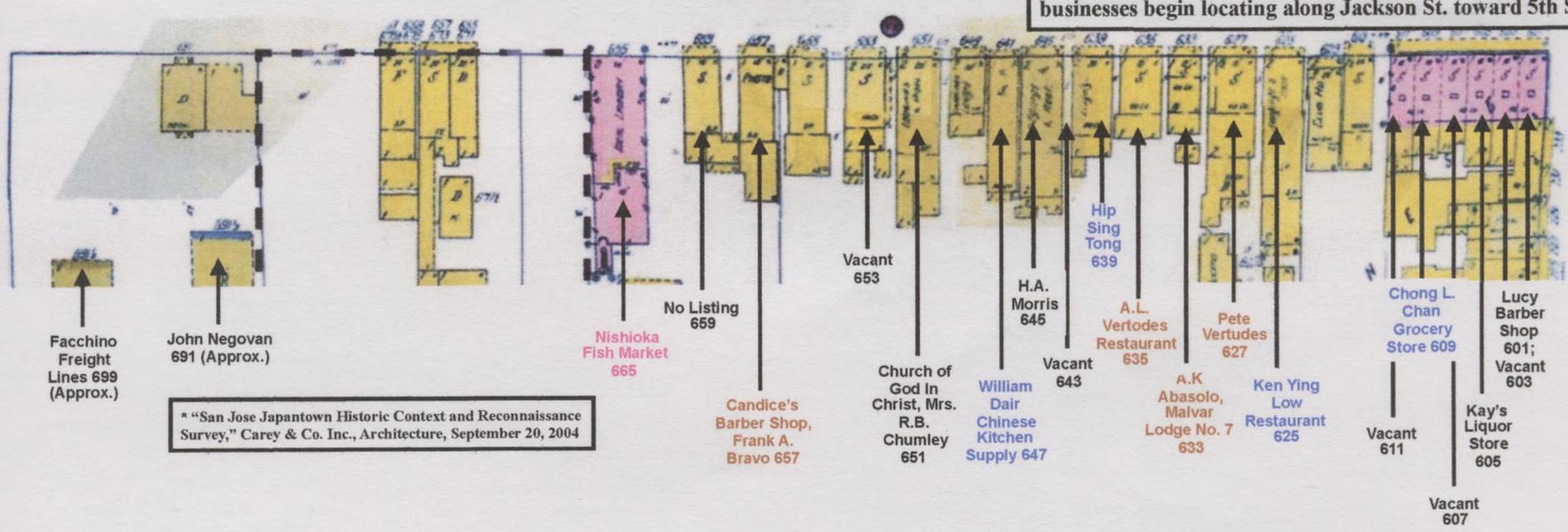
N. SEVENTH STREET

The trend to take over the Heinlerville acreage becomes obvious as the remaining old wood frame buildings are doomed



N. SIXTH STREET

With the decline of businesses and impending demolition of the structures in the East side of 6th St., the Japanese businesses begin locating along Jackson St. toward 5th St.*



* "San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey," Carey & Co. Inc., Architecture, September 20, 2004

E. TAYLOR STREET

JACKSON STREET

1954: Pinoytown Is Fading - Mainstays Todtod's and Bacosa's Are Out of Business

In 1954, two major and favorite Filipino businesses, Todtod's Philippine Neighborhood Grocery, and Bacosa's Universal Cafe, are no longer on the Polk Directory, the signs of Chinatown/Pinoytown's slow demise, losing its socio-cultural uniqueness.

City Corporation Yard, 1950
(approx)

Illustration only of
Corp Yard expansion

Fire Station
Engine Co. 5

City Shops

N. SEVENTH STREET

Quong Yee
Chair Repair 628

Vacant 616

No Listing
626

No Listing
612

Assemblies
of God
Mission;
632

Gim
Wong
624

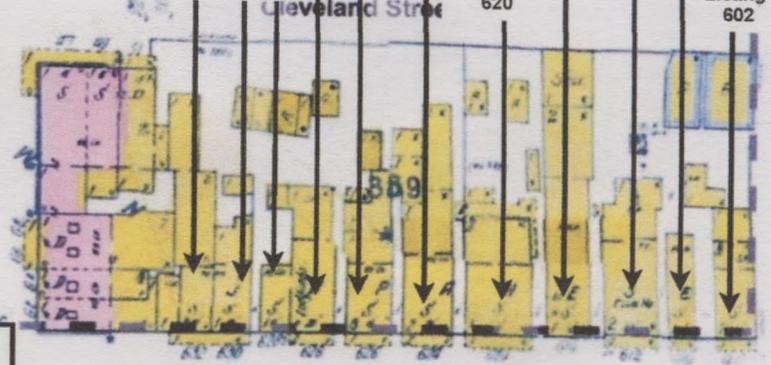
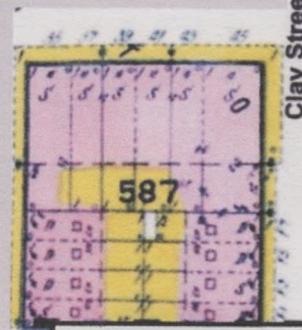
No Listing
610

Far East
Social Club
630

No Listing
622

No Listing
602

No Listing
620



According to Eugene
("Pinky") Reintar,
N. Valley Launderette &
Cleaners at 655 is a
Japanese-owned shop

E. TAYLOR STREET

Facchino
Freight
Lines 699
(Approx.)

John Negovan
691 (Approx.)

Nishioka
Fish Market;
Frank's
Barber Shop;
Taira Nishioka
665

No Listing
659

Candice's
Barber
Shop, Frank
A. Bravo
657

Vacant
653

Valley
Launderette
& Cleaners
655

Church of
God in
Christ 651

William
Dair
Chinese
Kitchen
Supply 647

H.A.
Morris
645

Vacant
643

Hip
Sing
Tong
639

Anthony L.
Vertudes
Restaurant
635

Malvar
Lodge No. 7
633

Pete
Vertudes
627

Ken Ying
Low
Restaurant
625

Chong L.
Chan
Grocery
Store 609

Lucky
Barber
Shop,
Jujiro
Wakarjama
611

Vacant
601;
Vacant
603

Kay's
Liquor
Store
605

Vacant
607

1955: Only Five Buildings on the East Side of 6th Are Occupied

During the downtrend of this unique socio-cultural and anthropologically historic area, there was little interest in preserving or documenting Sixth Street Chinatown's sites and interviewing its residents who were still alive.*

Illustration only of Corp Yard expansion

City Corporation Yard, 1950 (approx)

Fire Station Engine Co. 5

City Shops

With the buildings on East side 6th St. slowly being abandoned, social and cultural interactions diminish, although it continues to some extent on the West side.

The Filipino presence: Assemblies of God Mission at 632; Frank Bravo's Candice Barber Shop (named after his daughter) at 657; Tony Vertudes Restaurant at 635, and his residence at 627; Malvar Lodge No. 7, of the Caballeros de Dimas Alang, at 633.

* For the history of San Jose's Chinatowns including Heinlenville, see "Chinatown San Jose, USA", Connie Young Yu,

E. TAYLOR STREET

N. SEVENTH STREET

Quong Yee
Chair Repair 628

Vacant 616

No Listing
626

No Listing
612

Assemblies
of God
Mission;
632

Gim Wong
624; Frank
Leong 624 1/2

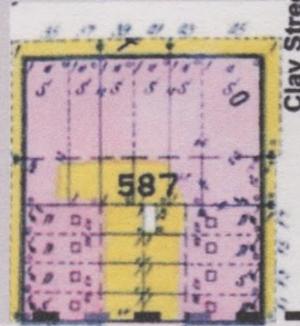
No Listing
610

Far East
Social Club
630

No Listing
622

No Listing
620

No Listing
602



Clay Street

Cleveland Street

JACKSON STREET

N. SIXTH STREET

Facchino
Freight
Lines 699
(Approx.)

John Negovan
691 (Approx.)

Nishioka
Fish Market;
Frank's
Barber Shop;
Taira Nishioka
665

No Listing
659

Valley
Launderette
& Cleaners
655

No Listing
653

Candice's
Barber Shop,
Frank A.
Bravo 657

Church of
God In
Christ 651

William
Dair
Chinese
Kitchen
Supply 647

H.A.
Morris
645

Vacant
643

Anthony L.
Vertudes
Restaurant
635

Malvar
Lodge No. 7
633

Hip Sing
Tong
639

Pete
Vertudes
627

Ken ying
Low
Restaurant
625

Kogura,
side
entrance
617

Vacant
615

Chong L.
Chan
Grocery
Store 609

Lucky
Barber
Shop,
Jujiro
Wakarjama
611

Vacant
601; No
Listing
603

Kay's
Liquor
Store
605

Vacant
607

1956: The Filipino Community Builds a Hall; Full Gospel Mission Disappears

N. SEVENTH STREET

Quong Yee
Chair Repair 628

Club "616"
616

Illustration only of
Corp Yard expansion

After about 20 years of serving its devout members, the Filipino church at 632, first as "Full Gospel Mission" (1935-1950), ministered by Rev. B.P. Bajarin, then as "Assemblies of God Mission" (1951-1955), no longer exists.

City Corporation Yard, 1950
(approx)

No Listing
626

Vacant
632

Raymond Lee
624; Frank
Leong 624 1/2

No Listing
622

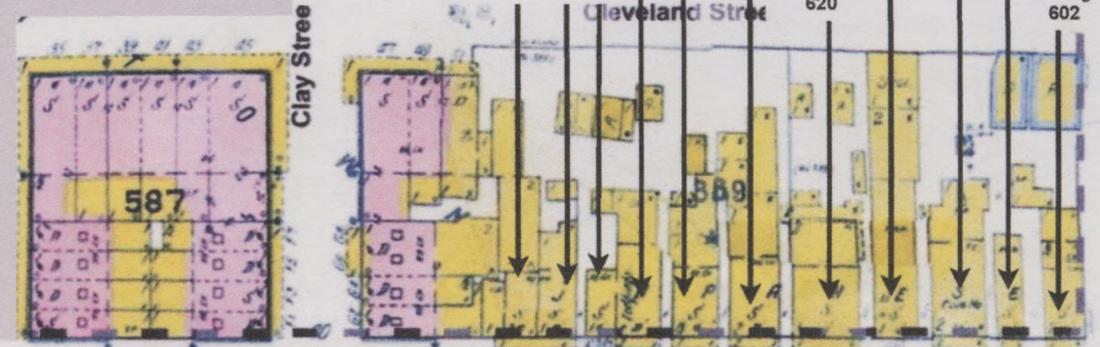
No Listing
620

No Listing
612

No Listing
610

No Listing
602

Toyo Express
Trucking 630



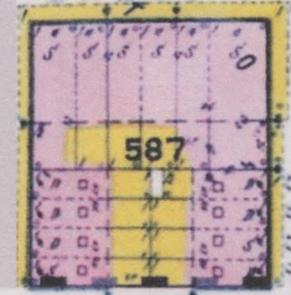
Cleveland Street

Clay Street

JACKSON STREET

Fire Station
Engine Co. 5

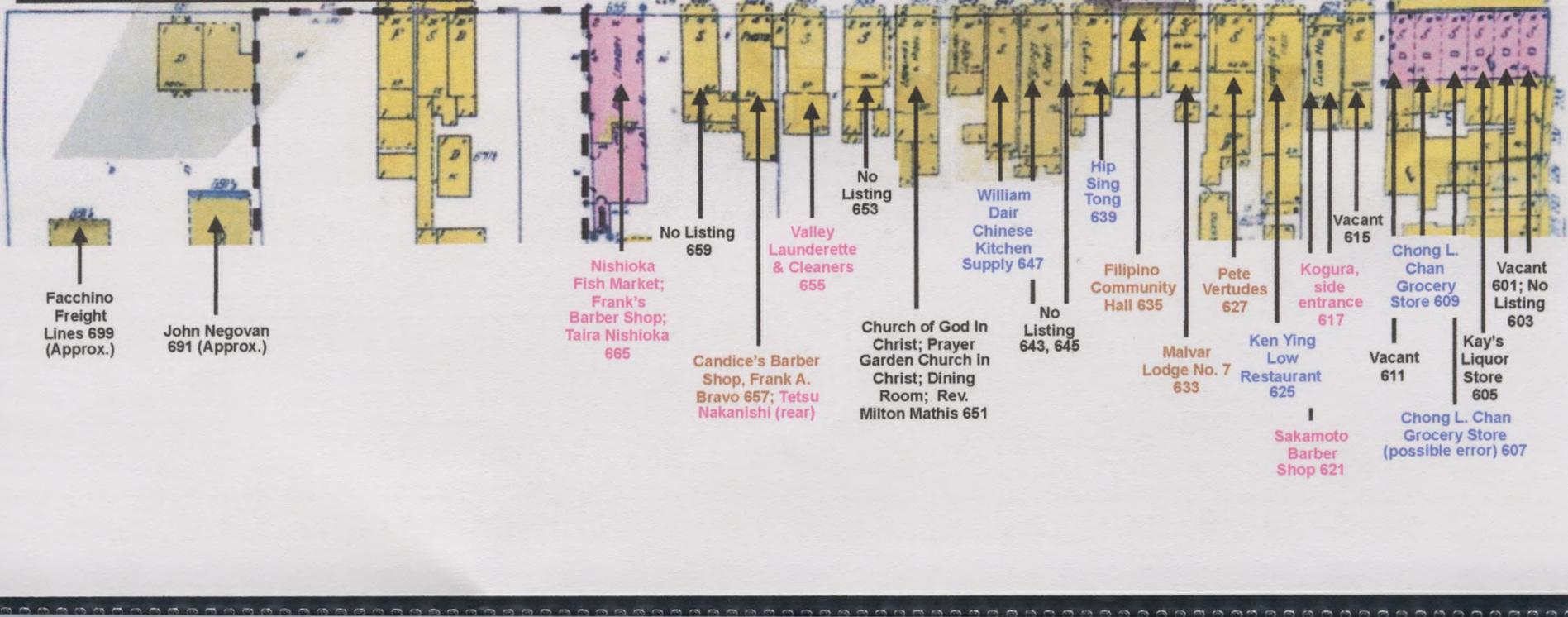
City Shops



E. TAYLOR STREET

By the early 50s decade the Valley of Heart's Delight is fading and Silicon Valley looms in the future. The farms and orchards begin to disappear and along with them the laborers.

Following years of meeting at various locations since 1933, a group of Filipinos pool their funds and buy the Vertudes property at 635, and build a "Filipino Community Hall".



Facchino
Freight
Lines 699
(Approx.)

John Negovan
691 (Approx.)

Nishioka
Fish Market;
Frank's
Barber Shop;
Taira Nishioka
665

No Listing
659

Valley
Launderette
& Cleaners
655

No Listing
653

Candice's Barber
Shop, Frank A.
Bravo 657; Tetsu
Nakanishi (rear)

Church of God In
Christ; Prayer
Garden Church in
Christ; Dining
Room; Rev.
Milton Mathis 651

William Dair
Chinese
Kitchen
Supply 647

No Listing
643, 645

Hip Sing
Tong
639

Filipino
Community
Hall 635

Malvar
Lodge No. 7
633

Pete
Vertudes
627

Ken Ying
Low
Restaurant
625

Kogura,
side
entrance
617

Sakamoto
Barber
Shop 621

Vacant
615

Vacant
611

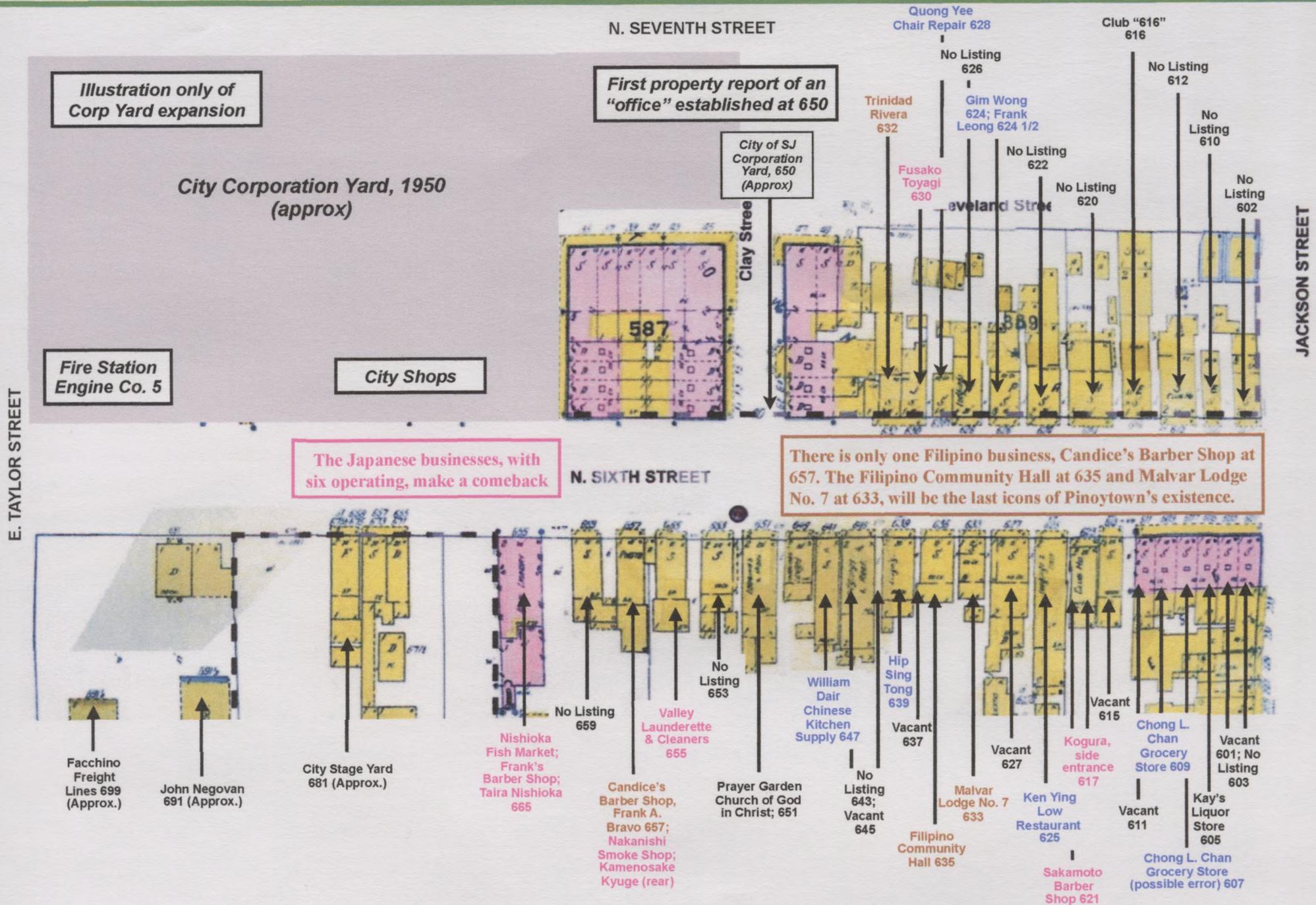
Chong L.
Chan
Grocery
Store 609

Chong L. Chan
Grocery Store
(possible error) 607

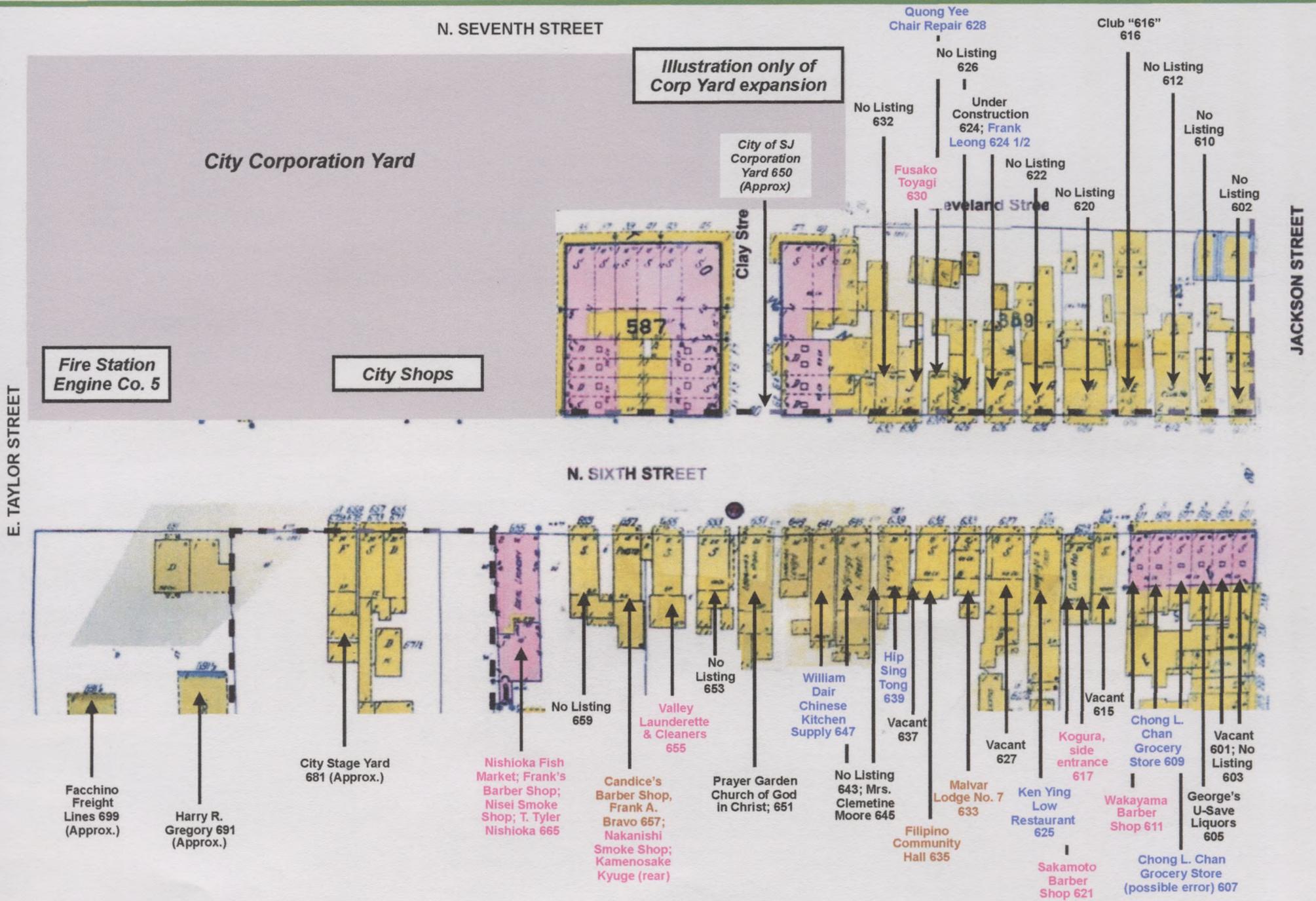
Vacant
601; No
Listing
603

Kay's
Liquor
Store
605

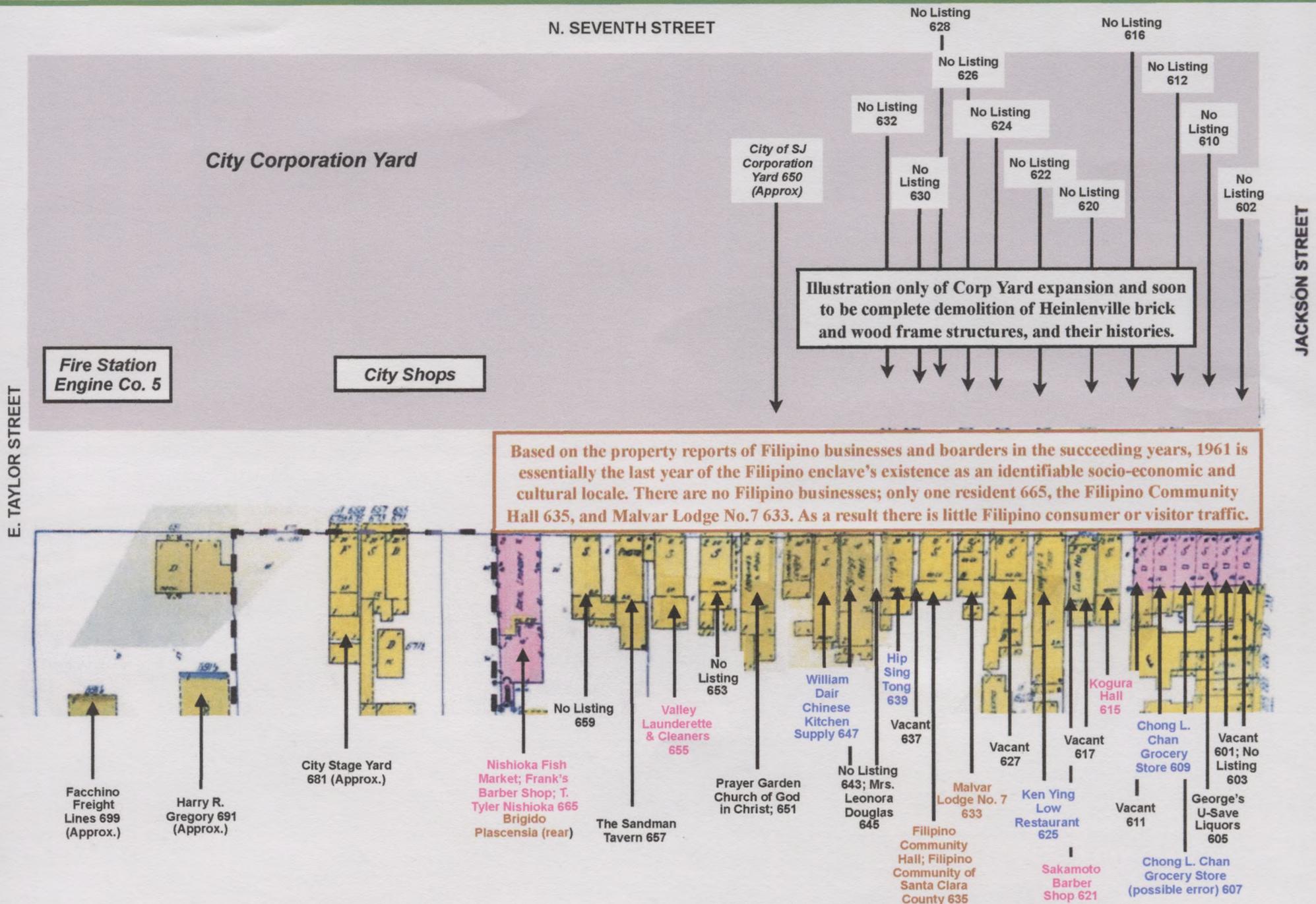
1957: City Officially Begins to Take Over East Side 6th St. - Corporation Yard at 650



1959: More "No Listing" - Signaling East Side 6th St.'s Impending Demise



1961: East Side 6th St. Becomes A Social-Cultural Ethnic Void - "No Listing"



Based on the property reports of Filipino businesses and boarders in the succeeding years, 1961 is essentially the last year of the Filipino enclave's existence as an identifiable socio-economic and cultural locale. There are no Filipino businesses; only one resident 665, the Filipino Community Hall 635, and Malvar Lodge No.7 633. As a result there is little Filipino consumer or visitor traffic.

Illustration only of Corp Yard expansion and soon to be complete demolition of Heinlenville brick and wood frame structures, and their histories.

1962: East Side - Abandoned Boarding Houses, Shops, Stores, Restaurants

N. SEVENTH STREET

Illustration only of Corp Yard expansion

City Corporation Yard

The reports of "No Listing" for the entire East side of 6th St., indicate there was no one occupying any building and that all the structures are presumed abandoned.

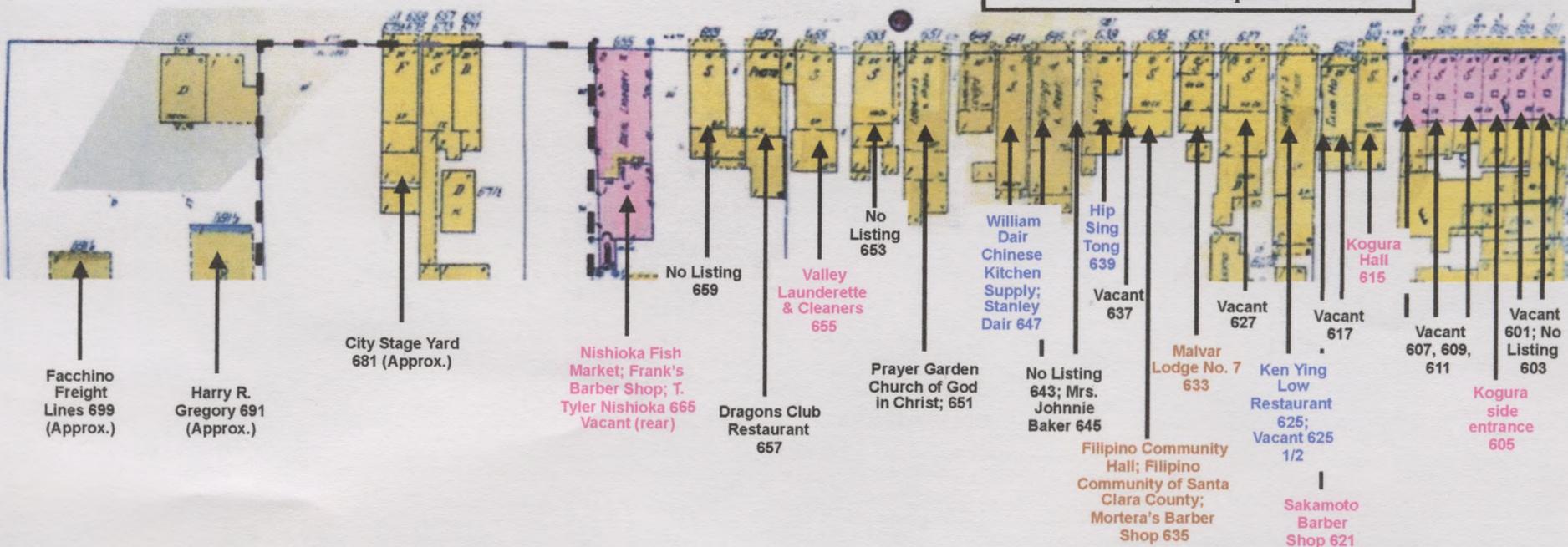
City of SJ Corporation Yard 650 (Approx)

JACKSON STREET

E. TAYLOR STREET

N. SIXTH STREET

The majority of visitors and shoppers are now of Chinese and Japanese descent.



1963: Just the West Side 6th St. Showed Remnants of a Multi-Cultural Mix

N. SEVENTH STREET

City Corporation Yard

Illustration only of Corp Yard expansion

Ultimately the buildings, boardwalks, signs and streets of Heinlenville are leveled to the ground, leaving no physical evidence that there ever existed a thriving, self-contained neighborhood of Chinese families and businesses. And, the fact that *Heinlenville* gave rise to the short-lived Filipino enclave of *Pinoytown* and the socio-economic, expansive *Japantown*

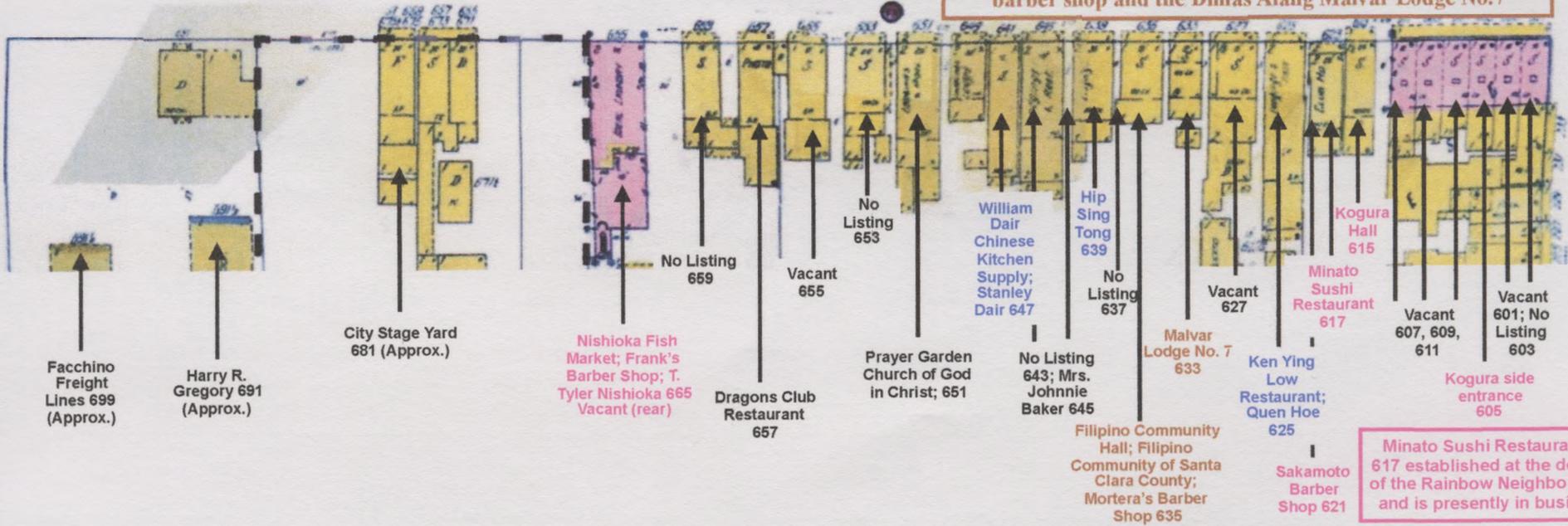
JACKSON STREET

City of SJ Corporation Yard 650 (Approx)

E. TAYLOR STREET

N. SIXTH STREET

The only Filipino presence in the once bustling Rainbow Neighborhood is the Filipino Community Hall with Mortera's barber shop and the Dimas Along Malvar Lodge No.7



Minato Sushi Restaurant at 617 established at the decline of the Rainbow Neighborhood and is presently in business

1972: And Then There Were..., Three, Four and One

N. SEVENTH STREET

In some year between the two property reports, 1963 and 1972, Malvar Lodge No. 7 of the Caballeros de Dimas Alang moved out of their office and boarding house buildings; the same with its boarder, the American Legion Post No. 714. Thus the last vestige of the "Pinoytown" of Pinoys and Pinays passes into history, along with the unique "Rainbow Neighborhood." Of this short life span of Pinoytown's existence (1931-1961) only the Filipino Community Center at 635 exists and is still active.



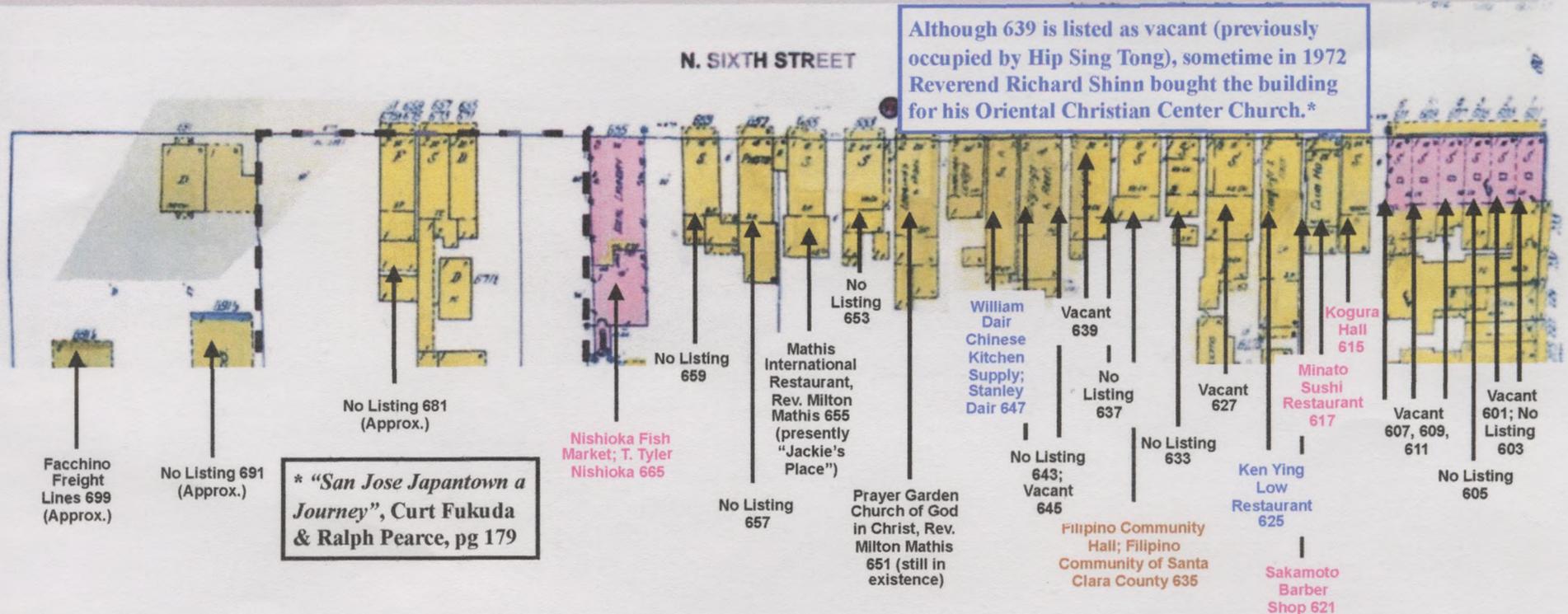
City Corporation Yard

Illustration only of Corp Yard expansion

In the following years the Heinlenville Chinatown was reduced to flat ground level. The portion near where the wood frame structures were located by Jackson St. was made into a parking lot, which also served for a while as a Farmer's Market. Finally, the entire area is the site of huge multistoried concrete and steel structures to house condominiums, store front businesses, restaurants, and a park, emblematic of all Silicon Valley developments.

JACKSON STREET

E. TAYLOR STREET



SIXTH STREET: A Look Back at Its Life and Inevitable Path to Oblivion

Remember: "6th St." is a street, but "Sixth Street" is the ethnic tri-cultural milieu of that street

- The enclave of Filipinos/Filipinas (later named "Pinoytown") as a culturally vibrant locale did not last more than 30 years
- Interactions among first generation immigrants - Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, - were friendly, but mostly retail, commercial (particularly gambling and other "social imperatives")
- Such interactions, Chinatown (i.e., "Sixth Street"), were not a "melting pot" per se; i.e., interracial marriages or family-social mixers (only two known Pinoy/Nisei marriages of that era)
- Children of the First Wave (aka, "Second Wave" or "Bridge Generation") were close friends with contemporary Chinese and Japanese kids through Peter Burnett Jr. High School, San Jose High School, and Chinatown
- For among the peer groups of Chinese, Japanese and Filipino kids in the 1930's through 1960's of the "Chinatown Era", we were all "Second GENERASIANS" regardless!
- The aging of First Wave Filipinos and Filipinas ultimately changed the demographics of Sixth Street Chinatown, causing a decline in the population, hence businesses
- The aging population of immigrant Chinese and Japanese in Chinatown, and also their children, further caused a loss of residents and businesses in Sixth Street, as their maturing youths sought different life paths, as did the Fil-Am youths

SIXTH STREET: The Aging Population Helped Cause Pinoytown's Fade into History

We all remember: "Sixth Street Pinoytown" suffered the same fate of Stockton's "Little Manila", Los Angeles' "Filipinotown", San Francisco's "Manilatown", and many other vanished "Sixth Streets" of California

- Many returning Filipino veterans married (some with Philippine war brides), raised families, moved to the suburbs, or found homes and jobs in other campos (e.g., Imperial Valley, Central Valley)
- The First Wave Filipinos now older, marry and/or move to other campos to work seasonal crops, some retire; few new immigrant Filipinos/Filipinas patronize Chinatown/Pinoytown
- The Second Wave Fil-Ams kids married, went to college, entered service, or moved to jobs in other cities, and were not replaced by upcoming younger Fil-Am's here and from other cities
- The close knit Fil-Am's of the 40s decade became a diffuse peer group; the *San Jose Agenda Club of Filipino Youth*, founded in 1946, became inactive
- By early 1960's Chinatown/Pinoytown no longer existed as a culturally unique enclave, and ultimately most of the buildings were demolished, those on east side of 6th, totally
- At this time local Japanese organizations (e.g, Jackson-Taylor Professional and Business Association) organized development of a cohesive "*Japantown*", initially centered along Jackson St. between 5th and 6th, ending "*Sixth Street Chinatown*" as a tri-cultural enclave
- Later Filipino immigrants, mostly professionals, business owners, shop keepers, created local populations and commercial areas in other Bay Area cities (e.g., Daly City, Fremont)
- This population and related organizations were culturally and socially distant from those of the old Pinoytown enclave and the Filipinos/Filipinas of the era before the Tydings McDuffie Act