



Former Hasegawa Residence

1653 Uomachi, Matsusaka, Mie 515-0082

General Information

【Hours】 9:00~17:00 (Entry is permitted until 16:30)

【Closed】 On Wednesday and the year-end and new year's holidays.

It will be closed on Thursday when national holidays fall on Wednesday.

【Free Parking Lot】 weekdays: Matsusaka City Parking Lot (5min. on foot)

weekends: Matsusaka City Hall (8min. on foot)

HP



Google Map



To know more about Matsusaka historical houses, you can visit these sites in 10 minutes on foot.

Former Ozu Residence - The residence of a wealthy merchant of Japanese traditional "Washi" paper. (Address: 2195 Honmachi)

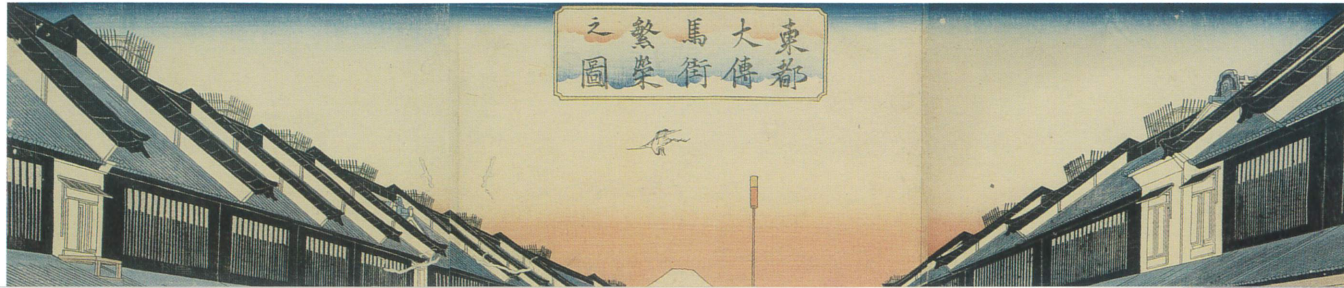
Former Residence of Harada Jiro - A house of a samurai whose son became a businessman. (Address: 1290 Tonomachi)

Please contact us for more information.

<https://matsusaka-rekibun.com/> / info@rekishibunkasha.onmicrosoft.com

Matsusaka Rekibun | NPO for Learning and Preserving Historical and Cultural Heritage in Matsusaka

City of Cotton Textile, Matsusaka, well-known for the production of Matsusaka Beef, is located in the center of Mie Prefecture. Once flourishing as a town producing wealthy merchants representing Japan during the 17th century, Matsusaka is still one of the economy base of Mie. Many wealthy merchants from Matsusaka started to make their fortune by selling cotton textile in Edo (modern-day Tokyo) in the 17th century. Since early times, many weavers from the continent came to Matsusaka area and passed the art of weaving on in the area. While they mainly wove linen and silk fabric, cotton started to be grown in the bay area in this region in the end of the 15th century. This area had geographic features suitable to grow cotton and genuine tradition and techniques for weaving.



Matsusaka Merchants, lived along the main roads and could do their business freely, as in 1588, Gamo Ujisato set the new system for merchants after building his new castle and castle town around it and naming the town Matsusaka. From the beginning of the 17th century, Matsusaka Merchants started to expand their business into Edo, Kyoto and Osaka. At the end of the 18th century, 50 owners from Matsusaka had their own stores around Nihonbashi, Edo.

Though the owners continued to live in Matsusaka with their families, they always had the authority over general management including personnel, and did so by letters. With the letters and the money sent to Matsusaka, the owners learned the trend and culture in life of Edo, Kyoto and Osaka, which made merchants' culture in Matsusaka unique and distinguished.



The Hasegawa's started its business in 1675 in Odemma-Cho, Edo. Since then, they ran 5 cotton dealers in Edo. With the money earned through cotton trade, owners in Matsusaka enjoyed the luxury of literary arts, such as Haiku, Tanka, and Tea Ceremony. This Hasegawa Residence has reflected *Wabi-Sabi* (Japanese traditional aesthetics) – luxury and beauty in simplicity. You can find such simple but rich architectural and decorative designs and playful atmosphere both in the house and its garden, well-preserved and in use until recently (2012).



Tea is served with a piece of Japanese confectionery in the Taisho Zashiki for 500 yen including tax. Have green tea sitting on the tatami floor and feel a little bit of the simple but rich tradition of Japanese *Wabi-Sabi*. In the house, find its playful designs and rich materials they used to build it and think over the fact that some of them are a few hundred years old. The house was in use until recently. In the garden, they have their own shrine still used in the community. Stones, moss and plants are part of the luxury of the residence.





Kura is a building used for storage, safe, barn or stack. The Hasegawa's has 5 kura and they used to store antiques and artifacts, rice, assets and its books, daily goods, and documents and books respectively. Now they have exhibitions in one of the kura. You can see how they treasured daily life and tradition in the exhibition.

The doors for kura are fireproof, which have never been used as this residence has never experience a single fire since it was built a few centuries ago.



Matsusaka Momen -cotton textile woven by women in Matsusaka- was the product the Hasegawa's first made their fortune by. With its abundance of stripe variations on the base of indigo blue, Matsusaka Momen was considered stylish and fashionable in Edo at that time. People in Matsusaka now try hard to pass the skills of weaving onto generations to come. Now, you can try weaving inside the Hasegawa Residence (Friday to Sunday) and also can buy many gifts made of Matsusaka Momen at shops in town.

