

Kyu-Kawazumike (The home of the Kawazumi family)

The Kawazumike dates back to at least Kusakamuraji-kawazumi-yoichi Oeno Kiyomasa who died in 1369 (the Ouan era 2) in the period of the northern and southern dynasties. During the Edo era, the Kawazumi family were the headmen of Kusaka village and for many generations the headmen all had the first name, Sakubei. In 1798 (the Kansei era 10), the famous writer, Akinari Ueda stayed in Kusaka village and formed a friendship with the 15th head of the family, Tsuneyuki. The 19th head of the family, Yujiro had a deep passion for education and put in his own funds to build an elementary school which was based on Gakusei, the Education System Order promulgated in 1872 (the Meiji era 5). Yujiro's daughter, Nami married into another old family, Sugiyama and had a daughter named Taka, who became a poet known as Tsuyuko Isonokami and published her works in Myojo Magazine.



Seikakuro side appearance



Seikakuro Inside

Seikakurou (The guest rooms)

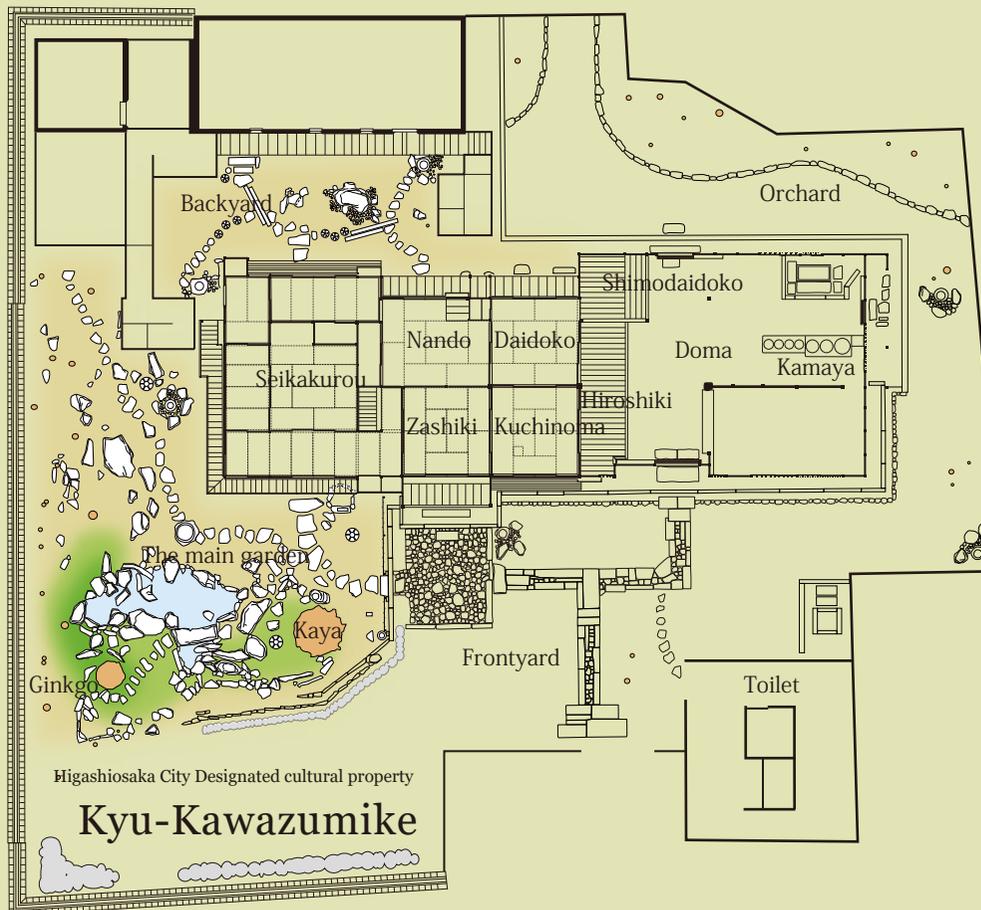
Seikakurou is a Sukiya-shoin-style (Japanese tea-ceremony house) building located on the west side of the main house. It measures 4 bays in length and 5 bays in width and the main room is an 8-tatami room.

Seikakurou is surrounded by a Saya-no-ma (tatami corridor) on the south and west sides, and there is a Tokono-ma alcove on the north side. The original building is said to have been built between 1648 and 1652 (the Keian era) by

Soga-tanbanokami Hisasuke to spend a quiet life after his retirement as the Osaka-nishi-machi-bugyo (governor). Seikakurou also became a literary salon for some famous writers such as Akinari Ueda, who wrote Ugetsu-monogatari. The current building was rebuilt in 1835 (the Tempou era 6).

The House

The main house is located in the middle of the property. There are guest rooms in the west called Seikakurou and a huge storehouse in the north. The main house has been rebuilt and extended many times, but keeps the style of the early Edo era. It measures 12 bays in length and 5.5 bays in width. The right side of the house has an earth floor and the left side has four living rooms. Only a few of the original timbers remain. Most timbers have been replaced for restoration based on research of the original building.



Higashiosaka City Designated cultural property

Kyu-Kawazumike

The Garden

The garden is in a style reserved for village headmen in the early Edo era. The main garden has a miniature artificial hill from the south to the west sides and it is in the Kare-sansui style (dry landscape garden constructed only with rock and sand) with a dried pond in the middle. There is a Kame-ishi (tortoise stone) facing the guest rooms, Seikakurou. Kaku means the crane. Both the crane and the tortoise are believed to be symbols of longevity and good luck. The garden also has a big dry waterfall in the west and a small dry waterfall and a legendary, sacred Chinese mountain called Houraisan in the south. The garden was made with the concept of eternal youth and life. There is a worship stone, Raihaiseki and a standing water basin, Tachi-chouzubachi in the west. Stepping stones, Tobi-ishi show the route around in the garden.



View the main garden



The main garden east



Kamaya



Room from the Doma



Kuchinoma from the front Zashiki

The Kaya tree

The Kaya tree is an evergreen coniferous tree and there is a big one in the east side of the garden. The Kaya tree can be male or female (dioecism) and the tree in the garden is female. The Kaya tree flowers in April or May and bears purple fruit (about 2-4 cm) in the autumn. The fruit is eaten or used as oil. The tree in the garden is approximately 5 meters around and it is estimated to be about 500 years old. It is called Kusaka no Kaya (Kusaka's official tree) and designated as a precious natural treasure of Higashiosaka city in 1976 (the Showa era 51).



Higashiosaka City Natural monument「Kaya Kusaka」