

JAPANESE TOWN IN EARLY 1900's

Both Avenue and Main Street was, in 1900, the busiest intersection of Ishimochi (St. "Japan Town"). The two-story Benjamin Currymartyr & Milwaukee Bookstore was on the northeast corner. Furuta's Oriental Bank on the southeast corner, and Main Street Saloon on the southwest corner. Heavy arrived immigrants streamed through the two hotels. The majority of them in their elementary grades attended Iwan Street School. Within a three block radius of the intersection, the area was thick with Japanese shops of all kinds. The main concentration of Japanese homes, when seen from an area westward eastward on Main, Washington, and Taylor to about 10th Avenue. The churches and the language schools were in or near this area. Many men working in their shops in dark vests and shirt sleeves.

Four women meeting and bowing deeply and chatting in Japanese, and three boys engaged in a spirited game of "giri" on unpaved Washington street were usual scenes of Ishimochi.



View of Ishimochi in 1900



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JAPANESE TOWN
THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY IN
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY



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