

# LIFE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

As part of the Transbay Transit Center project, archaeologists excavated below the modern ground surface to reveal deposits that have survived since the neighborhood's settlement in the mid-1800s.

By the 1870s, the South of Market neighborhood was densely settled, mostly by Irish immigrants, many of whom worked in the nearby Tar Flat industries. The 1887 map below shows small houses crowded together on narrow lots along Natoma and Minna streets. Although daily life was likely consumed with work and family, there was plenty of excitement to talk about.

## Sacramento Daily Union

September 2, 1872

It was rumored this morning that a fearful murder had been committed in the southern part of the city. The facts as far as can be ascertained are these: Mrs. Annie Brown, wife of Captain James Brown, a sea captain who had commenced boarding at No. 38 Natoma street, yesterday, was attacked during the day by delirium tremens, and in the afternoon called for a knife, saying she wished to kill herself. In the night she made her escape from her room, in her night-dress, and friends were hunting for her all night. This morning she was found lying dead on the floor of the laboratory in the rear of the drug store corner of Second and Howard streets. Blood was oozing from her ears as if she had received a crushing blow on the head, and there were marks on the throat and mouth which led to the supposition that she had been murdered. The clerk who usually sleeps there did not do so last night. On examination it was found that the back door had been broken in and it is now believed that she broke in there herself, being familiar with the premises from having roomed above for some years, and died either from the effects of a fall or from something she may have swallowed in the drug store. The bottles were disturbed as if she had been hunting for some poison. The coroner will make a full investigation.

Source: California Digital Newspaper Collection

38 Natoma

1880s: 57-61 Minna Street. The Tomkinson Livery and Stable operated out of the ground floor, with a boarding house above.



Source: San Francisco Public Library

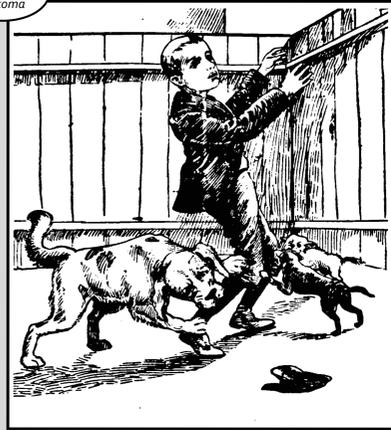
57-61 Minna

## San Francisco Chronicle

December 30, 1899

### CASUALTIES THE LOT OF THIS SMALL BOY.

40, 42, 43 Natoma



LITTLE JOSEPH PERRY, aged 7, of 43 Natoma street, was bitten yesterday forenoon by two watch dogs belonging to Miss Donohue of 42 Natoma street. The child was taken to the Harbor Receiving Hospital, where two wounds were dressed, one at the back of the left thigh and the severer one at the upper part of the back of the right calf.

Two years ago this same little boy was run over by a truck. They bore his apparently lifeless form to the Receiving Hospital, and the doctors tenderly sponged the blood away. The child's right eye was protruding, his scalp was cut open almost the length of the upper side of his head, his skull was badly fractured, and his right leg was dangling because of a crushing compound fracture. The physicians shook their heads; they thought the little sufferer must die. He was taken to the Children's Hospital and kept there nearly four months, during which time he slowly recovered.

Now only the long, ugly, white scar on his head remains to indicate where the truck wheel nearly crushed out his life.

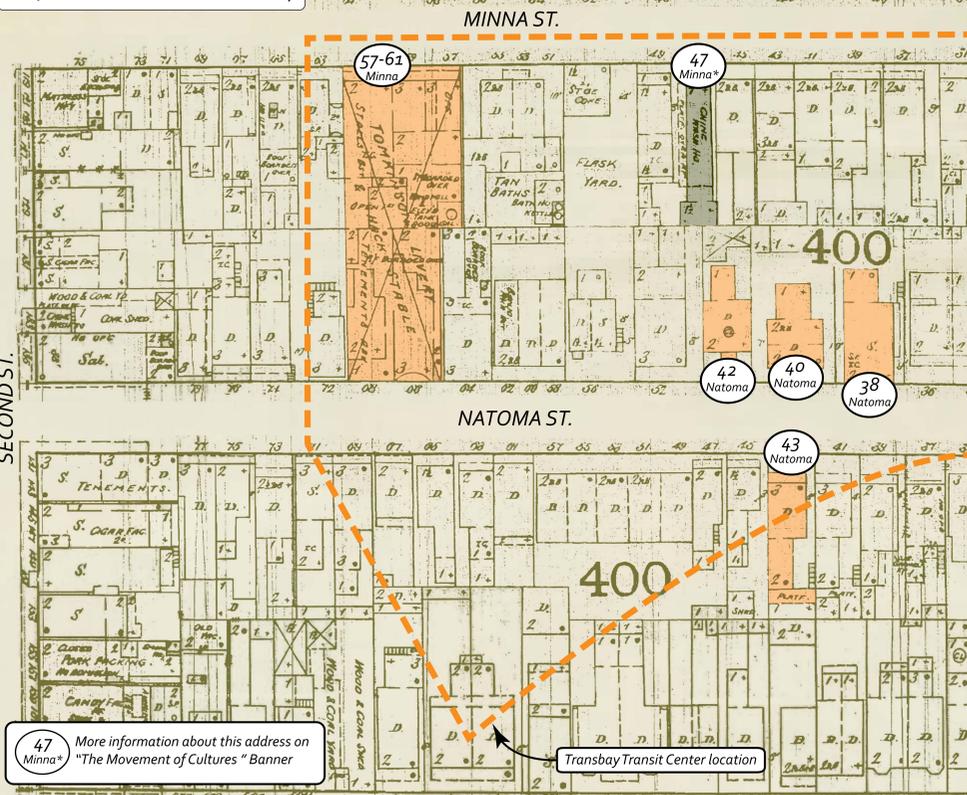
Because of his proneness to injury and safe recovery Joseph's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hayes, began to build hopes that someday he might be a great football player. He also had aspirations.

At 10:30 o'clock yesterday forenoon this boy, with several other youngsters, was in the alley, admiring the process of mechanics engaged in the construction of a two-story brick stable at 40 Natoma street for new brick buildings do not rise in the lifetime of many dwellers in that humble thoroughfare. One of the roofers dropped a piece of solder and it fell into the Donohue yard. J. Furren, a workman below, said, "Here, kids, which one of you will get over the fence and fetch the stick of solder?" And the whole bunch volunteered. But the honor was given to little Perry. He was half lifted over the picket fence that surrounds the bit of a front garden.

The Donohue war dogs saw the play. They charged from the back field like Carthage Indians after a fumble. Two of them tackled at once, both striking low and hard. Before Furren could snatch the child back and beat the dogs off they had drawn blood in two places. The smaller dog, a frowsy Snye terrier bearing the name of Fred Funston, took a high hold upon the child's knickerbockers, but the larger animal, a St. Bernard known by the political title of Henry Martin, put his brand lower down, making a deep cut in the boy's calf.

Source: California Digital Newspaper Collection

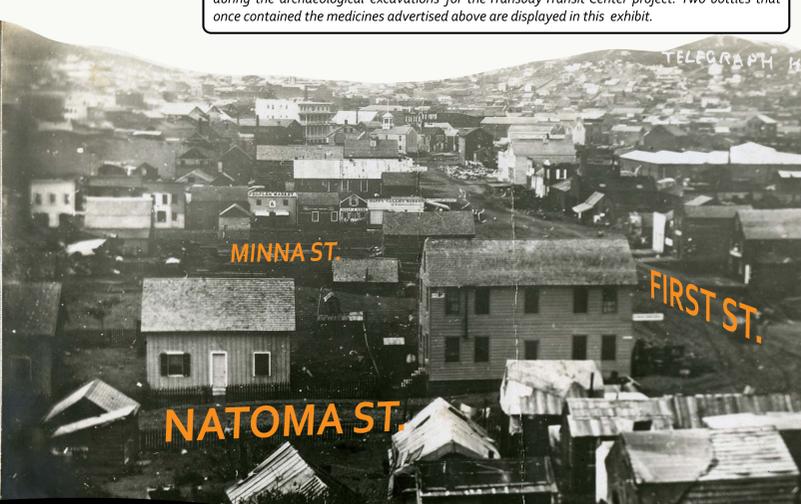
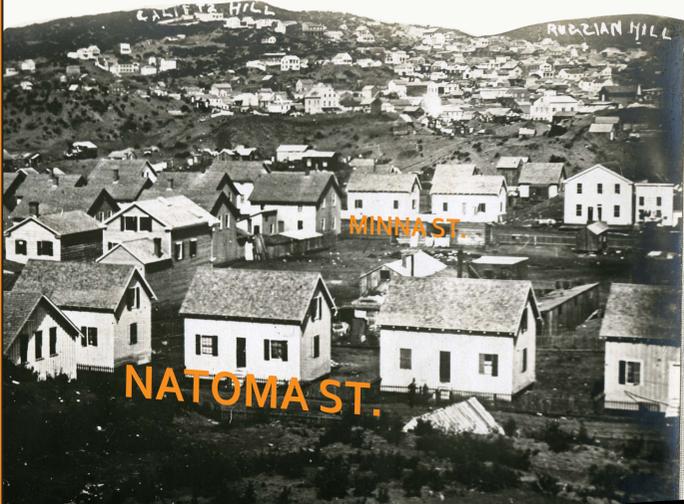
## 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



47 Minna\* More information about this address on "The Movement of Cultures" Banner

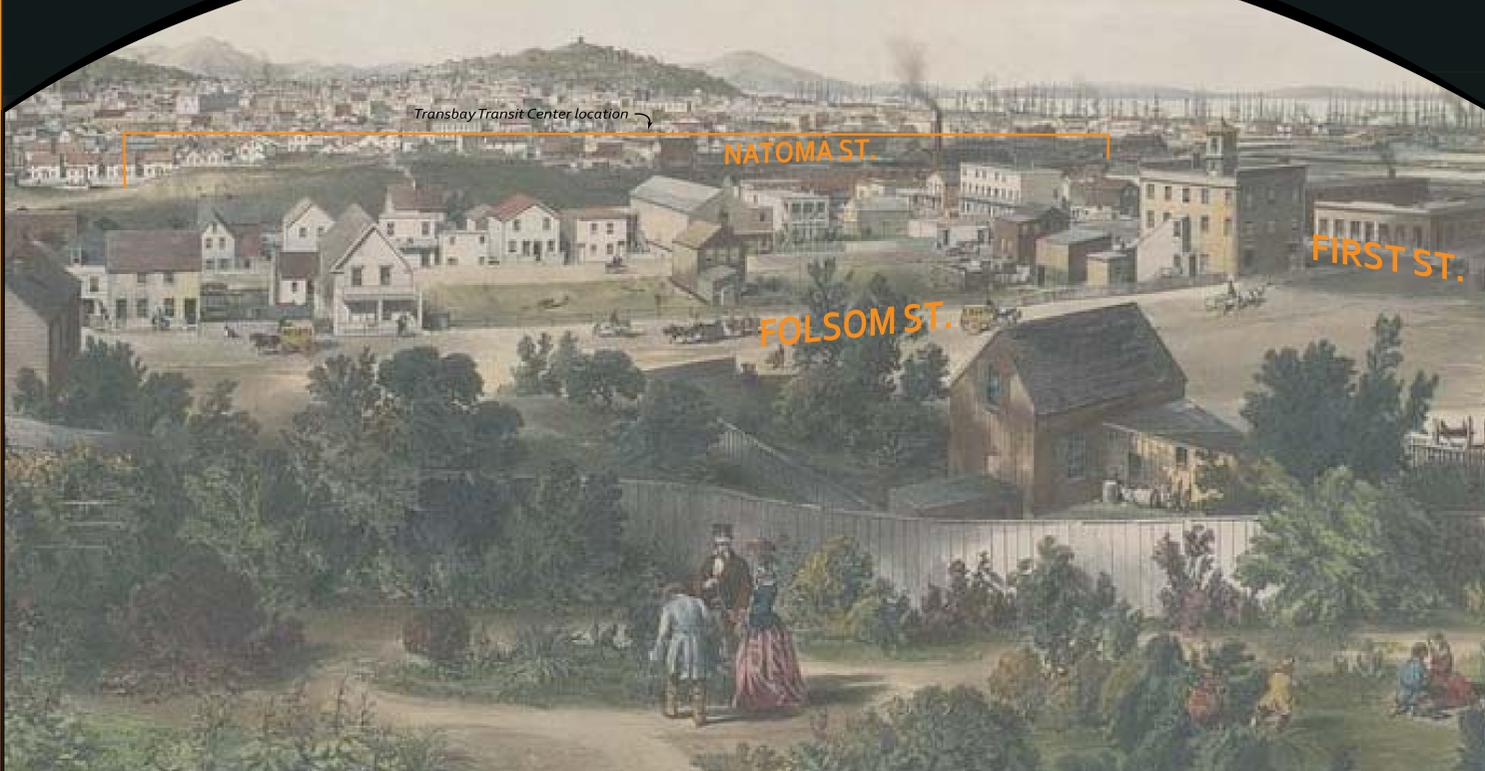
Transbay Transit Center location

This photo from 1851 depicts the first "permanent" structures built on Natoma Street between First and Second streets. These pre-fabricated homes, milled in New England and shipped around Cape Horn by W.D.M. Howard, replaced the assemblage of tents and makeshift shacks that had formerly filled the low-lying area along the original shoreline, known as "Happy Valley" to gold prospectors drawn to San Francisco during the Gold Rush of 1849.



This 1856 lithograph presents an idealized view of the South of Market neighborhood during the decade after the Gold Rush.

Source: California Historical Society



Source: Bancroft Library

**HOSTETTER'S**  
CELEBRATED  
**STOMACH BITTERS.**

1860 advertisement

A truth and certain cure for Dropsy, Liver Complaint, and every species of Indigestion—on including specially the Intermittent Fever, Fever and Ague, and all kinds of periodical disorders—remedy of immediate relief in Flatulency, Colic, and Cholera—remedy—A cure for Constipation—A mild and safe aperient, and especially for children—Remedy—A good, anti-scurvy, nutritive and tonic preparation for ordinary daily exposure—A powerful recuperative after the system has been reduced and exhausted by sickness—An excellent aperient as well as a restorative of the digestive forces—A dissipative of the blood and other fluids, desirable alike as a purgative and mild cathartic, and as a spaceable and wholesome stimulant.

Source: www.kpmg.com/orig/stomachbitershttp://www.kpmg.com/orig/stomachbiters

**SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP!**  
A Positive Cure for Consumption.

1865 advertisement

Dr. J. H. Schenck, from a Photograph at the present time.

**DR. J. H. SCHENCK,**  
Gives his personal and professional services.  
North-East Corner Sixth and Commercial Streets, Philadelphia,  
WHERE HE CAN BE CONSULTED BY PATIENTS.  
S. W. 32 32 32 B. A. T. U. S. S. D. A. S.  
ALSO, AT 22 BOND STREET, NEW YORK, ON EVERY TUESDAY,  
AND AT 28 SUMNER STREET, BOSTON, EVERY WEDNESDAY.

Dr. Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup is the only one that will cure the most violent cases of Consumption, and is the only one that will cure the most violent cases of Consumption, and is the only one that will cure the most violent cases of Consumption.

Source: Hagley Museum and Library

Many 19th-century medicines claimed to cure nearly every ailment, although their active ingredient was often alcohol. These remedies were popular with the men and women of the neighborhood. Bitters and syrup bottles were frequently found, along with other household items on display here, during the archaeological excavations for the Transbay Transit Center project. Two bottles that once contained the medicines advertised above are displayed in this exhibit.