

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property**DRAFT**Historic name: Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California 1850-1995

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 126 East Canon Perdido Street and 126 East Canon Perdido Street #BCity or town: Santa Barbara State: California County: Santa BarbaraNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date**_____
Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☒
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Asian

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, terra cotta, stucco, ceramic tile

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens faces East Canon Perdido Street in a commercial neighborhood of Santa Barbara's downtown area. To the rear of the property is the Chung Family House. The property consists of two buildings—both constructed in 1946—situated in the 100-200 block of East Canon Perdido Street, which served as Santa Barbara's Chinatown after the 1925 earthquake. The property is surrounded by locally and nationally recognized historic buildings dating from the late 1700s to the 1920s and is across the street from the Visitor Center at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, which serves as a museum. At the front of the property, the commercial restaurant building's character reflects Chinese style architecture. The building at the rear of the property is a two-story residence, a duplex constructed in a Spanish Colonial Revival style. The property retains all aspects of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Commercial Building

Setting

The commercial building is located on Canon Perdido Street, mid-block between Santa Barbara Street and Anacapa Street. The building is part of El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Park property, and aerial overlays show that the building stands where the original Presidio parade ground once existed. The building is adjacent to the original El Cuartel building, a one-story Spanish Colonial Adobe built in 1788 that served as the Presidio soldier's quarters and is across the street from the Presidio Visitor's Center and museum in the Cañedo Adobe. The adobe was originally a one-story Spanish Colonial building constructed in 1788 that served as the Presidio residence of non-commissioned officers and was remodeled in 1948 by Elmer Whittaker. In addition to the Cañedo Adobe, the north wing of the Presidio includes the reconstructed Padre's Quarters (1979), Chapel (1985), and Comandancia (1993). The surrounding buildings are stucco with terracotta roofs. The restaurant building remains in its original 1946 location.

General Characteristics

The rectangular building has intersecting gables with the side facing gable on the street edge with an extending front facing gable intersecting toward the rear covered in terra-cotta tiles. The commercial building is one story at the front and two stories at the rear, although the roof ridgeline remains consistent throughout the building as the second story serves as an attic at the front of the building and a functional second story at the rear of the building. Built atop a concrete foundation, the unique brick exterior stands out in a streetscape of stucco buildings with terracotta roofs. The stucco divisions on the front elevation and the terra cotta tile roof creates a cohesive look with the surrounding buildings. The northeast and southwest side elevations feature extensive brick in the open gables and under the rear open gable. The front elevation features two storefronts, separated by a window that originally served as the cashier station for the restaurant.

Specific Features

The façade features thick, wide corbels, with an Asian influenced shape that supports the overhanging eave. Asian-influenced design, particularly in Chinese American architecture, often incorporates elements that reflect the rich cultural and artistic traditions of East Asia, in this case, China. When it comes to corbels, these elements are infused with craftsmanship and ornamental styles that have a distinct aesthetic.

Corbels are architectural supports often found under beams, archways, or eaves, and in Chinese American architecture, they can be highly decorative. Asian-influenced corbels typically feature:

- **Curved Lines and Scrolls:** Many Chinese corbels are shaped with fluid, sweeping curves or stylized scrollwork. This is often influenced by traditional Chinese motifs like the "cloud" or "lotus" patterns, which are common in Chinese decorative art.
- **Wood and Stone Craftsmanship:** The materials used in corbels can vary. Chinese architecture often emphasizes intricate woodwork and detailed stone carving. These features reflect the mastery of craftsmanship that is integral to the design.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Integration in Chinese American Architecture

In the context of Chinese American architecture, these elements are often used to bridge traditional Chinese aesthetics with American construction methods. For instance, in a modern or traditional Chinese American home, corbels under eaves or rooflines might be adorned with these flowing, symbolic designs, while the interior may feature tiles that incorporate traditional patterns to evoke a sense of heritage.

Overall, Asian-influenced design in Chinese American architecture is a fusion of cultural heritage with aesthetic beauty. Corbels and tiles are a way of honoring Chinese traditions while making them part of the local, contemporary architectural environment.

The façade has two storefronts along the streetscape with three bays comprised of multiple divided light transom windows. Similar divided light windows flank the two entry doors, atop black, high gloss tile bases with a green Asian motif decorative tile in the center. Tiles in Chinese American architecture can range from decorative ceramic tiles used in walls, floors, or roofs to more ornamental pieces. Asian-influenced tiles often feature:

- **Intricate Patterns and Geometry:** Chinese tile design is known for geometric patterns like repetitive motifs, hexagons, or swirls, often reflecting the philosophical concepts of balance and harmony.
- **Bright, Vibrant Colors:** Tiles in Asian design often feature bold colors, which are culturally significant. Green tiles in Chinese American architecture or design can carry rich layers of meaning, invoking themes of renewal, prosperity, harmony, and life. Its associations with the Wood Element, jade, and the cycle of nature make it a powerful color choice for those looking to imbue a space with vitality and positive energy.
- **Porcelain and Ceramic:** Traditional Chinese tiles are made from porcelain or glazed ceramic, materials that reflect the fine ceramic art that originated in China and was spread throughout Asia and the world.

The northeast open gable features a large window comprised of block glass, with smaller windows and a side entrance spaced throughout the remainder of the elevation. The rear portion of the northeast elevation is comprised of two stories, each with brick and stucco siding. The first story features a wide garage opening with a metal door. The second story features two wood divided light windows flanked by two wood divided light doors. The second story configuration of doors and windows is tucked beneath a wide, overhanging eave and a wrap-around deck with a wood railing and columns. The southeast elevation features a long expanse of painted brick. The original elevation featured a series of divided light windows. The windows have since been filled in, though the outlines remain to show where they were. The rear elevation, not accessible to the public, appears to match the original elevation drawing, which shows a wood staircase beneath the rear gable, flanked by wood windows staggered in height with a back entrance on the right side. The roof ridgeline is punctuated by three large roof vents capped with terra cotta tile.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Important Decorative Elements

The overhanging eave on the front elevation is supported by thick, Asian influenced corbels; and the storefront bases feature black, high-gloss tile with green Asian motif decorative tiles in the center. The overhanging eave on the northeast elevation is supported by more traditional, less ornamented Spanish brackets. The southwest elevation was painted with an elaborate dragon mural by a local artist in 2024. The original plans do not identify paint on this elevation.

Significant Interior Features

The interior of the building has been altered since its original construction; however, the floor plan appears to roughly match the original drawings. The building is divided into two separate restaurants served by the same kitchen, with the bar in the same location as the original floor plan. Some of the décor from the original cocktail lounge has been retained in the existing bar and lounge.

Residential Building

Setting

The residential building is located directly behind the commercial building and is hidden from public view. Although the residential building shares the same proximity to the El Presidio State Historic Park and El Cuartel as the commercial building, it is not part of the park. The duplex was built as a single family residence in 1946 where the original owner, Jimmy Chung, lived with his wife and children in the since lost "New Chinatown" of Santa Barbara.

General Characteristics

The two-story house in the rear of the property is more of a traditional building for Santa Barbara, designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The square house features a cross gable roof covered in terra-cotta tiles on the first floor with the second story as a tower element with a hipped roof in the center of the roofline. The house has a brick chimney on the front elevation and is clad with smooth, stucco walls. The windows are wood, six-over-six, double hung with ogee lugs on the upper sash and a solid wood front door.

Specific Features

The front elevation features a brick chimney and a recessed front entryway with a solid wood door. The windows on the first story are double hung wood with six over six divided lights. The windows on the second story are smaller than those on first floor, wood, with six divided lights. The side and rear elevations are not accessible to the public and were not accessible for survey.

Important Decorative Elements

The overhanging eave on the front elevation is supported by wood brackets. There is a simple wood railing at the entry steps, terra-cotta roof tiles, smooth stucco walls and wood windows.

Significant Interior Features

The interior of the building is not accessible to the public and was not accessible for survey.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Alterations

Most of the alterations to the commercial building have been to the interior. The interior received plumbing, mechanical, electrical, structural, and accessibility upgrades in 2009, 2010, and 2013. The original bar was also restored in 2013. The configuration of the interior has remained largely the same, with two commercial areas separated by an interior wall sharing a single kitchen. The original floorplan shows a restaurant on one side with a wood dance floor, and a café on the other side. The original bar was altered in 1969 to make additional seating for dining.

Dates of most of the exterior alterations are not documented. The original front doors were replaced at an unknown date. On the east elevation, the large glass block window near the front remains; the four smaller three-by-three, glass block windows were replaced with metal fixed windows at an unknown date. In 2010, the French door with divided lights and transom was replaced with a single door on the east elevation. In 2013, six glass block windows on the west elevation were covered with interior wood panels. The west elevation was painted in 2024 with a dragon mural by local artist, DJ Javier.

Integrity

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House retain all aspects of historic integrity:

Location: Both buildings retain their original location since their construction in 1946. Therefore, the building retains integrity of location.

Design: Both buildings retain almost all of their character-defining elements of their design including the original footprint, massing, roof shape and material, cladding, and fenestration. Despite the replacement of the original front doors of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, other character-defining features survive so it can convey its original 1946 appearance and significance.

Setting: The streetscape of the 100 block of East Canon Perdido retains most of the original buildings on the south side of the block that were in place when Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Residence were constructed in 1946. The Presidio adobes and chapel were reconstructed between 1979 and 1993. Because the south side of the entire block remains and can still convey the essential features of its appearance in 1946 when these buildings were constructed, the property retains integrity of setting.

Material: Both buildings retain most of the original construction materials dating from 1946. While there have been minor alterations to the original front doors on Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, including altering the color of the dining room door from green to red and replacing the door to the bar (café) from a double-hung door to a single door, the building can still convey its 1946 appearance and significance.

Workmanship: The buildings retain enough of their exterior construction materials to convey the character of the construction methods when the buildings were constructed in 1946. Therefore,

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

the buildings convey the level of workmanship they possessed in 1946 when they were constructed and retain their integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The setting of the buildings continues to be characterized by a streetscape of buildings that have characterized the south side of the street since their construction in 1946. Therefore, the buildings retain integrity of feeling.

Association: The building continues to have the Asian influences in its construction that it still can be associated as a Chinese restaurant and part of the Chinese community.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: ASIAN (Chinese)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1946-1970

Significant Dates

1946

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Chung, James Yee

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cheesman, Roy (architect)

Whittaker, Elmer (builder)

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A and B in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Asian (Chinese) and Commerce for association with restaurant owner Jimmy Chung. The period of significance begins with construction in 1946 and closes in 1970 when Jimmy Chung passed away. Jimmy's son Tommy took over the restaurant until selling the buildings in 2006. As a Chinese-operated business, the property meets the registration requirements of the Business, Industry, and Labor historic context of the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995* Multiple Property Submission.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Ethnic Heritage: Asian (Chinese) and Commerce

The property is associated with Chinese American employment and restaurant ownership. Per the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Chinese American Employment, 1900 to World War II*, still applicable immediately post-war,¹

Restaurants

As with laundries, cooking as a domestic service was offered by Chinese entrepreneurs—to both Chinese and non-Chinese miners—during the Gold Rush that morphed into owning and operating restaurants. During late 1860s and 1870s, San Francisco had well over a dozen Chinese restaurants, including three or four that were elaborate, multi-story establishments with banquet facilities. Their customers were from the Chinese community and were not drawing regular customers from the non-Chinese population. The small family-run Chinese restaurants provided a service that was in short supply in the late 1800s, particularly to the still mostly bachelor Chinese community. Like laundries, the work was hard and profits slim. They were often family-run, with the proprietors living on-site and all family members, including children, helping.

Before 1900, most Americans had no interest in Chinese food, and viewed Chinese restaurants with suspicion, in part because of rumors that Chinese people ate rats or dogs. Eventually, the inexpensive meals attracted the non-Chinese working class, and by the 1920s, many towns had at least one Chinese restaurant. During this time, the craze for chop suey helped to spread Chinese restaurants throughout the United States between 1900 and 1920 and peaked in the 1950s. The origins of chop suey as a dish are not clear. One common account holds that hungry white laborers went to a Chinese restaurant late one evening in the 1880s. With no food left, the cook

¹ National Register of Historic Places, *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995* Multiple Property Documentation Form, Multiple Counties, California, National Register #MC100004867, E-196-197.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

improvised by stir-frying some kitchen scraps and called the dish chop suey—a Chinese term for “odds and ends.” The dish popularized Chinese food among the non-Chinese population, and Chinese restaurants—owned and operated by Chinese Americans and attracting mostly non-Chinese customers with added ingredients and dishes tailored to Americanized, white tastes—were thriving in various American cities outside of large cities’ Chinatowns by the 1920s.

Restaurants replaced laundries as the primary source of self-employment for Chinese shopkeepers, a trend that continued throughout the twentieth century. By 1920, roughly a quarter (about 11,500 of 45,600) of all Chinese workers in the United States worked in restaurants. Many were owner operated enterprises, though a few were larger-scale operations that hired chefs, waiters, and hostesses. When attitudes toward Chinese changed during World War II with China an ally against Japan, Chinese food and restaurants gained increased popularity and acceptance in the mainstream. The 1950s saw a rise in larger, more lavish, and stylized Chinese restaurants with “Oriental décor” and exotic names to attract tourists, gourmets, and adventuresome diners searching for different culinary experiences. Dining places in Chinatowns opened to serve this clientele. These higher end restaurants, with tablecloths and linen napkins, offered a sophisticated ambiance that as part of the experience. Chinese food was no longer just available at small, family-run restaurants or cafes.

Per the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995* MPDF, Significance of Businesses Owned or Operated by AAPI Community Members,²

As immigrants or refugees acclimating to a new country, and in the discriminatory environment many encountered, owning or operating a business was one of the few available paths to independence, security, and wealth-building. AAPI business owners and operators engaged in all types of endeavors, including professional services. Some business types were strongly associated with specific AAPI communities, such as Chinese-owned laundries, Japanese-owned nurseries or flower shops, and Vietnamese-owned nail salons, as a few examples.

[...]

Rarity or last-of-its-kind arguments can be made related to a particular significance (e.g., the last remaining property associated with an AAPI-owned or operated business in a specific locality from when a substantial AAPI community existed). Properties that house multiple AAPI-owned or operated businesses concurrently or successively may be important if they reflect settlement or community formation patterns or patterns of changing demographics.

² Ibid., 363-364.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Chinese immigrants began arriving in Santa Barbara in the 1860s, opening small businesses or working as fishermen or farmhands. The 0-100 block of East Canon Perdido Street served as a cultural and residential hub for this community. The block included a rooming house, school, several businesses, a place of worship, and community meeting space. The street became a bustling Chinatown. During the reconstruction after the 1925 earthquake, the Chinese were forcibly removed from this block in the attempt to make a cohesive Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style for downtown. The Chinese community moved one block to the former Presidio area, then called "New Chinatown." In the 1920s, local real estate owner and contractor Elmer Whittaker constructed a series of Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings on this block of 100 East Canon Perdido Street with the intent of encouraging the dwindling Chinese population to remain in downtown Santa Barbara. Its last addition arrived in 1946 when Jimmy Chung moved his family restaurant, Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, to 126 East Canon Perdido Street. He and Whittaker built the restaurant and the residence behind it in 1946, having hired architect Roy Cheesman to design both buildings. The Chungs operated the last Chinese-owned business in New Chinatown for more than sixty years at this location.³

The building at 126 East Canon Perdido Street is the only building with any Chinese architectural features that remains of New Chinatown, the last remaining evidence that there was a Chinese American community on this block. As a restaurant opened by a Chinese American immigrant in the discriminatory environment of Santa Barbara, which limited Chinese people to a certain area of the community, the property is an example of a Chinese American owning or operating a business as one of the few available paths to independence, security, and wealth-building. Owned and operated by multiple generations of the Chung family, the building reflects both the settlement of New Chinatown and its changing demographics as the Chinese American population no longer remains in this area.

James (Jimmy) Yee Chung aka Yak Kan Yee was born in 1910 to father Gip Wah Yee and mother Wong Shee. He was born in China in Ung Yung Lee Village of Hoyping District in the fertile Pearl River Delta. He immigrated to America in 1922 with his father, his father's second wife, Quong Shee, and his brother, Thick Cheong Yee. The family arrived at the Port of Seattle from Hong Kong and settled in Santa Barbara, where Jimmy attended Santa Barbara Junior High School and Santa Barbara High School. He returned to China in 1928, where he married Nuey Szeto. They had five children together: Bill, Tommy, Kong, John, and Barbara. The family returned to Santa Barbara where Jimmy took over the Wah Hing Chung Laundry after the death of his father.⁴

Jimmy eventually left the laundry business to open the Friendly Café on Santa Barbara's State Street in 1936. In 1940, he opened Jimmy's Oriental Gardens Restaurant at its original location on Cabrillo Street along the West Beach. He moved the restaurant to a different location on West Cabrillo Street in 1942, and then in 1946, the restaurant moved to its location on East Canon

³ Anne Petersen, "The Trust's Newest Addition: Jimmy's Oriental Gardens," *La Campana*, Spring 2008.

⁴ Raymond Douglas Chong, "The Yee Clan in Santa Barbara Chinatown: A Family Legacy in Gold Mountain," *Gum Saan Journal*, 2014.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Perdido Street in Santa Barbara's New Chinatown. Behind the restaurant, a two-story house was built where Jimmy lived with his wife and children until his death in 1970.

The property is the best associated with Jimmy Chung as his business and residence for thirty years. The original Jimmy's Oriental Gardens sign decorates the interior of the commercial building, and his picture is hanging on the wall with other memorabilia documenting the building's history. The residential building, not visible from the public right-of-way, still shares close proximity with the restaurant and bar where Jimmy's legacy is celebrated and shared. The extant building at 718 State Street where Jimmy opened Friendly Café before closing it in 1940 is no longer associated with Jimmy Chung or his productive life. The previous locations of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens at 330 West Cabrillo Street and 320 West Cabrillo Street, prior to moving to its final location at 126 East Canon Perdido Street, are also no longer associated with Jimmy Chung or his business. It is unclear where the Chung family lived before moving into the residence built for them behind the restaurant in 1946. The buildings retain integrity to convey their 1946 appearance when Jimmy Chung relocated his business and his family to the one block of Santa Barbara where the Chinese community was limited at the time. Following Jimmy Chung's death in 1970, Jimmy's son Tommy, who started working at the restaurant in 1967, took over and kept the business running until selling both buildings to the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) in 2006.⁵ California State Parks has been renting the restaurant property to different businesses since 2006 and purchased the restaurant in 2014. A lot split was completed at that time and SBTHP retains ownership over the residence.

Conclusion

Jimmy Chung was a Chinese business owner in Santa Barbara for over thirty years and his family carried that on for thirty more years. Jimmy's legacy and that of his family are still remembered by the community in association with this Chinese restaurant location. The corbels and tiles used to bridge traditional Chinese aesthetics with American construction methods conserve the memory of the once thriving Asian community in the neighborhood. As the last remaining building with Asian influenced design in Santa Barbara representing a property associated with a Chinese American owned business in New Chinatown and with Jimmy Chung, a prominent member of the Santa Barbara Chinese American community, Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and the accompanying Chung Family House are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B at the local level of significance in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Chinese (Asian) and Commerce. The property meets the registration requirements of the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995* Multiple Property Submission in the context of Business, Industry, and Labor.

⁵ Neal Graffy, "The History of a Family Legacy," *Santa Barbara Independent*, July 27, 2006.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Chong, Raymond Douglas. "The Yee Clan in Santa Barbara Chinatown: A Family Legacy in Gold Mountain." *Gum Saan Journal*. 2014.

Conard, Days, Nelson, Oglesby. *Santa Barbara A Guide to El Pueblo Viejo*. The Santa Barbara Conservancy. 2016.

"El Presidio De Santa Barbara." *Brochure on El Presidio De Santa Barbara State Historic Park*.

Graffy, Neal. "The History of a Family Legacy." *Santa Barbara Independent*. July 27, 2006.

Hernandez, Nicole. "126 E. Canon Perdido Street and 126 E. Canon Perdido Street #B." Historic Designation Report, Community Development Department, City of Santa Barbara. 2018.

National Register of Historic Places. *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995 Multiple Property Documentation Form*. Multiple Counties, California. National Register #MC100004867.

Petersen, Anne; Imwalle, Michael H; Chin, Terease; and Zhao, Xiaojian. "Jimmy's Oriental Gardens Santa Barbara, CA: Preserving a Unique Cultural Heritage." 2008.

Petersen, Anne. "The Trust's Newest Addition: Jimmy's Oriental Gardens." *La Campana*, Spring 2008.

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: City of Santa Barbara, Community Development Department

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.422133

Longitude: -119.698583

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Historically a single lot and split in 2014, the boundaries of the property encompass Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 031-011-018 and 031-011-019. The parcels are adjacent to one another and share a boundary line at the rear of the commercial building and the front of the residential building. The boundary of the commercial building parcel starts at the north end of the parcel and extends along East Canon Perdido street. The boundary along the southwest side of the parcel terminates at the courtyard for the adjacent El Cuartel building and the parking lot associated with the United States Post Office building on the corner of East Canon Perdido Street and Anacapa Street. The boundary along the northeast side of the parcel terminates at the patio associated with the adjacent commercial building. The parcel for the residential building is set back from the street and the southwest and southeast boundary lines also terminate at the adjacent parking lot and commercial building. The rear boundary line for the residential building terminates at another adjacent parking lot.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries historically associated with the property are those of legal parcels within a mapped and developed urban block. The boundaries are taken from the Assessor Parcel Map.

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Heidi Reidel, Assistant Planner
organization: Community Development Department, City of Santa Barbara
street & number: 630 Garden Street
city or town: Santa Barbara state: CA zip code: 93101
e-mail: hreidel@santabarbaraca.gov
telephone: (805) 897-2687
date: November 2024; Revised March 2025, July 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
City or Vicinity: Santa Barbara
County: Santa Barbara
State: California
Photographer: Sebastian Herics, Assistant Planner
Heidi Reidel, Assistant Planner
Date Photographed: November 1 and 5, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 10 Front and west elevations, facing east (November 1, 2024)

2 of 10 Front and east elevations, facing south (November 1, 2024)

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

- 3 of 10 Decorative corbels at front elevation (November 1, 2024)
- 4 of 10 Wood divided light windows and green Asian motif decorative tile at front entrance (November 1, 2024)
- 5 of 10 Close up of decorative tile at front entrance (November 1, 2024)
- 6 of 10 Close up of black, high gloss tile base and decorative corbels beneath storefront windows at front façade (November 1, 2024)
- 7 of 10 East elevation featuring block glass window, facing west (November 1, 2024)
- 8 of 10 Wood corbels under roof eave at east elevation (November 1, 2024)
- 9 of 10 Front of residential building (left) and rear of commercial building (right), facing south (November 5, 2024)
- 10 of 10 Rear of commercial building, facing southwest (November 5, 2024)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

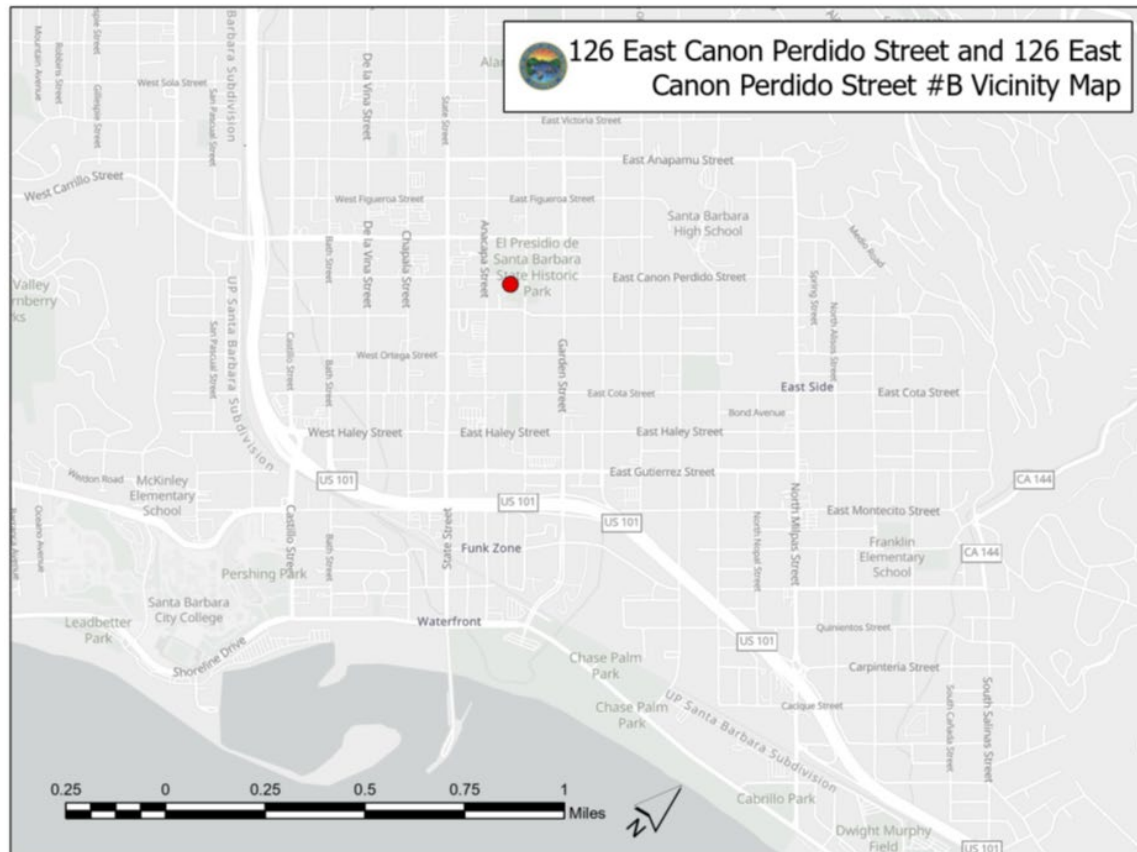
Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Location/Vicinity Map

Latitude: 34.422133

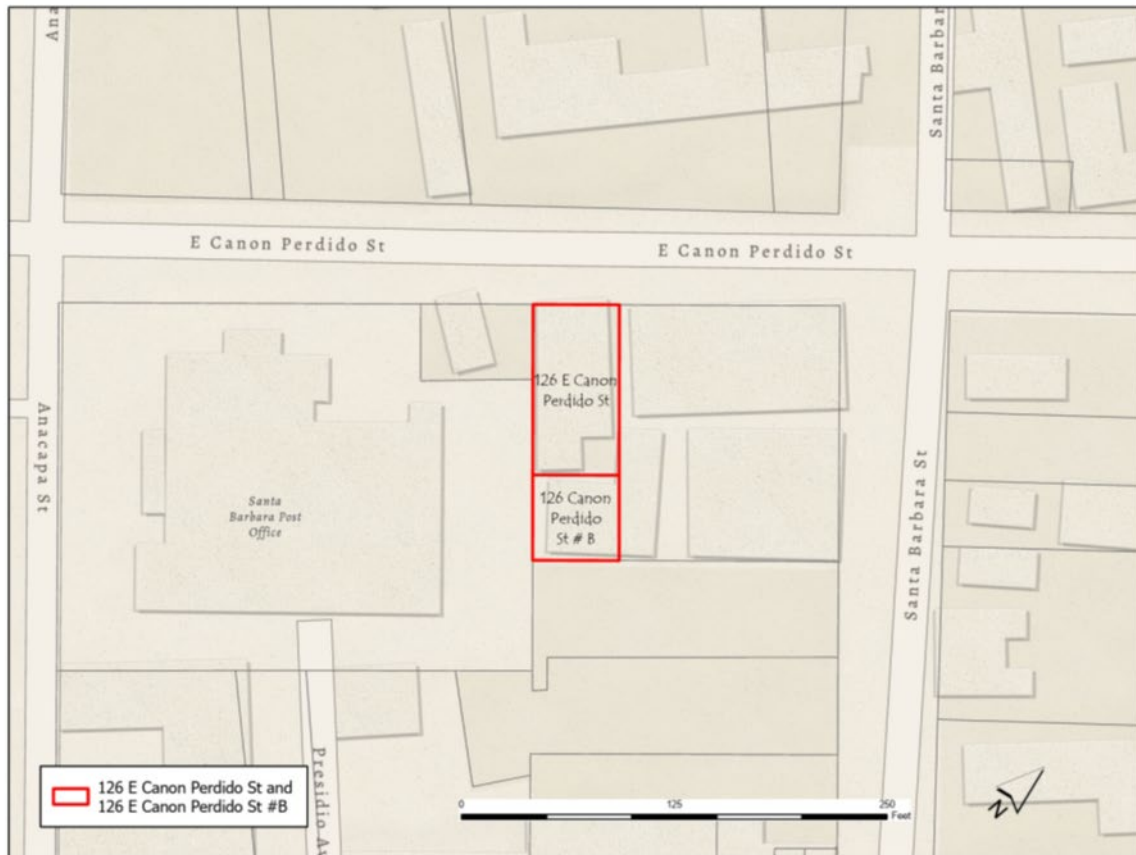
Longitude: -119.698583



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

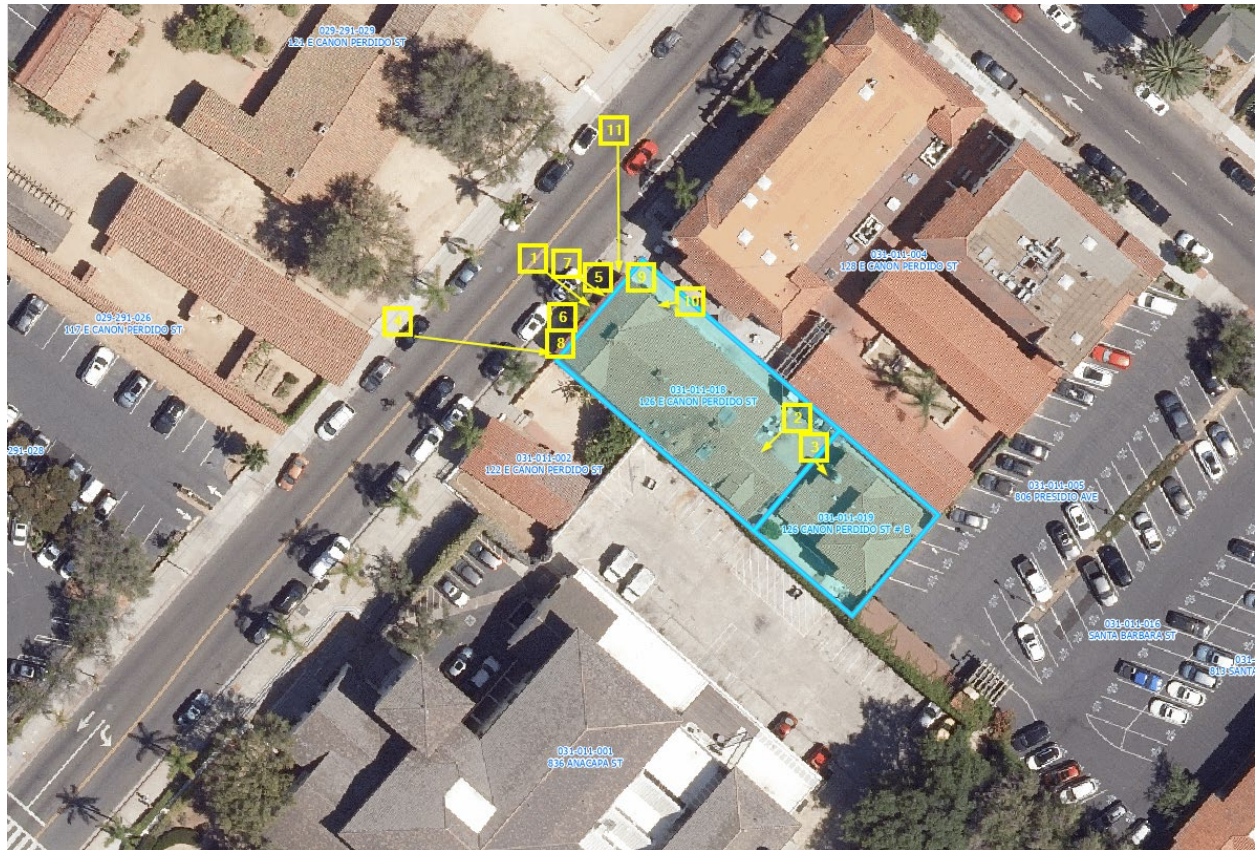
Boundary Map



Name of Property

County and State

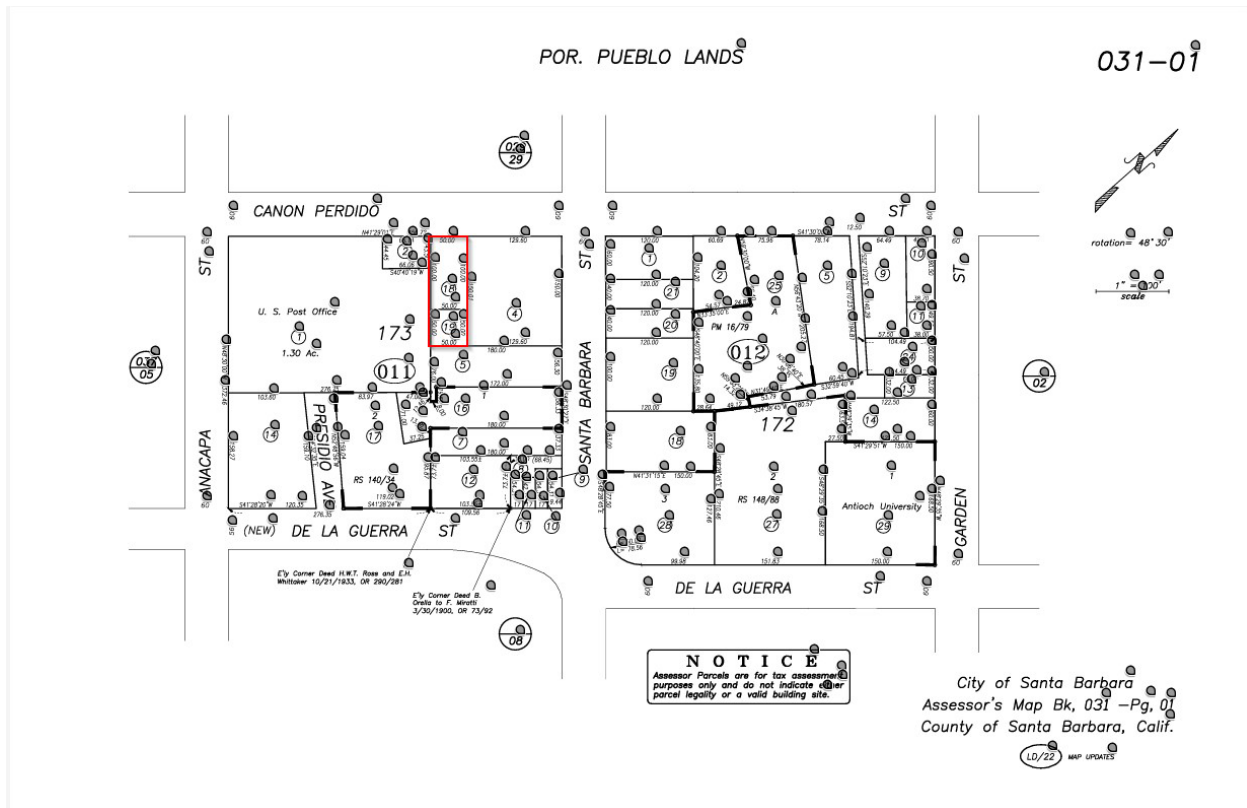
Sketch Map/Photo Key



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

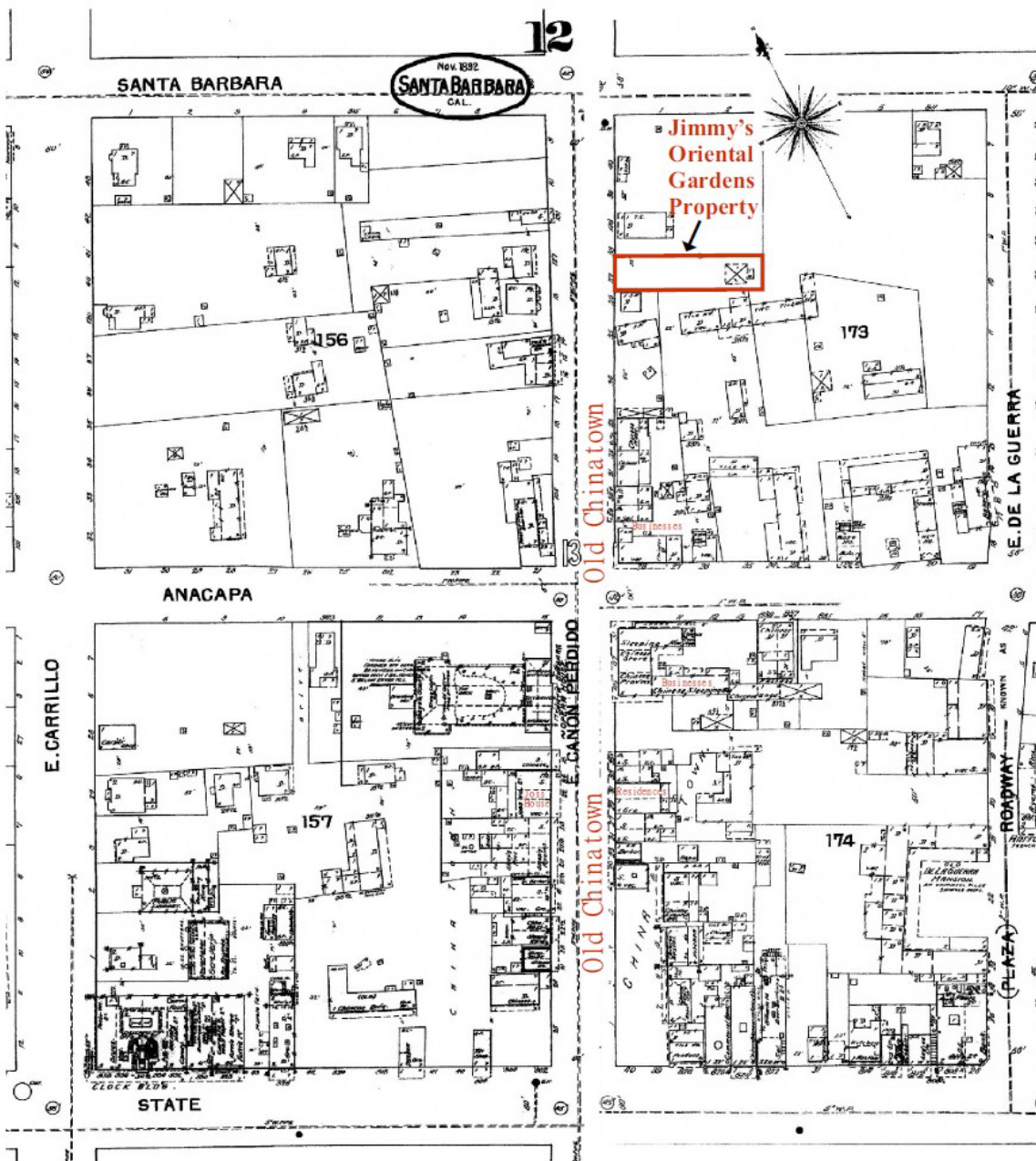
Assessor's Parcel Map



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 1 Santa Barbara – 1892 Old Chinatown, from “Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens Santa Barbara, CA: Preserving a Unique Cultural Heritage”



Santa Barbara - 1892
Old Chinatown

Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 3 1999 Aerial Survey, from "Jimmy's Oriental Gardens Santa Barbara, CA: Preserving a Unique Cultural Heritage"



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

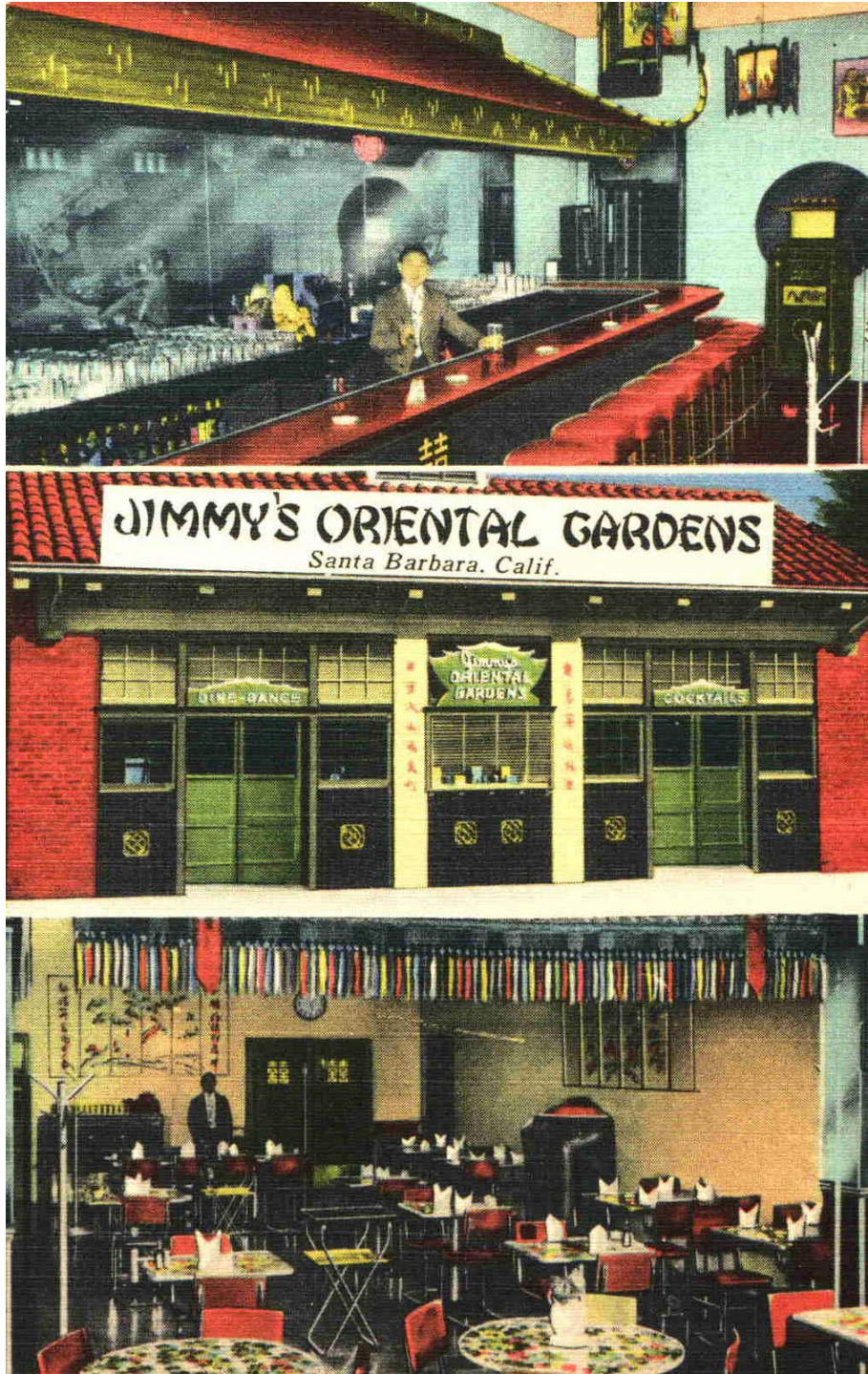
Figure 4 Historic photo, date unknown; courtesy Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 5 Jimmy's Oriental Gardens postcard c. early 1950s; courtesy Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 6 Tommy Chung, photographed by Michael H. Imwalle, March 7, 2007; courtesy Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation



Figure 7 Front elevation of commercial building, c. 2008, from “Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens Santa Barbara, CA: Preserving a Unique Cultural Heritage”



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 8 Chinese Joss House at 21 East Canon Perdido Street; courtesy Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society



Figure 9 Chinese General Store and dwelling at 110 East Canon Perdido Street; courtesy Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Figure 10 Elizalde Adobe – Gung Sing General Store at 36 East Canon Perdido Street; courtesy Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society



Figure 11 Wah Sing Laundry at 16 East Canon Perdido Street; courtesy Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Photo 1 Front and west elevations, facing east (November 1, 2024)



Photo 2 Front and east elevations, facing south (November 1, 2024)



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Photo 3 Decorative corbels at front elevation (November 1, 2024)



Photo 4 Wood divided light windows and green Asian motif decorative tile at front entrance (November 1, 2024)



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Photo 5 Close up of decorative tile at front entrance (November 1, 2024)



Photo 6 Close up of black, high gloss tile base and decorative corbels beneath storefront windows at front façade (November 1, 2024)



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Photo 7 East elevation featuring block glass window, facing west (November 1, 2024)

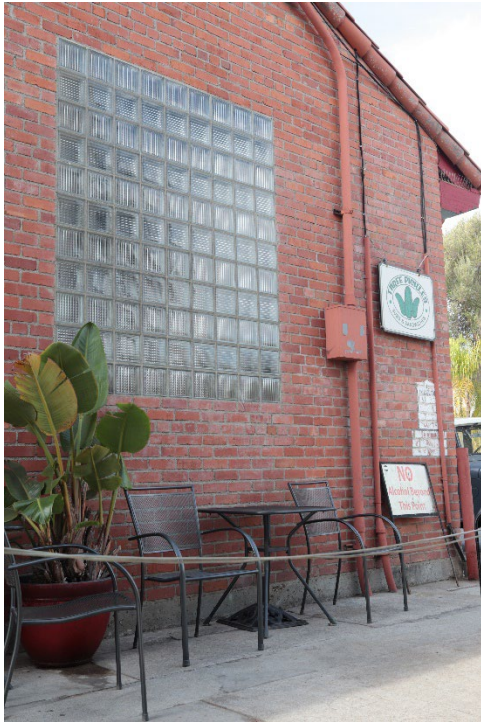


Photo 8 Wood corbels under roof eave at east elevation (November 1, 2024)



Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and Chung Family House
Name of Property

Santa Barbara, CA
County and State

Photo 9 Front of residential building (left) and rear of commercial building (right), facing south (November 5, 2024)



Photo 10 Rear of commercial building, facing southwest (November 5, 2024)

