

Person



Suhara store

Naoji Takahashi

This building was built by Naoji Takahashi in 1912. Mr. Takahashi was a wealthy merchant from Echigo (Niigata Prefecture) who made his fortune through the market price of red beans. Many of Takahashi's warehouses have now been dismantled, but they are being used in Otaru Art Village, etc. Naoji Takahashi died in 1926.



Naoji Takahashi

Yaheiji and Sotokichi

Sotokichi was the fourth son of Jinjuro Sakai, who ran a sake brewery in Toyama Prefecture, but he was adopted by Yaheiji in 1919. Sotokichi inherited Ichimaru Suhara store in 1922. The name was changed to Suhara store Co., Ltd. in 1941, Suhara Supply Co., Ltd. in 1957, Suhara Co., Ltd. in 1974. In 1983, it was divided into Suhara Co., Ltd. and Suhara trading Co., Ltd. And he developed the company into a general wholesale trading company of building materials.



Yaheiji Suhara

Suhara clan

In Otaru, The Suhara family's business was so successful that it was called Suhara conglomerate. In 1882, Yaheiji Suhara heard a rumors about the herring that could be caught in Otaru and came to Otaru from Toyama Prefecture to open a pottery shop. In 1889, his brother-in-law Inokichi opened a Japanese and Western small shop.

In 1895, Yaheiji, his younger brother, Jutarō, Inokichi jointly operated a wholesale and retail business. Then Jutarō took the lead, they made great success at Suhara trading company, which imported products throughout Hokkaido, as well as Otaru Market and Suhara Foods.

After that, Eitarō, the eldest son of Inokichi developed the business into Hokuyo Mutual Bank and inherited it.



Jutarō Suhara

Sotokichi and the Suhara residence

In 1934, the new owner of this building was Sotokichi Suhara from Etsu (Toyama Prefecture). Sotokichi was very successful in the business of distributing hardware and glass used as building materials throughout Hokkaido. It is called the former Suhara residence because the land and building were transferred to Otaru City for free to the bereaved family of Sotokichi the year after his death (1985). The newspaper at that time reported that the Suhara residence was worth a total of 140 million yen.



Sotokichi Suhara

A very wealthy Otaru city merchant's Mansion



Former Suhara Residence

❖ Production: NPO Otaru Housing Revitalization Project
❖ Contact address: Representative Director Nobukazu Ishii
Address: 8-13 Aioicho, Otaru City 047-0028
TEL: 080-3156-8484
E-mail: ipi-ishii@par.odn.ne.jp



Homepage



Facebook



VR video of the Former
Suhara Residence

❖ Cooperation

Photos: Otaru Museum, Hiroko Suhara,
Nagisa Nishimura, Kimishi Kawashima

Drawing: Otaru City Park and Green Space Division

Styling model: Miki Usuki

Published on April 29, 2023

8-1 Shinonomecho, Otaru City
047-0026

Property

Building

The main building is a two-story wooden building, but the interior has three layers. Each connected by a staircase. According to the difference in height of the ground, the bottom of third and second-layer are also ground. It's one of the few valuable buildings in Otaru City.

Site area : 2,038.63m²
Garden area : 1,652.70m²



Stone wall

The stones in the stone wall are hexagonal and shaped like a turtle shell. It is without any gaps and requires advanced technology. It is a design that emphasizes authority and beauty.



Stone wall



Gatepost

Japanese style large hall (third-layer)



The ceiling of the large hall is raised one step higher. This is used in highly formal areas.

Western-style room (second-layer)



The piano of the late CARL ECKE of Berlin is still alive and well. Works by Man Ray, an American painter, sculptor and photographer, are casually displayed.



Japanese-style room (first layer)



It has a simple and sophisticated Sukiya style. On the transom, there are carvings of Mt. Fuji, hawk and eggplant. According to an Edo period proverb they are considered auspicious to see in one's first dream of the year.

Gatepost

The stonework of the gateposts combines various the quality of the stone with their size and shape. The black color stone is hard stone, others are soft stone (tuff). Usually one type of stone and the same size.

Garden

旧寿原邸の庭園も三層で造られ、建物の各部屋からそれぞれの庭園景観を楽しむことができます。