

Neighbors urge Asian Town

Green Bay may give downtown area the distinctive name to reflect community culture



Pa Voua Vue helps her parents operate the family owned Vue's Custom Fashion & Alteration, 618 Bodart St. **Scott Cooper Williams/Press-Gazette**

By Scott Cooper Williams

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Chicago has its Polish Village. New Yorkers love their Little Italy. And few visitors to San Francisco can resist Chinatown.

Green Bay, with a growing population of Asian-American residents and merchants, could soon have Asian Town.

City officials are considering recognizing a downtown area that has attracted a cluster of businesses owned by Hmong entrepreneurs. The neighborhood is adjacent to Whitney Park along Pine Street and Bodart Street on the east side of downtown.

Leaders of the Hmong community approached City Hall about designating the area Asian Town, with signs erected to announce the neighborhood's identity.

Kao Nou Vang, whose family owns Asian Taste Supermarket, 722 Bodart St., said fellow Hmong residents would welcome the Asian Town concept with enthusiasm and pride.

"It would make them feel that they have a part of the community — something that's theirs," she said. "That would be really neat."

The latest U.S. Census Bureau data show that Green Bay's population of Asian-Americans has climbed to more than 4,000 — now representing 4 percent of the citywide population. By far, the largest group is Hmong people from the Southeast Asian nation of Laos.

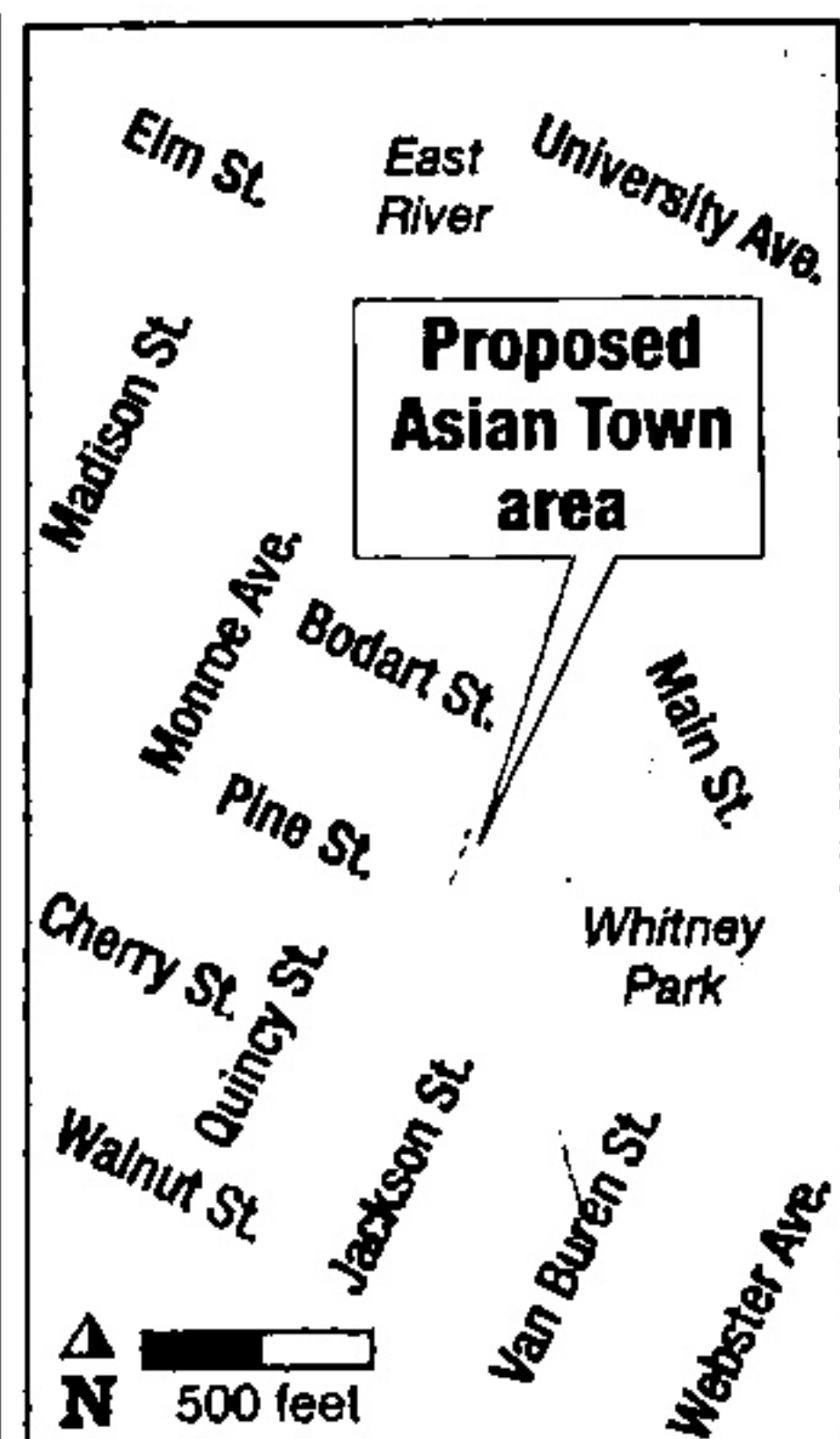
Mayor Jim Schmitt said he is intrigued by the Asian Town idea, which he said could enhance downtown and educate the community about Hmong culture.

"There's things that we could learn,"

CENSUS DATA ASIAN-AMERICANS IN GREEN BAY

Hmong	3,020
Asian Indian	325
Laotian	315
Filipino	186
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	185
Korean	135
Japanese	116
Vietnamese	103
Other	73

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Press-Gazette

» See Asian, A-2