



The Architecture of San Francisco Chinatown

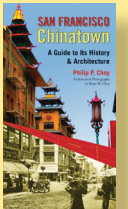
FREE WALKING TOUR MAP



After you learn about the history of the Chinese in America in the CHSA Museum, take this map to guide you through the Chinatown neighborhood.

The architecture of Chinatown is unique: it was a response against the city's attempt to move Chinatown after the 1906 Earthquake. Chinatown merchants developed a plan to rebuild Chinatown into an "Oriental City" as you see now. Its "Sino-architectural" look was a response to the threat of displacement. That is why Grant Avenue is lined with classical building elements combined with Chinese motifs. The use of green, yellow, and red are authentically Chinese, but overall, the architecture you see today is unique only to San Francisco.

For an in-depth guide to Chinatown, bring along a copy of *San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to its History & Architecture* (2012) written by CHSA historian Philip P. Choy. Available for purchase in the CHSA Museum Store.



- 1 Chinese Historical Society of America Museum / Chinatown YWCA**
965 Clay St.
Designed by Julia Morgan in 1932. City Landmark #122. Home of the CHSA Museum since 2001.
- 2 Cameron House**
920 Sacramento St.
Designed by George McDougall 1907. City Landmark #44. Known for early Presbyterian mission work providing refuge to young Chinese girls.
- 3 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association**
843 Stockton St.
1908 Headquarters building of Six Companies, once the "voice" of all Chinese of America in the 19th century and first half of the 20th century.
- 4 Kong Chow Temple**
855 Stockton St., 4th floor
One of the oldest Chinese temples in North America. Relocated from Pine St. to this location in the 1970s.
- 5 Gum Moon Residence**
940 Washington St.
Designed by Julia Morgan in 1912. Methodist Mission first established in 1870 at 916 Washington St.
- 6 Waverly Place**
Tien Hou Temple (125 Waverly Place) is the Chinese namesake for Waverly Place, where many Chinese associations located their headquarters. Tien Hou is the Queen of Heaven and Goddess of the Seven Seas.
- 7 Chinese Telephone Exchange**
743 Washington St.
Built 1909. Only Chinese telephone exchange in the United States.
- 8 Portsmouth Square**
Originally Spanish Plaza of Yerba Buena. Renamed Portsmouth Square in 1846 when Commander John B. Montgomery, from the naval ship Portsmouth, raised the American flag in the conquest of California.
- 9 Old St. Mary's Church**
700 California St. at Grant Ave.
City Landmark #2. Rebuilt in 1907 by architects William Crane and Thomas England. First church on site in 1853.
- 10 Sing Chong Building**
NW corner of California & Grant Ave.
- 11 Sing Fat Company**
SW corner of California & Grant Ave.
Both buildings designed in 1908 by T. Patterson and A.W. Burgren, the first buildings constructed following the 1906 SF Earthquake and Fire. Look Tin Eli, manager of Sing Chong Bazaar, led the effort to create a new "Oriental City." Sing Chong Building was owned by K.A. Rivers and M.A. Music. Sing Fat Company was established by Tong Bong in 1866, one of the first pioneers in merchandising oriental arts and antiques.

