

WHAT  
HAPPENED

The 1880 census recorded 95 Chinese people living in New Orleans and 489 in Louisiana.

Louis Armstrong reminisced how he would go to Chinatown for a meal when he was a child. In "A Streetcar Named Desire," Blanche DuBois talks about buying a Chinese lantern at a Chinese shop on Bourbon Street. And tales of Storyville often recount the sale of narcotics in the district.



A crate label for Quong Sun Co., at 525 St. Louis St.



The fading remnants of Chinatown: On Leong Chinese Merchants Association at 530 Bourbon St.



The Chinese tomb, or Soon On Tong Vault, was built at Cypress Grove Cemetery in 1904.



## Memories of **New Orleans' Chinatown** remain, but the businesses that once populated it are long gone.

Chinese people abandoned the plantations for work in cities, including New Orleans. After 1881, when the Chinese Presbyterian church was established on South Liberty Street, the Chinese opened businesses nearby. Chinatown, in the 1100 block of Tulane Avenue between Elk Place and South Rampart Street, featured groceries, restaurants, laundries and meeting halls. Chinatown existed until 1937 when the federal government cleared the area to bring in new investment.

Some of the businesses moved to a second Chinatown, in the 500 block of Bourbon Street. Today, the former meeting hall of the On Leong Chinese Merchants Association, 530 Bourbon Street, is the last surviving landmark of the Chinese long-lasting imprint on the city.



New Orleans, La.

60 Chinese Church, Liberty Street



The Chinese Presbyterian Church, 215 Liberty Street, where missionaries held meetings and gave lessons in English (above).