

Map of the Anti-Chinese Expulsion and Riot

Seattle, Washington
February 7-8, 1886

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Unless otherwise noted, the details in this document were taken from various articles published in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and other Seattle newspapers from February 7th to the 21st, 1886. While these articles clearly have Anglo-European biases, they are by far the most detailed accounts of what happened during that period. I have checked them against other accounts and reports, listed at the end of this document, for any inconsistencies or later corrections. Unfortunately, there are almost no 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.

It should be noted that the events outlined here cannot be take out of context with events that took place in Seattle and elsewhere during the previous year. Historian Jules Alexander Karlin quoted this contemporary news report from Seattle: "For months the times have been bad. The peculiar industries of the region are all depressed....Our towns are full of idle men." He concluded that "The employment of Chinese while whites were unwillingly idle aroused intense resentment and bitterness in Seattle. Consequently, workingmen played the most prominent role in the agitation in the belief that, if the Chinese were driven out, more employment would be provided for white labor." (Karlin, p. 1)

On the next page you'll find a map of the sequence and routes of events that took place on February 7th and 8th, 1886. Click on any of the red numbers to see details about that area, or go to page 3 to start the sequence of details.

ELLIOTT

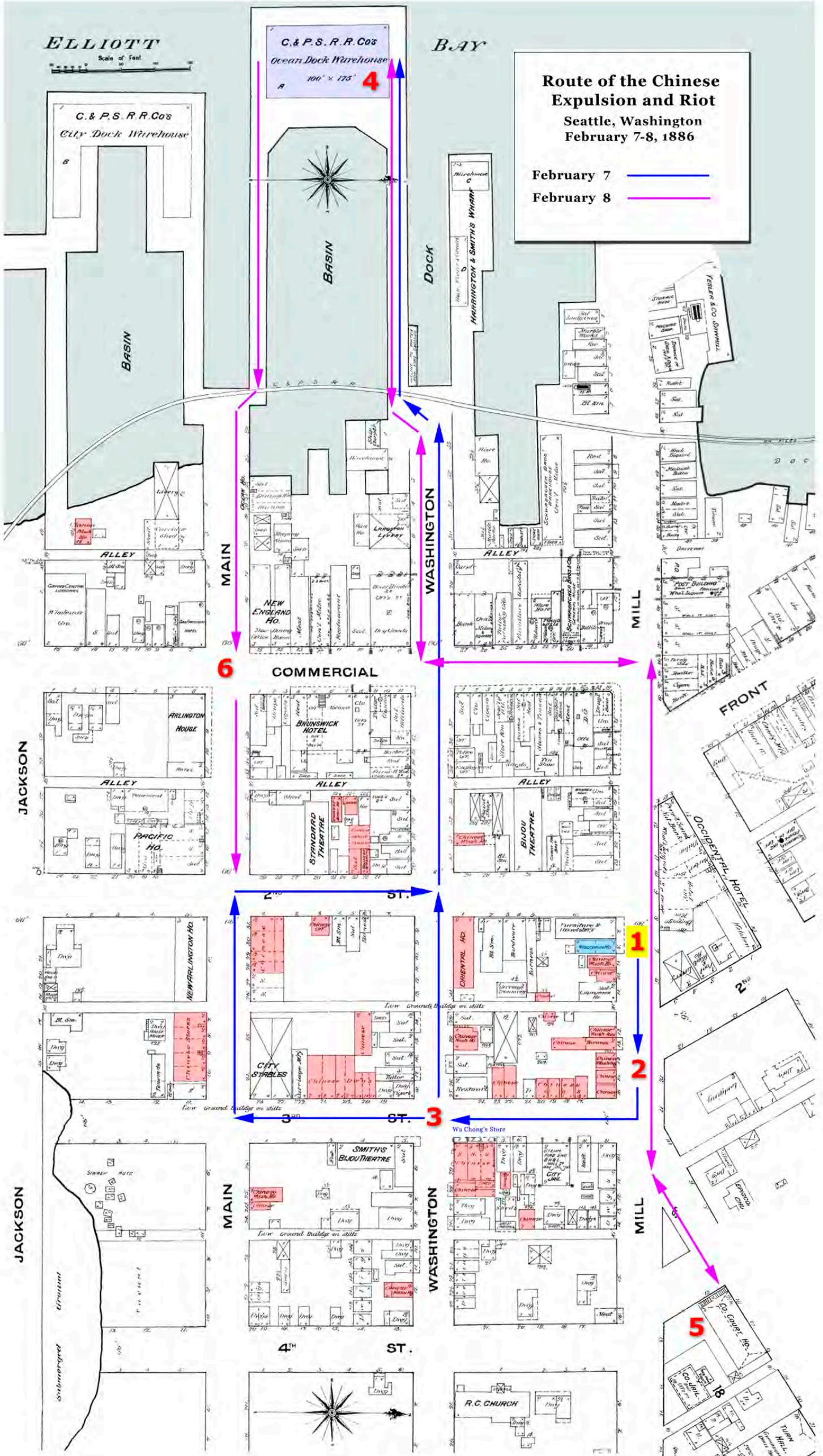
Scale of Feet

BAY

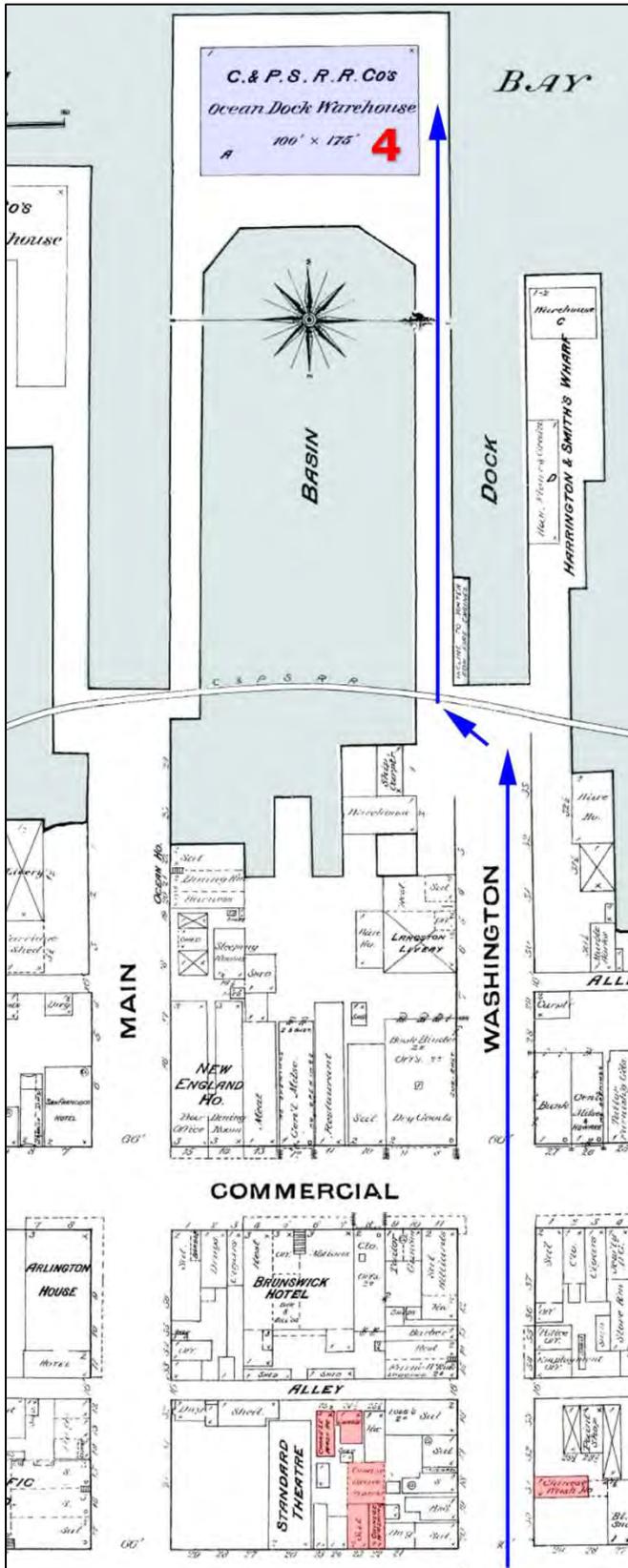
Route of the Chinese Expulsion and Riot Seattle, Washington February 7-8, 1886

February 7

February 8

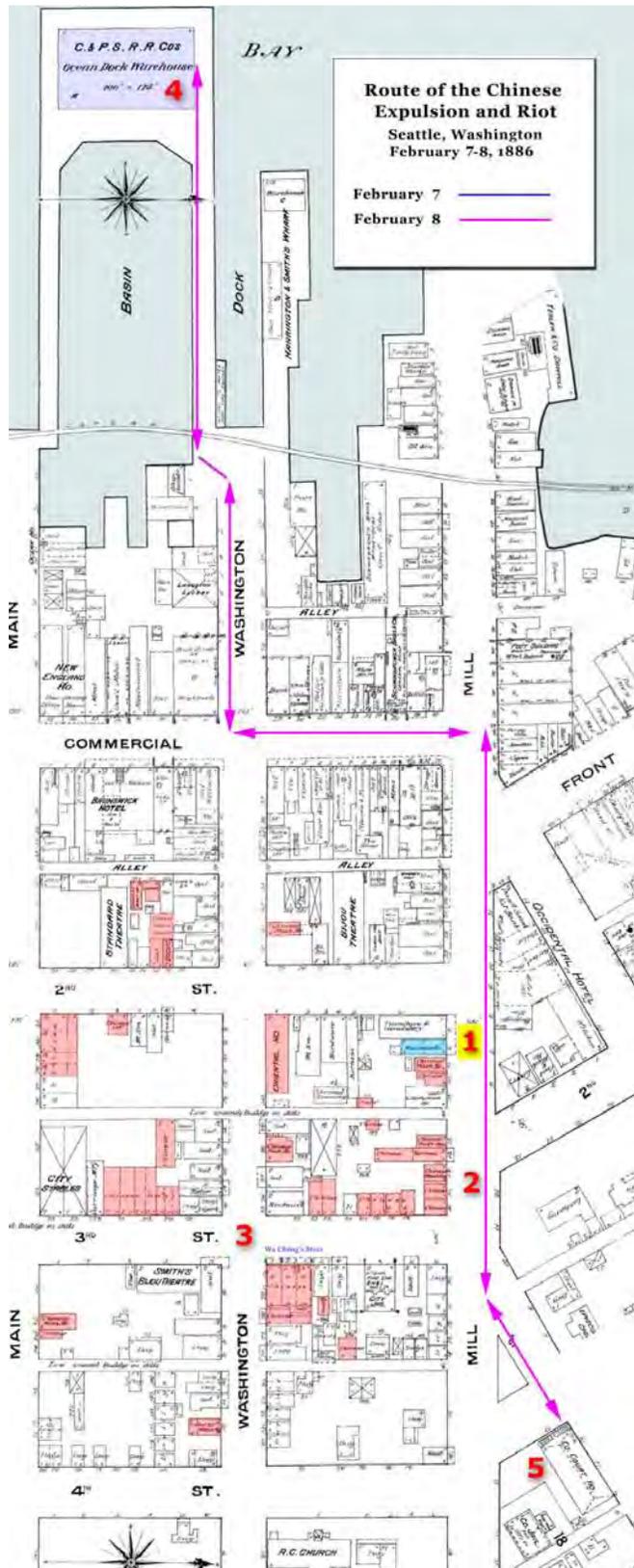


Map Detail B



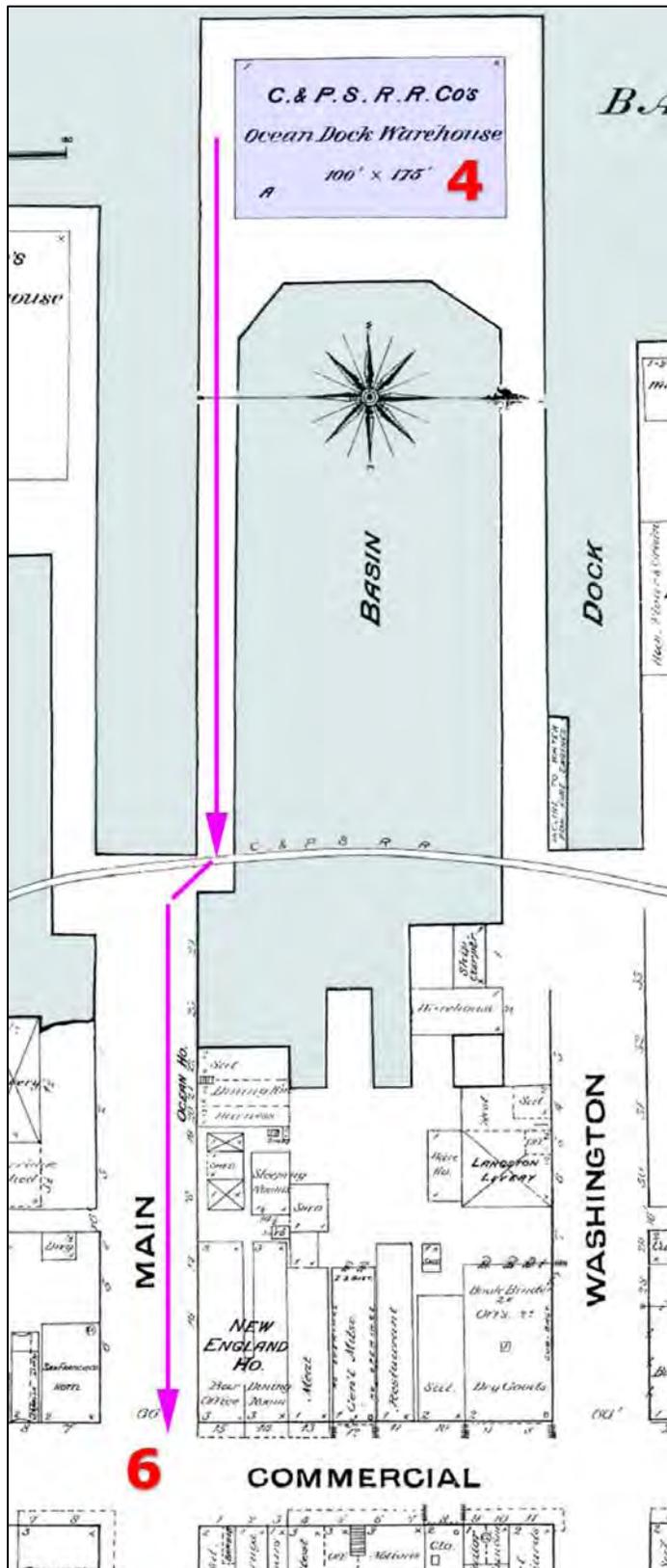
4. By mid-morning groups of white men began escorting the Chinese and wagons loaded with their belongings to a large warehouse at the end of the Ocean Dock (#4). The intent was to put the Chinese on the steamer *Queen of the Pacific*, which was scheduled to sail at 1:00 p.m.
5. Somewhere between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. bells rang in one or more nearby churches and the city's Fire Engine House. This was a prearranged signal for King County Sheriff McGraw and large group of armed deputies to assemble in the event of trouble. The local militia intervened to prevent any physical violence, but they were still outnumbered and were unable to prevent the Chinese from being taken to the dock.
6. At the same time a Chinese merchant swore out a writ of *habeas corpus* at the local courthouse, and King County Judge Ronald Green ordered the captain of the *Queen* to stay at the dock and to bring any Chinese who were supposed to board his ship to court the next morning.
7. By 1:00 in the afternoon, an estimated 350 Chinese residents and their belongings had been assembled at the Ocean Dock warehouse. Given the large number of Chinese at the dock and the Judge's orders to see all of them in court, the leaders of the expulsion decided to keep the Chinese in the warehouse overnight. Armed guards from both sides made sure that an uneasy peace was kept Sunday night.

Map Detail C



8. On Monday morning, February 8th, Sheriff McGraw, with an escort of the Home Guard and two militia companies, brought most of the Chinese men at the dock (#4) to the County Courthouse (#5) for an 8:00 a.m. hearing. Judge Green told the Chinese residents that they did not have to leave unless they wanted to, although he also stated that nearly all of the people in Seattle wished they would leave. He then made a special point of asking each person individually if he wanted to leave. Of the 105 men present, only sixteen said they wanted to stay.
9. The Sheriff and the militia then accompanied everyone back to the Ocean Dock. During the night fares had been raised from the anti-Chinese forces, and 196 people were allowed to board the *Queen*. She finally set sail at noon. This left at least 100 people still on the dock and unable to leave until another ship arrived. Since the next ship was not scheduled to arrive until February 14th, the Sheriff and other officials in charge decided that the Chinese should return to their homes until that date.

Map Detail D



10. After the *Queen* left the Sheriff and the Home Guards started to lead the Chinese back to their homes. As soon as they left the dock they were met by jeering crowds who demanded the Chinese be taken back to the dock.
11. At the intersection of Main and Commercial (now First Avenue South) (#6), a crowd of several hundred protestors blocked the procession and refused to let the Chinese go any further. When the head of the militia, Captain George Kinnear, ordered the crowds to disperse, a dozen or more men rushed the militiamen in front and tried to seize their guns. In the ensuing struggles several shots were fired, and five of the agitators were wounded. One later died from his wound. The Chinese protected themselves by moving behind their boxes of belongings, and no one from the Chinese community was hurt.
12. After the gunfire subsided and the wounded were removed, the crowd again began taunting the officers. Within a short time reinforcements from the Seattle Rifles and Company D of the militia arrived, and the two sides faced off for almost an hour before the crowd backed down and began to disperse.

Sources

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