

TAHPDX: TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

A partnership between Portland State University, Portland Public Schools and the Beaverton School District, funded by the U.S. Department of Education

PORTLAND OREGON'S CHINESE POPULATION GIS PROJECT (1863-1930) METADATA

The PDX_Chinatown data and maps are also compiled in a powerpoint presentation that is packaged with this project or can be downloaded from the TAHPDX: Teaching American History Project website (Google "TAHPDX" to find the home page link and look for the <Historical GIS Data> page link).

This dataset prepared as part of the Teaching American History Project (2005-08), a partnership between Portland State University, Portland Public Schools and the Beaverton School District, funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Permission to use this dataset is given for educational and research purposes only. When using the data, please reference the Community Geography Project, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, Portland State University.

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Description: The ornate gate to Portland Oregon's "Chinatown" is conspicuous today, as one crosses Burnside, but it is not well-known that Portland's Chinese community once extended far beyond its current borders and was part of a vibrant and diverse community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The PDX Chinatown GIS project displays the shifting boundaries of Portland's Chinatown during the years 1863-1926 (including a reference boundary of the current "Oldtown/Chinatown"). The extent of a serious fire in 1873 along the waterfront is also shown. Additional layers include the location of the Chinese Gardens along Tanner Creek in the western portion of the city, which formed a vital part of the Chinese community (encroachment by development heralded an end to the Garden community by 1910). A more detailed look at Oldtown/Chinatown in 1930 is available in layers that represent individuals counted in the 1930 U.S. manuscript census overlaid on a 1932 Sanborn rectified fire insurance map.

Project Name: PDX_Chinatown.apr

Format: ArcView 3.3

Data Sources:

Filename: Chinatown1863 [1873, 1875, 1879, 1889, 1901, 1908, 1926].shp
Chinagardens1879 [1889, 1901, 1908].shp

Format: ESRI Shapefiles (polygon)

Description: Boundaries of Chinatown/Chinese Gardens.

Source: Wong, Marie Rose. 2004. *Sweet Cakes, Long Journey: The Chinatowns of Portland, Oregon*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.

Data Manipulation: Boundaries for the Chinese Gardens (1879-1908) were digitized from rectified maps found in Wong's book. Wong's book also contains nine maps that depict the changing boundaries of Portland's Chinatown for the years spanning 1863-1926. Blocks were selected from a current taxlot GIS data layer based on these maps and a layer was created for each year represented (except for 1868 which was not significantly different from 1863).

Chinese Gardens: Includes layers for 1879, 1889, 1901 and 1908.

Chinatown: Includes layers for 1863, 1873, 1875, 1879, 1889, 1901, 1908 and 1926.

Filename: 1930_OT_Census.shp

Format: ESRI Shapefile (point)

Description: 1930 Manuscript Census for selected Oldtown Blocks:

Bounding Streets: *west Broadway, east Front, south Burnside, north Everett*

Data Manipulation: Manuscript census datasheets were obtained for the 1930 U.S. census encompassing the Oldtown/Chinatown area. This datafile was created by manually entering the handwritten 1930 census data for the designated blocks into a spreadsheet program. The data were then geocoded (using the household address on the census) to block parcels created specifically for the Teaching American History Project using address locations on the 1926 Sanborn Insurance Maps. Locations of individuals are a rough approximation as the actual distribution of individuals within multi-floor buildings is indeterminable. Closer examination of the Sanborn maps reveals a number indicating the number of floors per building. Densities of population can thus be inferred by looking at the number of floors for the building. Data file originally transcribed by Kezia MacAlistaire, Research Historian, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, Portland State University. Geocoding performed by Heather Kaplinger, Teaching American History Assistant, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, Portland State University.

Additional Project Data Layers:

This project also includes some current and historical data layers including a boundary polygon that shows the current extent of Portland's Chinatown, current rivers and streets, and a raster image of the 1932 Sanborn fire insurance map.

Attributes: 1930 U.S. Manuscript Census for Oldtown Portland, Oregon

N = 2188 (individual records)

Attributes	Definition & Coding
ADDRESS	Site Address
NAME	Name of each person whose place of abode on 4/1/1920 was in this family (Last, First)
R_HOH	Relationship of this person to the Head of Household (<i>text as written</i>)
OWN_RNT	Home Owned or Rented NN = nothing noted R = rented O = own
HV_CMV	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented # = monthly dollar value (or full value if owned) 0 = nothing noted
RADIO	Radio set at premises N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted
FOF	Does this family live on a farm? NN = nothing noted N = no <i>no entries for yes</i>
SEX	Gender (M = Male; F = Female)
RACE	Color or Race CH = Chinese FIL = Filipino HIN = (Hindu) East Indian IN = Indian (Native American) JP = Japanese MEX = Mexican NEG = Negro (African-American) W = White
AGE	Age at last birthday (numeric value) 0 = nothing noted
MARITAL	Marital Condition M = Married D = Divorced S = Single UN = Unknown WD = Widowed
AGE_M	Age at first marriage (<i>numeric value</i>) 0 = nothing noted
SCHL	Attended school any time since 9/1/1929 N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted
READ	Whether able to read or write N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted
BIRTH	Place of Birth: Individual (<i>location</i>) NN = nothing noted ND = not decipherable

BIRTH_F	Place of Birth: Father (<i>location</i>) NN = nothing noted ND = not decipherable
BIRTH_M	Place of Birth: Mother (<i>location</i>) NN = nothing noted ND = not decipherable
LANG	Mother Language or Native Language of Foreign Born (<i>text</i>) NN = nothing noted ND = not decipherable
YEAR	Year of immigration to the U.S. (<i>year</i>) NN = nothing noted UN = unknown
ENG	Whether able to speak English N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted
OCCUP	Occupation, Trade, Profession, or Work Done (<i>text as listed</i>)
EMP	Whether actually at work on the last regular working day N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted
VET	Whether a Veteran of U.S. Military N = no Y = yes NN = nothing noted

Spatial Extent: Downtown Portland, Oregon

Projection:

The projection of the Chinatown GIS project conforms to the standard projection used by Metro so that current layers from the RLIS dataset can be used for comparative analysis.

Projected Coordinate System: NAD_1983_HARN_StatePlane_Oregon_North_FIPS_3601

Projection: Lambert_Conformal_Conic

False_Easting: 8202099.73753281

False_Northing: 0.00000000

Central_Meridian: -120.50000000

Standard_Parallel_1: 44.33333333

Standard_Parallel_2: 46.00000000

Latitude_Of_Origin: 43.66666667

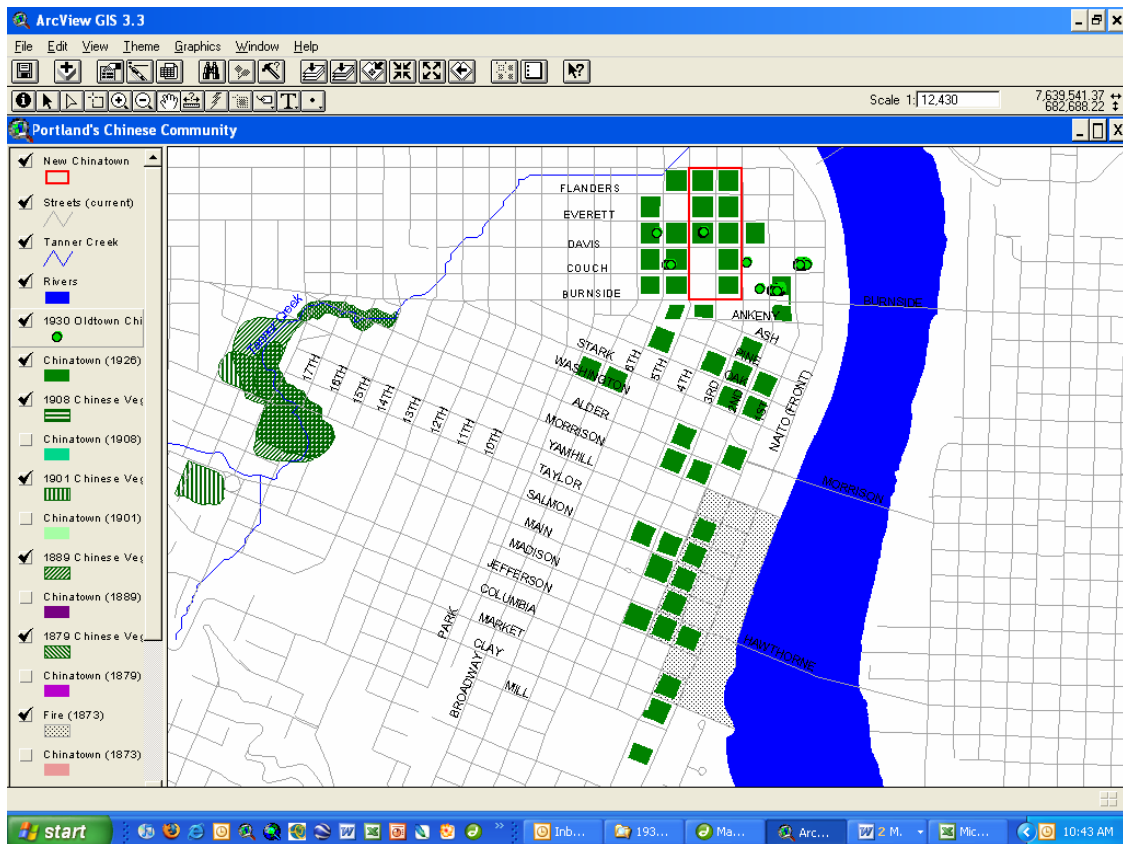
Linear Unit: Foot

Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_North_American_1983_HARN

Datum: D_North_American_1983_HARN

Prime Meridian: Greenwich

Angular Unit: Degree



Using the Chinatown GIS Project in your Classroom:

This data supports a curriculum unit that looks at the diversity of Portland's population at the turn of the century (1860s through early 1900s), particularly with regard to Portland's Chinese population. In combination with Wong's "Sweet Cakes, Long Journeys" book, the numerous historic photos available from the Oregon Historical Society on early Portland (including photos of Chinatown and the Chinese Gardens) and other primary documents illustrating Oregon's relationship with its minority populations (e.g. The Chinese Exclusion Act), students can explore the following questions:

1. Where did minority (Chinese) population settle in early Portland? Why might they have settled there? How has the distribution of minority populations (Chinese) in Portland changed over time? Where do the majority of Chinese live in Portland today?
2. What factors throughout the history of Portland have determined where minority (Chinese) populations could live and work?
3. What might life have been like for the minority population (Chinese) – look at photos and make some observations about the density of the minority population (e.g. boarding houses) that you identify on the map (using the 1930 census data).
4. What was the age and gender distribution of the Chinese population in 1930? What observations can you make about the demographics of the population based on the data? Why might that be?
5. What role did the Chinese Gardens play in the life of Chinatown residents? Why might they be located where they are? What happened over time to the gardens? How might that have affected the Chinese population in Portland?