

JAPANESE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE and House Cleaning Company

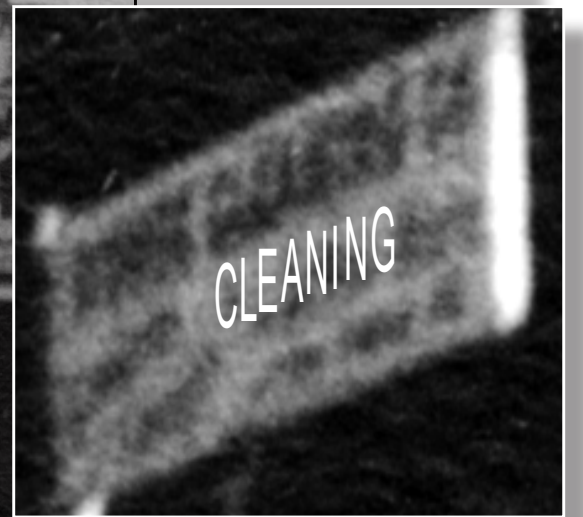
1218 OAK STREET

PHONE ALAMEDA 116





This photo of 1218 Oak includes signage that appears to state cleaning or cleaners, which fits the advertising from the 1907 era below.



CLEANING AND WASHING—J. FUJIKAWA. First class work; also any kind of washing and ironing. Address 1218 Oak street, Alameda. Postal cards will receive prompt attention.

Alameda Daily Argus • January 24, 1907

JAPANESE EMPLOYMENT— And day work office. First class laundry dry men. 1218 Oak street. Tel. Ala. 1149. 4-6 1m

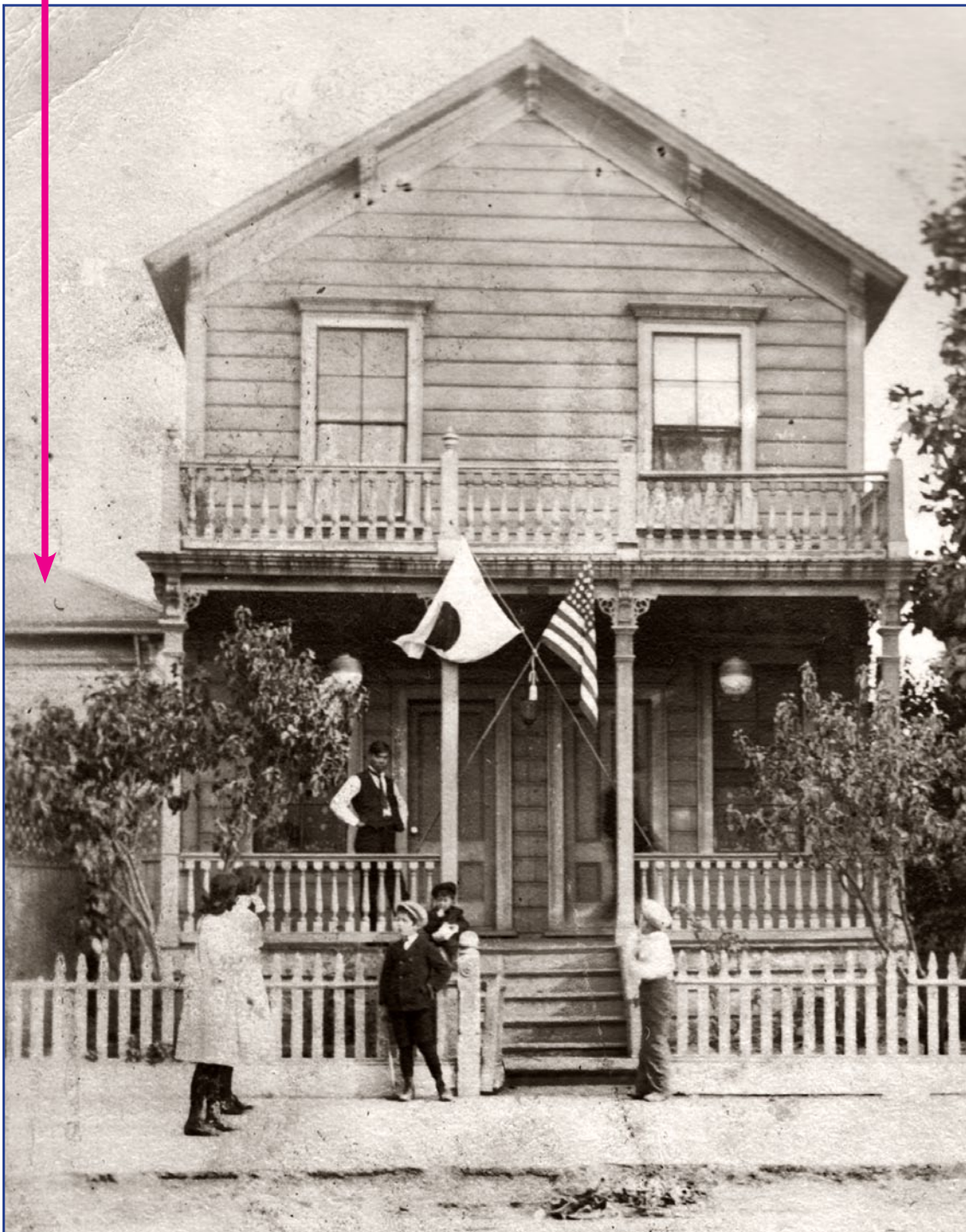
Alameda Daily Argus • May 1, 1907

Advertisement for employment, a day work office, and first class laundry



1218 Oak Street still exists in 2021, as a remodeled family home without the two front entry doors. Records indicate it was standing by 1885, but it may have been built as early as the 1860s in the Italianate style, with characteristic roof brackets and window hoods.

—Woody Minor, Alameda
Architectural Historian



JAPANESE OBSERVE THE BIRTHDAY OF EMPEROR

A Japanese play, festival and celebration of the birthday of the Emperor, Yoshi Shito, will be held by the local Japanese in Tucker hall tonight. Crossed American and Japanese flags decorate most of the residences of the Japanese today.

The program has been arranged by the Japanese association and will consist of plays, native music and songs. There will also be several addresses by notable Japanese.

In San Francisco there will be a big celebration and banquet at the St. Francis hotel, when Mayor James Rolph will deliver the principal address. This will be translated into Japanese so that all present may understand. The celebration is the first that has taken place since the death of the late Emperor, Mutsu Shito, the birthday of the new emperor occurring too soon after the death to admit of festivity.

The Evening Times Star and
Alameda Daily Argus • October 31, 1913

The crossed flags out front may have been used to celebrate the Emperor's birthday, or advertise the employment office and more, as 1218 Oak may have housed more than one business. In 1905 it was the Isshin Rou restaurant. On January 24, 1907, a J. Fujikawa advertised cleaning and washing. On February 1, 1908, a Mr. Fujii advertised his washing and ironing skills and in 1910 it was the residence of Takuma Ito. Perhaps it functioned as a boarding house, too.

Special thanks to Jo Takeda, Kay Yatabe and Woody Minor for their assistance with this document.