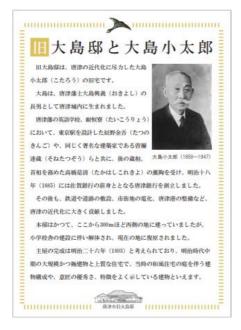
# The relation of The Former Oshima Residence and Kotaro Oshima



This building is the former residence of Kotaro Oshima, was a key figure in the industrialization of Karatsu at the turn of the 20th century.

Kotaro was born in Karatsu as an eldest son of Okiyoshi Oshima, the senior vassal of the Karatsu clan at the end of Meiji era.

He studied at Taikoryo, the first English school of the Karatsu clan. Also, he studied under the tutelage of \*Korekiyo Takahashi with his schoolmates, like Kingo Tatsuno and Tatsuzo Sone, were well-known as famous architects.

<sup>\*</sup>Korekiyo Takahashi...The 20th Prime Minister of Japan.

Thereafter, Kotaro established Karatsu Bank and took the office as its first president in 1885. In addition, he achieved some great works. For instance, he set up Industrial Railroad Company and Electric Company. He greatly contributed to modernization in Karatsu, and his long and broad career extended from the early Meiji Era to the early Showa Era.

This building was relocated from 300 meters away to this place in 2017. It's because a new school building was going to be built on the old property.



It's said that this main building was built around 1893. This building is known as a large-scale and totally quality house during the middle of the Meiji era. It shows the characteristics of traditional Japanese houses, like building composition with Japanese gardens and finely-detailed design.

## The biography of Kotaro Oshima



- 1859 Born in Karatsu as the eldest son of Okiyoshi Oshima, the senior vassal of the Karatsu clan.
- 1870 Studied under the tutelage of Korekiyo Takahashi in Taikoryo, the first English school of the Karatsu clan.
- Went to Tokyo with Takahashi to study because Taikoryo was closed.
- 1883 Became the head of the Oshima family after his father's retirement.
- 1885 Established Karatsu Bank with the backing of his father and his associates. Then Kotaro took office as its first president.

- 1885 Served as a prefectural council member for 5 years.
- 1896 Established Karatsu Industrial Railroad Company.
- 1897 Established Karatsu savings bank.
- 1899 The railroad had launched between Myoken to Kyuragi.
- 1909 Established Karatsu Electric Company.
- 1912 Relocated Karatsu bank to Honmachi.
- 1917 Established Karatsu electric and steel company.
- 1934 Served as the first head when Karatsu Chamber of Commerce was established.
- 1947 Passed away on December 17th at the age of 88.

#### The relation of the Oshima family and Souhen school



This relation started when

Tadatomo Ogasawara, the feudal
lord of Aichi prefecture, engaged
Souhen Yamada in 1655. Souhen

Yamada was one of the disciples of

\*Sen no soutan. Sen no soutan
recommended that Tadatomo
should engage Souhen, and that's
why Tadatomo decided to engage

him as his mentor of the tea ceremony.

Later, Sousyun, the fifth-generation of Souhen school, removed Karatsu in 1817. Because his master, named Nagamasa Ogasawara let moved his domain from Fukushima prefecture to Karatsu. In line with that, Souhen school rooted in Karatsu.

<sup>\*</sup>Sen no soutan...The grandson of Sen no rikyu.

When the tea ceremony was almost abolished due to the Meiji Restoration, Okiyoshi Oshima, former chamberlain of the Ogasawara family, also tea master of Souhen school, and Soumin Nakamura as a tea-server tried to help their school. They worked hard and supported Soujuni, the seventh-generation of Souhen school, but she had to move to Tokyo in 1880. She entrusted her mind to Okiyoshi and Soumin, thereafter, Soujuni gave the name of "Keijitsuan" to Okiyoshi as a token of thanks.

Later, Kotaro Oshima, the son of Okiyoshi, and Koreyoshi Takatori, the businessman in the Meiji era, tried to not only support Soumin to preserve their school but they also spread the teachings of Souhen school. Since then, Souhen school has been popular in Karatsu until today.

### Korekiyo Takahashi and Taikoryo



Nagakuni Ogasawara, the last landlord of the Karatsu clan, established Taikoryo in 1870. It was more advanced school than the other clans, because it adapted English as a curriculum not only sinology and medicine. Korekiyo Takahashi was the teacher who was invited as an

English teacher for this school. Although he was invited Taikoryo when he was at the age of 18, he was paid three-fold salary as the prefectural governor. It shows how high expectations of him from the clan were.

After finishing teaching in Taikoryo, he served as the 20th prime minister in Japan. In 1936, he passed away in the 2.26 incident, which was the coup of the rebel young men.

Taikoryo was in Daimyokouji before, but the original building was destroyed by arson at one point. It's said that the incident was caused because of the people who revolted against the landlord. And then, Taikoryo was relocated in the prefectural governor's house, because the landlord had to move to Tokyo.

It's only 15 months since Korekiyo Takahashi taught in Taikoryo. Nevertheless, there were many students, studied under his tutelage, who contributed to the industrialization of Japan in the Meiji era. For example, Kingo Tatsuno, the designer of Tokyo station, Tatsuzo Sone, Tameyuki Amano and Jujirou Kakeshita the famous architects in Japan.

#### Meitaro Takenouchi



There was a Meitaro Takenouchi's house from 1886 to 1922 here. He had lived here for 36 years.

Meitaro was born as the eldest son of Kou Takenouchi, served as a superintendent officer in the feudal in the Kouchi prefecture. (He is the older brother of Shigeru Yoshida, one of the presidents in Japan.)

Kou acquired the right of management of the Yoshinotani coal mine with Koreyoshi Takatori in 1885. Meitaro came to Karatsu next year, because he had taken over the management of the coal mine from his father. Then, Meitaro began the latest mine construction.

In 1909, Yoshinotani coal mine corporation was established in Myoken, Karatsu. Moreover, it had been establishing the name of one of the leading precision machinery companies. In addition, Meitaro put in the effort for establishment of a science and engineering department of Waseda University and Kouchi Technic High School.

Ten years later from the establishment of Yoshinotani coal mine corporation, Meitaro established Komatsu Iron Foundry as one of the facility of his copper mine. Besides that, he supported development of the first domestic car, the DAT, with Kenjiro Den and Rokurou Aoyama. The DAT is named after their initial letters, Den, Aoyama and Takenouchi.

#### Kingo Tatsuno~Schoolmate of Taikoryo~



Kingo Tatsuno was born in 1854, as a second son of Kuraemon Himeno who is a minor clansman of the Karatsu clan. Then, he was adopted by his uncle Souan Tatsuno, then he got "Tatsuno" as a last name.

He studied in Shidokan (the clan school) and Taikoryo (the English school) when he was young.

After Taikoryo closed, he went to Tokyo with Korekiyo Takahashi and took the entrance exam of Kogakuryo (used in the foreground of the University of Tokyo) in 1873. Unfortunately, he dropped the exam at that time because he couldn't reach the passing score. But the other schoolmates, for instance, Tatsuzo Sone and Masakane Aso passed it.

Then, Kingo had studied hard for four months and managed to pass the retry. When he entered the school, his grade was the lowest. But after he'd studied a lot, he could graduate at the top of his class six years later.

After graduating, he served as a professor of Kogakuryo, but he quit that job in just one year. However, he served in the same position because he was begged for it. Finally, he had served as a professor for 16 years. Thereafter, he quit the job and established the first occupation in Japan as a self-employed architect. He architected over 200 buildings during his lifetime.

It says that the main building of Bank of Japan is his masterpiece in his early days. Also, Tokyo station is most famous classic in his later-year works.