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"To the Tomb of an Unknown Friend" A Search for Missing Voices

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“To the Tomb of an Unknown Friend”
A Search for Missing Voices

Research Proposal by
Melanie Douville
May 31, 2018



Chinese Cemetery- Baker City



Salem Pioneer Cemetery- Shrine

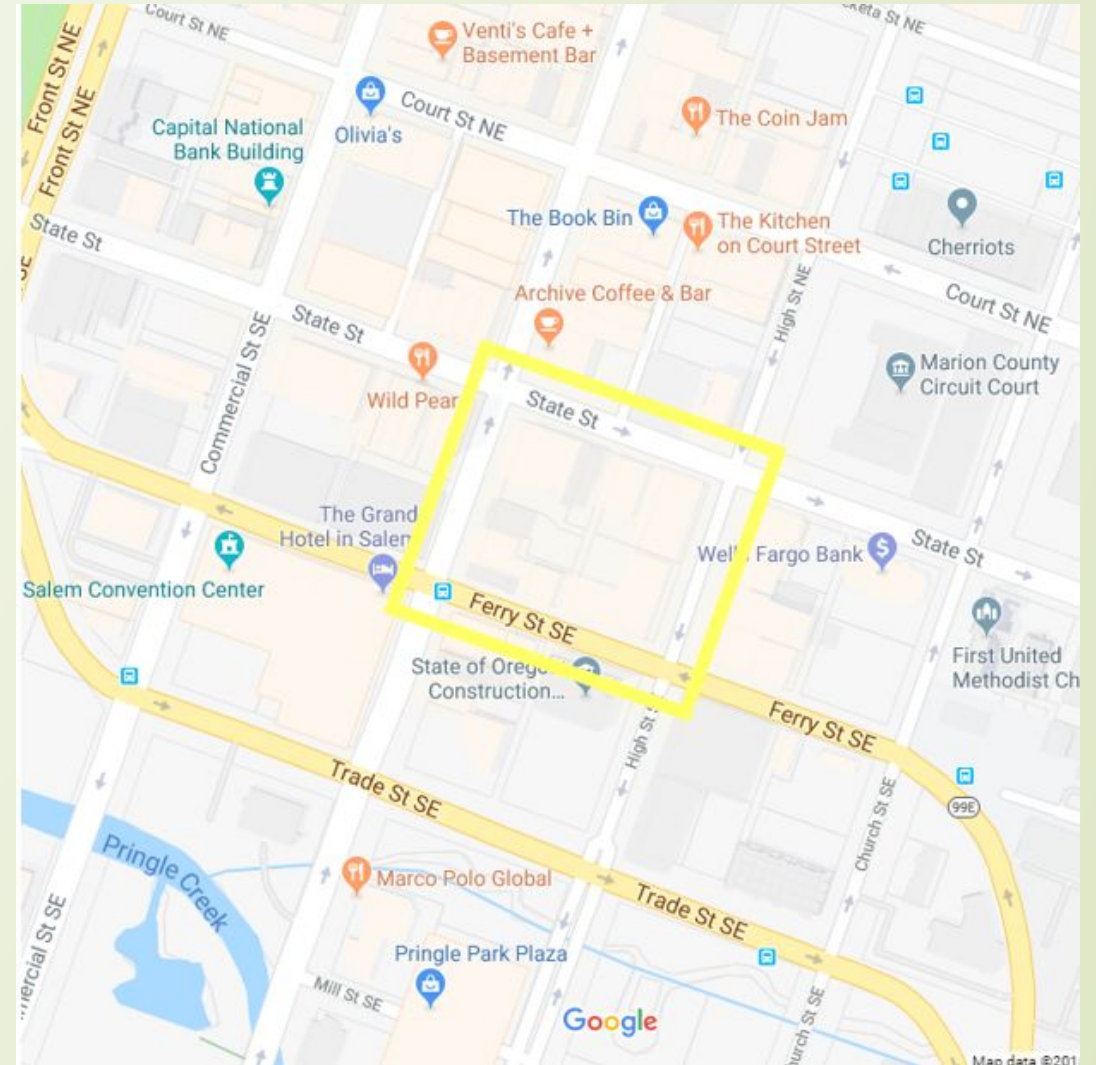
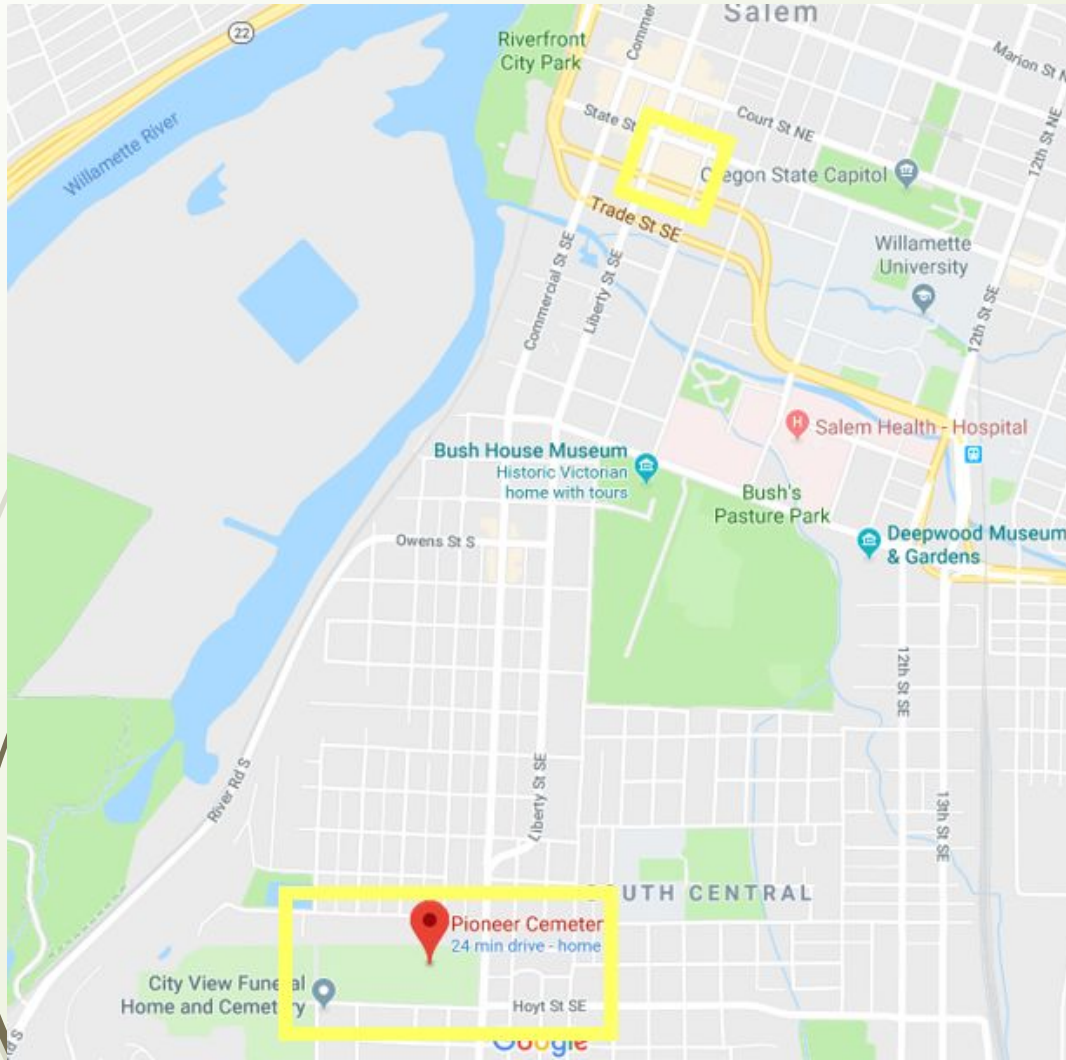


1963



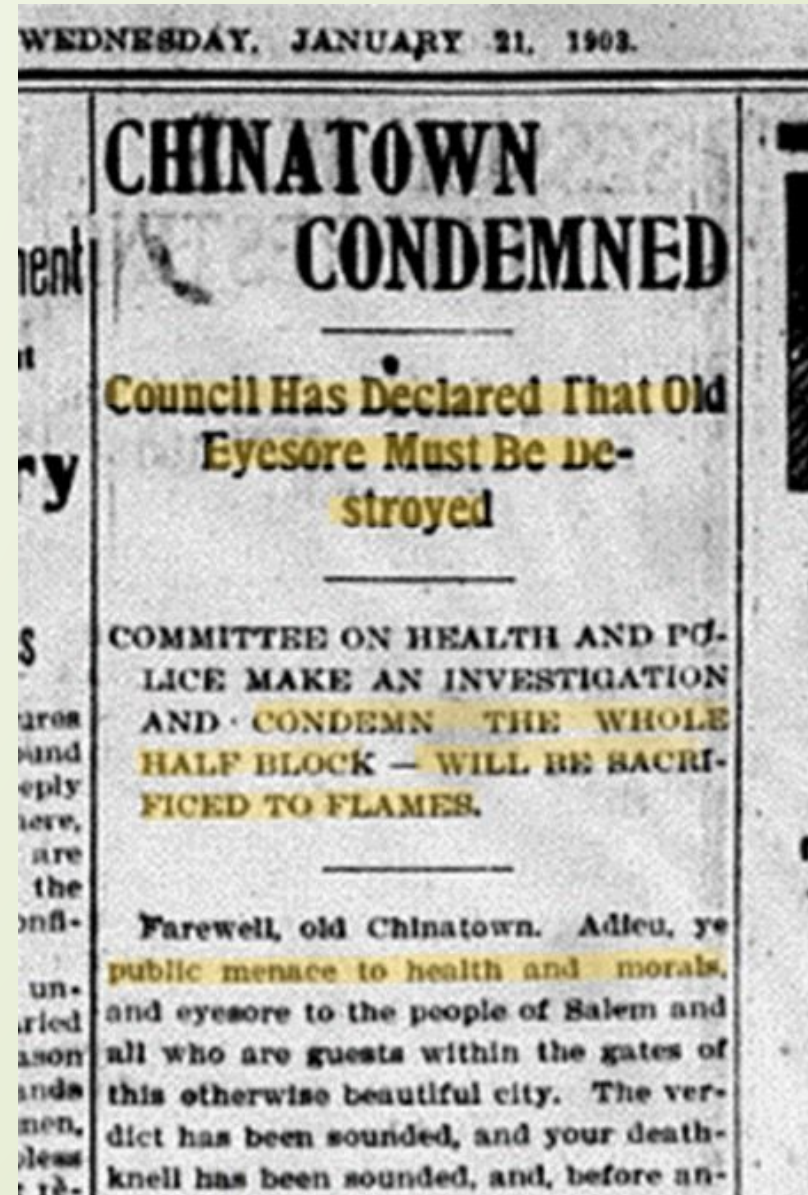
2018

Historic Chinatown



Voices

- “The city council had condemned the entire half block known as Chinatown, and it will be necessary, before summer, to tear out the filthy shacks, **disinfect the atmosphere of the place and transform the Chinese slums into a habitable place for white men**, probably into a thriving brick block, such as would be expected in such a desirably located piece of property.”
-Statesman Journal 1903



Project Goals



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Research Questions

- What effects did the events of 1903 have on the status and visibility of the Salem Chinese community?
 - What consequences do we see as a result of one sided narratives?
 - In what ways is it valuable for the community to bring these additional memories and perspectives to the surface?
- 


Methods- Oral Histories

- **Goal:** Collecting personal histories
- **How:** Interviews and surveys
- **Who:** Members of Pacific Northwest Chinese American communities






Methods- Archives

- **Goal:** Historical context
 - **How:** Ongoing archival research and interviews
- 




Methods- Mapping Sites

- **Goal:** Community Memory and Collaborative Design Project
 - **How:** Locating and visiting cultural sites
- 



Time Frame

- Complete Proposal & IRB: June 2018
 - Conduct Interviews: June-August 2018
 - Complete Fieldwork: September 2018
 - Begin Writing: September 2018
 - Finish Thesis: December 2018
 - **Ongoing: Community Memory Project**
- 

Special Thanks

- The Salem Pioneer Cemetery Chinese Shrine Advisory Committee- Kimberli Fitzgerald, Kirsten Straus, Kylie Pine, Elisabeth Potter, Marcus Lee, Myron Lee, and Paul Hampson
- My professors and advisors- Dr. Miller, Dr. Smith, Dr. Jensen and Dr. Weitzel
- My peers, friends and family





References Cited



- Salem Pioneer Cemetery Chinese Shrine Advisory Committee
<https://sites.google.com/view/salem-or-chinese-shrine/home?authuser=0>
- Coverage of Qing Ming Festival and Buddhist Blessing by Anna Reed and Capi Lynn of the Statesman Journal 2018
<https://stjr.nl/2uOnwsm>