

Japanese Ghetto

There has been a history of prejudice and discrimination of Los Angeles against the People of Japanese Ancestry. Before the war, the Japanese could not go to the public beach except Brighton Beach on Terminal Island. Municipal swimming pools allowed the Japanese children to swim only on the day before the pool was drained. In El Monte, there were segregated public schools, one for the white children and one for the Japanese children.

Los Angeles had restrictive housing covenant. The Japanese People could not live where they wanted to. My family lived in a neighborhood called Uptown, which is now Korea Town. This was one place where the Japanese were allowed to live. The dividing line went through the middle of the block on which we lived. The part closet to Olympic Blvd was 100% Japanese. The part away from Olympic Blvd was 100% non-Japanese. Uptown was a Japanese ghetto.

Little Tokyo was also a Japanese ghetto. This was where the Japanese were allowed to have shops, businesses and housing units. In 1955 the City of Los Angeles took away land from Little Tokyo. The City used eminent domain to take away the land. The City said they needed the land for a "public purpose" – to build Parker Center. Now that the *public purpose* has gone away, the Japanese people want that land back. We want back the Japanese ghetto land.

Kanji Sahara
2419 W. 232nd Street
Torrance, CA 90501
310-539-3733
saharakanji@gmail.com

Date 2/7/17
Committee PLUM Committee
Case No. 15-0127
Page No. 4
Communication from
Public



Date 2/7/17
Subject PLUM
Case No. 15-0127
Page 4
Communication
from public

Marketing • Management • Communications

4130 Sea View Lane • Los Angeles, CA 90065 • 323/223-6473 • 323/342-0817 FAX

Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee members

RE Opposition to Parker Center Historic Cultural Monument Designation

My name is Alan Kumamoto and I am a Downtown Los Angeles Little Tokyo and Arts District Stakeholder and I am a third-generation Japanese American (JA). I have a special life long relationship to the block and space identified as the Los Angeles Street Civic Center Building (Parker Center Site).

I recall the block as a child shopping at stores on First Street and San Pedro Street (Judge John Aiso Street) before the destruction of buildings and JA businesses to build Parker Center with its front facing Los Angeles Street and the rear facing and blocking Little Tokyo.

Both my grandfathers immigrated from Japan and both have a relationship to the Parker Center block. I was born two blocks to the east and lived, worked and volunteered in the area.

My Grandfather Kumamoto was a member of the Buddhist temple and his son (my dad) would practice and compete in the Japanese sport of Sumo in the sports area in the center of the block and later be pharmacist for local drug stores.

My Grandfather Suski was a translator from English to Japanese at the Rafu Shimpo Newspaper, the building on the Northeast corner of First and Los Angeles Streets (the gateway entrance to Little Tokyo) and his daughter my aunt after graduating college became the first English editor.

Following the San Francisco earthquake Grandpa Suski moved to Los Angeles Little Tokyo to set up a photo shop on the block then with seven children at age 38 he decided to enter the University of Southern California Medical School and received his Medical Degree.

He had an office on the block that served Japanese American families and my aunt Louise says he began learning Spanish because he had Mexican American patients from the county.

The historic Los Angeles Little Tokyo is one of three remaining Little Tokyo/Japantowns in the United States. As I worked for years in the Sun Building on Weller Street, shopped and visited the area I saw the effects of changes to Little Tokyo.

The Parker Center block is identified as part of Little Tokyo in planning documents including the Little Tokyo Community Design Overlay (CDO) District.

We urge you to adopt LA Civic Center Master Development Plan, Option B3 to maximize the amount of city employee office space, provide the greatest amount of local parking, continue a pedestrian spine connecting to other parts of Little Tokyo and rebuild the historic connection as a gateway to Little Tokyo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Kumamoto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Kumamoto,



Little Tokyo Community Council
 369 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
 213.293.5822
 Email: info@littletokyola.org http://littletokyola.org

#4

Statement before the Planning and Land Use Meeting
 City Hall, Room 350
 Tuesday, February 7, 2017

My name is Chris Komai, Chair for the Board of Directors of the Little Tokyo Community Council, which represents the interests of our historic neighborhood. We support the B3 option for the Parker Center site, which will better connect the Civic Center to our community, and oppose the Historic Cultural Nomination of the Parker Center building, since it represents the unfair seizure of a major part of Little Tokyo.

My family's business, *The Rafu Shimpo* newspaper, was located on that block. Even after the U.S. government ordered our families out of California during the war, my Uncle Aki returned to Little Tokyo and restarted the newspaper in 1946. But in 1949, the City forced him out again along with many businesses and residents. Adding to the indignity, the LAPD building was designed to cut Little Tokyo off from the Civic Center. Look at it. All we see is its back.

As the community most affected by what happens on this site, Little Tokyo's future ought to be considered first today. The City owes this to our community. Let's start over and build a better Civic Center that serves everyone.

Date: 2/7/17
 Submitted in: PLUM
 Council File No: 15-0127
 Item No: 4
 Communication from: public

Date 2/7/17
Submitter PLUM
Council File No. 15-0127
Item No. 4
Communication
from public

SILVER STAR
FURNISHED
ROOMS

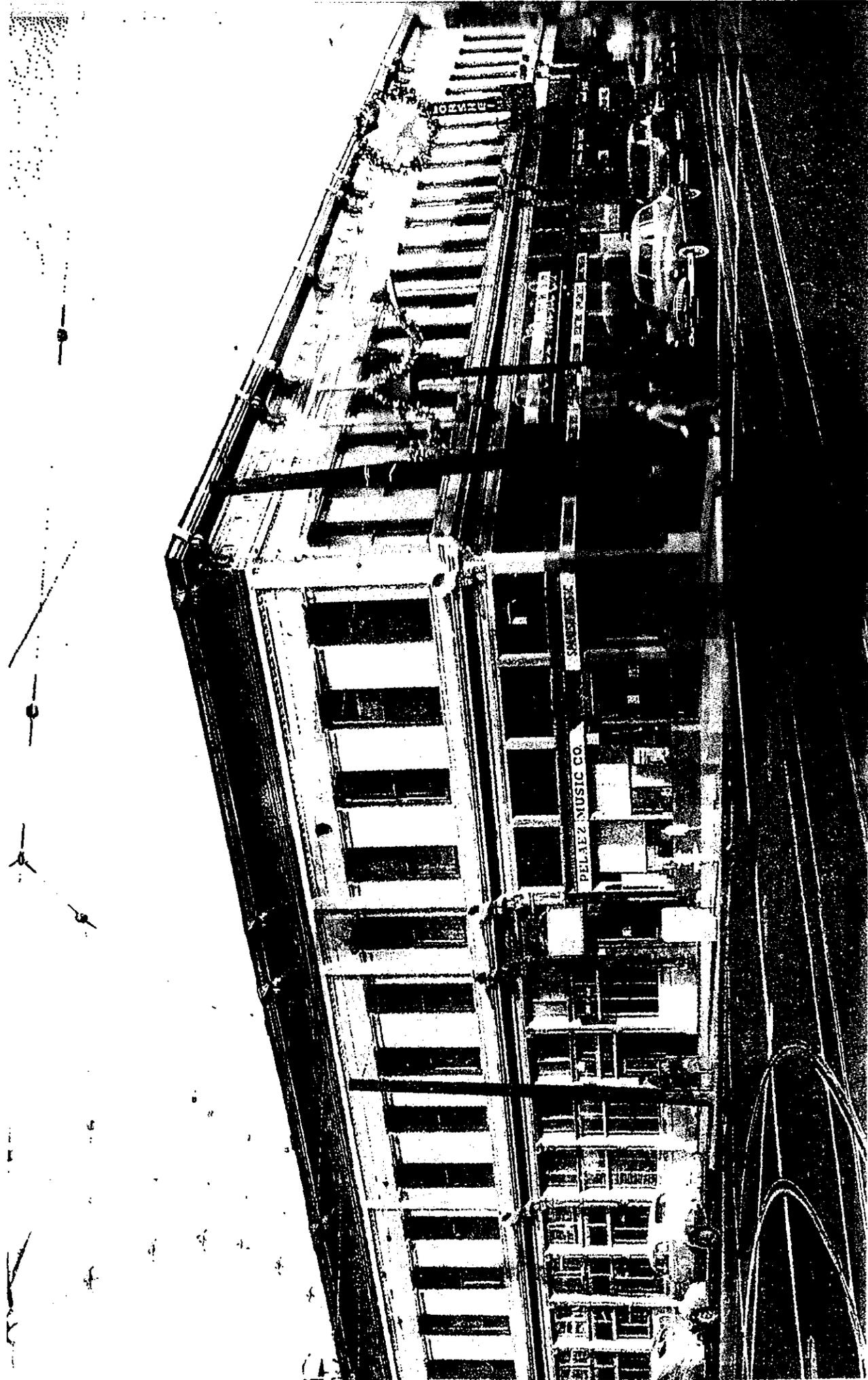
COUNTRY STORE
THE LARGEST
DEPARTMENT
STORE

BEST VALUE
READY TO WEAR

DRUGS

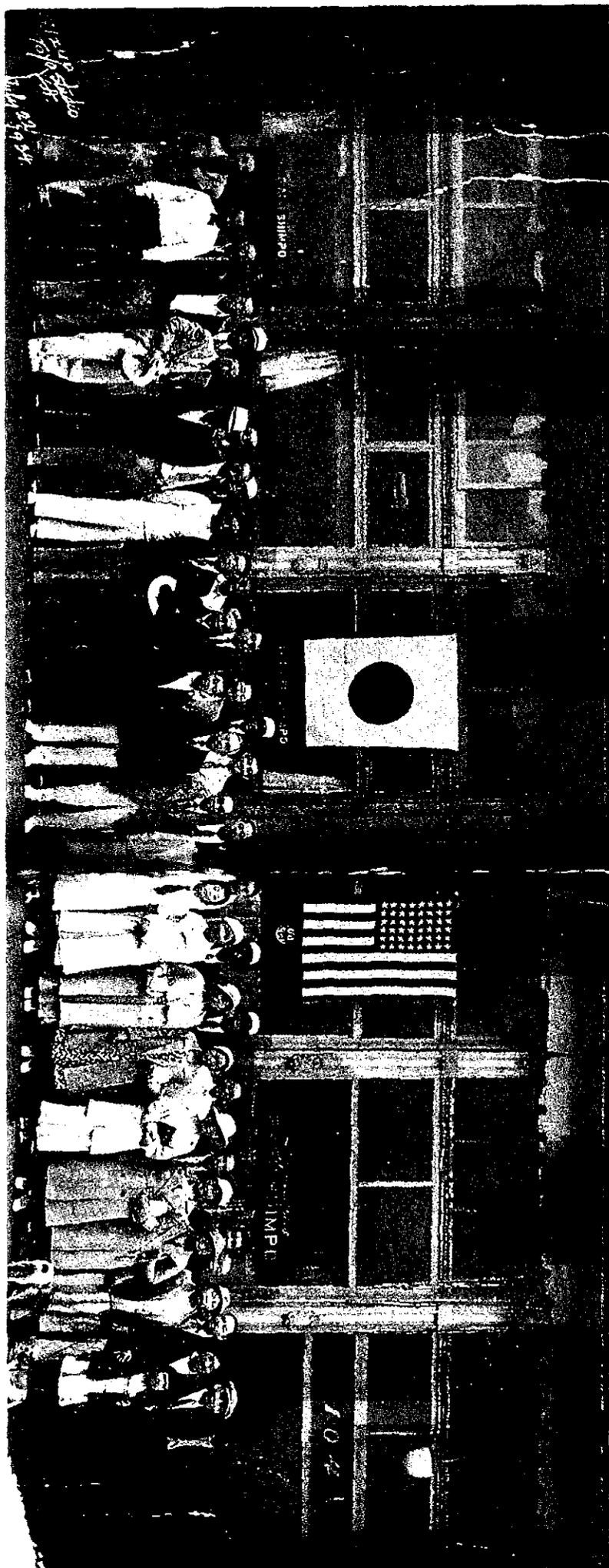
WODO
D
R







THE JAPANESE DAILY NEWS



10-21-1901
10-21-1901
10-21-1901

10-21-1901

10-21-1901

10-21-1901

10-21-1901

10-21-1901



LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

Positive Change for People and Places

231 E. Third Street, Suite G106, Los Angeles, CA 90013
Tel: 213.473.3030 | Fax: 213.473.3031 | www.LTSC.org

February 7, 2017
Councilmember José Huizar
Chair of Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Councilmember José Huizar,

This letter is submitted on behalf of Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), a Little Tokyo-based social service and community development organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social service care, strengthening neighborhoods through housing and community development, and promoting the rich heritage of our ethnic communities. LTSC strongly urges that the PLUM Committee **does not include** the Parker Center in the list of Historic Cultural Monuments, and support the EIR Alternative B3, which includes the demolition of Parker Center.

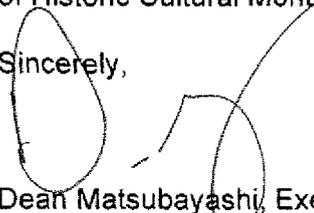
The site of the current Parker Center was previously a vibrant and vital part of Little Tokyo from 1884 to 1953. Shortly after the concentration camps were closed, the Little Tokyo Japanese American community was slowly rebuilding itself and did not have the means to oppose the urban renewal work that displaced over 100 family-owned businesses, up to 1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Parker Center was built in a way that physically cuts off City Hall from Little Tokyo. To preserve the building would be to preserve this disconnect and mass displacement. The City has an opportunity to rectify its past mistakes and re-connect the civic center to Little Tokyo via new pedestrian paseos and activated commercial spaces as envisioned by the Civic Center Master Plan.

We understand that there are those in favor of preserving Parker Center, and we respect their position. However, we feel that they have not meaningfully engaged the Little Tokyo community to learn how we feel about the block and Parker Center. If they did, they would be told that to most Parker Center represents a very dark period in the history of Little Tokyo that should be erased and not preserved. We do not need to preserve the Parker Center building itself to remind us of the mass displacement facing Little Tokyo. We have plenty of other reminders like the First Street North and Mangrove blocks directly adjacent to Parker Center, as well as the current surge of luxury market rate development that has resulted in the loss of 12 longstanding small businesses in the last year.

As an organization rooted in the civil rights and community empowerment movements of the 1970's and founded by a group of Japanese American activists, LTSC stands for principles of racial equity and justice. Parker Center - and its Chief namesake, William H. Parker - represents a painful era of strained relations between LAPD and communities of color. Furthermore, in light of increased public attention to the disproportionate loss of black and brown lives at the hands of law enforcement in this country, we do not support the idea that Parker Center should be preserved as a building and celebrated as an important historic asset for the City of Los Angeles.

We strongly urge the Planning and Land Use Committee, therefore to not include the Parker Center in the list of Historic Cultural Monuments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Dean Matsubayashi, Executive Director

February 7, 2017

I am writing on behalf of LTHS, regarding the different proposals for the Parker Center building. **As a grandson of a business owner and a great grandson of the first pastor of the Japanese Union Church of Los Angeles in Little Tokyo**, I strongly urge the City Council to not preserve Parker Center through the Historic Cultural Monument nomination or by choosing a preservation option in the EIR, but instead I stand with the Little Tokyo community in supporting the demolition of Parker Center (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

My grandfather, Chikashi Tanaka, owned and operated Tanaka Photo Studio on First Street and Tanaka Photo Mart (in the San Pedro Firm Building, adjacent to Union Church) in Little Tokyo. He first helped his uncle Reverend Gi'ichi Tanaka to build the old Union Church building in 1923, five years before Los Angeles City Hall was completed in 1928!

On December 14, 1941 Chikashi Tanaka was arrested by the FBI and taken to Missoula, Montana via Tuna Canyon Detention Center to await trial. Chikashi's son (my father) Yasuo "Clifford" Tanaka had to liquidate all photo mart inventory as shown in the attached Herald Examiner article. My father was 2 days shy of turning when he had to liquidate his father's photo mart!

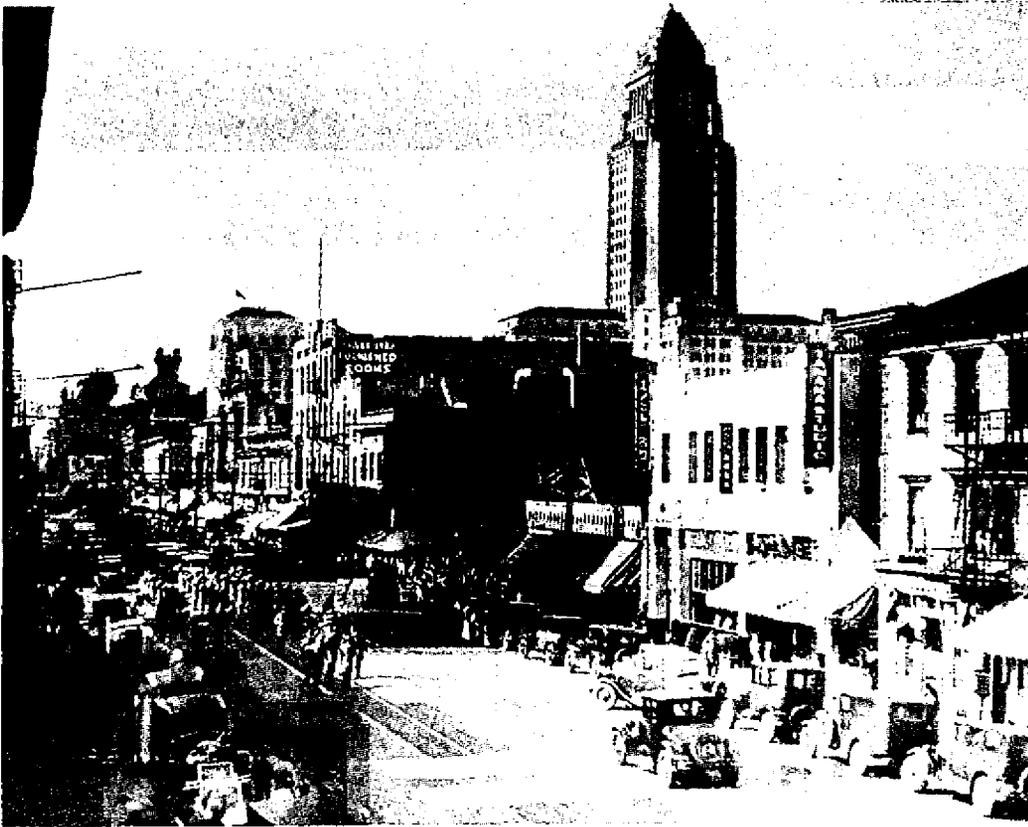
Chikashi Tanaka returned from incarceration and reopened his photo mart in the San Pedro Building next door to the old Union Church Building. His Gunma-ken (State in Japan) Association was also located in the San Pedro Building.

Despite separation from family and loss of property, my grandfather still returned to Little Tokyo to re-establish his business. About 10 years later he had to witness friends, clients and business associates re-locate when the whole block west and across the street from his business and church was demolished so Parker Center could be built. This encroachment upon Little Tokyo destroyed many family-owned and community-serving businesses and was a shock to my family and church.

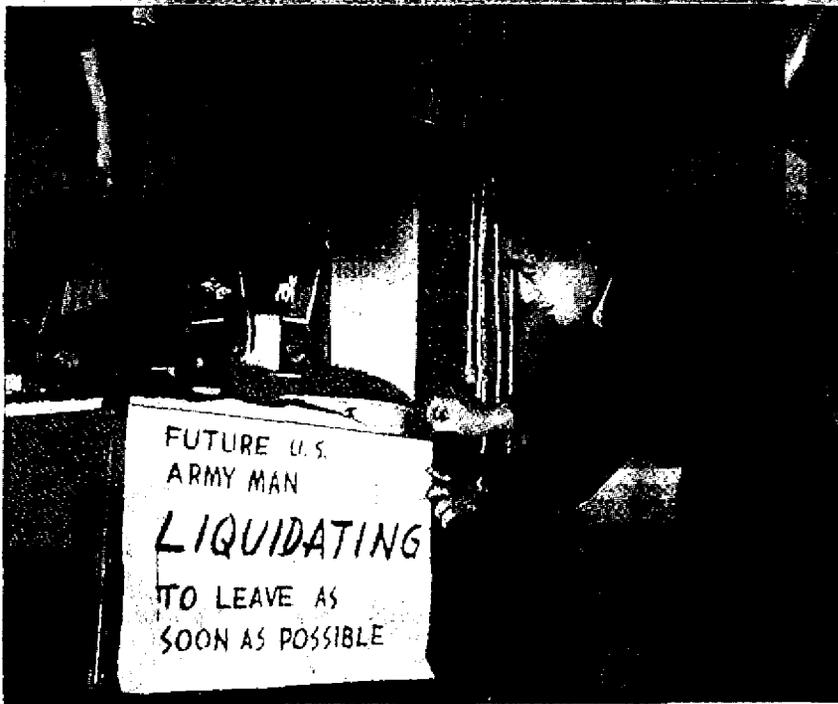
To right this wrong, and for a more holistic preservation of the block's history, the Parker Center block should be reintegrated back into the fabric of Little Tokyo. The Civic Center Master Plan seeks to achieve this via pathways connecting City Hall to Little Tokyo and our future Regional Connector station. The B3 (demolition) option for Parker Center is the only plan that enables this connectivity, as well as providing retail space that will keep the civic center area alive past City Hall closing time. It is the only plan that makes fiscal sense, given the cost to rehab the structurally deficient Parker Center, and the only one that provides parking to replaces the city parking lots in Little Tokyo that will eventually be developed over. Demolishing Parker Center is key to achieving both the City's goals for the Civic Center Master Plan, as well as for the future vitality and preservation of the Little Tokyo community. Along with the entire Little Tokyo community, we strongly urge Councilmembers to reject the Historic Cultural Nomination of Parker Center, and instead support demolition (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Takeo Tanaka, Japanese American Sansei
323-344-0304 jonathantanaka@icloud.com

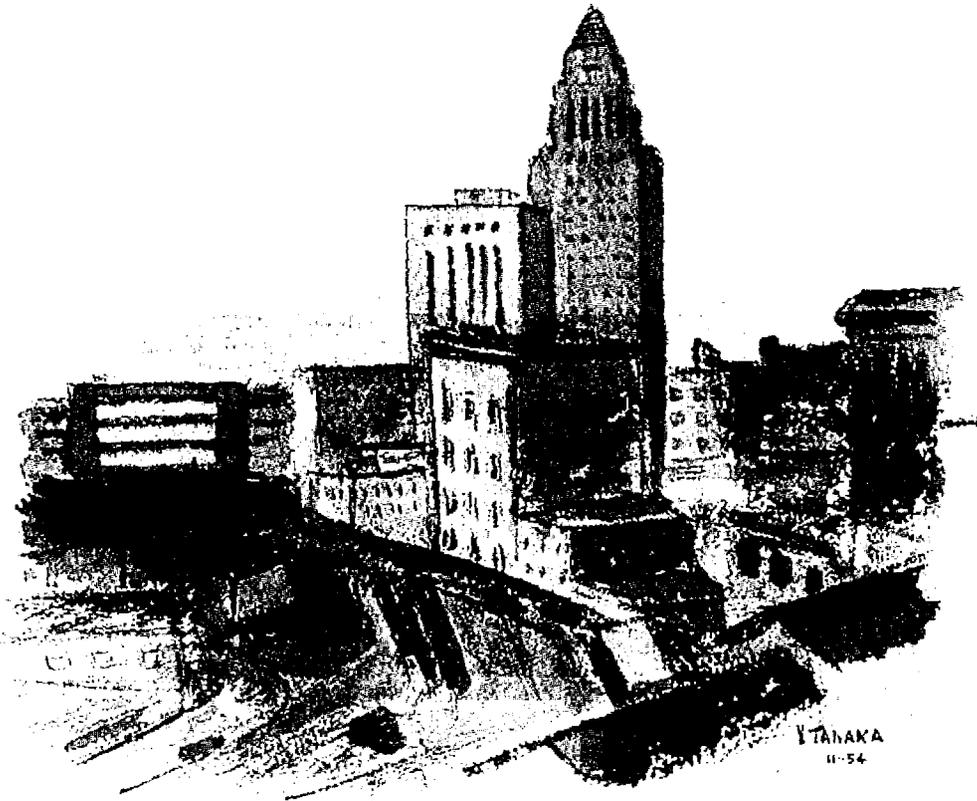


Tanaka Photo Studio on First Street circa 1934



Yasuo Clifford Tanaka posts a sign outside his photography supply store located on San Pedro Street on December 14, 1941. Liquidation sales and auctions forced businesses to lose much of their capital prior to incarceration. Los Angeles mayor Fletcher Bowron and the County Board of Supervisors also dismissed all nisei civil service workers in January 1942. (Courtesy of the *Herald Examiner* Collection/Los Angeles Public Library.)

Yasuo "Clifford" Tanaka posting "Liquidating" sign on December 14, 1941

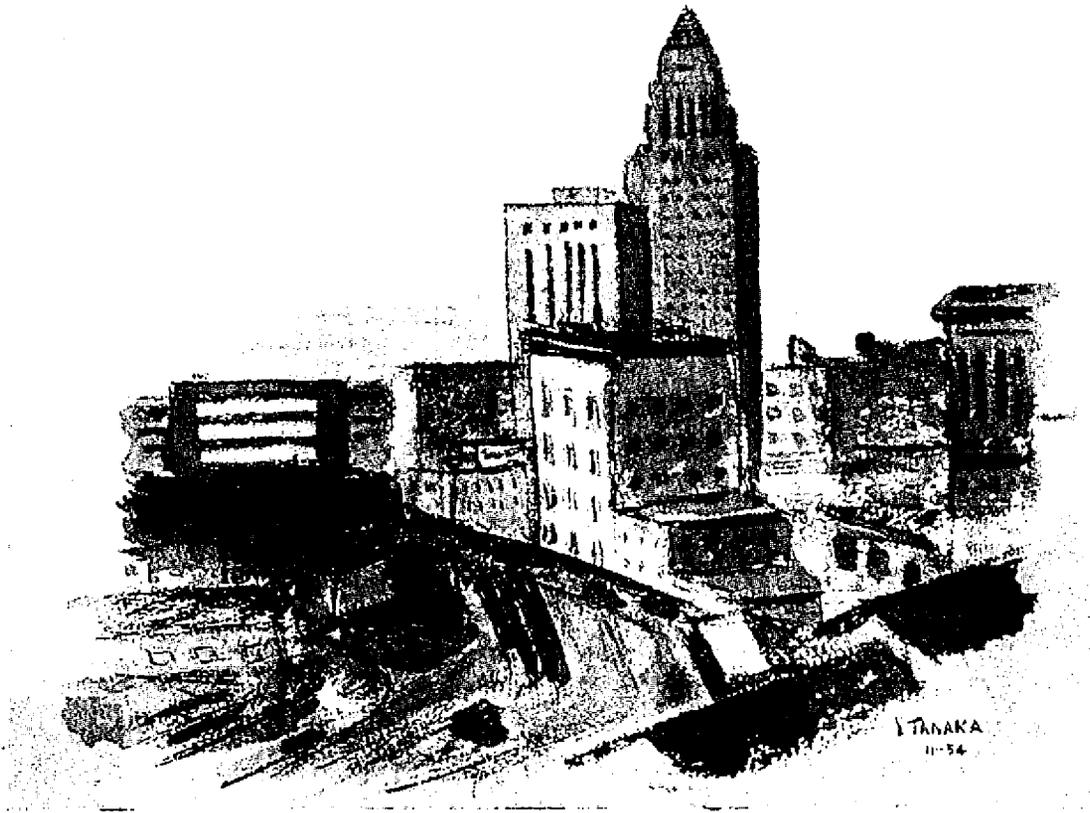




Asa Tanaka (my grandmother) with Ki'ye Tanaka Kawamura (Chikashi Tanaka's sister). Parker Center's construction is in progress across the street.



Asa Tanaka, my grandmother in front of Chikashi Tanaka's photo mart on San Pedro.



City Hall watercolor painting by my father Yasuo "Clifford" Tanaka, November 1954.
(five months after I was born).

February 3, 2017

I am a Board member of the Little Tokyo Historical Society and I am writing this letter in regards to the different proposals for the Parker Center building. As a family member of the owner of the Kashu Mainichi, an important English/Japanese language newspaper from the 1930s to the 1980s in Little Tokyo, I strongly urge the City Council to not preserve Parker Center through the Historic Cultural Monument nomination or by choosing a preservation option in the EIR, but instead I stand with the Little Tokyo community in supporting the demolition of Parker Center (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

Little Tokyo remembers that before Parker Center, the block was a vital and vibrant part of the Little Tokyo neighborhood since the late 1800s. Like so many other historic ethnic communities in Los Angeles (including Old Chinatown and Chavez Ravine), Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the Parker Center block by way of eminent domain for the 1950s Civic Center expansion. This encroachment upon Little Tokyo destroyed many family-owned and community-serving businesses, nearly 1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities such as the early sites of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the Rafu Shimpo newspaper. This displacement came only a couple years after Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans returned to Little Tokyo after suffering unjust incarceration during World War II.

To add further insult to injury, Parker Center was constructed so as to physically cut Little Tokyo off from City Hall. To preserve the building would be to preserve this separation and the insult. And as the community most impacted, we will be left to suffer the consequences, while those fighting for preservation move on to their next cause.

To right this wrong, and for a more holistic preservation of the block's history, the Parker Center block should be reintegrated back into the fabric of Little Tokyo. The Civic Center Master Plan seeks to achieve this via pathways connecting City Hall to Little Tokyo and our future Regional Connector station. The B3 (demolition) option for Parker Center is the only plan that enables this connectivity, as well as providing retail space that will keep the civic center area alive past City Hall closing time. It is the only plan that makes fiscal sense, given the cost to rehab the structurally deficient Parker Center, and the only one that provides parking to replace the city parking lots in Little Tokyo that will eventually be developed over.

Demolishing Parker Center is key to achieving both the City's goals for the Civic Center Master Plan, as well as for the future vitality and preservation of the Little Tokyo community. Along with the entire Little Tokyo community, we strongly urge Councilmembers to reject the Historic Cultural Nomination of Parker Center, and instead support demolition (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

Sincerely,
Cindy Abrams
2446 Moreno Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039
cindyabrams2010@aol.com
818-621-1122



Bunkado, Inc.
340 East First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 213-625-1122
bunkado@att.net
bunkadoonline.com

Irene Tsukada Simonian

January 10, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding plans that are being discussed for the Parker Center building, as I am regretfully unable to attend the hearing today.

I am a third-generation business and property owner of Bunkado store, located at 340 East First Street. Last year, we celebrated our 70th year in business. I serve on the boards of the Little Tokyo Community Council and the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association.

The preservation of historically and culturally significant buildings is important work, and I have deep appreciation for conservationists and the work they do. In fact, I would generally be sitting with them in support of conservation. However, a line must be drawn as to what is worth saving and what is not. The Parker Center building is not one of them. The Parker Center building served as a backdrop for movies and tv shows, served as LAPD's headquarters during significant moments in history, and it was considered state of the art in 1955, but these reasons do not qualify it to be preserved forever. As I understand it, the cost for retrofitting this building to survive future earthquakes and removing asbestos and other detritus of 60 years is staggering, especially when its practical use after all the renovations is questionable. I have heard from those who have worked inside this building that it leaked "constantly" and the windows made it extremely energy inefficient. As much as one would like to romanticize it as being "mid-century modern", it is basically a glass block with little aesthetic or architectural interest.

There is a temptation to save as many older buildings as one can from the wrecking ball as a reaction to all the great buildings this City has lost over the years. However, I personally look forward to seeing a vibrant, practical, forward looking and hopefully more attractive building in its place as a positive addition to the residents, visitors and businesses of neighboring Little Tokyo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irene Simonian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



(213) 620-7030
eastwestplayers.org

100 South John Anson Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Shobhi Desai
Artistic Director

Board of Directors
Renee Tamun
Co-Chair & Treasurer

Lynn Wagoner
Co-Chair

Albert Rubin
Secretary

Doreen M. Masada
Legal Counsel

Eric K. Chan
Kim W. Chock
Sue C. Desai
Pete S. Francisco
Camden J. Smith

Council of Governors
Governor and Vice President
Chairs

Margaret Anne Fennell
Board Chair Emerita

Artistic Directors Emeritus
Walter Dill
Nancy M. Carter
Thea Gilmore

To: L.A. City Councilmember Jose Huizar
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

RE: In support of option B3, the demolition of Parker Center

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

As someone who works every day in Little Tokyo at a vibrant and vital non-profit arts organization, I care deeply about the future of the block where our theatre is located.

I am writing to you today to advocate for the demolition of Parker Center (option 3B). I support the Little Tokyo Community Council's (LTCC) position calling for "the complete demolition of the former Parker Center building thus allowing for the maximum number of community concerns ... to be implemented" as written in LTCC's October 2016 letter to CD 14.

The City must be able to accommodate its needs for additional administrative space so as not to interfere with the Historic First Street North (FSN) and Mangrove parcels in Little Tokyo. The best plan for this is to demolish Parker Center and develop that location into office spaces, employee parking, public parking, and ground floor retail. Keeping in mind the Parker Center entire block was originally part of Little Tokyo until the city took it for civic expansion in the 1960s and destroyed many family-owned businesses and a temple integral to the community, it only seems just and fair to listen to the voices and needs of the Little Tokyo community today when considering the future of this lot.

Little Tokyo already has a vision for what we want to see at FSN, and it's vital to the community that what gets developed in LT is for the community, by the community! The first step to achieving these goals is to demolish Parker Center, redevelop that lot with connectivity and access into Little Tokyo, and leave and civic development out of FSN.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Patt
Audience Services Manager
East West Players
in DTLA's historic Little Tokyo neighborhood

February 3, 2017

I am writing on behalf of Kizuna, regarding the different proposals for the Parker Center building. As a community organization in Little Tokyo, I strongly urge the City Council to not preserve Parker Center through the Historic Cultural Monument nomination or by choosing a preservation option in the EIR, but instead I stand with the Little Tokyo community in supporting the demolition of Parker Center (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

Little Tokyo remembers that before Parker Center, the block was a vital and vibrant part of the Little Tokyo neighborhood since the late 1800s. Like so many other historic ethnic communities in Los Angeles (including Old Chinatown and Chavez Ravine), Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the Parker Center block by way of eminent domain for the 1950s Civic Center expansion. This encroachment upon Little Tokyo destroyed many family-owned and community-serving businesses, nearly 1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities such as the early sites of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the Rafu Shimpo newspaper. This displacement came only a couple years after Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans returned to Little Tokyo after suffering unjust incarceration during World War II.

To add further insult to injury, Parker Center was constructed so as to physically cut Little Tokyo off from City Hall. To preserve the building would be to preserve this separation and the insult. And as the community most impacted, we will be left to suffer the consequences, while those fighting for preservation move on to their next cause.

To right this wrong, and for a more holistic preservation of the block's history, the Parker Center block should be reintegrated back into the fabric of Little Tokyo. The Civic Center Master Plan seeks to achieve this via pathways connecting City Hall to Little Tokyo and our future Regional Connector station. The B3 (demolition) option for Parker Center is the only plan that enables this connectivity, as well as providing retail space that will keep the civic center area alive past City Hall closing time. It is the only plan that makes fiscal sense, given the cost to rehab the structurally deficient Parker Center, and the only one that provides parking to replaces the city parking lots in Little Tokyo that will eventually be developed over.

Demolishing Parker Center is key to achieving both the City's goals for the Civic Center Master Plan, as well as for the future vitality and preservation of the Little Tokyo community. Along with the entire Little Tokyo community, we strongly urge Councilmembers to reject the Historic Cultural Nomination of Parker Center, and instead support demolition (Alternative B3 in the EIR).

Sincerely,



Paul Matsushima

STATEMENT TO PLUM COMMITTEE RE: PARKER CENTER HISTORICAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION

My name is Yukio Kawaratani. I am a member of the Little Tokyo Community Council and Historical Society.

Little Tokyo opposes historic monument status and the community urges the City Council to construct a civic center that recognizes that Little Tokyo exists.

During World War II, Japanese American business owners and residents were forced to leave Little Tokyo and were imprisoned in American concentration camps. Little Tokyo became Bronzeville.

After the war, Japanese American businesses and residents returned to re-establish Little Tokyo. But soon, the City demolished one quarter of Little Tokyo and built Parker Center that turned its back on the community.

The City Council must not ignore Little Tokyo interests again and not chose to memorialize a bad building and Police chief. Unify the civic center with Little Tokyo.

Added comments:

City officials must listen to the city's professional engineers and architects, who have studied the situation extensively.

Historic buildings must be significant in design, be safe, and have a useful purpose. None of these apply to Parker Center.

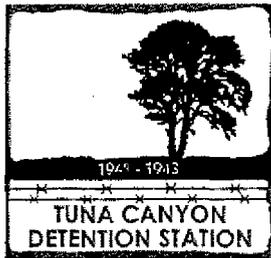
To continue to honor a police chief who instigated a period of police operating policies that were brutal and detrimental to minorities is wrong.

The proposed Civic Center Master Plan should be followed, as it provides for a unified total development plan for the Civic Center and Little Tokyo.

Sincerely,

Yukio Kawaratani

Retired Redevelopment Agency city planner for the Bunker Hill and Central Business District projects in Downtown Los Angeles (1962-1993).



TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION COALITION
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center
12953 Branford Street Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 935-2603

Board of Directors

Lloyd Hitt, Pharm D.

Chairman

Nancy Oda,

President

Dr. Kanji Sahara,

Vice President

June Aochi Berk,

Secretary

Kay Oda,

Treasurer

Nancy Takayama,

Assistant Treasurer

Claudia Culling, J.D.

Dr. Russell Endo

Hans W. Eberhard

James Okazaki

William Skiles

Marc Stirdivant

Dr. Sigrid B. Toye

Legal Counsel

Gregory Culling, J.D.

Members

Dr. Frank de Balogh

Dr. Jean Paul DeGuzman

Nancy Teramura Hayata

Dr. Tomo Hattori

Ariel Imamoto

Keith Matsushita

H. Ernie Nishii, J.D.

Rebecca Patchett

Grace Shimizu, J.D.

Denise Tanaka,

SFVJACC representative

Kara Tanaka

Kaitlyn Tang

February 6, 2017

Dear PLUM Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, regarding the different proposals for the Parker Center building. Our mission is to preserve the history of the Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants, and Japanese Peruvians and other taken by the Department of Justice during World War II. We are a nonprofit educational corporation established in 2013 as a Historic Cultural Monument #1039.

As part of Los Angeles history, we stand in unity with the Little Tokyo position to right this wrong and for a **more holistic preservation** of the block's history.

I strongly urge the City Council to not preserve Parker Center through a HCM nomination or by choosing preservation option in the EIR, but instead I stand with the Little Tokyo community in supporting the demolition of Parker Center which is Alternative B3 in the EIR.

The Parker Center block should be reintegrated back into the fabric of Little Tokyo. The Civic Center Master Plan seeks to achieve this via pathways connecting City Hall to Little Tokyo and our future Regional Connector station. The B3 (demolition) option for Parker Center is the only plan that enables this connectivity, as well as providing retail space that will keep the civic center area alive past City Hall closing time. It is the only plan that makes fiscal sense, given the cost to rehab the structurally deficient Parker Center, and the only one that provides parking to replace.

Demolishing Parker Center is key to achieving both the City's goals for the Civic Center Master Plan, as well as for the future vitality and preservation of the Little Tokyo community and making the region whole again.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kyoko Oda

President



Little Tokyo Community Council
100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90012
213 625.0414 ext 5720
Email: info@littletokyola.org <http://littletokyola.org>

October 2016

The Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC) took its initial position on disposition of the Parker Center in 2013 as outlined in the 5 bullet points below. Then, on Oct. 25, 2016, LTCC took this position a step further unanimously voting to support the now-designated option B3. This position orders the complete demolition of the former Parker Center building thus allowing for the maximum number of community concerns listed below to be implemented.

The original position taken by the LTCC in 2013 is as follows:

“The entire block which today holds the Parker Center was taken from Little Tokyo in the 1960s destroying many family-owned and community-serving businesses, 700-1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

The City plans to use upper floors of the building that will take the place of the current Parker Center for City offices. The bottom floor could accommodate community-enhancing retail businesses and other historical representations that tell the history of the block as part of Little Tokyo’s 130+ year history.

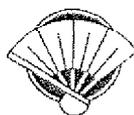
The specific concerns of the LTCC include:

- Retail planned for the ground floor should reflect businesses that complement and create a natural connection with Little Tokyo, especially to Union Center for the Arts. This design should drive people to businesses on Historic First Street and complement future development on First Street North that will now reflect Little Tokyo’s vision for a Sustainable Little Tokyo
- The design will not “turn its back” on Little Tokyo but, instead, flow into it;
- Public art should be funded that reflects the historic connection of the block to Little Tokyo.
- Additional parking must be included to accommodate City employees to be housed in the new facility. Current parking, especially in the Aiso Street lot, was designed to serve local small businesses. Additional parking for the general public should also be included, given the rapid decrease in available public parking lots around the Little Tokyo and Civic Center area.
- There will be ongoing communication and action in the course of planning and design of the new building in concert with the Little Tokyo community’s own vision for the development of the First Street North block and other Sustainable Little Tokyo plans.”

Sincerely,

Chris Komai, Chair, Little Tokyo Community Council

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which has 90+ member organizations whose mission is to ensure that Little Tokyo would be a viable center for the Japanese American community and the Los Angeles Downtown community. The Council shall work to create a vision of what Little Tokyo should be in the future and serve as an advocate on behalf of the Little Tokyo community.



LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

November 28, 2016

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Business Improvement District (BID), which is comprised of 430 businesses and managed by the Little Tokyo Business Association, we are writing to express enthusiastic support for Alternative B3 as the preferred option for redevelopment of the Parker Center Site.

In addition to being the most cost efficient and accommodating current and future office needs of City Departments, Alternative B3 can potentially provide:

1. Commercial space geared toward patrons other than City employees.
2. A pedestrian corridor that more naturally connects Little Tokyo to the Civic Center and beyond, including Grand Avenue Park, Disney Hall, and the Music Center.
3. Much needed additional parking.
4. Larger floor plate that can accommodate one or more City departments on one floor.

For Little Tokyo stakeholders, the site embodies a significant part of the City's rich cultural history that predates the construction of Parker Center. At the turn of the 20th century, the site had become a hub for the emerging Japanese immigrant population. Two institutions established to serve those immigrants are still in existence in Little Tokyo today--Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple founded in 1905, and *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper, which operated from the building at the northeast corner of 1st and Los Angeles Sts from 1915-1950. We wish to express our appreciation to the Chief Administrative Officer, Council District 14, City Department of Planning, and other departments for their ongoing efforts to encourage input from Little Tokyo stakeholders. In suggesting Alternative B3, we join you in working to ensure that development of the Parker Center site enhances not only the Civic Center, but our community and neighboring Downtown areas as well.

Yours truly,

Joanne Kumamoto
Co-Chair Little Tokyo BID

Ellen Endo,
President, Little Tokyo Business Association
Co-Chair, Little Tokyo BID

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ellen Endo (Hapa Consulting Services)

Senior Vice Presidents

Sylvia Ena (New Japan Travel/KW Realty)
Joanne Kumamoto (Kumamoto Associates)
Mike Okamoto (Nisei Week Foundation)

Vice Presidents

Paul Abe (Union Bank)
Yoshio Lee Aoki
Keiji Kobayashi (Miyako Hotel L.A./JCCSC)
David Kudo (All Japan News)
Yuriko Shikai (Neufeld Marks)
Haru Takehana (Takehana Real Estate Services)
Hiroshi Yamauchi (Kouraku Restaurant)

Secretary

Sharon Im (California Bank and Trust)

Treasurer

Andrew Lee (Advance Investments)

Auditor

Edwin Takahashi (Kiyohara Takahashi Advisors)

Directors

Doug Aihara (Aihara & Associates Insurance)
Yukari Amo (Bank of the West)
Angela DeGroot (Japanese Village Plaza)
Tamako Henken (Henken Galleries)
Nob Kakuma (NT Auto Repair)
Ken Kasamatsu
Michael Komai (The Rafu Shimpo)
Brian Manley (Hikari/Sakura Crossing Apts)
Herbert Martinez (Select Parking/LT Car Wash)

Yoshio Morioka (Hiroshima Kenjinkai)
Donegan McCuaig (DTLA Realty)
Rev. Howard Miyoshi (Zenshuji Temple)
Tomoko Omura (Manufacturers Bank)
Tetsu Shiota (Anime Jungle)
Kenji Suzuki (Suehiro Restaurant)
Nancy Takayama (Japanese American Citizens League)
Jason Toyoshima (Sushi Gen Restaurant)
Yoshiko Ueda (U&U Graphics)
Rebecca Young (DoubleTree by Hilton)

H C N C

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

OFFICERS

Alan Kumamoto, President
Dafne Gokcen, 1st Vice President
Steve Nagano, 2nd Vice President
Laura Velkei, 3rd Vice President
Yuval Bar-Zemer, 4th Vice President
Lydia Moreno, Treasurer
Shirley Zhang, Secretary



HISTORIC CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
c/o Koban 307 E First Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

President: hcncla@gmail.com
Secretary: hcncla@gmail.com
t. 213. 849.0012
f. 213. 613.0282

February 7, 2017

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Historic Cultural Monument Designation of Parker Center
Case Number ENV-2016-3950-CE

Dear Councilmember Jose Huizar, Committee Chair, and Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Gilbert A. Cedillo, Mitchell Englander and Curren D. Price, Jr.:

The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC) is opposed to the proposed Historic Cultural Monument Designation of Parker Center.

HCNC supports the position of the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), which took its initial position in support of the demolition of Parker Center in 2013. More recently, on Oct. 25, 2016, LTCC took this position a step further by unanimously voting to support the now-designated option B3 of the LA Civic Center Master Development Plan, which calls for the complete demolition of Parker Center.

The entire block, which today holds Parker Center, was taken from Little Tokyo in the 1960s. This block was razed, destroying dozens of family-owned and community-serving businesses, 700-1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. HCNC and LTCC support the redevelopment of the site in a manner that accommodates community-enhancing retail businesses and other historical representations that tell the history of the block as part of Little Tokyo's 130+ year history.

HCNC shares LTCC's specific concerns regarding the redevelopment of the site, including:

- Ground floor retail uses that complement and create a natural connection with Little Tokyo, especially to Union Center for the Arts. This design should drive people to businesses on Historic First Street and complement future development on First Street North that will now reflect Little Tokyo's vision for a Sustainable Little Tokyo.
- The design will not "turn its back" on Little Tokyo, in the manner of the City's Department of Transportation building at 100 S Main Street, but should instead be open to Little Tokyo and promote access to the community.

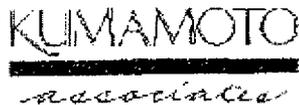
- Public art should be funded that reflects the historic connection of the block to Little Tokyo.
- Additional parking must be included to accommodate City employees to be housed in the new facility. Current parking, especially in the Aiso Street lot, was designed to serve local small businesses. Additional parking for the general public should also be included, given the rapid decrease in available public parking lots around the Little Tokyo and Civic Center area.
- Ongoing communication and interaction in the course of planning and design of the new building in concert with the Little Tokyo community's own vision for the development of the First Street North block and other Sustainable Little Tokyo plans.

At the next HCNC board meeting we will be taking under consideration a motion to file a Community Impact Statement that reiterates our position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Kumamoto
President, Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



Marketing • Management • Communications

4130 Sea View Lane • Los Angeles, CA 90065 • 323/223-6473 • 323/342-0817 FAX

Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee members

RE Opposition to Parker Center Historic Cultural Monument Designation

My name is Alan Kumamoto and I am a Downtown Los Angeles Little Tokyo and Arts District Stakeholder and I am a third-generation Japanese American (JA). I have a special life long relationship to the block and space identified as the Los Angeles Street Civic Center Building (Parker Center Site).

I recall the block as a child shopping at stores on First Street and San Pedro Street (Judge John Aiso Street) before the destruction of buildings and JA businesses to build Parker Center with its front facing Los Angeles Street and the rear facing and blocking Little Tokyo.

Both my grandfathers immigrated from Japan and both have a relationship to the Parker Center block. I was born two blocks to the east and lived, worked and volunteered in the area.

My Grandfather Kumamoto was a member of the Buddhist temple and his son (my dad) would practice and compete in the Japanese sport of Sumo in the sports area in the center of the block and later be pharmacist for local drug stores.

My Grandfather Suski was a translator from English to Japanese at the Rafu Shimpō Newspaper, the building on the Northeast corner of First and Los Angeles Streets (the gateway entrance to Little Tokyo) and his daughter my aunt after graduating college became the first English editor.

Following the San Francisco earthquake Grandpa Suski moved to Los Angeles Little Tokyo to set up a photo shop on the block then with seven children at age 38 he decided to enter the University of Southern California Medical School and received his Medical Degree.

He had an office on the block that served Japanese American families and my aunt Louise says he began learning Spanish because he had Mexican American patients from the county.

The historic Los Angeles Little Tokyo is one of three remaining Little Tokyo/Japantowns in the United States. As I worked for years in the Sun Building on Weller Street, shopped and visited the area I saw the effects of changes to Little Tokyo.

The Parker Center block is identified as part of Little Tokyo in planning documents including the Little Tokyo Community Design Overlay (CDO) District.

We urge you to adopt LA Civic Center Master Development Plan, Option B3 to maximize the amount of city employee office space, provide the greatest amount of local parking, continue a pedestrian spine connecting to other parts of Little Tokyo and rebuild the historic connection as a gateway to Little Tokyo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Kumamoto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Kumamoto,

Los Angeles Little Tokyo

Japanese American

Businesses of 1940

Date: 2/21/72
 Submitted in 1940 Committee
 Council File No. 15-0127
 Item No. 4
 Communication
 From: Public

Heart of Little Tokyo



- Japanese American business
- Other business
- Warehouse
- School
- Church
- Dwelling
- Apartments and flats
- Hotels and rooming houses
- Head outline (reel area)
- Historic public electric structure
- Historic Los Angeles Street Railway line
- Historic Fresno Cold Line
- Station map page
- Modern business
- Building to porch
- Former Great-Western building
- Address
- See lot for business at this address

Draft 8/10/07

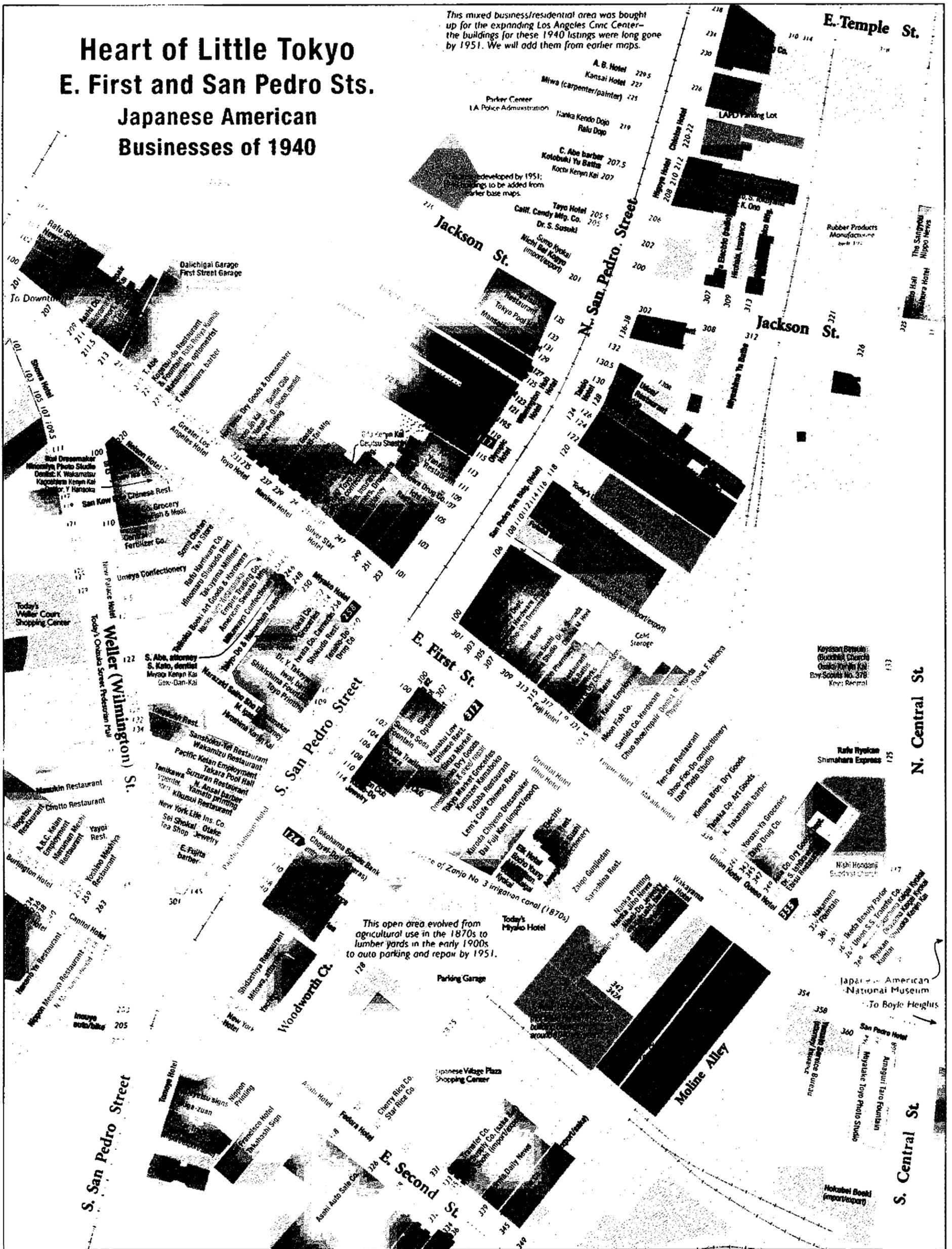
This historical map was created by Ben Pezer C2000-706.
 Excepted for the Japanese Atlas website (www.japanatlantis.com),
 which is partly funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project (CCLPEP).
 Rika Shimpu directory of 1940 courtesy of Japanese American History Archives (JAH).
 Buildings are drawn from Sanborn Insurance Maps Co. maps of 1938 with some details filled in
 from 1935 and earlier maps. Sanborn maps © 1938, used by permission.
 Buildings not in 1940 map are in 1938 map. © 1938, used by permission.
 Special thanks to Toyoko Inn American Historical Museum, Mitsu Tani, Bryan Turner, and Fabio
 Sabin.

Heart of Little Tokyo

E. First and San Pedro Sts.

Japanese American Businesses of 1940

This mixed business/residential area was bought up for the expanding Los Angeles Civic Center—the buildings for these 1940 listings were long gone by 1951. We will add them from earlier maps.



This open area evolved from agricultural use in the 1870s to lumber yards in the early 1900s to auto parking and repair by 1951.

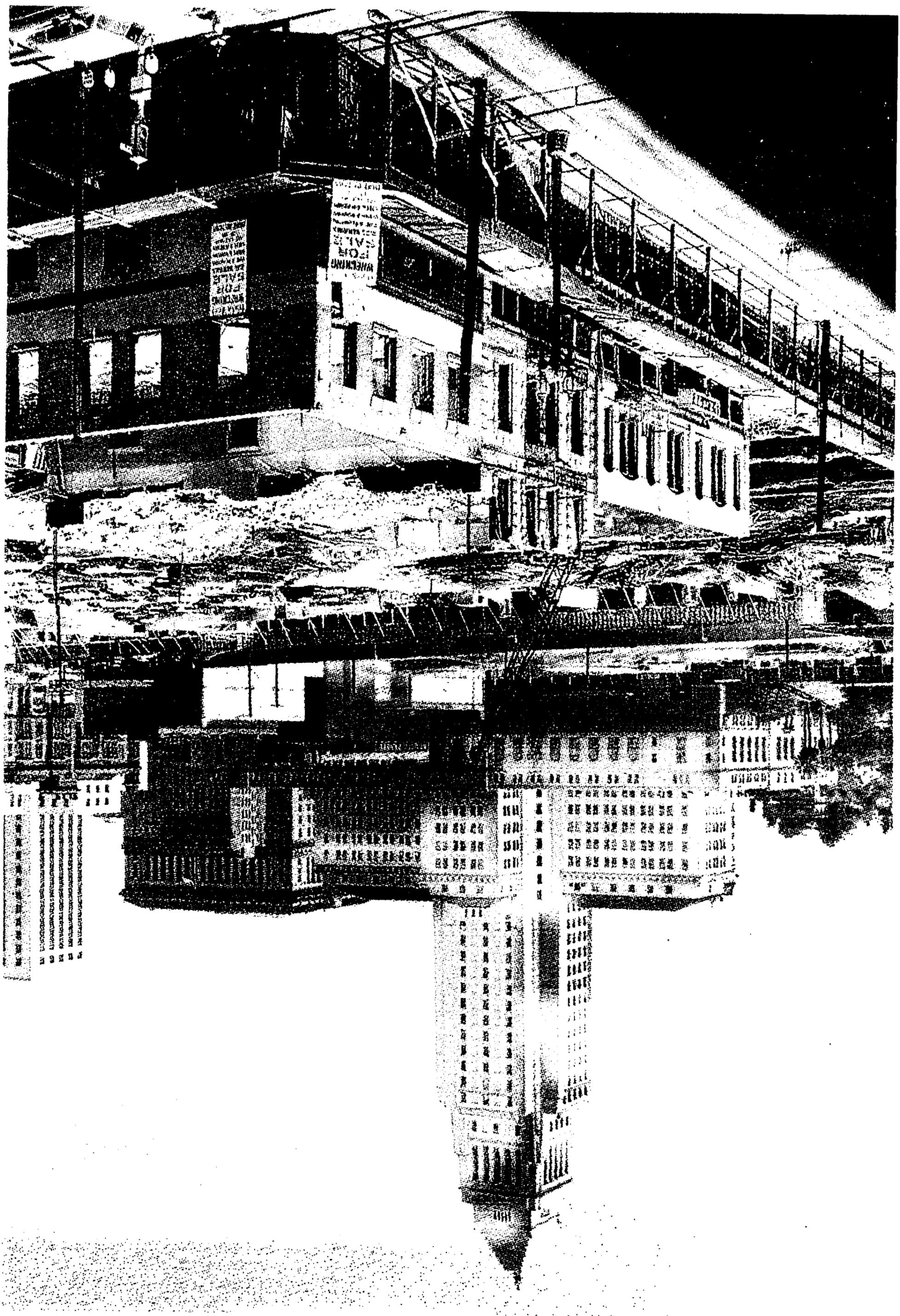
- LEGEND FOR DETAILED MAP**
- Japanese American business
 - Other business
 - Industrial use
 - Community
 - Church
 - Dwelling
 - Apartment and Flat
 - Hotel and Rooming House
 - Hotel outline (mixed use)
 - Historic Pacific Electric apartment
 - Historic Los Angeles Street Railway line
 - Modern Metro Gold Line
 - Sanborn map page
 - Note**
 - Modern landmark:
 - Building & porch
 - Future sport WWW building
 - Address
 - See list for businesses at the address

- 117** 117 N. San Pedro St. (Olympic Hotel)
Physicians: A. Ariano, K. To 1 Sekiyama
Attorneys: G. Nakamura, M. Yano, S. Yamaguchi
Insurance: K. Senaka, G. Odo, H. Yamamoto, M. H. S. Nakajima
Dentist: K. Itoya
- 124** 124 S. San Pedro St.
Paramount Beauty Salon
Sumin Ryokko, Nanka Tennis Association
Dentists: K. Kawamoto, Y. Nagamoto, T. Shimizu, & Ube Katsum
Attorney: J. Y. Maeno, S. Suzuki & Co., Sugawara, Broker
- 258** 258 E. First St. (Mikado Hotel)
Ginza Beauty Parlor
Shinsekai Asahi Newspaper
Japanese American News
Nanka Chu: Hirohiko Kai
J.C. Broadcasting Society
Arikawa Saiho Sho, Dressmaker
Yamato Swerance Bureau (insurance)
Shimizu Kozu Kyokai
Misei Trading Co.

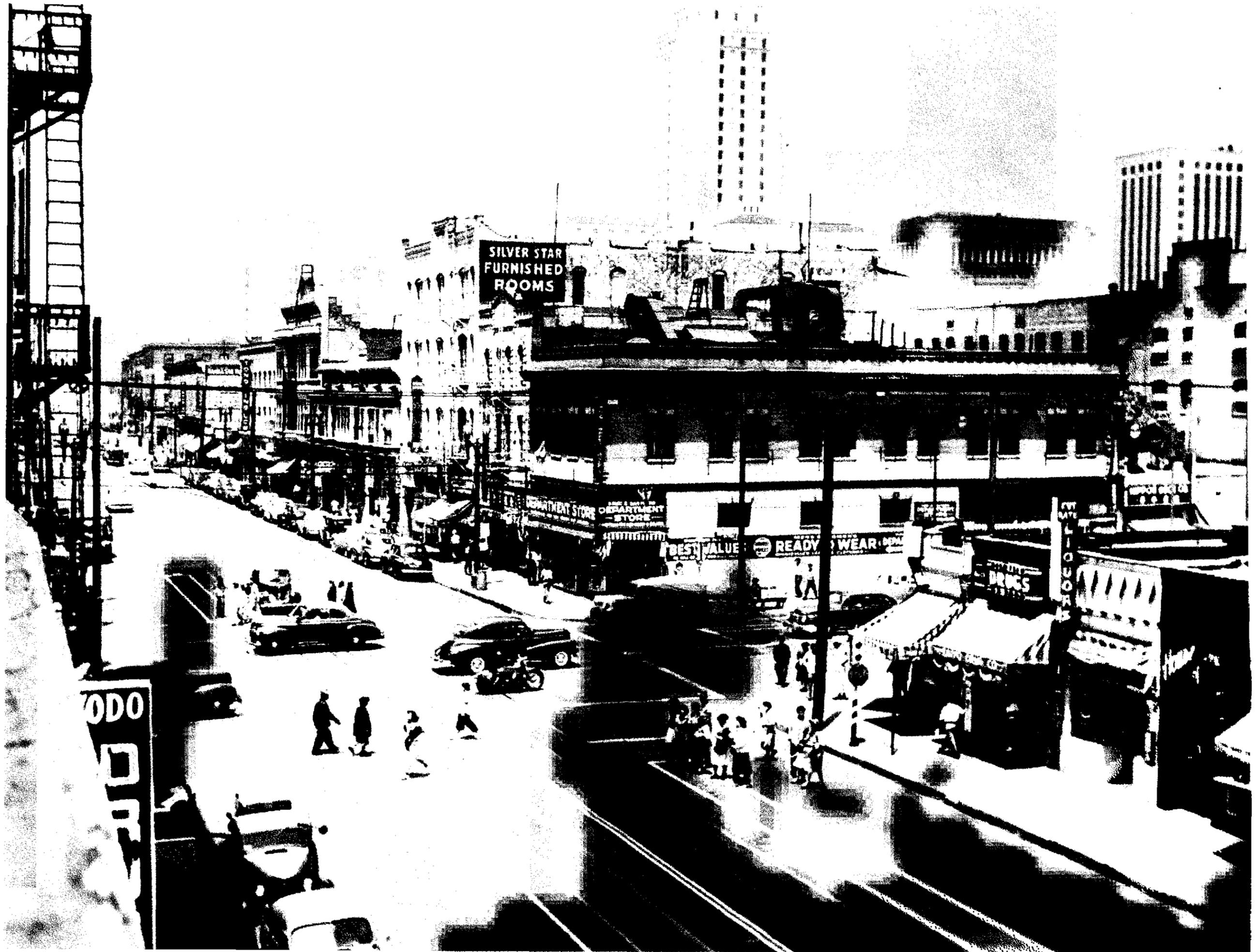
- 312** 312 E. First Street
Attorneys: S. Akana, I. Sato, J. Tsurutani
Insurance: Nobe & Watanabe, Sun Life of Canada, Manufacturers Insurance
Physicians: K. Isari, M. Nitta
Dentists: H. Iwanaka, Y. Kikuchi, M. Tanaka, T. Terakawa, S. Taramoto;
Organizations: Japanese Dentists Assn., Raku Nichibai Kyokai, J.A.U., YWCA, YMCA
Offices: Nanka Piano Co., Matsuno Express, Yabuki Agency, Li'l Tokyo Beauty Parlor
- 355** 355 E. First St. (Nishi Honganji)
Attorneys: K. Iwanaga, K. Mukada, Sakamoto Chiyoko
Insurance: M. Nakamura
Dentist: K. Kawahara
Associations: Nanka Nuka Reime, Kumamoto Naga Kyokai
Perry Post Assn.



This historical map was created by Ben Pease ©2000-2007
 Excepted for the Japantown Atlas website (www.japantownatlas.com),
 which is partly funded by the California Endowment Public Education Project (CEPEP).
 1940 Rail Shippo directory courtesy of Japanese American National Museum (JANM).
 Base map compiled from Sanborn maps from 1950 and 1966 © 1989, used by permission.
 Special thanks to Japanese American National Museum, Museum of Japanese American History, and LAAC
 Scribe.



SALE FOR WHOLESALE



SILVER STAR
FURNISHED
ROOMS

DEPARTMENT STORE

BEST VALUE

READY WEAR

L. O. R.

ODO

DO



PELLEZ MUSIC CO.

SPANSE

K-232107

L.A. JAPANESE DAILY NEWS

