

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

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8. Worth Street: Located between Bowery and Mulberry streets, Worth Street usually begins at the place where Sun Yet-sen used to live. Chatham Tower was built 40 years ago; it nowadays still stays the same and shines the glory as masterpiece of interior design.

9. Mulberry Street: Between Worth and Canal Streets, there is the biggest Columbia Park on the West side, that is always the best spot for residents go exercise and do anything for fun. The Chinese people usually call it as “Italian Street.”

10. Canal Street: Canal Street is right between Bowery and Mulberry Streets and it starts at the historic landmark of HSBC bank and TD bank. There are over 10 Chinese and foreign capital banks together with over 30 jewelry stores down here, that makes Canal Street the most major financial and jewelry center in Chinatown.

The above streets started to be gradually vigorous since the 1950s. During the past 160 years, 95% of all types of business have been transferred and run by Chinese. Here people get to take jobs of all walks of life, such as in the finance, medical service, insurance, law, retailing, beauty, catering and accounting industry. All kinds of delicious Chinese foods, gifts and souvenirs are amazing attraction to the tourists from all over the world.

So why not go dive into a fun trip to Chinatown with me and savor its history of treasure for the latest 40 years!

1. Mott Street

No. 1: It used to be the residence for Dr. Sun Yet-sen whenever he came to New York during the revolution era, a glorious and also nostalgic historic landmark. The place ever belonged to the 1st female vice president candidate of American history as well.

30 years ago, the developers purchase the location between No.2 and No. 6, and then constructed in to Yung-Ming Building, the most modern building of that time. Nowadays, there's a Citi Bank on the 1st floor and 2nd to 12th floors are rented for office use.

No. 5 is Eng Suey Sun Association, which is one of the important immigration associations of long history.

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No. 14 now is Ajisen Noodle and that's one of those very few Japanese restaurants located in Chinatown.

No. 15 and No. 17 are all about Old & New Wo Hope Restaurant. It had been there for over 40 years, famous for inexpensive and delicious typical Chinese foods of everyday.

No.16 is Ho li Restaurant was relocated from Bayard Street and replaced the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association that is now at No. 62, Mott Street.

No. 18 and No. 20 was originally Jinling Restaurant with a good history of over 100 years. It's been changed to different restaurants for the latest 40 years and currently the location is under construction.

No. 21 is Hop Kee Restaurant, one of the very few vigorous restaurants that are always crowded during their business hours, 24 hours a day.

No. 24 is a gift shop. There used to be an old, iconic Duo Tai Groceries at this location.

No. 25 is the notable church of historic landmark, Transfiguration Church. It not only has an elementary school but also offers English classes to the public over the weekend.

No. 26 only shows an English title as "Wing on Wo Oriental Gift" where they've been selling high-end gift packs and antiques for over 100 years.

No. 27 Maple Garden Duck House is right there today, replacing Yi Fa Seafoods and now doing a really good business

No. 30 is an Internet Café and not doing so well. It used to be Fung Wong Biscuits.

No. 32 is a gift shop. Kwong Yuen Shing run village ever existed there and closed in 2001.

No. 33 where Yi Shu Optical runs its business ever existed Zong Fa groceries, ever making a lot of money and inevitably was replaced by modern supermarkets in the mid 80s.

No. 35 is Taishan Ning Young association of 1 100-year-old history.

No. 36 is San Ji Bo Ho offering tea bags and lunchbox bags to supply all Chinese restaurants in this area.

No. 37 Aji Ichiban is a famous snack chain store. Nan Yuan Restaurant was ever open on the 2nd floor half century ago.

No. 39 is a place mainly selling Zhong Tsao (*Cordyceps sinensis*) and its price has been increase a lot by 40 times.

No. 40 is Chinatown Optical with a spectacular interior design.

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No. 41 is New York Lee Family Association; the whole building was greatly renovated in to a new silhouette.

No. 42, Heshang Hall Building has 5 stores on the ground floor and from 2nd to 7th floors are for office usage.

No. 43 is Hong An Tofu House and deals with their homemade tofu products through wholesale with all restaurants and supermarkets.

No. 47-49 is Lien Chen Association is non-Taishan one. And its outer design has stayed the same.

No. 50 is Large Fortune Seafood Restaurant, right at the corner between Mott and Bayard Streets and used to be the very main area of Chinatown.

No. 51 is a beverage store.

No. 52 is Yong Chang Optical. There used to be an Old Italian restaurant and the owner was economical and keen at investment.

No. 53 is Marl's Wine and Spirits Inc., which is one of those old wine places still currently surviving in Chinatown.

No. 55 Lu Jia gift Shop, seeing merchandise made in China and also at a cheap price zone.

No. 56 is wonton noodle place in a rectangle space. Liu Yang Kee Noodle Factory was established in the early 70s and has its products sold in the supermarkets.

No. 58 is an accessory boutique; Hua Chao Bookstore ever occupied here.

No. 62 is located the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association; among all those immigration associations, it is the largest and the most important one. It has about 60 sub-associations under. Over the past 100 years, Lien Chen Association and Taishan Ning Young association have been at the helm of the chairman position by turns.

No. 67 is Ta Wong Restaurant, the best roasted meat place in Chinatown. It has run the business for 40 years and still oftentimes has a full house of customers every day.

No. 69 has Singapore Café on the 1st floor and over 10 apartments on the rest of the higher floors of the building.

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No. 75 is TenRen Tea Shop is a successful tea group has lots of chain stores in U.S.A., Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China.

No. 76 is now an Egg Tart Place, selling biscuits, all types of coffee, tea, and noodles as well.

No. 80 used to be chemical Banking, then merged and renamed as Chase Bank. The corner where it's located is the most popular area of Chinatown.

No. 85 An Liang Chamber of Commerce is one of the influential clubs in Chinatown. Some of its spaces now are rented to 2 bakeries and some jewelry stores.

2. Perry Street

No. 1 is Summit Mortgage Bank and it's also a historic landmark. The outer walls are still well maintained as what he looked like in the 19th century.

No. 2 is Wong Ta Sin Temple that has other locations worldwide. The one in Hong Kong is the most famous.

No. 7 is Joe's Shanghai Restaurant, the most well known soup dumpling place in Chinatown. It's always crowded say and night, 7 says a week.

No. 16 is Haieh Shen Association led by Brothers Wu for half century.

No. 17 is a traditional gift shop, where Jin Hu Restaurant was located there before. Though open in a basement space, it's still very profitable at that time.

No. 20 used to be Bau Bau Restaurant, which has been very popular for nearly 25 years and closed its business 20 years old. Now there's a hair salon stands there.

No. 23 is Chi Chu Restaurant; there used to be a grocery there.

No. 28 is Delight 28 Restaurant is now a great spot for wedding or all kinds of ceremonies.

No. 31 is Li Lien Insurance Company and it's the oldest insurance company in Chinatown.

No. 36 is an optical place and Wong Ho Fung Souvenir.

The buildings on Perry Street nearly all have stores on the 1st floors, and the rest floor spaces are often take by offices and companies. Now they've been mostly renovated into apartments.

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Without a major construction, all buildings somehow stayed as what they were 50 years old.

3. Bayard Street

No. 1-48 used to be a group of building sitting on the East side of Bowery Street. They were all gone when Confucius building was built.

No. 43 Lee Ho Fook is a restaurant selling congee, noodle, and roasted meats and it's widely recognized by customers from worldwide.

No. 45 is hong Kong Station and it's specialized in homemade instant noodles of Hong Kong style. Because of its good foods and clean environment, there're more locations in Chinatown.

No. 47 is Fantasy Bakery Inc. Apart from its good sales of cookies and beverages, it started to sell lunch box for more selection to customers. There's used to be a clothing boutique run by the Jewish.

No. 50 is Chao Jing Building, an 8 story building. It's the pioneer apartment building in Chinatown with over 100 residence spaces, a huge parking lot, and an American bank together with other retailing stores there.

No. 53 is Hue Huang Restaurant. With its fresh food supply and reasonable prcing, it's one of the profitable ones in Chinatown.

No. 57 and 59 now are Dou Cheng and Jiao Cheng Meat Markets; both come with a bright and clean atmosphere to greet customers.

No. 65 is Mei Lai Wah Coffee House and now is under construction. There's the national flag of the People's Republic of China flying on the roof.

No. 69 is New Lin Heung Restaurant and has been there for a while.

No. 71 is Mr. Tang Restaurant.

No. 72 is Yung Cheng Optical. If with a better interior design, its business might better.

No. 78-80 is the business space for New Bo Ky Restaurant. Its business was way better then nowadays.

No. 89 is Shanghai Old Restaurant.

No. 93 used to be no. 23 Elementary School and now is replaced by a home for the aged.

The end of Bayard Street is connected to Baxter Street where there's a huge detention canter closely associated with the courts.

3. Doyers Street

No. 1 used to be a corner café, then a gift shop, and now is a jeweler there.

No. 2 no is Chase Bank.

No. 3 is Happy Restaurant. The famous Tung Ya Restaurant was ever at this location.

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No. 4 is post office now, which was relocated from Perry Street and has Chinese staff to help people who are not good at English.

No. 11-13 is where Nan Wah Restaurant is locate; one of the oldest Tea houses of the earliest time.

Doyers Street was used to be full of restaurants and gift shops, and there are many more hair and beauty salons. Most buildings and street scene are as what it looked like long before, and therefore the whole street feels sort of dated.

5. Mosco Street

On the far northern part on Mosco Street, there is a Christian church and it's the most important historic landmark in Chinatown. Beyond religious purpose, it has an elementary school and offers some Chinese classes over the weekend as well.

Next to that church is No. 100, a space including a sandwich place, Thailand grocery store, and a Shangdond dumpling shop. Mr. Mosco ever lived in this building and the street hence was named after his.

The 1st Hop Kee Restaurant is on the very farthest southern part of the street. Though located on the ground floor, its business isn't promising.

The 2nd store on the southern part is a small church.

Yong Sen funeral Parlor is right by the Church on the 1st floor. Above it there are bunches of apartments for residence.

Mosco Street is the shortest street in Chinatown with a length of 200 feet.

6. Elizabeth Street

No. 2-8 all belong to Chao Jin Building. There are about 10 shops on the ground floors and over 100 apartments on the rest higher floors.

No. 7 is a 50 Cent store moved from Bowery Street.

No. 11 is the back door of American Chinese school with roughly 4,000 students studying there. All the learning materials are from Taiwan and it's actually the largest American Chinese school all over U.S.A.

No. 15 is Elizabeth Center Mall on the 1st floor and Oriental Culture Enterprise Co. Inc. is located on the 2nd floor.

No. 19 and 21 are the 5th Precinct of New York Police Department. It's supposed to be close 25 years ago. But after through lost of objections and protests from the Chinese population, it's kept there since then.

3rd floor of No. 23 is Jing Fong Restaurant. With its huge capacity to fit in 1,200 customers at once, it's the largest restaurant of America.

No. 22 is Yue Tsung Jiang Restaurant.

No. 26 used to be Overseas Chinese Daily News Publisher and it ceased publication 25 years ago.

Right at the Corner of Elizabeth and Canal Streets, there are one jewelry store and a Citibank.

7. The South part of Bowery Street is Chatham Square. Citibank is No. 1 on Chatham Square, which is also located in the Yong Ming Building. The 2nd to 22nd floors are all office spaces.

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No. 7 and 8 on Chatham Square is Yong Fa Building.

No. 10 Chatham Square is Oriental Bank where used to have a cigarette store for both wholesales and retailing.

No. 14 Chatham Square is on of Subway sandwich locations; the business isn't really going well.

No. 16 Chatham Square used to be an old-fashioned café and now is a jewelry store.

No. 2 on Bowery Street starts from Doyers Street; Chase Bank is right there.

No. 4 is a Chinese herb doctor clinic.

No. 6-8 is Abacus Federal Savings Bank. The whole 5 stories are fully utilized by the bank.

No. 16 is Win Sin Bakery where there used to be Ta Chung Restaurant and Travel Agent run by the businessmen from Jiangsu and Zhejiang area in China.

No. 18 is Summit Mortgage Bank.

No. 22 is Wong Ta Sin Temple sitting at the bolder line right approaching Perry Street.

No. 22B is Yin Sin Record.

No. 24 is New York Wong Clan Association. People from Honk Kong Put the same English spelling for last name in Mandarin as Huang and Wong.

No. 26 is McDonald's. There's Asian American Arts Centre on the 3rd floor.

No. 31 is Lee Ho Fook Restaurant; it's always crowded now matter day or night.

No. 1-30 something is the area between Canal and Division Streets. Confucius Building has approximately 750 apartments for residence. This is also the good shelter that the government aims at helping families with lower incomes.

No. 38 is Chao Jin Building. Bank of America is on the 1st floor. It used to be Trader Bank, the very 1st U.S. bank in Chinatown.

No. 30, 32, and 34 was respectively 3 restaurants 40 years ago. They are Shing Kee, Fay Chai Kee, and Kin Lo Restaurants. It's like the era of restaurant when people needed to waited in a long line all the time so as to particularly get in those 3 restaurants.

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No. 48 is an ally called Chinese Street, where there are several restaurants, a pharmacy, a Chinese Herb store.

No. 52 is Duan Reade on the 1st floor. New Golden Horse Tours has run its business well for years and bus tours are their no.1 hit tour plans or packages.

No. 58 is HSBC Bank. Due to its unique stone materials for construction, it's one of the historic landmarks in Chinatown.

No. 64 is TD Bank. Above it, it's a health check-up center and a stock investing company.

Bowery Street, that filled with can't-miss historic landmarks kind of starts from HSBC and TD Bank to the Arch at Manhattan Bridge. The arch is usually claimed to be as spectacular as Arc De Triomphe. Those even numbers on Bowery Street between Canal and Hester Streets are all jewelry shops; the garage and the spaces above the 1st floor are jewelry manufactures. The area still stays as the center of finance and jewels.

8. Worth Street

No. 199 True Light Lutheran Church. Beyond church service, they offer Chinese language classes over the weekend.

No. 205 is also No.1 on Mott Street where Dr. Sun Yet-sen ever lived whenever he residence in New York. Now from 2nd to 4th floor is Dr. Yyons Dental office.

Standing on Worth Street, crossing the corner of Mott Street, you'd face Chatham Square and that is one of the best apartment buildings for commercial and residential uses. On the western end of the street exists the federal government building where the stat, city government and the courts at all levels.

9. Mulberry Street

No. 1-19 used to be the clutters of low houses; they then were torn down and constructed into Chatham Square Building now.

No. 22 is Chung Wah Cheung Sang Funeral on the 1st floor and apartments on the above floors.

No. 26-28 is Hua Yong Funeral Home on the 1st floor and apartments on the above floors.

No. 34-38 is NG Fook Funeral Services that has the best interior design of its office among those we just previously introduced.

No. 40 is Asia Roma Restaurant.

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No. 42 is Dunkin' Donuts.

No. 58 is Ping Ji Beef Jerky making it in the old-fashioned way and it's the 1st beef jerky store or factory specialized in homemade stuff.

No. 64-64 has been a 7-story building with indoor parking lots since 2000.

Columbus Park occupies the space at those odd numbers from south to north on Mulberry Street. It's located on Worth Street before and with a size of 5,000 square feet only used for parking. 20 years ago, it's retained by the government and renovated into a playground for kids as well as a recreational spot for adults. There are not only comfy couch areas, but also Basketball and volleyball courts.

No. 69 is Han Hua Mei Meat Company since the earliest time of Chinatown.

No. 70 is Chinatown Senior Citizens' Center; the government takes care of all expenses for all events and lunches for the aged.

No. 75 is Hong Keung Seafood, used to be Hoi Fung Marine Products on the opposite side of Mulberry Street at no. 78 to 80.

No. 88 is a Dollar Store where nearly all products are of a price around a single dollar and very popular among the customers.

No. 93-95 is Chinatrust Bank. The building where it's located is actually renamed as Golden Gate building.

Mulberry Street is the most famous street and also the Center of Little Italy in Downtown Manhattan. Chinese used to call it as "Italian Street". By Canal Street as a bolder line, the southern part is Chinatown and the north part more belongs to the Italian community or immigrants. Though since the late 70s, most territories on Mulberry have been transferred to Chinese, the section between Canal and Broome Streets still keeps as Little Italy and especially vigorous on the weekends spring through fall.

10. Canal Street

Canal Street starts from East Broadway and to the end of Hudson River or West Street.

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No. 153 is Td Bank, a medical Center and an investment company. It's a newly built building. The location was full of around 50 jewelry street vendors in the past.

No. 154 is HSBC and also a building of historic landmark.

No. 159 to 165 area 10 stores there. Among them, 8 are jewelry shops.

No. 168 is one of Citibank branches located in Chinatown.

No. 172 is Chinatown Federal Saving Bank. Above the gate, there's a giant number clock together with thermometer as if a main decoration in front.

No. 167-183 sits 11 stores and 10 of them are jewelers.

No. 176 is Chase Bank right at the corner of Mott and Canal Streets. It's also the center of Chinatown, crowded day and night.

No. 183 is Abacus Federal Saving Bank, dealing with all types of finance business, including insurance, stock, etc. The owner used to be a lawyer.

No. 185 is also a newly built building.

No. 192 is An Liang Chamber of Commerce, one of the important Chinese descent clubs in Chinatown.

No. 198-200 is where Kam Men Market is; it's also the 1st supermarket in Chinatown, taking up the spaces from lower level 1, ground floor and 2nd floor. From 3rd floor up are offices of all professions.

No. 203-221 is a sort of collection of hubbub jewelry shops on the street.

No. 204 is the Bank of East Asia and the building which it is part of is also named the same.

No. 210, Gold Gate Building, one of those newly built buildings in Chinatown. There are banks and all kinds of stores on the 1st floors. The spaces from 2nd floor up are all for office usage.

Canal Street stretching from Mulberry toward its west side is entirely a street of commerce. It's not only full of lots of banks but also well served by the New York City Subway with 6 train stations nearby. It's also a wholesales center for handbags, luggages, watches, costume jewelry. The amazingly huge crowds there could be as many as on Times Squares. There's also kind of a great market for tiny accessory stuff. Especially those 4 blocks on Canal Street from Bowery to Baxter, about 10 banks, 40 jewelry stores or malls exist there. All those above together make it a financial center of Chinatown.