

The Heart of San Francisco's Nihonmachi (Japantown)

Japanese American Businesses at Post & Buchanan Streets
1910, 1940, 1950, 1970, and 2000
Maps by Ben Pease

These maps are part of a set of maps I have drawn of Japanese American businesses districts in San Francisco and other cities showing how they have changed over time.

Buildings are based on Sanborn Insurance Map Co. maps of 1910, 1929, 1951, and 1987, from microfilm at the San Francisco Public Library History Room. I redrew the maps and copied buildings forward and backward to match what existed at the featured dates, based on directory and historic photo evidence. Buildings may or may not be accurate for the dates shown.

Japanese American business and institution names are from old directories published by newspapers such as the Hokkubei Mainichi, Nichibei Times, Japanese American News, and others. They are provided courtesy of Mr. Seizo Oka, curator of the Japanese American History Archives (JAHA) in San Francisco. Maps also build on a set of maps at JAHA created in 1990 by the Japantown Arts & Media Workshop (JAM).

Map ©1998-2018 by Ben Pease.

I have created similar maps for 24 historic Japantowns in California, including the wider San Francisco Japantown area, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Marysville, and more. thanks in part to a 2006 California Civil Liberties Public Education Project, at www.japantownatlas.com

– Ben Pease



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SAN FRANCISCO

Map Legend:

Dwellings (single residences)

Flats and Apartments

Hotels, Housekeeping Rooms,
Boarding Houses, etc.







Churches & Synagogues

Community Facilities
(Schools, social, government, etc.)

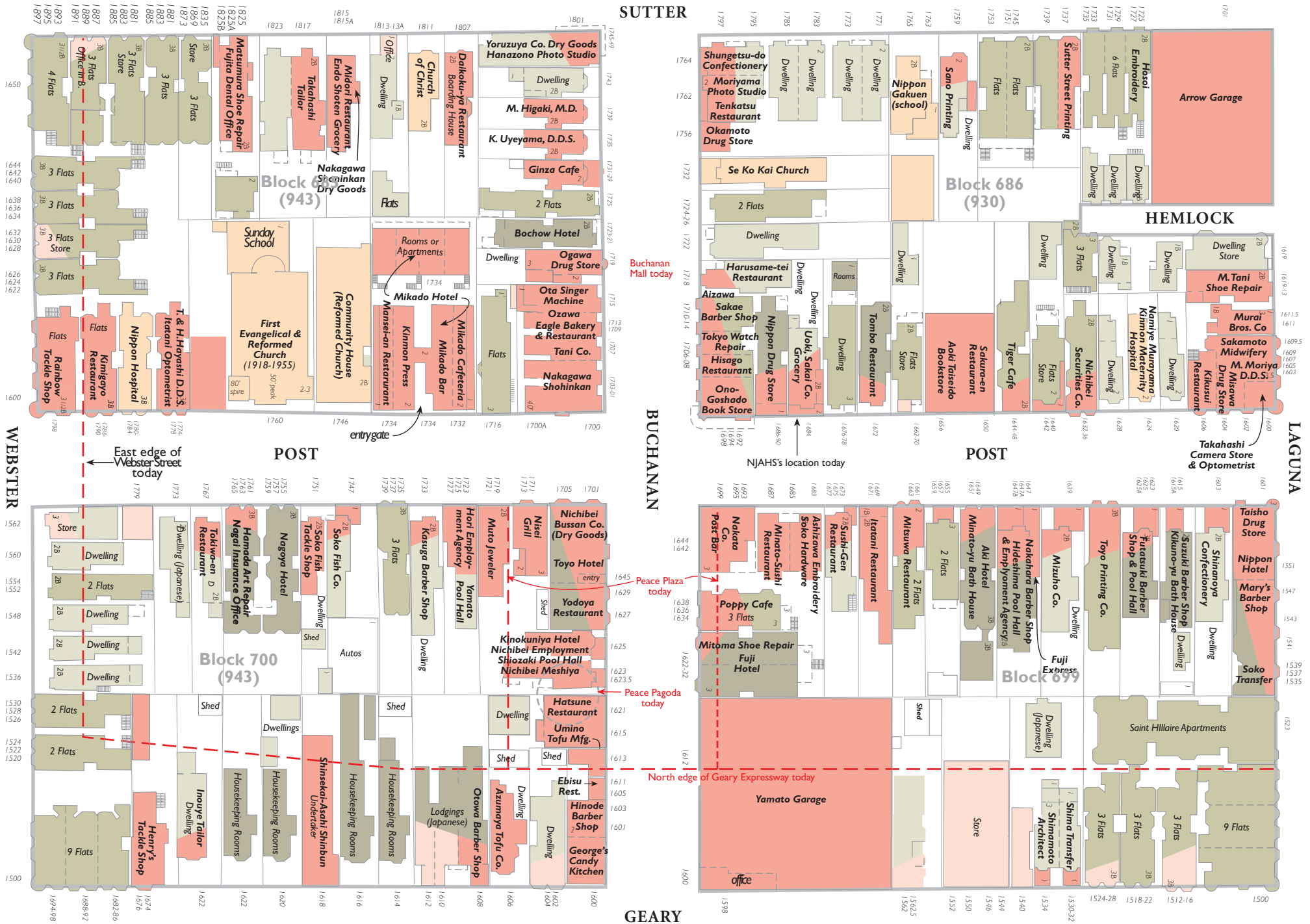
**Japanese American Businesses
and Institutions**

Generic business use from
Sanborn Insurance map notes

Building Symbols:

-  Building
-  Porch or overhang, open structure,
also lumber piles
-  Partition within building
-  Barn, stable, or hayloft
-  Property Line
-  Stairs
- 28 Number of Stories
- 153 Street Address

The Heart of San Francisco's Nihonmachi in 1940



SUTTER

BUCHANAN

GEARY

WEBSTER

LAGUNA

Japanese Corp of Salvation Army, built in 1930s at SE corner of Geary & Laguna



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