

Appendix A. Resources and Reports about Japantown San Jose

The residents of Japantown have collected rich historical information about their neighborhood, and the City of San Jose has produced a number of specialized reports on the area. We have compiled this list of printed and online materials as a “first stop” for researchers and residents interested in gathering data or learning more about the area.

Brochures

Guide to Japantown San Jose.

Pocket brochure produced by the Japantown Business Association (JBA). Includes a listing of businesses, services, organizations, and restaurants affiliated with the JBA. Also includes a map, historical walking tour, and a list of seasonal events. A good introduction to the neighborhood. *Available in Japantown businesses, restaurants, and from the JBA.*

Books

Timothy J. Lukes and Gary U. Okibiro. Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in the Santa Clara Valley. California History Center, 1985.

Includes a history of Japanese and Japanese Americans who settled in and around San Jose and built up its agricultural dominance starting in the late 19th century. Also includes an in-depth history of Japantown.

Gail Dubrow with Donna Grave. Sento at Sixth and Main: Preserving Landmarks of Japanese American Heritage. Seattle Arts Commission, 2002.

Centennial Yearbook Committee, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. 1902-2002: Our First Hundred Years. San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose, CA. 2003.

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose and The Japantown Business Association. San Jose Historic Japantown Open House booklet. Preservation Action Council, 1994.

Connie Young Yu. Chinatown, San Jose, USA. San Jose, CA: San Jose Historical Museum Association, 1991.

While it focuses more on the Chinese population of San Jose, this book contains crucial information on the site of the current Corporation Yard, tracing its history as a Chinatown, its metamorphosis into the heart of Japanese-American life in the South Bay, and what happened after the WWII internment.

Reports

Eduardo Martinez Architects. Japantown Cultural Resources Summary. 2001.

This is a detailed report on the community resources of Japantown, and the spaces that they occupy. The report was drafted for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to make recommendations on the need for more office spaces and community centers in Japantown.

Kathleen M. Sakamoto. Japantown San Jose Preservation and Development (Senate Bill 307 San Jose Japantown Report). 2004.

This document, written in response to State Senate Bill 307, outlines the history of Japantown from the point of view of community members. It also provides excellent transcripts of interviews with long-time residents, as well as notes and transcripts from community meetings discussing the future of Japantown and the meaning of Japanese-American culture. Available online at <http://www.japantownsanjose.org/SB307%20San%20Jose%20report%20draft.html>.

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

This in-depth report covers the history of Japantown through the history of its buildings, containing many fascinating antique photographs and maps. It also includes an inventory of 67 buildings, and includes limited recommendations for historic preservation, future study, and possible options for designation as a historic area. Available online at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/Historic/Index.html>. Copies also available at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, History San Jose.

Wurster, Bernandi & Emmons, John B. Dykstra and Associates, Economics Research Associates, and Febr and Peers Associates. Nihonmachi Business District Plan. City of San Jose, March 1987.

This plan discusses how retail can be strengthened and how Japantown can be better marketed as a commercial and business destination. It includes very detailed guidelines for storefront enhancement and streetscape improvements.

Calthorpe Associates and Bay Area Economics. Jackson-Taylor Residential Strategy. Department of City Planning, City of San Jose. Adopted October 1992. Revised November 1996 and November 1997.

This neighborhood plan focuses on a broader area of San Jose, but includes the Nihonmachi Business District (central Japantown) and the Corporation Yard site in its discussion. It includes historical background about the area, maps and descriptions of land use and ownership, detailed urban design scenarios and guidelines, transit analysis, zoning information, and suggestions of preferred development types. Note that many of the lots portrayed in the plan as undeveloped have since been built up.

Hexagon Transportation Consultants, Inc. Japantown Parking Analysis. City of San Jose Redevelopment Agency, 1998.

Using field observations, parking ratios, and interviews, this study determines which “zones” of Japantown lack parking. The study finds that parking is not a serious problem in the area, but that there are some localized shortages and that better signage and markings would be useful to aid parking. The study concludes that buildings should not be demolished to make way for parking lots, but makes suggestions on ways to extend and add parking spaces.

The Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Jose. Japantown Redevelopment Plan, 1993.

Most of this plan is standard redevelopment area language, laying out expectations for development. There is little specific discussion of the Corporation Yard or Japantown’s history, but there are maps and a legal description of the Japantown redevelopment area and its zoning regulations.

Websites

Japantown Business Association - <http://www.japantownsanjose.org>

Sponsored by the Japantown Business Association, this website is a very useful gateway for all sorts of current information about Japantown, including business listings, special events, and information on the Japantown Community Congress and other community organizations.

San Jose Redevelopment Agency - <http://www.sanjoseretail.com/search/index.asp>

This website was designed to provide information for real estate brokers, developers, and future residents. Here you can find information such as:

- Demographics
- Search function for available property
- Map of the retail core
- Resources and incentives (Grant and Loan programs, Key Links)
- Current development project summaries
- Downtown strategies—the future for Downtown

San Jose Redevelopment Agency - <http://www.sjredevelopment.org/>

Gives information on the different neighborhoods of San Jose and the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, and the achievements that the agency has made in the area.