



This map revisits the history of Valencia Street from the decades when it was home to dozens of funeral homes (mostly Irish-owned) and when a streetcar line (dominated by Irish car men) ran up the street. Dolores Park was once a Jewish cemetery, and Mission Dolores still houses its cemetery. Along Mission and Guerrero Streets, special funeral streetcars carried coffins all the way to the cemeteries in Colma. From the early 20th century through the present, the impacts of Irish settlers on the Mission District and City can be seen through the lens of the funeral industry.

Irish-owned mortuaries and funeral homes along Valencia Street are among the most distinctive architectural imprints left on San Francisco by the Irish. Some of the buildings still stand, and Duggan's Funeral Service still operates today. Businesses supporting funerals include florists specializing in funeral arrangements. Other Irish social gathering places like the Hibernia Hall and several bars dotted the corridor between Mission Street and Guerrero Street, from 15th to 26th Streets, offering other locations for mourning nearby.

The concentration of undertakers within this corridor was stimulated by the fact that after 1900, San Francisco's deceased were to be buried outside of the City, and the chosen locale was the unincorporated area west of San Bruno Mountain called Colma. Starting with the Catholic Archdiocese establishment of Holy Cross Cemetery along old Mission Road, followed in the 1880s by the new Jewish cemeteries (replacing the one that had been in Dolores Park), by the turn of the 20th century there were more than a dozen cemeteries in Colma, some religious or nationally identified, and several non-denominational. Later the area was incorporated as a town.

Following the route of the original 1860s-era San Francisco-San Jose railroad, streetcar lines ran from the Mission District out to the Geneva car barn and up Mission Street all the way past Daly City to reach the cemeteries. For a few decades a dedicated funeral car service was provided, charging \$5.00 for a coffin and \$.50 per mourner. By the 1920s, the funeral streetcar service was discontinued as the motorized hearse took over the business.

The eventual removal in the 1940s of San Francisco's cemeteries at Lone Mountain, Calvary, Oddfellows, and Laurel Heights led to the reinterment of tens of thousands of remains in mass graves in Colma cemeteries. Thousands of buried Catholic dead at Calvary were relocated to Holy Cross, where the bulk of the once burgeoning population of Irish San Francisco now rests.



Funeral Car #3 in Colma, c. 1915.

PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES SMALLWOOD



Funeral of policeman Ed Maloney on Valencia Street, 1915. PHOTO COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SFPL

## Shaping San Francisco

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Serving the City for 25 years, Shaping San Francisco is a unique participatory community history project bringing history to life in the city's streets and online. We define history as a creative act in the present—we make history together every day. Our understanding of the past shapes our present and largely determines how we live in the future. Our outdoor walking, bicycle, and boat tours invite San Franciscans to revisit the layers of history hidden in plain view. Our digital archive at Foundsf.org offers unique, complex, multi-layered historical content unlike any other, and welcomes contributions from the community.



The United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) celebrates and promotes Irish culture and heritage for the benefit of the community as a whole.



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | San Francisco  
Consulate General of Ireland | San Francisco

In 2021, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs is broadening their celebration of Irish culture through Samhain. Samhain is about honoring passing, and this year we are collectively even more aware of loss as experienced during the pandemic.

Shaping San Francisco is the recipient of a grant from the Government of Ireland: Emigrant Support Programme for programming in fall 2021 under the theme of The Economy of Irish San Francisco: Labor, History, and Memories.

### IMAGE CREDITS ON MAP:

San Francisco Casket Company, 1918. Photo courtesy Steve Welch.  
Brown & Kennedy floral artists ad from 1925 *South of Market Journal*  
O'Shaughnessy & Roche Funeral Directors ad from 1927 *South of Market Journal*  
New funeral street car, 1905. Photo by John Henry Mentz, courtesy SFMTA U00335



First electric funeral streetcar, 1915, Glen Park.

PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES SMALLWOOD

# Valencia Street:

CORRIDOR  
+ COLMA

Created for a Shaping San Francisco historical walking tour  
on October 23, 2021



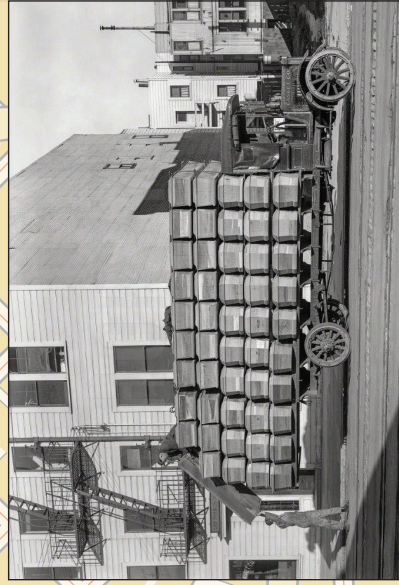
#40 in front of Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma, 1942.

PHOTO COURTESY COLMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

MAP CREATED BY BEN PEASE

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SHAPING SAN FRANCISCO AND THE UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER (UICC)

# CORRIDOR TO COLMA



**Brown & Kennedy**  
Floral Artists  
SAN FRANCISCO  
Funeral Work a Specialty  
Reasonable Prices

3091 - 16th St. Market 5725

**O'Shaughnessy & Roche**  
Funeral Directors  
Service at All Hours  
Lady in Attendance

741-749 VALENCIA ST.  
Bet. 18th and 19th San Francisco



- MAP LEGEND**
- Mortuaries and Funeral Homes\*
  - Related Businesses including Caskets, Flowers, and Markers
  - Other Businesses and Community Spaces
  - Irish Businesses and Places
  - + Churches
  - Old San Francisco Cemeteries
  - Colma Cemeteries
  - Historic Streetcar Lines
- \*Dates reflect year found in city directory or newspaper ad
- 0 0.1 0.2 Mile  
0 0.1 0.2 Kilometer

Map created by Ben Pease, with contributions from Shaping San Francisco and United Irish Cultural Center (UICC)