

**1860s** Statuette of Tam Kung brought over by a Chinese Hakka gold seeker. Before leaving to mine gold in the Fraser River, he left the statuette in a wooden niche-like altar box near the mouth of the Johnson Street ravine for his countrymen to pay homage.



The Johnson Street Ravine, originating from a marsh near Quadra and Fort streets, was a physical divide between Chinese residents along [Cormorant Street](#) and the European-dominated city centre from Johnson Street south. Three footbridges crossed the ravine at Douglas, Government and Store streets. Chinese labourers built or rented wooden huts that projected over the northern side of the ravine, seen here in about 1890. From the 1880s, these shacks were replaced by brick commercial buildings (Royal BC Museum, BC Archives, D-04747).

**1876** Tam Kung Temple established – one story wooden framed structure located on Fisgard & Government Street.

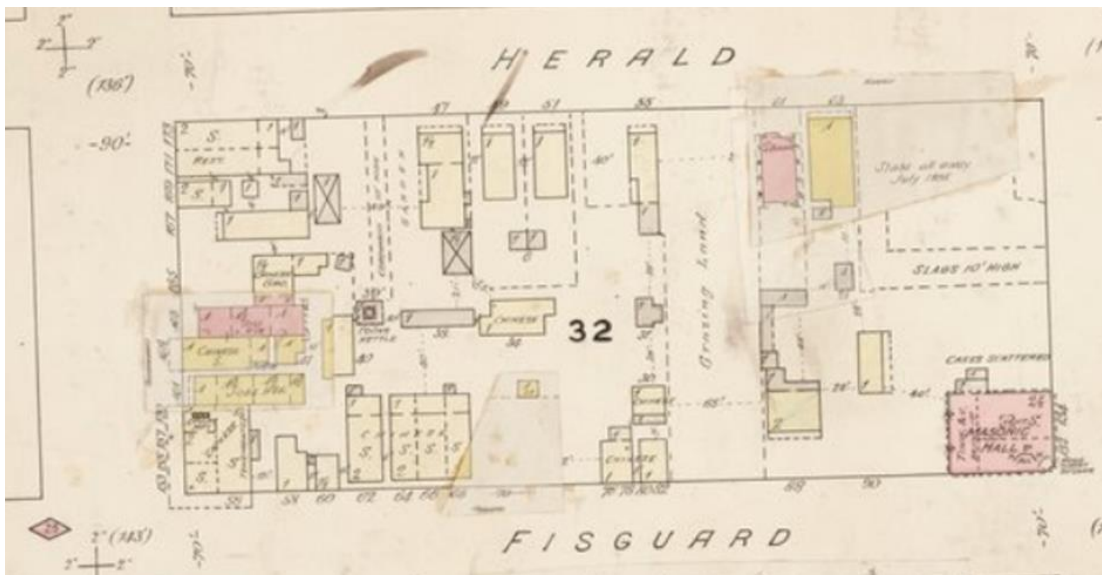


Photo: Victoria Street Map, 1891

**1894** Tam Kung Temple – wood framed structure demolished and one-story brick structure built (Architect: Thomas Hooper)

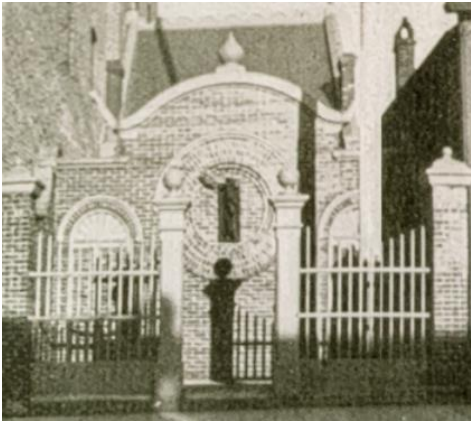


PHOTO c.1894

**1905** Yen Wo Society formally established in Victoria, representing the Chinese Hakka community.

**1912** Tam Kung Temple – one-story brick structure is demolished and replaced with a four-story structure located on the same site (Architect: Wilfred Hargreaves).



PHOTO: Present day

**1980** Temple fire destroys banners, relics, and documents.

**1995** Victoria Chinatown designated: National Historic Site of Canada (33 buildings and outside spaces).

**2025** Tam Kung Temple designated: National Historic Site of Canada