

ChineseRailroadWorkers 北美鐵路華工研究工程
in North America Project at Stanford University 莊日

Archaeology Network Workshop

October 10 – 12, 2013

Stanford Archaeology Center
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2145

Archaeology Network Workshop Organizers

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The Archaeology Network of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project

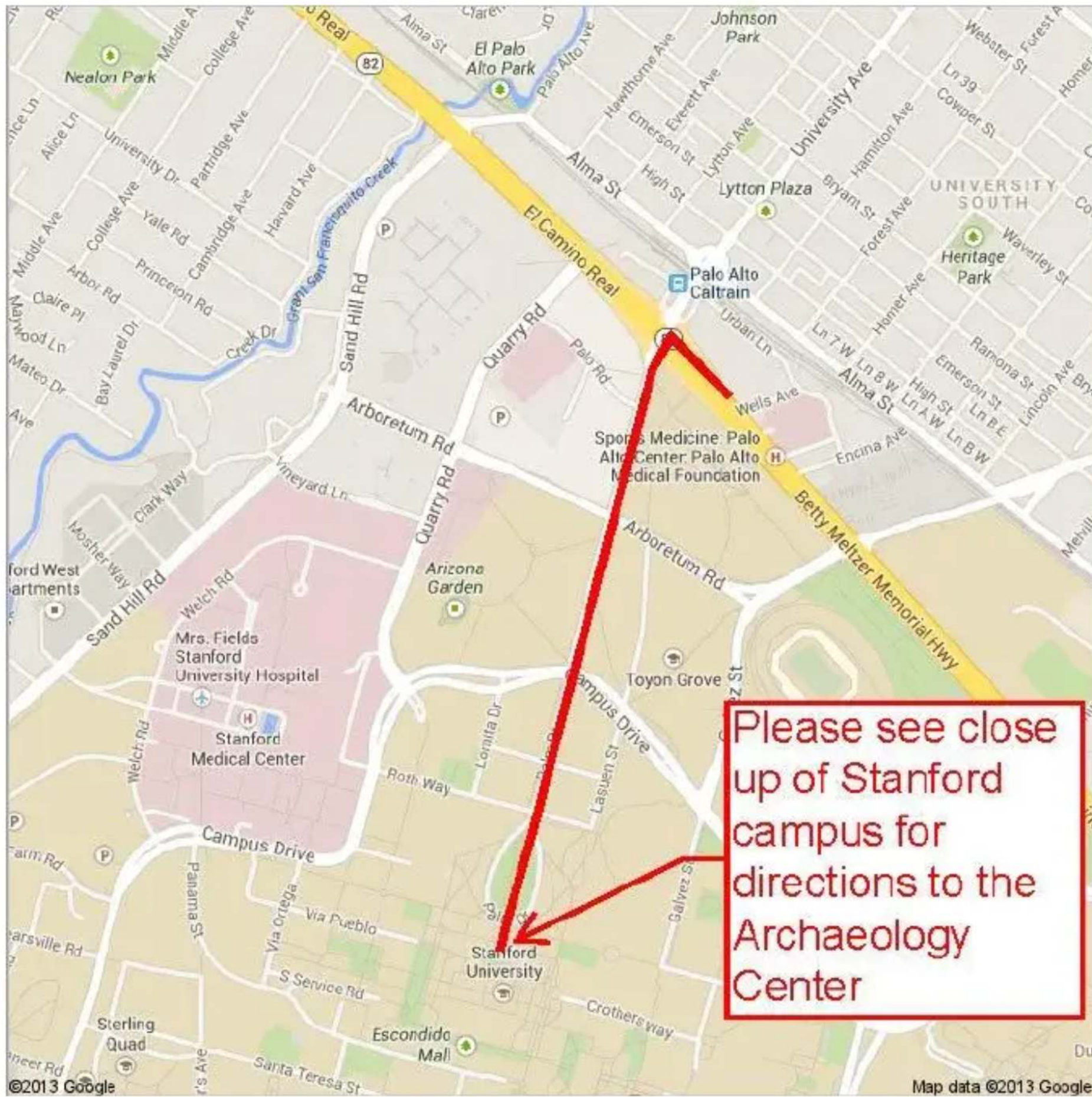
Between 1865 and 1869, thousands of Chinese migrants toiled at a grueling pace and in perilous working conditions to help construct America's First Transcontinental Railroad. The Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project seeks to give a voice to the Chinese migrants whose labor on the Transcontinental Railroad helped to shape the physical and social landscape of the American West. The Project coordinates research in the United States and Asia in order to create an on-line digital archive available to all. The Project is also organizing major conferences and public events at Stanford and in China in 2015 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of large numbers of Chinese to work on the railroad.

In Fall 2012, the Archaeology Network was formed to facilitate communication and collaboration between the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project and archaeologists who have studied the sites, landscapes, collections, and other topics related to Chinese railroad workers. Following Dr. Gordon Chang's request to assess "What we do know, what we don't know, and what we can do about it," the Archaeology Network of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project contributes significant spatial and material evidence to understanding the historical experience of workers themselves. Key topics and questions include:

- Historical experience. What was daily existence like? How was it the same or different at different points of the railroad, or for different segments of the laboring population?
 - What did they see, smell, touch, hear, taste – what was their sensory experience?
 - What did they eat? How did they cook their food?
 - What tools did they use?
 - What housing did they live in?
 - What bedding and furniture did they use?
 - Where did they go to the bathroom? How did they manage sanitation?
 - How did they care for themselves in this new environment?
 - What health challenges did they face? What health care was available?
 - What leisure activities did they enjoy?

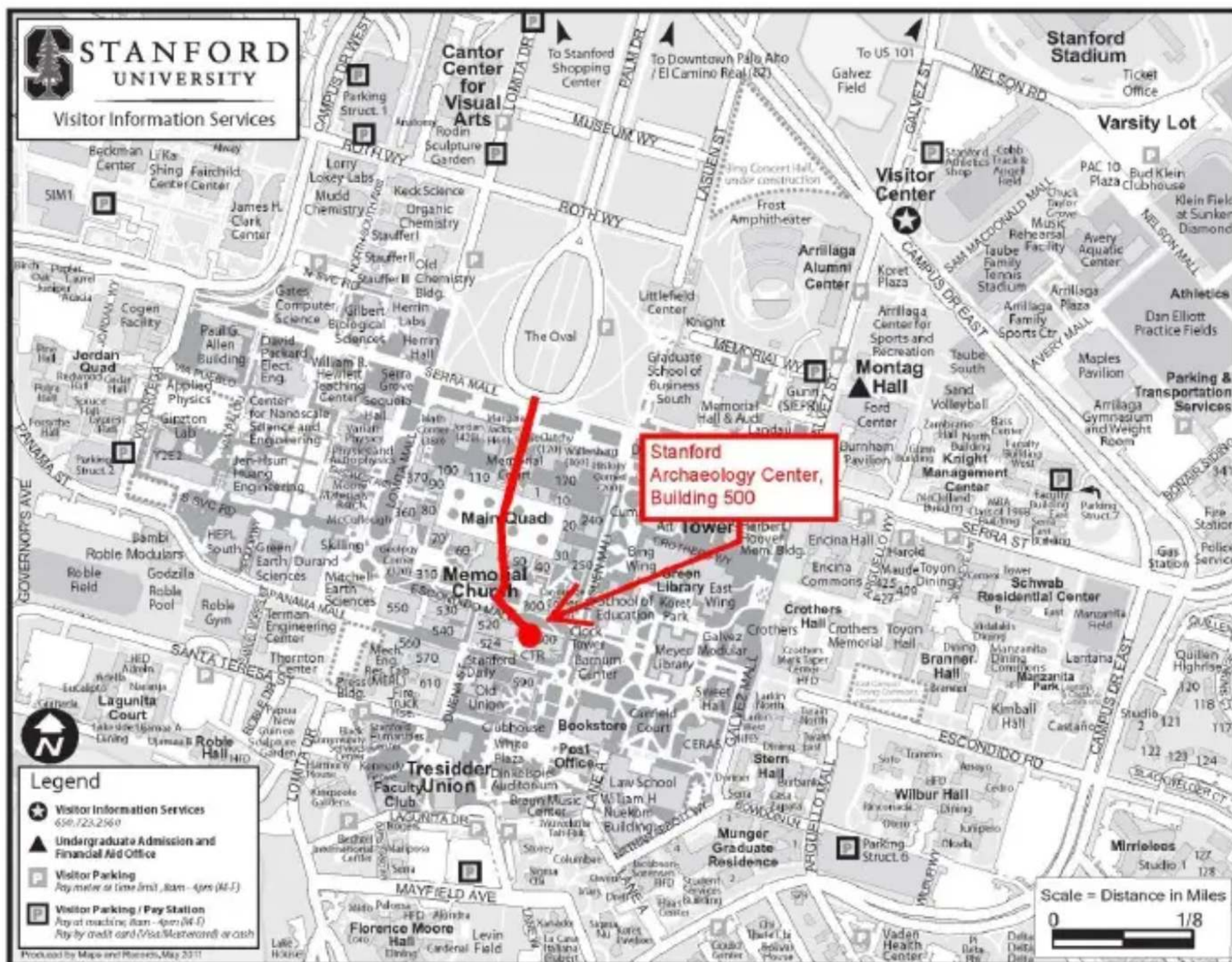
- Economics and consumer networks.
 - How were goods brought from China and distributed?
 - Did they participate in local and regional U.S. economies?
 - Did they produce objects from local materials, and eat food gathered from the local environment?
- Social life.
 - What was the social organization of work camps?
 - Were there women and children present in railroad work camps? Who were they, and what was their role? Can they be identified through artifacts even if not documented in historical records?
 - What were the relationships between Chinese railroad workers and other Chinese?
 - What were the relationships between Chinese and non-Chinese railroad workers? Between railroad workers and the communities they worked near?
- Tracing connections.
 - The same people worked at different segments of the railroad, and on different railroads. Can the archaeological evidence from different sites be connected?
 - Can we identify specific individuals, either named or unnamed?
 - Can archaeological sciences (e.g., sourcing or chemical analysis) trace geographic connections?
 - What can we learn about the relationship between railroad workers and their home villages?
- Interdisciplinary collaboration/data accessibility.
 - Are there images, documents, and reports that can be made publically available to non-archaeological researchers?
 - Can photographs of artifacts and sites be provided to the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project to be used in publications, websites, etc.?
 - In what ways can we collaborate with historians and other scholars here in the U.S. and in Asia?

Maps



Map 1. Walking and driving from the Palo Alto Sheraton Hotel to the Stanford Archaeology Center. Drivers should park in the Oval and walk the remainder of the way. See Map 2 for more detail.

Maps (continued)



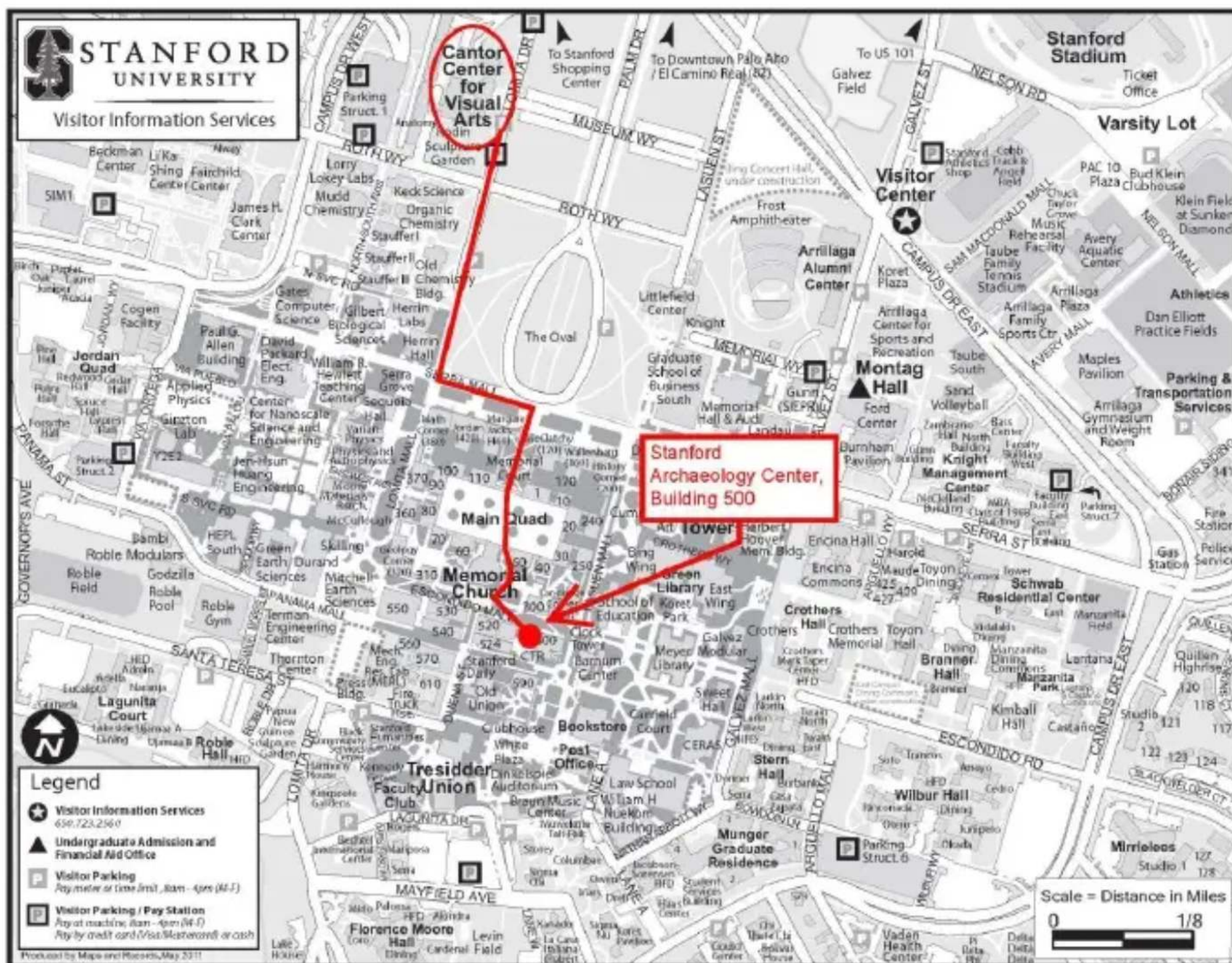
Map 2. Walking directions from the Stanford Oval to the Stanford Archaeology Center.

Maps (continued)



Map 3. Walking directions from Palo Alto Sheraton Hotel to Scott's Seafood (location of working dinner on Thursday, October 10, 5:00 – 8:00pm).

Maps (continued)



Map 4. Walking directions from Stanford Archaeology Center to Cantor Center for Visual Arts (to view the Golden Spike on Friday, October 11, 4pm).

Workshop Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Stanford Archaeology Center.

Thursday, October 10

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2:00pm – 4:30pm | Registration @ lobby of Sheraton Hotel |
| 5:00pm – 8:00pm | Welcome reception and working dinner @ Scott's Seafood |
| | Introduction to the Chinese Railroad Workers of North America Project |

Friday, October 11

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8:00am – 8:30am | Registration opens; breakfast and coffee |
| 8:30am – 9:00am | Opening remarks |
| 9:00am – 10:30am | Panel 1: Beginnings and New Directions |
| | Coffee break |
| 10:45 am – noon | Panel 2: California |
| | Lunch and optional viewing of Market Street Chinatown artifacts |
| 1:00pm – 2:30pm | Panel 3: Nevada and Utah |
| | Coffee break |
| 2:45pm – 4:00pm | Panel 4: Beyond the Transcontinental |
| 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Visit to Cantor Center for Visual Arts to view Golden Spike |
| 5:00pm – 5:30pm | Group photograph on front steps of Cantor Center |
| 6:30pm – 9:30pm | Workshop banquet @ Ming's |

Saturday October 12

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8:30am – 9:00am | Registration opens; breakfast and coffee |
| 9:00am – 10:30am | Panel 5: The Laboring Body |
| | Coffee break |
| 10:45am – noon | Panel 6: After the Railroads |
| | Lunch |
| 1:00pm – 2:45pm | Panel 7: Into Action |
| | Coffee break |
| 3:00pm – 4:00pm | Working groups |
| 4:00pm – 5:00pm | All-hands forum |
| 5:00pm | Closing reception and supper |

Workshop Program

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Stanford Archaeology Center. Participant affiliations are provided for identification purposes only; views expressed do not necessarily reflect the positions of any agency, company, university/college, or organization.

Working Dinner: Introduction to the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project

Thursday, October 10, 5:00pm – 8:00pm @ Scott's Seafood Restaurant - 855 El Camino Real

- Introduction to the Archaeology Network. Barbara L. Voss.
- Introduction to the Chinese Railroad Workers in North American Project. Gordon Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin.

Opening Remarks

Friday, October 11, 8:30am – 9:00am

Lynn Meskell, Gordon Chang, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Hilton Obenzinger, Denise Khor, Barbara L. Voss, Megan S. Kane, Chris Lowman

Panel 1. Beginnings and New Directions

Friday, October 11, 9:00am – 10:30am

Presenters: Paul G. Chace, Philip P. Choy, Adrian Praetzellis and Mary Praetzellis

Respondents: Gordon Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin

- **Celestial Sojourners in the High Sierras: The Ethno-Archaeology of Chinese Railroad Workers (1865-1868).** Paul G. Chace, Paul G. Chace & Associates, and William S. Evans, Jr.
- **Interpreting “Overseas Chinese” Ceramics, Pottery, Found on Historical Archaeology Sites.** Philip P. Choy, Historian and Architect.
- **Inscrutable Redundancy: The Archaeologists’ Dilemma in the Study of the California Chinese.** Adrian Praetzellis, Sonoma State University, and Mary Praetzellis, Sonoma State University.

Panel 2. California

Friday, October 11, 10:45am – noon

Presenters: Scott Baxter and John Molenda

Respondent: Connie Young Yu

- **Summit Camp.** Scott Baxter, Environmental Science Associates.
- **Aesthetically-Oriented Archaeology.** John Molenda, Columbia University.

Panel 3. Nevada and Utah

Friday, October 11, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Presenters: Kelly Dixon, Christopher W. Merritt, and Mike Polk

Respondent: Sue Fawn Chung

- **Archaeological Landscapes of Chinese Railroad Construction in the American West.** Kelly Dixon, University of Montana.
- **The Continental Backwaters of Chinese Railroad Worker History and Archaeology: Perspectives from Montana and Utah.** Christopher W. Merritt, Utah Division of State History.
- **The History and Influence of Chinese Railroad Workers on the Transcontinental Railroad: A View from the End of the Line at Promontory Summit.** Mike Polk, Sagebrush Consultants.

Panel 4. Beyond the Transcontinental

Friday, October 11, 2:45pm – 4:00pm

Presenters: James Bard, Lynn Furnis, Barbara J. Hickman

Respondent: Hilton Obenzinger

- **Weaving the Threads: A View of the Overseas Chinese in Northern Idaho.** James Bard, Cardno ENTRIX (with Gary Weisz).
- **The Archaeology of a V&T Railroad Grader's Camp.** Lynn Furnis, Historical Archaeologist.
- **Gone to Texas: Chinese Railroad Workers Head East.** Barbara Hickman, Texas Department of Transportation.

Panel 5. The Laboring Body

Saturday, October 12, 9:00am – 10:30am

Presenters: Ryan Kennedy, Sarah Heffner, Ryan Harrod

Respondent: Denise Khor

- **Beyond San Francisco: A Summary of Zooarchaeological Research Related to Chinese Railroad Workers in the United States.** Ryan Kennedy, Indiana University.
- **Exploring Healthcare Practices of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America.** Sarah Heffner, Aspen Environmental Group.
- **Bioarchaeological Data and the Reconstruction of the Chinese Railroad Worker Experience.** Ryan Harrod, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Panel 6. New and Emerging Research

Saturday, October 12, 10:45am – noon

Presenters: Barbara L. Voss, Julie Cain, Christopher Lowman, Anna Naruta-Moya

- **Before and After the Transcontinental: Archaeological Reflections from San Jose's Chinatowns.** Barbara L. Voss, Stanford University.
- **After the Railroad: The Chinese at the Palo Alto Stock Farm.** Julie Cain, Stanford University.
- **Chinese-American Communities in the Bay Area.** Christopher Lowman, University of California, Berkeley.
- **Getting the Story Out: Place and Public Memory in a Changing Social Landscape.** Rene Yung, Chinese Whispers.
- **The Tracks of World Change.** Anna Naruta-Moya, State of New Mexico and Independent Scholar.

Panel 7. Into Action

Saturday, October 12, 1:00pm – 2:45pm

Panelists: Barbara L. Voss, Christopher W. Merritt, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Gordon Chang, Shelley Fisher Fishkin

- **Interdisciplinary and International Initiatives of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project.** Gordon Chang, Stanford University, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University.
- **Asian American Pacific Islander Theme Study and NHL/NRHP Nominations for Properties Associated with Chinese Railroad Workers.** Elaine Jackson-Retondo, National Park Service.
- **Bibliographies and Archives.** Christopher W. Merritt, Utah Division of State History.
- **Publishing Archaeology Research on Chinese Railroad Workers.** Barbara L. Voss, Stanford University.

Working Groups

Saturday, October 12, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

All-hands Forum

Saturday, October 12, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Presentation Abstracts

Participant affiliations are provided for identification purposes only; views expressed do not necessarily reflect the positions of any agency, company, university/college, or organization.

Weaving the Threads: A View of the Overseas Chinese in Northern Idaho (with Gary Weisz)

James Bard, Cardno ENTRIX

Many Chinese worked on the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad (1881-1883) – the last of the transcontinental railroads built in the United States. Several NP Chinese railroad work camps have been recorded but only one has been archaeologically investigated (1985) – the Cabinet Landing Site (10BR413) in Bonner County, Idaho. More recently, the former post-railroad Chinese settlement at Sandpoint (10BR978) was excavated in 2006-2007 as part of the Sandpoint Archaeology Project associated with Idaho Transportation Department's rerouting US 95 around Sandpoint. Over 90 percent of the settlement was recovered providing a remarkable archaeological record of Chinese laundrymen and cooks living in the period ca. 1883-1907. Demographic data casts doubt that the Sandpoint Chinese were NP workers; they may have worked the various Idaho gold rushes before settling in Sandpoint. In nearby Hope, Idaho, a small group of Chinese worked as NP section crew members into the early years of the twentieth century. Though the Cabinet Landing and Sandpoint excavations provided a rich archaeological database, these investigations demonstrate how little is known about the Chinese themselves. Non-archaeological historical resources can help fill in the knowledge gaps. The archaeological potential of the unexcavated railroad work camps is high and one such site south of Sandpoint (Granite Station 10BR##) is in danger of loss by vandalism and natural forces that will eventually rob the site and sites like it of their metal artifacts through oxidation.

Comparative analysis of Overseas Chinese archaeological sites in western North America is just beginning. The initial cross-comparison of coin assemblages recovered from Overseas Chinese sites as a result of the Sandpoint program shows that much can be learned if similar artifact classes are similarly compared. Though much more archaeology needs to be done, the growing body of available data should allow researchers to address deeper questions about the individuals who came over from China and how they negotiated and in many cases thrived in an alien world. It is now possible to look beyond the materialistic and explore more fully the behavioral and ideological aspects of Chinese culture in a foreign land.

Summit Camp

Scott Baxter, Environmental Science Associates

Summit Camp was one of the longest occupied work camps along the Transcontinental Railroad. Established in 1865, the camp was home to a largely Chinese workforce, engaged in the difficult and dangerous task of blasting tunnels and constructing the grade over Donner Summit. Although occupied by scores of workers for five long years, little remains of the camp. This is largely due to the impromptu surface collection of artifacts from the site in the 1960s. This collection of material remained unanalyzed and under-reported for almost fifty years. This

collection, recently come to light, will be instrumental in interpreting the daily lives of the Chinese immigrants who lived and worked at Summit Camp.

After the Railroad: The Chinese at the Palo Alto Stock Farm

Julie Cain, Stanford University

Leland Stanford was perceived as a friend of the Chinese regardless of how he presented himself publicly because he continued to employ Chinese workers at his various properties despite demands that he not do so. One of his long-time workers was Ah Jim, who was attributed with working on the railroad despite his own statement to Angel Island authorities that he had only worked as a gardener since his arrival in California. I'm going to describe what living conditions at the stock farm were like for the numerous Chinese who lived and worked here between 1876 (beginning of the Palo Alto Stock Farm) and 1905 (the death of Jane Stanford, Leland's widow). The focus will be on Jim and his relationship with the Stanfords, a case study for 19th-century immigration rhetoric in California. The artifacts used to tell Jim's story were not dug up out of the ground but consist of archival documents and baby gifts given by the Stanfords to Jim and his wife when their oldest son was born at the stock farm.

Celestial Sojourners in the High Sierras: The Ethno-Archaeology of Chinese Railroad Workers (1865-1868)

Paul G. Chace, Paul G. Chace & Associates, and William S. Evans, Jr.

This exact paper with 30 slide illustrations was presented originally at the Society for Historical Archaeology 1969 meetings and led to the formation of the SHA's Overseas Chinese Research Group. Now, it is useful to measure paradigmatic shifts in the field. This presentation (1) summarized the then known ethnographic descriptions of Chinese railroad workers, (2) described the archaeological materials found at their work camps at Donner Pass nearly fifty years ago, and (3) proposed that these cultural materials represented an archaeological "horizon style," one indicative of the immigration of Chinese laborers world-wide, with their initial arrivals in many countries dating between 1850 and 1870.

Interpreting "Overseas Chinese" Ceramics, Pottery, Found on Historical Archaeology Sites

Philip P. Choy, Historian and Architect

For decades in the excavation of mid-19th century history sites, the recovery of the cultural material has given a voice to the Chinese pioneers of the American West. Archaeologists were amazed in disbelief upon discovering the numerous Chinese settlements established in post-Gold Rush California. The author presents information on ceramics found common in nearly all sites, drawing from his life experience, research, travel to pottery producing regions and ceramic museums in South China, and personal interviews with ceramic experts in China.

Archaeological Landscapes of Chinese Railroad Construction in the American West

Kelly Dixon, University of Montana

Transcontinental railroads were essential to the nation's burgeoning information and transportation networks, carrying natural resources from the American West to factories in the eastern U.S. and creating a new set of extensive cultural landscapes. By documenting work camps

and other sites related to these linear transportation networks as landscape districts, it will be possible to nominate multiple sites to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks. Given the fact that Chinese immigrants recruited to work in railroad construction comprised a vast majority of the transcontinental workforce, such a landscape-based approach will have powerful interpretive value for projects dedicated to the broad geographic span of Asian American transcontinental railroad heritage. The interconnected locations and archaeological traces of work camps, as well as other signatures than span hazardous work settings to inscriptions of Chinese characters carved in sandstone bluffs near the work camps, are among the examples that will be used to discuss the relevance of Asian American railroad landscapes to various stakeholders, as well as to those interested in archaeological examples of ecological Marxism, community-based archaeology, identity, landscape ethics, transnationalism, and transportation.

The Archaeology of a V&T Railroad Grader's Camp

Lynn Furnis, Historical Archaeologist

For a few weeks, Chinese laborers occupied a Virginia & Truckee Railroad camp in early- to mid-1872. The construction camp was one of many briefly established along the 31-mile long route between Reno and Carson City, Nevada in 1871 and 1872. Assisted by Archaeological Research Services staff and many volunteers in 1996 and 1997, Lynn Furnis conducted Research, field Excavation, and detailed surface recording of artifacts and features at the camp. She focused on spatial arrangements of camp remnants in order to define activity areas, social organization, and ethnicity of the laborers within the camp. She also tried to determine the number of occupants and length of stay at the camp.

Bioarchaeological Data and the Reconstruction of the Chinese Railroad Worker Experience

Ryan Harrod, University of Alaska Anchorage

Bioarchaeologists are specialists who integrate the analysis of skeletonized human remains with the context of death and burial. The human remains reveal a great deal about an individual's lived experience through pathology and changes that accrue over the course of a lifetime. Beyond age, sex and stature, evidence for poor health, inadequate diet, violence and trauma, use of the body and muscles, all can be reconstructed using modern forensic and anthropological techniques. The focus of this workshop is to identify the lived experience and reconstruct the identity of Chinese individuals inhabiting a historic railroad community in northern Nevada and the burials can reveal a great deal of information not available through other means.

Over the last several decades the discipline of biological or physical anthropology and more specifically the subdiscipline of bioarchaeology has expanded its focus and incorporated new methodologies and theoretical perspectives that move beyond simply identifying, measuring, and cataloging the bones. The intent of this presentation is to illustrate how, through careful analyses of an array of skeletal indicators, it is possible to gain insight into the past lives of the individuals living in historic communities. The workshop will demonstrate how to identify and interpret evidence on the bones of nutritional differences, activity-related changes, traumatic injuries, and pathological conditions.

The workshop paper will focus on a sample of human remains of the from Carlin, Nevada who were interred between 1885 and 1923 (Chung et al. 2005). In a recent publication, my

colleagues and I have demonstrated that this immigrant group experienced socio-economic and political inequality that resulted in high rates of activity-induced changes, trauma, and pathological conditions. The results support the historical accounts of the time that indicate that hard physical labor, accidental or deliberate trauma, and interpersonal conflict were part of the life history of many Chinese immigrants in the West during and following the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Exploring Healthcare Practices of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America

Sarah Heffner, Aspen Environmental Group

This paper explores some of the healthcare challenges faced by Chinese railroad workers in North America from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century. Particularly, the kinds of treatments available to these workers and the difficulties they faced in gaining access to traditional medicine. Understanding the kinds of treatments available to Chinese railroad workers in North America requires delving into both the archaeological and documentary record. Drawing upon previous research on medicinal artifacts located in archaeological collections from Nevada, I will discuss archaeological evidence of Overseas Chinese healthcare practices. Newspaper advertisements placed by Chinese doctors and descriptions of Chinese drug stores provides documentary evidence of Chinese healthcare practices in North America. This paper will conclude with a discussion of how current research on curated collections of Chinese medicine is being used to create a visual guide to the material culture of Chinese medicine that can assist archaeologists working at Overseas Chinese sites in identifying artifacts of Chinese medicine and can help us to better understand the healthcare practices of Chinese railroad workers in North America.

Gone to Texas: Chinese Railroad Workers Head East

Barbara J. Hickman, Texas Department of Transportation

The railroads brought Chinese to Texas beginning in 1870 when 250 contract laborers from California came to construct the Houston and Texas Central. Later in 1880 more railroad workers were introduced from California by the Texas and Pacific Railway Company and by the Southern Pacific in 1881. Investigations of railroad construction camps in west Texas and the Chinese community in El Paso have yielded results which may provide insights into diet, access to material culture, and maintenance of traditional practices.

Beyond San Francisco: A Summary of Zooarchaeological Research Related to Chinese Railroad Workers in the United States

Ryan Kennedy, Indiana University

Much of our archaeological understanding of foodways within Chinese immigrant communities in the United States comes from research undertaken on large, urban Chinatown sites. As the topic of this workshop suggests, however, Chinese people frequently left the confines of Chinatown for a variety of reasons and when doing so brought with them their own ways of cooking and beliefs about food. In this paper I provide an overview of faunal (animal bone) data from archaeological sites related to Chinese railroad workers in the United States and attempt to demonstrate the context-specific nature of food supply and food practices within these smaller

communities. I also emphasize the connectedness that Chinese workers at railroad camps had with larger communities and trade networks and to this end I include several examples of non-camp sites. Finally, I propose a model for the study of food at Chinese railroad-related sites based on my own research combining faunal and floral data from the Market Street Chinatown in San Jose, CA.

Chinese-American Communities in the Bay Area

Christopher Lowman, University of California, Berkeley

In the years following the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, the Chinese workforce of agricultural and domestic workers was an integral part of the further development of the San Francisco Peninsula. Surface evidence related to the Chinese employees at Stanford University suggests that archaeologists can contribute to understanding this history. Resources such as newspapers, student letters, census data, and memoirs reveal Stanford as a dynamic, though volatile, multi-ethnic community. This paper suggests ways that archaeologists could approach materials to further understand not only the Chinese community at Stanford, but also its relationship with other Chinese and non-Chinese communities in the Bay Area.

The Continental Backwaters of Chinese Railroad Worker History and Archaeology: Perspectives from Montana and Utah

Christopher W. Merritt, Utah Division of State History

Between 2005 and 2010, archaeologists from the University of Montana, in partnership with state and federal agencies, completed a statewide inventory of Overseas Chinese history and archaeology in Montana. Part of this effort included the first ever historical reconstruction and archaeological recordation of Chinese railroad worker camps and experiences associated with the construction of the United States' second transcontinental railroad, the Northern Pacific. The archaeological remains of these encampments provided significant information on the lifeways of these railroad workers, trade networks, diet, leisure, and how they interacted with their Euroamerican counterparts on the Northern Pacific. Arriving in Utah after completion of his dissertation, Merritt encountered another state with a rich Overseas Chinese railroad heritage but a similar lack of formal investigation. These two continental backwaters of Overseas Chinese historical archaeology provide both challenges and opportunities for scholars. Within Utah and Montana there exists dozens, if not hundreds, of untapped sources (i.e. archaeological sites) of primary information on Chinese railroad workers and their contributions. Overlooked by mainstream state histories and educational curricula, the Chinese railroad experience in both states is underrepresented and misunderstood. Work to document and interpret the Chinese experience in Montana and Utah is only beginning, and can only go up from here.

Aesthetically-Oriented Archaeology

John Molenda, Columbia University

My dissertation project focuses on the archaeology of Overseas Chinese work camps along the transcontinental railroad dating from the 1860s. This project combines archival research and collections analysis with archaeological survey to provide multiple lines of textual and material evidence addressing how Overseas Chinese laborers have been drawn into capitalist practices without being subsumed by them, and how material culture has mediated this process. Textual

research focusing on the Central Pacific railroad archives and local records aims to establish the hard limits and social horizon within which Overseas Chinese negotiated their positions within an alien landscape. Analysis of collections from later Chinatowns provides parallel evidence for the pervasiveness of aesthetic expression across multiple spheres of material practice. Archaeological survey provides an empirical basis for understanding spatial orientation, sociality and internal differentiation, and daily techniques for enhancing pleasure, ameliorating pain, and resisting capitalist surveillance and control. Preliminary results suggest an aesthetically-oriented way of being may be a key to both maintaining and creating a meaningful world within a capitalist economy as well as a partially successful means of resisting the flattening effects of capitalist practices and modern western subjectivity. This paper will explain what is meant by an 'aesthetically-oriented archaeology' and will show how such an archaeology can contribute to broader scholarship focusing on Overseas Chinese railway workers.

The Tracks of World Change

Anna Naruta-Moya, State of New Mexico and Independent Scholar

How can archaeology help study and communicate the magnitude of the transformation the Chinese Railroad Workers wrought in the land and peoples of the United States? This talk looks at a few examples and suggests directions for research.

The History and Influence of Chinese Railroad Workers on the Transcontinental Railroad: A View from the End of the Line at Promontory Summit

Mike Polk, Sagebrush Consultants

In the first decade of the 21st Century, Sagebrush Consultants undertook archaeological investigations of Golden Spike National Historic Site at Promontory Summit, Utah, where the driving of the Golden Spike took place in 1869, completing the first transcontinental railroad in the world. I provide a brief overview of the archaeology and history of the last several months of construction (1868-1869) which focused on this location. I then highlight the railroad archaeology that we recorded, evaluated and excavated within the park. This includes the types of sites and their functions, especially those containing Chinese components. Finally, I will discuss the Chinese contribution to the construction effort at Promontory Summit gathered from its archaeology and history.

Inscrutable Redundancy: The Archaeologists' Dilemma in the Study of the California Chinese

Adrian Praetzellis, Sonoma State University, and Mary Praetzellis, Sonoma State University

A retrospective of our decades of archaeological work on Chinese sites throughout California leaves us concerned that the very wealth of the material culture and archival records has somehow weakened the motivation for deeper understandings. Contextual analyses abound focused on time and place with a racist backdrop. But mostly missing are the Chinese people, their culture, their family histories, their voices. Blinded by a wealth of exotic artifacts, deafened by an exclusionist press, and hampered by the sparse funds available for development driven archaeology in California, archaeologists have created a template for Chinese archaeology: Repeat established research questions, add historical context, illustrate nifty artifacts, slap on tried and now trite conclusions.

We know. We do the same thing. Our profession has reached a research plateau, now let's move forward.

Before and After the Transcontinental: Archaeological Reflections from San Jose's Chinatowns

Barbara L. Voss, Stanford University

For most Chinese railroad workers, construction of the Transcontinental was only one short chapter in their life history. They entered railroad work from many different circumstances and places. When the first Transcontinental was completed, some railroad workers continued in the industry, but most left railroad work for Chinatowns, mining districts, lumber camps, charcoal workshops, agricultural fields, domestic service, and entrepreneurship throughout the U.S. west. How do we contextualize the archaeology of railroad workers within these complex life histories? Chinatowns like San Jose's Market Street Chinatown (1862-1887) were especially important for Chinese immigrants, including railroad workers, because they provided a stable home base during and in-between employment that was typically short-term and mobile. Residents of the Market Street Chinatown were closely tied to railroad development, from their work on the San Francisco – San Jose Railroad (1861-1864), the San Jose – Niles Railroad (1865), and the Transcontinental. This paper revisits current archaeological research on the Market Street Chinatown to explore the potential of comparative investigations of Chinatowns and railroad worker camps. Doing so requires addressing the tension between the mobility of worker populations and the spatial fixity of archaeological sites.

Getting the Story Out: Place and Public Memory in a Changing Social Landscape

Rene Yung, Chinese Whispers

Public memory manifests most often as story, in which place provides an important geospatial marker for the public understanding of shared histories. What is the narrative of cultural amnesia and locative disruption – what form does it take, and (how) can the memories behind it be experienced today? I will discuss my explorations into the faceted collective memory about the Chinese who helped build the railroads and settlements of the American West, through the multi-platform research and site-specific community storytelling project, *Chinese Whispers*.

Workshop participants

Participant affiliations are provided for identification purposes only; views expressed do not necessarily reflect the positions of any agency, company, university/college, or organization.

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Archaeology Network Workshop

October 10-12, 2013

Errata

Absences

We note with great regret that several key participants cannot attend because of direct or indirect effects of the Federal shutdown: Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Chris Merritt, Fred Frampton, Judith Frampton, Dale Hom, and Carrie Smith.

Additional Participants

Turner, Brian, Regional Attorney, Western Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation,
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Lum, Kathryn Gin, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Stanford University,
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Revised “Panel 7. Into Action”

Saturday, October 12, 1:00pm – 2:45pm

Panelists: Barbara L. Voss, Christopher W. Merritt, Brian Turner, Gordon Chang, Shelley Fisher Fishkin

- **Interdisciplinary and International Initiatives of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project.** Gordon Chang, Stanford University, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University.
- **Saving Places.** Brian Turner, National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- **Publishing Archaeology and Connecting with Federal Initiatives.** Barbara L. Voss, Stanford University.