

Japanese Association, Chamber of Commerce and Japanese Consulate

Japanese communities very early revealed an exceptional tendency toward organization. The Japanese Association, established in Seattle in 1900, was the most widely encompassing first group. It worked to protect the community from anti-discriminatory legislation and other anti-Japanese actions, maintained social service functions to ensure the residents' welfare, and promoted the educational aims of the young. Closely allied to the Association was the Japanese Chamber of Commerce which coordinated a large unit of business associations; the hotel owners, caterers and inn-keepers, grocers, restaurants, and to an extent, doctors. And for those who by judicial edict were declared ineligible for United States citizenship, the Japanese Consulate was a necessary base for maintaining a national status. Similar organizational structures developed in other Japanese communities of the Northwest.



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