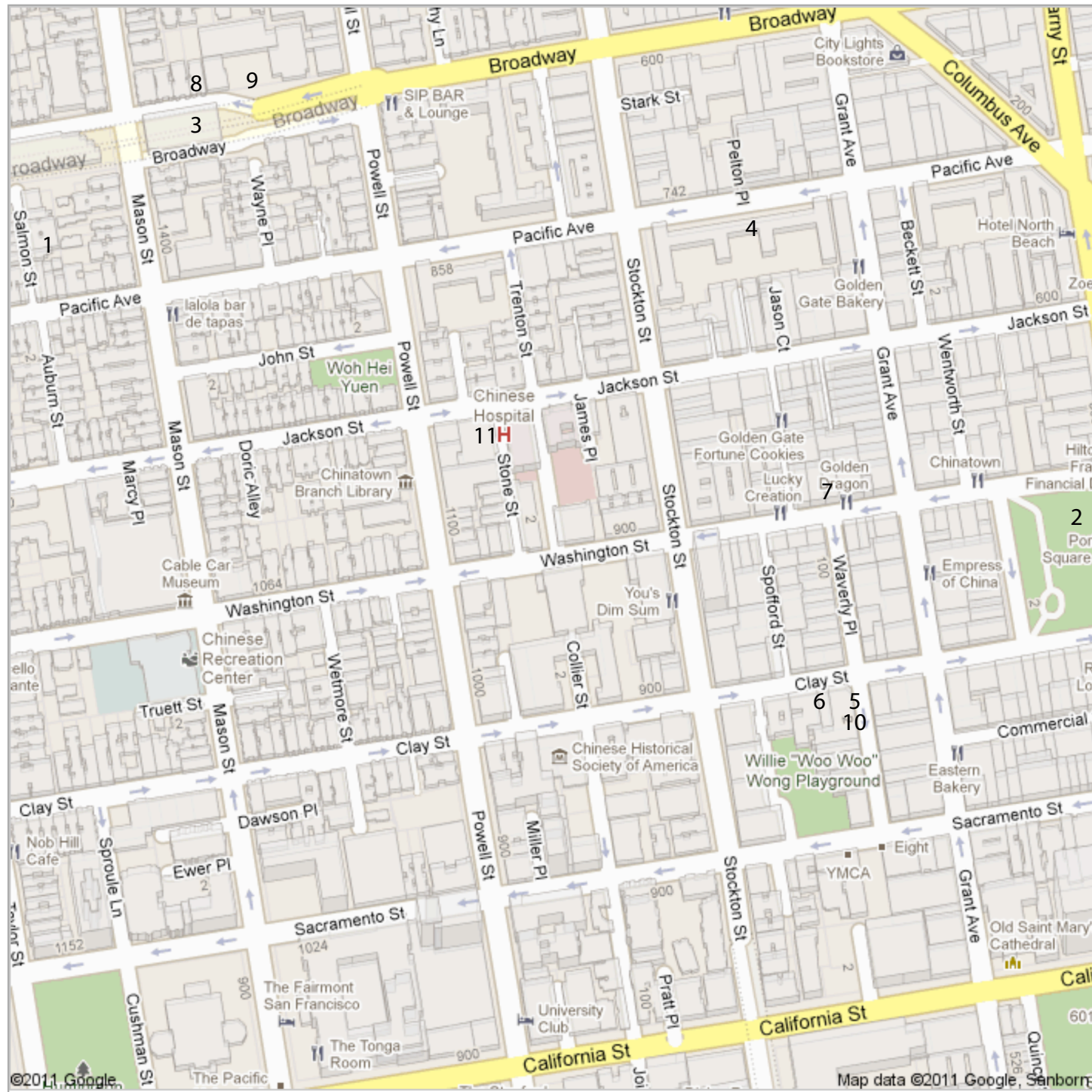


# A Guide to the Chinatown of Fae Myenne Ng's *Bone*



- 1- Salmon Alley
- 2- Portsmouth Square
- 3- Broadway Tunnel
- 4- West Ping
- 5- Uncle's Cafe
- 6- The San Fran
- 7- Universal Cafe
- 8- Edith Eaton
- 9- Nam Ping Yuen
- 10- Hoy Sun Ning Yung Benevolent Society
- 11- Cumberland Presbyterian

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(1) Salmon Alley: The street where Mah's house is, and where Leila, Ona and Nina grew up.

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(2) Portsmouth Square: a popular hangout for the residents in Chinatown. Older men smoke and play Chinese checkers while the women hang around and gossip. The Holiday Inn connects to Portsmouth Square via a large concrete overpass.

(3) Broadway Tunnel: A tunnel approximately four blocks long that connects Chinatown to the Nob Hill district.

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(4) West Ping: The western most complex of the Ping Yuen Housing Project. The large building is located on 711 Pacific Avenue and is known for its large red gate, Chinese architectural elements and large mural.

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(5) Uncle's Café: The café down the street from the San Fran where Leon and the rest of the family often eat. In Chinatown, Uncle's Café is a popular hang out and a hub of the Chinatown community where local politics is often discussed.

(6) The San Fran: The "old-man hotel" on Clay Street where Leon stays after he moves out of Salmon Alley. Because male laborers dominated Chinatown for many years these single room hotels were common in Chinatown.

(7) Universal Café: Another café Leon and Leila frequent. This café is composed of tables enclosed within wooden stalls whose entrance is covered by a curtain, thus providing privacy.

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(8) Edith Eaton School: The school where Leila works as with the families of students. In reality, the school is called Jean Parker School not Edith Eaton, yet Ng named the school after the renowned Chinese author.

(9) Nam Ping Yuen: The branch of the Ping Yuen Housing Projects, where Ona committed suicide.

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(10) Hoy Sun Ning Yung Benevolent Society: The Benevolent Society Leila goes to for information on the site of Grandpa Leong's grave. In San Francisco's Chinatown, the benevolent societies or family associations were an integral part of the community. There are six main benevolent societies, each one for a different last name.

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(11) Cumberland Presbyterian: Leila's childhood Chinese school. For children growing up in Chinatown, Chinese school was a must. Everyday after regular school they would meet in various basements to learn Cantonese.

## **Paper Names**

Due to immigration restrictions and the Naturalization Act of 1870 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Chinese were not allowed to immigrate to America. The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, however, provided many people with the opportunity to come to San Francisco, as all of the city's public records were burned in the Great Fire that followed the earthquake. The typical story went as follows, a hopeful immigrant in China would buy an American's "papers", which included their family name, story, and residential information. These stories and facts were then carefully studied and memorized. Thus when the immigrant arrived at Angel Island for interrogation, they would simply say, "Oh I am John Lowe and I am returning from visiting relatives in China. I live at 753 Jackson St., and work in the Tai Yick Trading Company." Because the authorities had no records, they would thus allow them into the country. It became typical in San Francisco's Chinatown to not have one's real Chinese last name, but a "paper name" that was used to enter the country and usually retained for following generations.