Jackson Street near Mason Street looking toward the Bay. [Actually Clay St., above Stockton?] [Genthe photo including small group of African Americans]
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The Bancroft Library

Room Two: The Day Our City Trembled

Personal Memories Recorded

In this joint interview, Mrs. Walter Sharp and Mrs. Samuel W. Haile relate their experiences on that "beautiful, beautiful April day." Both women were young girls (between 10 and 11) in 1906, and their memories of the earthquake and fire are lucid. Their recollections include a description of a frightened Enrico Caruso in a wagon, "singing and weeping," and structural damage to their family homes, which were located near the Presidio and Duboce Park, respectively. The most vivid images are of ordinary people, their efforts to escape to Oakland and Marin County as well as their time in the refugee camps.