

# Map of the Anti-Chinese Riot

Tacoma, Washington

November 3, 1885

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206.769.1370

This map was created after comparing more than a dozen different accounts of the riot in original newspapers, historical documents and academic studies. Unfortunately, there are only a few known accounts written by the Chinese people who were expelled. Without more information, the true story of the events that took place may never be known. I believe this map provides a reasonably accurate description of the events as described by the Euro-Americans who recorded them.

On the next page you'll find a map of the full route of the riot. Click on any of the red numbers to see details about that area, or go to page 3 to start the sequence of details.

## Sources

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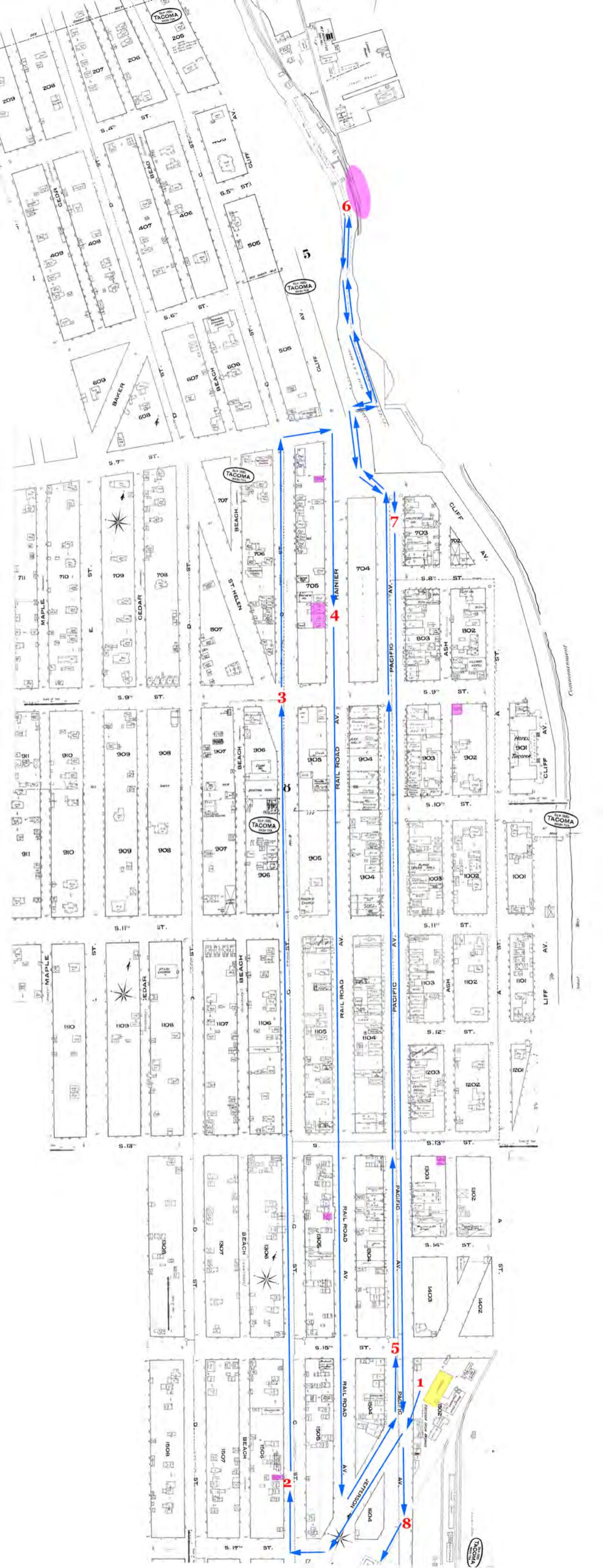
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*Report of the Governor of Washington Territory to the Secretary of the Interior, 1886*. Washington, DC: Government Printing office. 1886, pp 17-31.

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Wynne, Robert E. *Reaction to the Chinese in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, 1850-1910*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Washington, 1964.



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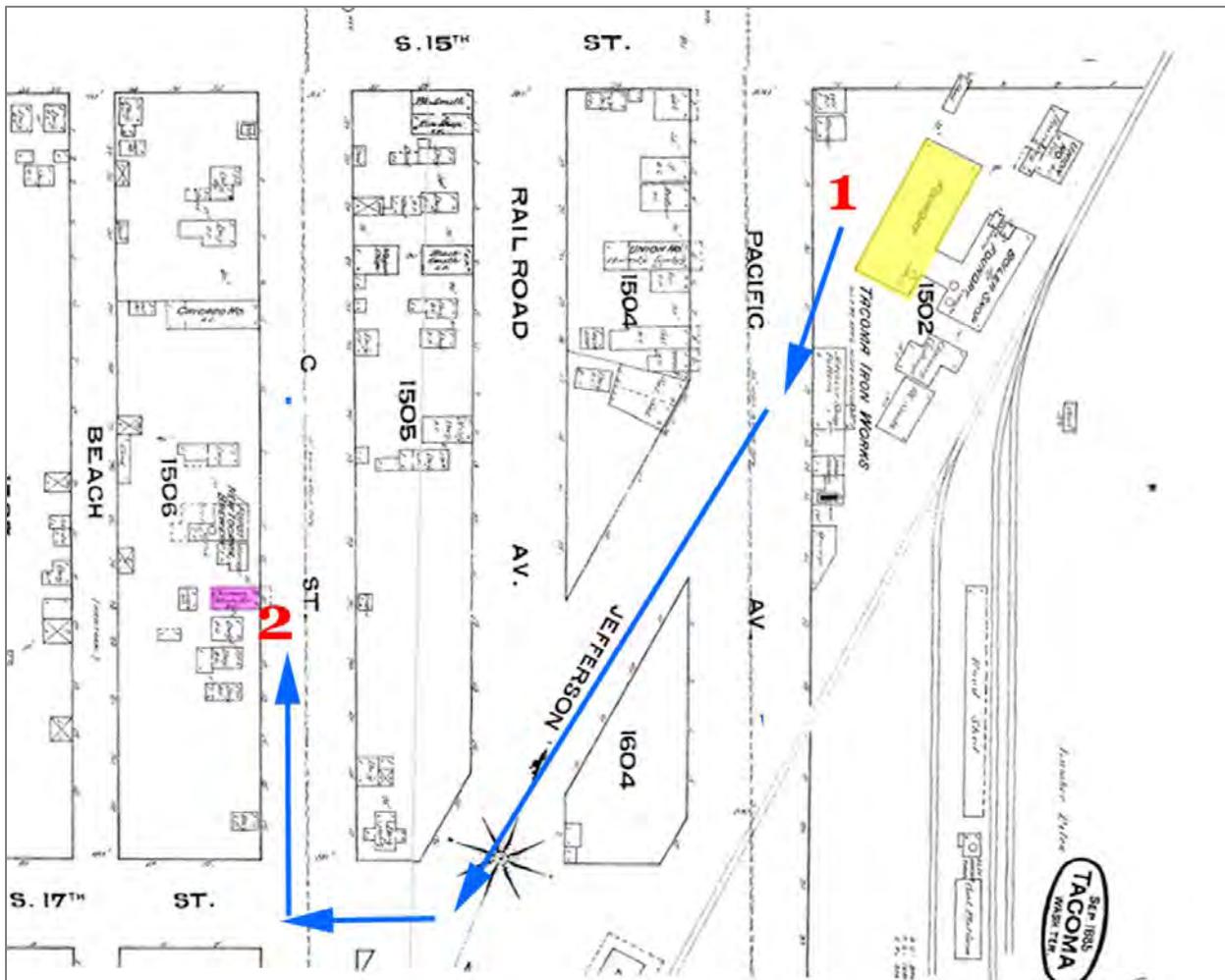
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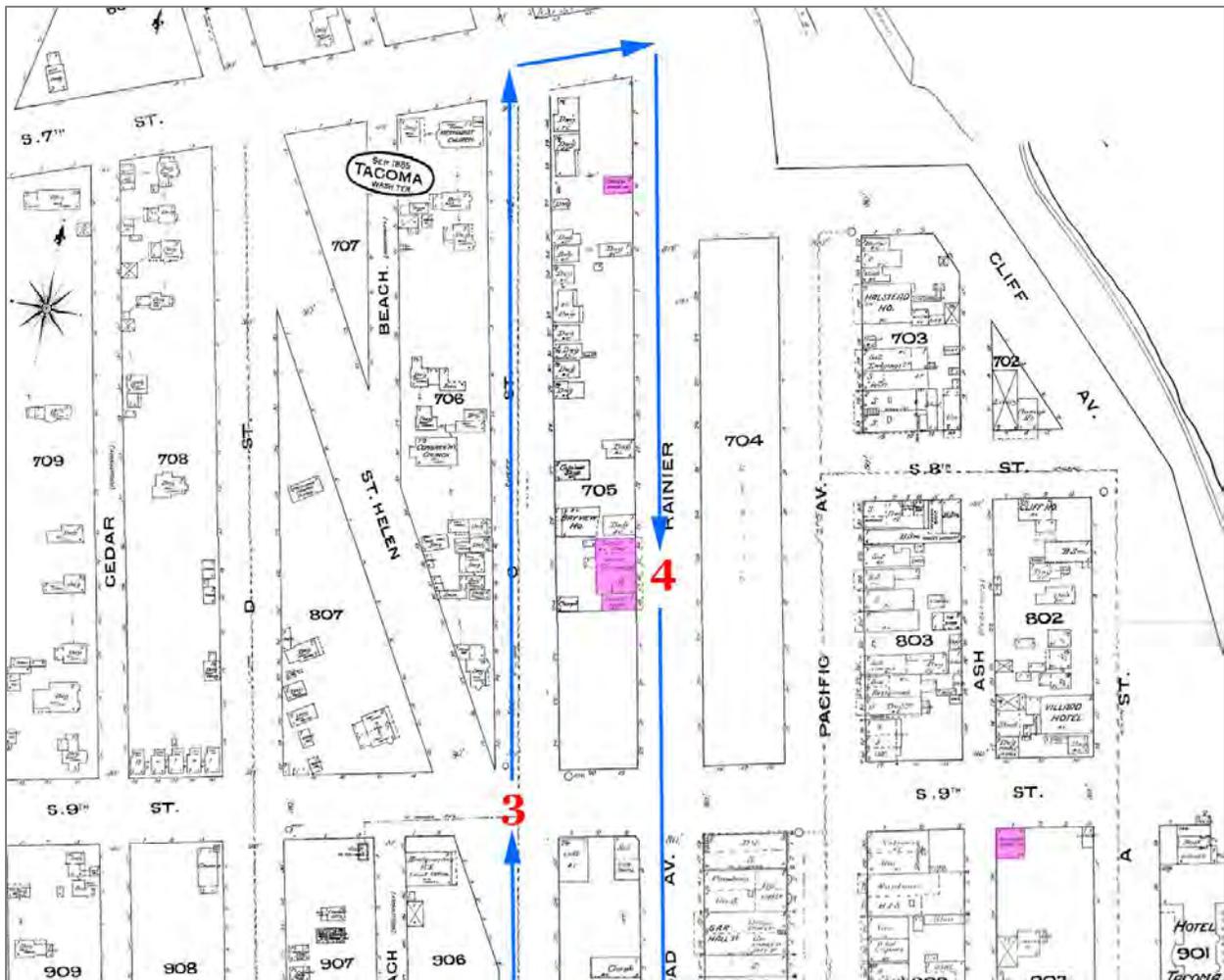
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## Map Detail 1



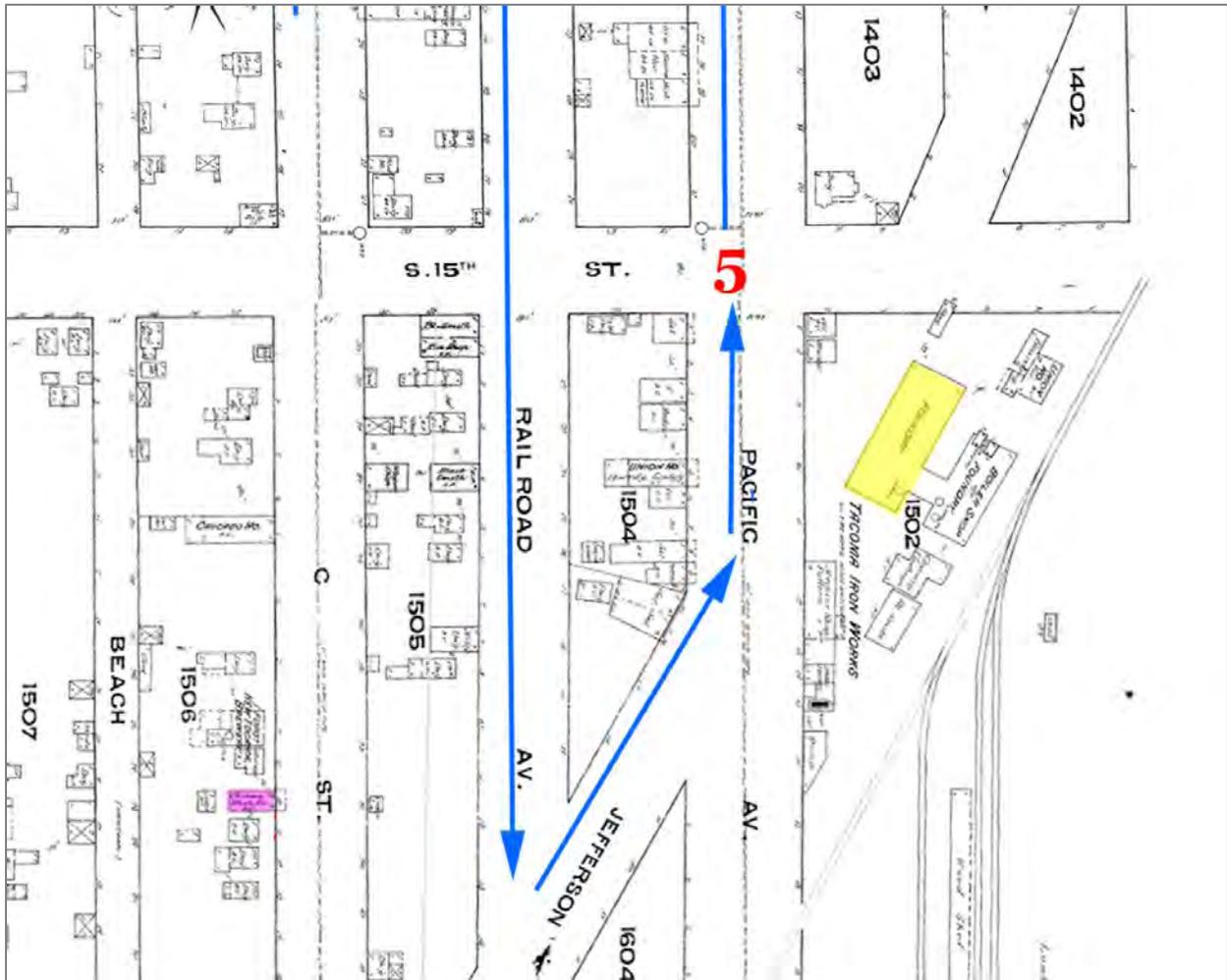
1. At 9:30 in the morning the whistle sounded at the Lister Foundry (marked in yellow on the map), and the workers filed out to assemble in the street. Other factories nearby followed suit. One or more organizers (there is no record of specific individuals) began to energize the crowd, and soon they were ready to take action.
2. A horde estimated at 200-300 marched up the hill to the nearest Chinese-owned business, a laundry near the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and C (now known as Broadway). The laundry owners were told to pack their belongings and be ready to leave by 1:30 that afternoon. The crowd moved on up the street to the next Chinese-owned store.

## Map Detail 2



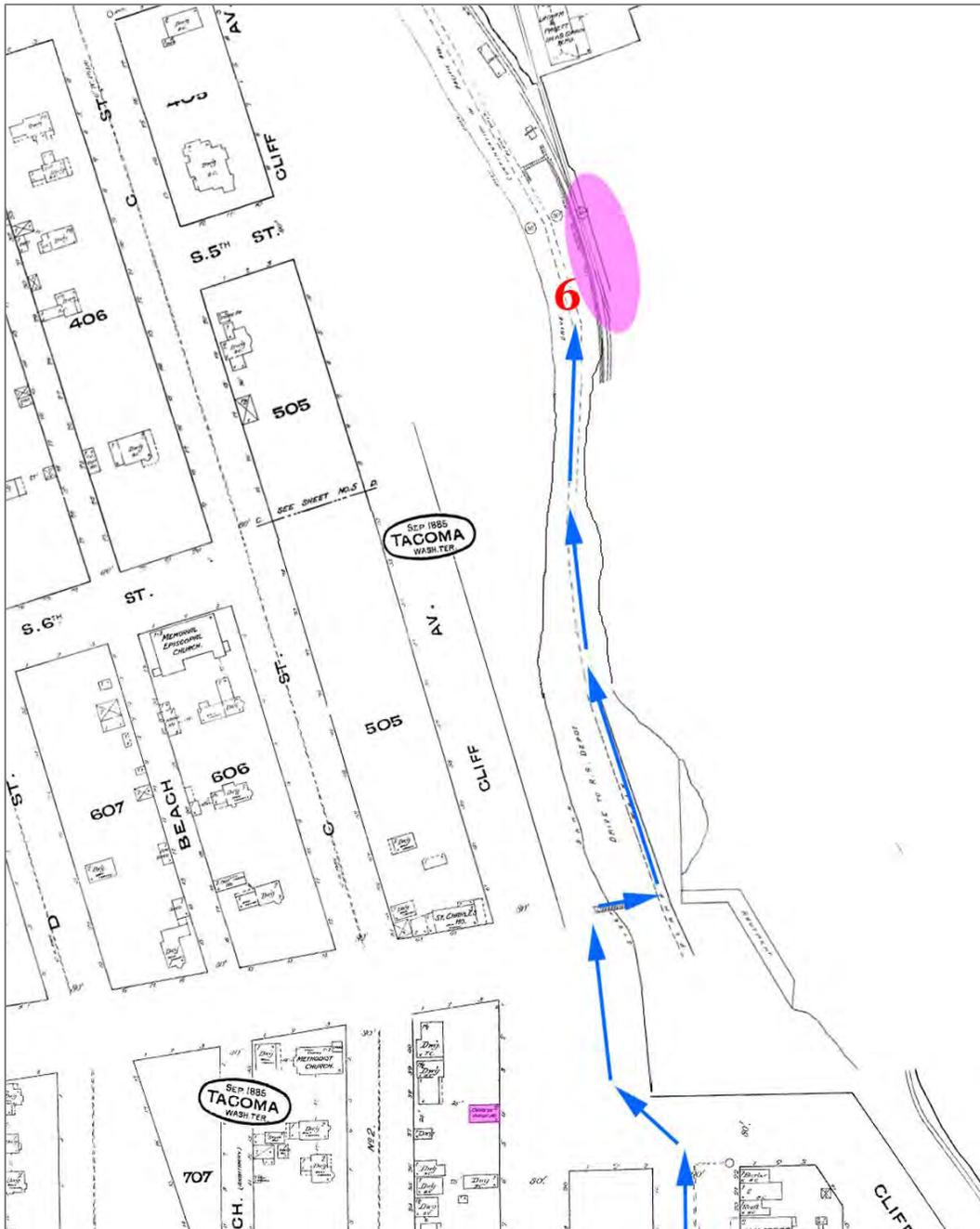
3. The crowd marched up C Street in the general direction of "Little Canton". At the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> and C they were met by Mayor Jacob Weisbach and Sheriff Lewis Byrd. According to one account, when the Mayor asked what the men were doing they replied that they were just going to count the number of Chinese people in the city. After assuring the Mayor they would not hurt anyone, they were allowed to continue on their way.
4. They marched up C Street to 7<sup>th</sup>, turned down toward the waterfront, then walked south on Railroad Street (now known as Commerce.) They stopped at several Chinese-owned shops on Railroad Street. By this time the crowd had grown violent, and they "broke forcibly into the houses, smashing in doors and breaking in windows..[and] dragging and kicking the Chinese out of the houses." (Morgan)

### Map Detail 3



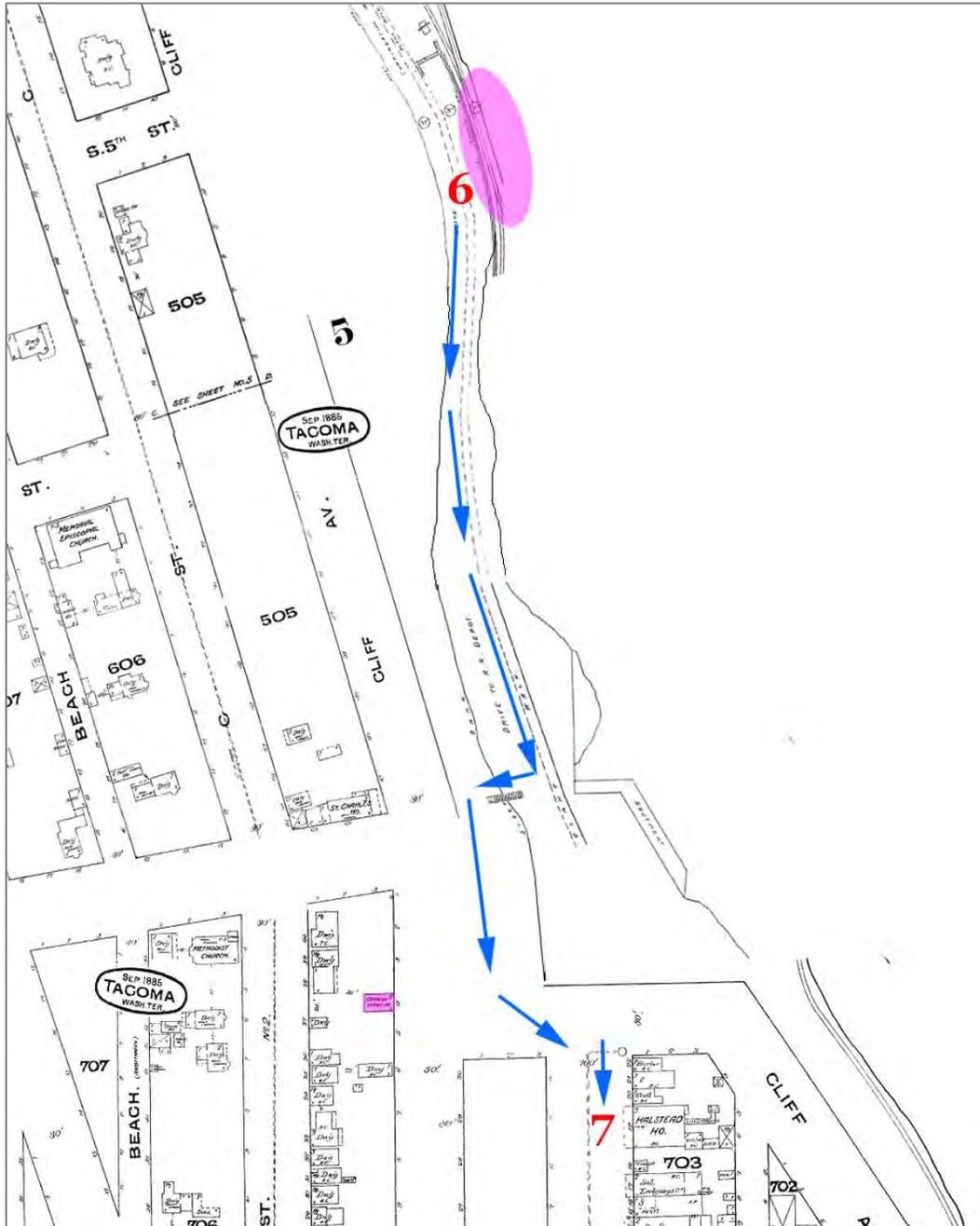
5. After marching back down Railroad Street the crowd turned downhill, then started up Pacific Avenue. At 15<sup>th</sup> and Pacific they met their first resistance. Several homeowners in the area refused to let the mob take their Chinese servants. It was reported that Mrs. Byron Young, the widow of a former sheriff, met the crowd with a shotgun and said "You want China Joe? All Right, come and get him, you get this." (Morgan)

## Map Detail 4



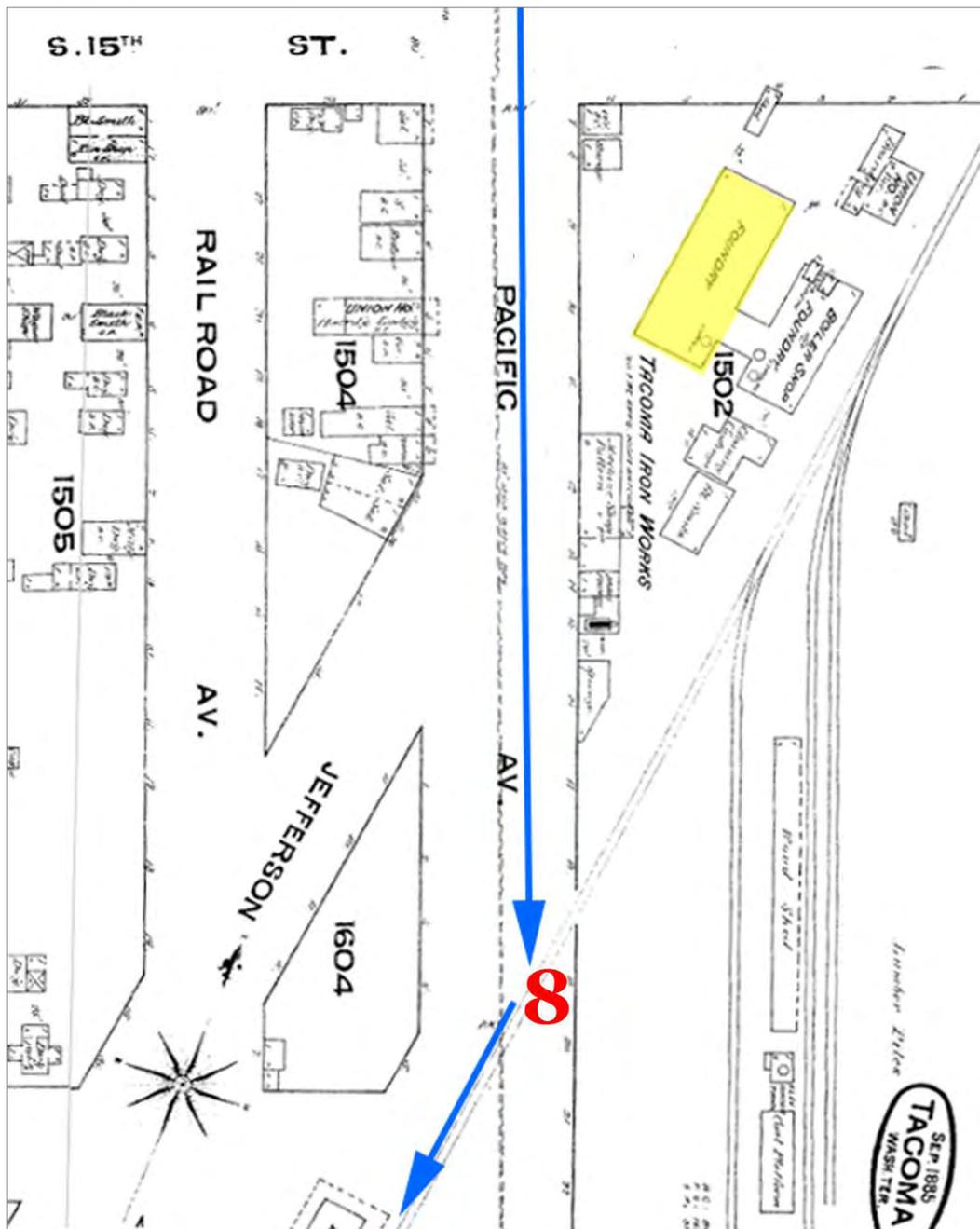
6. The rioters, now led by the Mayor, continued up Pacific to 7<sup>th</sup>. They took the stairs that then led down the steep bank to the waterfront and marched along the plank walk to the main Chinese community that was known throughout the town as "Little Canton". It was about noon when they told the Chinese who were there to pack their goods and prepare to leave town. If no one was home they broke in and ransacked the place, taking anything of value and destroying much of what they left behind.

## Map Detail 5



7. By about 1:30 the mob started herding the Chinese people from their homes and back up the bluff. Somewhere between 125 and 200 people were taken to a makeshift corral in front of the Halstead House on Pacific Avenue. They waited there without shelter in a cold rain while more Chinese people from other areas of town were brought in.

## Map Detail 6



8. Around 3:00 the crowd began to move the Chinese people out of town. Wagons were brought to carry what goods the victims were able to bring with them, along with any elderly or sick people who were unable to walk. The rest were marched down Pacific Avenue, guarded by armed men on horseback. Near 17<sup>th</sup> Street they came to the railroad tracks that led southward to Lakeview Station, and they began the 8-mile walk to their final departing point.