

# Asian Heritage in the National Park Service Cultural Resources Programs

This list represents a compilation of the properties associated with Asian heritage documented in the National Park Service's cultural resources programs (National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey). It is not exhaustive, but illustrates examples of Asian properties that have already been documented and/or recognized. Further investigation of the files may yield additional entries.

## National Register of Historic Places

The following National Register properties are associated with Asian heritage. Each entry is listed by state, followed by a brief statement of what makes it significant to Asian heritage.

### Alaska

**Stedman-Thomas Historic District (Ketchikan, Ketchikan Gateway County)** is a community of multiple Asian groups that was developed during the fishing industry in the region from the 1900s to the 1940s. Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Japanese families opened many of the earliest businesses and established this commercial center in the city.

### American Samoa

**Faga Village Site (T'au, Manu'a County)** is an archeological site associated with the title of Tui Manu'a (the highest title in Samoan culture) and as the oldest Samoan village. Faga Village is still used for agricultural and funerary purposes.

### California

**Castroville Japanese Language School (Castroville, Monterey County)** illustrates Japanese American cultural and educational development in the early 20th century. It served as a language school, meeting hall, and Buddhist temple.

**Oroville Chinese Temple (Oroville, Butte County)** served as a community center for many early Chinese immigrants who arrived during the Gold Rush era. In 1959, the Temple Complex became a public museum dedicated to Chinese culture and tradition.

**Point Reyes National Seashore (Point Reyes, Marin County)** was where the Spanish ship, the *San Agustin*, shipwrecked in 1595 with Filipino sailors aboard. The surviving crew eventually traveled by land to Mexico.

### Federated States of Micronesia

**Leluh Ruins (Leluh, Kosrae County)** are associated with the rise of the Kosrae society, an early Pacific culture. The archeological site may yield information on Kosrae, Micronesian, and Pacific societies.

**Rull Men's Meeting House (Rull Municipality, Yap District)** was where men gathered to plan war strategy, perform rites of passage for young men, and address other important aspects of social life. This meetinghouse, or *faluw*, is significant to the ethnic heritage of Micronesians and may yield information about this culture's early history.

## **Guam**

**Fafai Beach Site (Tumon Bay, Guam County)** contains the ruins of six-to-eight housing structures of the Chamorro people. Fafai Beach Site is significant for its potential for archeological research on cultural change and settlement patterns of people of Guam.

**Gadao's Cave (Inarajan Bay, Guam County)** is an archeological site containing pictographs and petroglyphs and is likely to yield important information about the early history of Guam.

**Umatac Outdoor Library (Umatac, Guam County)** is the first public library built in Southern Guam under the direction of Francisco Quinta Sanchez (1898-1954), an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century pioneer of education and a politician from Umatac. The Umatac Outdoor Library is significant to Chamorro people and reflects their resolve to improve their lives.

## **Hawaii**

**Chee Ying Society (Honokaa, Hawaii County)** or “Chinese Clubhouse,” was a community center for members of the Hung Men Society, a secret society created in China in 1631. It is one of the few remaining society clubhouses in Hawaii.

**Chinatown Historic District (Honolulu, Honolulu County)** was a commercial and residential center for Chinese immigrants and other Asian groups. In its buildings, institutions, and people, the Chinatown Historic District reflects the city's role as a center for many diverse cultures.

**Chinese Tong Houses of Maui Island (Lahaina, Maui County)** were constructed for members of the Chinese Hoong Moon secret societies in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Tongs provided aid to individuals from the same district or province. Only three of the original six houses remain.

The Chee Kung Tong Society Building is the home to the mother society of tongs in the United States. The building may provide information about an important aspect of the Chinese immigrant experience in Hawaii at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Ket Hing Society Building is one of three remaining houses associated with the Hoong Moon Tong in Maui. The building represents Chinese immigration heritage in Hawaii.

The Wo Hing Society Building is affiliated with the Chee Kung Tong that provided aid to Chinese immigrants in Hawaii. The building is considered to be the finest of the remaining tong buildings and houses a museum about tongs and the lives of overseas Chinese at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Daifukuji Soto Zen Mission (Kona, Hawaii County)** is significant as an example of Buddhist temple architecture constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Hawaii. The building blends construction techniques from Hawaii's plantation tradition with Japanese temple design.

**Haraguchi Rice Mill (Hanalei, Kauai County)** is the last remaining rice mill in Hawaii and reflects the combined cultural imprint of the Chinese and Japanese in Hawaii.

**Hawaii Shingon Mission (Honolulu, Honolulu County)** is the mother church for the Shingon sect in Hawaii and one of the few remaining Japanese Buddhist missions of its type in Hawaii.

**Kawailoa Temple (Haleiwa, Honolulu County)** is one of the few remaining structures that incorporates indoor/outdoor concepts of Japanese architecture by the use of moveable *shoji* doors. The Kawailoa Temple served as the cultural and social focal point for Japanese plantation workers because it incorporated a language school and clubs, and hosted community celebrations.

**Kyoto Gardens of Honolulu Memorial Park (Honolulu, Honolulu County)** contains the finest examples of Japanese traditional-style structures and gardens built outside of Japan.

**Lihue Hongwanji Mission (Lihue, Kauai County)** is the oldest Japanese Buddhist mission still extant on Kauai. Also serving as a language school, the mission helped maintain the heritage of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Japanese immigrants.

**Seto Building (Kapaa, Kauai County)** combines the Chinese aesthetic and commercial building forms and symbolizes the commercial and cultural development of the Hawaiian Islands.

**Toyo Theatre (Honolulu, Honolulu County)** is a Japanese language movie theater. An example of Edo period architectural design, it was modeled after the famous Ieyasu Shrine in Nikko, Japan.

**Wakamiya Inari Shrine (Oahu, Honolulu County)** is dedicated to the Inari Shinto sect that is associated with the working class Japanese, including agricultural laborers, in

Hawaii in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is the only example of Inari traditional shrine architecture in the region.

## **Idaho**

**The Chinese Sites in the Warren Mining District Multiple Property Survey (Warren vicinity, Idaho County)** provides an example of identifying and interpreting a range of resources to tell the story of Chinese heritage in the United States. The following interrelated sites located in Payette National Forest tell the story of the Chinese miners in the West.

Ah Toy Garden (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) is a terraced garden created by the Chinese community to grow vegetables and fruits so that traditional diets could be maintained while community members worked the mines around the Warren Mining District. One of three such gardens in the area, Ah Toy Garden also produced vegetables, strawberries, grapes, and rhubarb for commercial sale.

Celadon Slope Garden (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) is the second of three terraced gardens on China Mountain in the Warren Mining District. It was used by the Chinese community until 1902.

Chi-Sandra Garden (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) Chi-Sandra is the third terraced garden in the Warren Mining District associated with the Chinese miners who lived and worked there.

China Trail (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) is a pack trail that connects the three terraced gardens on China Mountain. Chinese farmers used the trail to move produce from the gardens to the mining camps and local markets.

Chinese Cemetery (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) holds the remains of Chinese miners who worked placer claims in the Warren Mining District. Although many of the bodies have been exhumed and returned to China, the Chinese Cemetery may hold information about funerary practices of Chinese immigrants in Idaho.

Chinese Mining Camp Archeological Site (Warren vicinity, Idaho County) may hold information about daily life among the Chinese miners. The site contains a the remains of a blacksmith forge, a building with a kitchen and dining area, a small garden, and remnants of placer mines.

**Polly Bemis House (Warren, Idaho County)** belonged to a local Chinese woman who lived in the area from 1894 to 1933. Built during 1923 and 1924, her home is an example of a whipsawn lumber log cabin. The property provides insight into the struggles immigrant women faced in the rural Northwest in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Moore Gulch Chinese Mining Site (Pierce, Clearwater County)** may yield important information about the mining techniques of Chinese immigrants. The site contains living quarters, mine tailings, ditches, and other features associated with a mining community in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Massachusetts**

**Lowell National Historic Park (Lowell, Middlesex County)** is known for its connections to the rise of the industrial age in the United States. It is also a significant site for the more recent Cambodian community, which is the largest Asian group in the city. Cambodian residents and organizations cooperate with the park on festivals and the park has provided a place for cultural organizations to meet and perform.

### **Minnesota**

**Jun Fujita Cabin (International Falls, St. Louis County)** contains architectural elements consistent with Japanese country house design. The cabin was a retreat and a source of inspiration for the owner's artistic work.

### **Utah**

**Golden Spike National Historic Site (Promontory Summit, Box Elder County)** commemorates the completion of the first transcontinental railroad and the role of Chinese immigrants in its construction. The Central Pacific Railroad Company employed an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 Chinese laborers who built the western portion of the transcontinental railroad system.

### **Washington**

**Bainbridge Island Filipino Community Hall (Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County)** is the first Filipino community hall in Washington State. Its construction by the Bainbridge Island Filipino Farmers' Association in 1943 coincided with a rise in the Filipino population, who were important contributors to the region's agricultural production.

**Chinese Baptist Church (Seattle, King County)** is linked to the growth of the Chinese community in Seattle in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The church provided services for the community and is a repository of information about Chinese immigrants in Seattle.

**Mukai Cold Process Plant (Vashon Island, King County)** represents the role of Japanese immigrants in the development of the agricultural industry in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Washington State. It was a successful plant, using new technologies to preserve and transport berries to market.

**Nihon Go Gakko (Tacoma, Pierce County)** also known as the Tacoma Japanese Language School, was constructed in 1922 and is one of the few remaining buildings associated with the Japanese community in Tacoma. It served as a center for the Japanese American community prior to the outbreak of World War II.

**Nihon Go Gakko (Seattle, King County)** was the oldest functioning Japanese language school in the continental United States. Established in 1902, the language school served the Japanese community until 1942, when it was confiscated by the U.S. government and turned into an Army training center. Twenty-seven Japanese American families lived temporarily in the building's classrooms after their return from World War II internment.

**Nippon Kan Hall (Seattle, King County)** was a social and cultural center for Japanese Americans and served as a hotel for Japanese visitors and immigrants and as a theater.

**Seattle Chinatown Historic District (Seattle, King County)**, also known as the International District, was home to the most extensive Asian community in Washington state. It contains examples of Asian design aesthetics combined with Western architecture, which give the district its distinctive character.

### **National Historic Landmarks**

The following National Historic Landmark properties are associated with Asian heritage. Each entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it significant to Asian heritage.

### **Arkansas**

**Rohwer Relocation Center and Memorial Cemetery (Rohwer, Desha County)** is one of two World War II relocation camps in the state. The camp held 8,475 people of Japanese ancestry and was occupied for 43 months. The site contains two monuments and one of three surviving relocation cemeteries.

### **California**

**Gakuen Hall (Walnut Grove, Sacramento County)** is a surviving example of a Japanese culture and language school designed and built by the Japanese in response to the 1921 California public school segregation laws. Today it serves as a community center for the Japanese American community, including residents who originally planned and created Gakuen Hall.

**Harada House (Riverside, Riverside County)** was home to the Harada family, who tested the constitutionality of anti-alien land laws in the United States. In *California v. Harada* (1916-1918), the state upheld the right of native-born citizens of the United States to own land, regardless of ethnicity.

**Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts (Isleton, Sacramento County)** was a busy multi-ethnic commercial district from the late 1890s until the 1940s. The district represents a secondary stage of migration for Asian immigrants in California.

**Little Tokyo Historic District (Los Angeles, Los Angeles County)** was the largest Japanese community in the United States prior to World War II. Vestiges of Japanese ethnic heritage still exist at its commercial core, including buildings and signage associated with Japanese American businesses.

**Locke Historic District (Locke, Sacramento County)** is the most important example of a rural Chinese American community in the United States. Today's inhabitants are the descendants of Chinese laborers who developed the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. (Also documented by Historic American Buildings Survey.)

**Manzanar War Relocation Center (Independence vicinity, Inyo County)** was the first Japanese American internment camp created during World War II. The camp housed over 10,000 persons of Japanese descent, the vast majority of whom were American citizens. (Also documented by Historic American Buildings Survey.)

**Presidio of San Francisco (San Francisco, Marin County)** includes two buildings significant to Japanese American history. Building 35 was the site where Executive Order 9066 was issued. It served as the headquarters for the Western Defense Command (WDC), the U.S. Army command responsible for implementation and enforcement of the order. Building 640 contained the classrooms for the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) where MIS and Japanese civilians taught the Japanese language to military personnel and translated captured documents.

**Walnut Grove Chinese American Historic District (Walnut Grove, Sacramento County)** was constructed as a commercial district for Chinese agricultural workers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region.

**Walnut Grove Japanese American Historic District (Walnut Grove, Sacramento County)** was built and designed by Japanese Americans and is associated with the community's agricultural labor in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region.

## **District of Columbia**

**United States Supreme Court Building (Washington, DC)** is significant for its association with four cases defending the civil rights of Japanese Americans during World War II: *Hirabayashi v. United States* (1943), *Yasui v. United States* (1943), *Korematsu v. United States* (1944), and *Endo v. United States* (1944). Only one of the four cases resulted in a successful verdict for its plaintiff.

## **Federated States of Micronesia**

**Nan Madol (Madolenihmw, Pohnpei County)** is a 321-acre complex of man-made basalt islands and architectural remains built atop an atoll. This site may yield information about Pohnpeian early history.

## **Hawaii**

**Hokukano-Ualapue Complex (Ualapue vicinity, Maui County)** contains six temple platforms and two fishponds constructed between A.D. 1500 and contact with the West in 1778.

**Huilua Fishpond (Oahu, Honolulu County)** is one of the few surviving fishponds out of an estimated 97 ponds that once existed along the coast of Oahu. These fishponds represent an important Hawaiian form of aquaculture—fish farms that hatched and raised fish for local consumption.

**Iolani Palace (Honolulu, Honolulu County)** was the official residence of the last two rulers of Hawaii, King Kalakaua and Queen Lili'uokalani, before the transfer of sovereignty to the United States in 1898. It is the only official royal palace in the United States.

**Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement (Kalaupapa, Kalawao County)** was the site of a leper colony, established in 1866, to curb an epidemic among native Hawaiians. (Also documented by Historic American Buildings Survey.)

**Kamakahonu (Kailua-Kona, Hawaii County)** was the home of King Kamehameha I, who unified the Hawaiian Islands, from 1812 until his death in 1819. This was also the site where the first missionaries landed in Hawaii in 1818.

**Keauhou Holua Slide (Kailua-Kona, Hawaii County)** is one of the best-preserved and largest *holuas*, or sled runs, in Hawaii.

**Mookini Heiau (Kohala, Hawaii County)** is an important religious site for Polynesians in Hawaii. It is associated with and located near the birthplace of King Kamehameha I, the founder of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

**Puukohola Heiau (Kawaihae, Hawaii County)** is the site where Kamehameha ascended to the kingship of the Hawaiian Islands in 1791. The event took place in a temple built by Kamehameha to honor the war god, Kukailimoku.

**Wailua Complex of Heiaus (Wailua, Kauai County)** contains important archeological remains associated with Hawaiian cultural history. The complex includes a petroglyph site, four *heiaus* or shrines, and a bell stone.

### **Minnesota**

**Fort Snelling (Minneapolis, Hennepin County)** was the location for the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS). Second-generation Japanese Americans, or *nisei*, as well as enlisted European American soldiers, served as linguists during the war and trained

with the MISLS. During 1944-1945, the school housed 3,000 students and 160 instructors in more than 125 classrooms.

### **Missouri**

**Missouri Botanical Garden (St. Louis, St. Louis County)** houses a Japanese Tea House and the largest authentic Japanese garden in North America. For the past 27 years, during each Labor Day weekend, the site hosts the Japanese Festival that celebrates Japanese people and culture. (Also documented by Historic American Buildings Survey.)

### **Oklahoma**

**Fort Sill (Fort Sill, Comanche County)** is associated with Japanese Americans through its use as an internment camp. From March 1942 until Spring 1943, it held 700 “enemy aliens.”

### **Texas**

**Fort Sam Houston (San Antonio, Bexar County)** held 40 Japanese Hawaiians and 300 Alaskan Eskimos in the camp for nine days before they were transferred to Camp Lordsburg in New Mexico County during World War II.

### **Historic American Buildings Survey**

The following Historic American Buildings Survey properties are associated with Asian heritage. Each entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it significant to Asian heritage.

### **California**

**Auburn-Chinese Section (Auburn, Placer County)** was home to Chinese laborers working on the transcontinental railroad in the 1850s and contains buildings associated with the Chinese community.

**Chinese Joss House (Weaverville, Trinity County)** is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California. Built in 1874, the “Temple of the Forest beneath the Clouds” exhibits traditional Taoist architectural detailing and contains artifacts associated with the Chinese community in 19<sup>th</sup>-century California.

**Vedanta Society (San Francisco, San Francisco County)** also known as the Hindu Society, was the headquarters and a place of worship for followers of Vedantism, a branch of Hinduism. Built between 1905 and 1906, the building reflects an Asian Indian temple design aesthetic.

**District of Columbia**  
**Chinese Community Church (Washington, DC)** was constructed in 1956 for the Chinatown community and made use of Chinese design motifs. Today, the church serves as a Chinese community center.

**Idaho**  
**Chinese Roasting Pit (Salmon vicinity, Lemhi County)** was used by Chinese miners who wintered in and around Salmon during the Gold Rush era in Idaho.

**New York**  
**Kykuit, Japanese Gardens and Teahouse (Pocantico Hills, New York)** follows the style of a *ryōan-ji* temple garden, typical of western Kyoto. Japanese carpenters and gardeners Takahashi and Uyeda designed the gardens and the original teahouse, which was redesigned by architect Junzo Yoshimura, after the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto.

**Washington**  
**Kosai Farm (Auburn, King County)** is important in the political history of Japanese Americans because it served as the basis for a legal case that challenged the state’s Anti-Alien Land Law.

**Historic American Engineering Record**  
The following Historic American Engineering Record properties are associated with Asian heritage. Each entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it significant to Asian heritage.

**Hawaii**  
**Hanalei Pier (Hanalei, Kauai County)** is one of the last vestiges of rice production in Hawaii and is significant for its role in agricultural and transportation history. Chinese and Japanese rice producers used the pier to transport their crop to markets on other islands and on the United States mainland.

**Washington**  
**Chinese Workers House (Port Gamble, Kitsap County)** provided segregated housing accommodations for Chinese workers of the logging industries at Port Gamble, who were part of a larger workforce that included Hawaiians. Many of the Chinese served as cooks for the other laborers.

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# List of Federal Legislation related to Asian Groups in the United States

Since 1790, federal legislation has been enacted to prevent people of Asian descent from being fully active participants in American society. This listing of federal legislation against Asian and other nonwhite persons does not include the numerous state and local laws designed to discriminate against Asian groups in those jurisdictions.

**Naturalization Act, 1790:** The law established two years of residence and that the individual must be a “free white person” as requirements for citizenship.

**An Act to Prohibit the “Coolie Trade” by American Citizens in American Vessels, 1862:** The act intended to curtail the “coolie” trade, indentured Chinese labor used by the British, as a source of cheap labor. It coincides with the Civil War and the issue of slave labor in the United States.

**Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1868:** Intended to protect the rights of African Americans against legislation from individual states, Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment was invoked to overturn many West Coast discriminatory laws targeted at Asian Americans. It protected the rights of “any persons” to due process and equal protection, clarifying the boundaries of constitutional safeguards for everyone in the United States.

**Burlingame-Seward Treaty, 1868:** The treaty allowed for free migration and emigration between China and the United States but upheld the decision not to allow naturalization of Chinese as United States citizens, and vice versa.

**An Act Supplementary to the Acts in Relation to Immigration, a.k.a. the Page Law, 1875:** Purported to deter the importation of women for prostitution, it effectively deterred female Asian immigrants and hindered the development of Asian communities in the United States for decades.

**An Act to Execute Certain Treaty Stipulations with Relation to Chinese, a.k.a. the Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882:** The Exclusion Act established a precedent for excluding or limiting immigration from Asian countries over the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first legislation to exclude immigrants on the basis of nationality, ethnicity, or race, it was directed at the Chinese. It prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the country for 10 years and reversed important sections of the Burlingame-Seward Treaty.

**Foran Act Prohibiting Contract Labor, 1885:** This act outlawed the payment of transportation costs for contract laborers prior to immigration. It was intended to limit Asian immigration beyond the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

**Hawaii Constitution, a.k.a the Bayonet Constitution, 1887:** In addition to shifting economic and political power from the native monarchy to the U.S. government, it officially disenfranchised the Asian populations already present on the island and particularly the incoming Japanese émigrés. The constitution limited voting rights to native Hawaiians, Americans and Europeans, had a tax requirement, and required a reading test for men under the age of 47.

**An Act to Prohibit the Coming of Chinese Laborers to the United States, a.k.a. the Scott Act, 1888:** Intended to prevent reentry of those Chinese laborers who had temporarily returned to their homeland, the Scott Act was the next step toward ending all Chinese immigration. It rendered null and void the certificates secured by the laborers to ensure their lawful return.

**An Act to Prohibit the Coming of Chinese Persons into the United States, a.k.a. the Geary Act, 1892:** The act extended all appropriate legislation, including the Exclusion Act of 1882, for another 10 years, and required all Chinese to acquire certificates of eligibility within one year.

**Treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain, a.k.a. the Treaty of Paris, 1898:** The treaty gave the United States possession of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Mariana Islands, and the Philippines in exchange for \$20 million. This put the Filipinos under United States rule, after fighting side-by-side to remove Spanish control.

**The Annexation of Hawaii, 1898:** Despite not having the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate to approve annexation, the Hawaiian territory was annexed all the same because of its strategic location and vulnerability to imperialists' powers. In the legislation, reference is made to the growing competition with Japan that would later affect Japanese Americans after the turn of the century.

**An Act to Provide a Government for the Territory of Hawaii, a.k.a. the Organic Act of 1900:** The act formally made Hawaii a territory of the United States and all citizens subject to U.S. laws. It provided U.S.

citizenship for all recognized residents of Hawaii as of the annexation of 1898 and those born on the Islands after annexation.

**Executive Order No. 589, a.k.a. the Gentlemen's Agreement, 1907:** Through a series of notes exchanged between the United States and Japanese governments, Japan agreed to stop issuing passports for laborers seeking to go to America. Parents, spouses, and children of Japanese already in the country were allowed to emigrate. The Executive Order was intended to quell anti-Japanese sentiment in California, while maintaining good relations with Japan. The order stopped short of passing legislation barring immigration, mollifying the Japanese government, a growing power in Asia and the Pacific.

**The Immigration Act of 1917, a.k.a. the Barred Zone Act:** Using circumlocution—avoiding direct reference to the excluded nations and nationalities—the act bars the immigration of peoples between specific longitudes and latitudes. The established “zone” included all of South Asia, parts of Russia and the Middle East, Afghanistan, and the Polynesian islands. Because it was a United States territory, the Philippines was exempt from the act.

**The Emergency Quota Act, a.k.a. the Immigration Act of 1921:** In response to increased immigration to the United States as a result of World War I, this act limited immigration to the U.S. to 3 percent of the number of persons from that country present as of the 1910 census. This act laid the groundwork for the National Origins Act of 1924.

**An Act Relative to the Naturalization and Citizenship of Married Women, a.k.a. the Cable Act, 1922:** The act decreed that United States female citizens would have their citizenship stripped if they married aliens ineligible for citizenship. The legislators and this legislation reflected the concerns about not only who entered the country, but how the aliens would alter the complexion of American society.

**National Origins Act: An Act to Limit the Immigration of Aliens Into the United States, and for Other Purposes, a.k.a. the Immigration Act of 1924:** This federal law set numeric quotas on foreign immigrants, defining the nation's immigration policy for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The act discriminated against Asians and Pacific Islanders, excluding them as "aliens ineligible to citizenship." (Minimum quota of any nationality was 100.) In favoring northern and western Europeans, the act humiliated the expanding Japanese empire and may be viewed as an important link in a chain of events leading to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**The Tydings-McDuffie Act, a.k.a. the Philippines Independence Act, 1934:** This legislation provided independence for the Philippines and moved them from "American nationals" into the category of "aliens ineligible for citizenship." The act ensured the continued privilege of United States business interests in the Philippines and limited Filipino immigration to the United States. The Tydings-McDuffie Act set an immigration quota of 50 Filipinos per year and was the end result of nearly 20 years of legislative maneuvering to end Filipino immigration while maintaining the United States' position in the Philippines.

**Filipino Repatriation Act, 1935:** As an attempt to encourage the emigration of the 45,000 remaining Filipinos throughout the United States, the act offered free transportation to any Filipino, except those in Hawaii, willing to return to Manila. Fewer than 2,200 accepted the offer.

**Executive Order Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas, No. 9066, 1942:** In response to the United States entrance into World War II, President Roosevelt authorized the Secretary of War to put areas under military authority. The effect of the order was that people of Japanese descent were removed from the coastal areas of the western United States. Executive Order 9066 is connected to several other laws that provided legal cover to forcibly relocate Japanese Americans to centers through the country.

**Public Law 77-503, 1942:** Enacted to support Executive Order 9066, the law made the violation of military orders a federal offense punishable with a \$5,000 fine and one-year imprisonment.

**An Act to Repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts, to Establish Quotas, and Other Purposes, a.k.a. the Magnuson Act, 1943:** President Roosevelt repealed the original 1882 Exclusion Act and all subsequent acts preventing the immigration of Chinese to the United States and naturalization of Chinese residents. This act was passed during World War II, marking a change in federal policy regarding Chinese in particular and Asians in general.

**Public Law 79-271, a.k.a. the War Brides Act, 1945:** This legislation provided for non quota admission of foreign women who married American servicemen overseas during and after World War II. This law affected Chinese American communities, where servicemen married Chinese women after World War II and during the Korean War.

**Philippines Veterans Rescission Act, 1946:** Over 400,000 Filipino veterans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. Congress passed an act that singled out Filipinos to be denied a variety of benefits received by other foreign troops who served. It is estimated that the monies due to Filipino servicemen for back pay under Missing Persons Act, mustering-out pay, and disability support may be in excess of \$1 billion today.<sup>1</sup>

**Filipino and Indian Immigration and Naturalization Act, a.k.a. the Luce-Cellar Act, 1946:** The Filipino and Indian Immigration and Naturalization Act extended American citizenship to Filipino and Asian Indian residents in the United States who arrived prior to March 24, 1943. The immigration quota for each was increased to 100 people a year.

**McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act, 1952:** The act eliminated all restriction on naturalization of Japanese immigrants and equalized policies dealing with gender. It eliminated the “barred zone,” but created the “Asia-Pacific Triangle,” which kept quotas at 2,000 people total for the nineteen countries within the triangle.

**An Act to Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for Other Purposes, a.k.a. the Immigration and Nationality Act, 1965:** The most far-reaching and important revision of American immigration policy since the Immigration Act of 1924, the act removed the discriminatory elements of the previous acts directed at people of color. Immigration was increased to a total of 170,000 per year, with 20,000 immigrants from each of the nations in the eastern hemisphere previously excluded. The act provided immigration and naturalization to relatives of United States citizens without quotas or limitations and was responsible for the rapid increase in the Asian American population in the United States since 1970.

**Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, 1975:** In response to the United States’ retreat from Vietnam and the need to assist those in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos who supported the nation’s effort, the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act sought to provide for resettlement of the refugees in receiving or staging centers throughout the United States. In the 10 years following the act, 750,000 refugees entered the country.

**Public Law 100-204, sections 904, 905, and 906, a.k.a. Southeast Asian Refugee Acts, 1987:** These acts expanded upon the Indochina Refugee Act of 1975 by addressing Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian refugees in the asylum camps throughout Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries and the relocation of the refugees to the United States. The acts acknowledged the need to provide entry to children born to American fathers and Vietnamese mothers.

**Public Law 1000-383, a.k.a. the Civil Liberties Act, 1988:** Twenty years of agitation on behalf of those Japanese Americans interned in World War II led to passage of the Civil Liberties Act. The act provided for an official apology from the Federal Government and a redress payment of \$20,000 for each internee alive at the time of signing. Aleut Indians, who were also removed from their homelands for military purposes, received \$12,000 for each survivor. Surviving Japanese Latin Americans interned in the United States later sued successfully for redress as well, and received \$5,000 payments.

**Executive Order Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs, No. 13125, 1999:** Representing the first executive order focusing on Asian Americans since Executive Order 9066, the directive established an interagency team and a Presidential Advisory Committee on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It also solicited data on ways federal agencies might assist underserved Asian Pacific American communities.

## Endnote

1. The figure of \$1 billion comes from Franklin Odo, ed. *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002), 320.

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