

Gakushuin University
Museum of History

Museum Letter

Special Edition

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East Building Annex: Past and Present



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GAKUSHUIN UNIVERSITY MEJIRO CAMPUS GUIDE

Introducing the Registered Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan on Gakushuin Mejiro Campus

Gakushuin was established in 1877 by the Peers' Club as an educational institution for the children of the court nobility. In 1884, the school became a government school under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Household Ministry. Thereafter, Gakushuin was relocated three times from its original site in Kanda Nishikicho to Toranomon, then to Yotsuya, before being relocated in 1908 to its present site in Mejiro.

After World War II, Gakushuin became a private school: The year was 1947 and this is considered as the birth of "New Gakushuin". Gakushuin University was established in 1949 as the core of New Gakushuin, and celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2009.

It has been more than 100 years since Gakushuin moved its campus to Mejiro. The campus reflects to a large extent the modernization of Japan, and the many cultural properties on the campus bear witness to this period in history. In fact, seven of the historical properties on campus were designated registered tangible cultural properties of Japan in 2009.

History and Highlights of Gakushuin Mejiro Campus

※The sites in bold are introduced in detail in this Museum Letter.

In the Edo period, the site of the Mejiro Campus was part of Takada Village. The **Chiarai Pond** and the **Michishirube Guideposts** are the remnants of that era.

The Mejiro Campus was designed by Kuru Masamichi, an engineer at the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The campus was designed around the **Main Gate**. The Education Area was located in the west, and the Residence Area including dormitories and the **Old Residence Office** (present Nogi Kan) were located in the east end of the campus. The **Old Library** (present North Building Annex/ Museum of History) was located in the centre of the Residence Area. The north side of Mejiro Street was also part of the campus, housing some facilities such as the riding ground and the stables.

Since some of the wooden school buildings were lost to fire following the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923, the **Old Science Building** (present South Building No. 1) and the **Old Junior High School Building** (present West Building No. 1), were both constructed from reinforced concrete. These buildings were regarded as significant in the Tokyo Reconstruction Plan after the earthquake, and thus the Bureau of Skilled Artisans of the Imperial Household Ministry was charged with their construction.

The campus plan of Gakushuin University after WWII was designed by architect Maekawa Kunio. The **University Library** is highly representative of the work of Maekawa.

About Registered Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan

Cultural properties can be environmental treasures which we wish to pass on to future generations or architectural treasures which embody the *Zeitgeist* of a particular era. To protect such cultural properties and to utilize as them as regional or national assets, there is a "Registration System for Cultural Properties", administered the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, where such properties are registered. In accordance with this system, Gakushuin University applied to register seven of the buildings on the Mejiro campus as tangible cultural properties of Japan. The buildings registered include the **Main Gate**, the **Nogi Kan (Old Residence Office)**, the **Stables**, the **North Building Annex (Old Library)**, the **East Building Annex (Old Imperial Family Dormitory)**, the **South Building No. 1 (Old Science Building)** and the **West Building No. 1 (Old Junior High School Building)**.

We hope that all visitors to Mejiro can find the time for a relaxing stroll around the grounds and to take in the fascinating history and wonderful nature which the campus has to offer.

Main Gate — ①



The Main Gate was built in 1908, when Gakushuin was relocated to its present site in Mejiro. The school name “Gakushuin” dates back to 1849, when Emperor Komei granted the school the imperial inscriptions (*chokugaku*) which read “Gakushuin” (written in *kanji* characters). Whereas many buildings on campus have been either demolished or remodelled over the years, the Main Gate has been preserved in its original state. This photograph was taken upon completion of the Main Gate. Today, the tall gatepost on the left bears a plaque with the inscription 学習院大学, “Gakushuin Daigaku” [Gakushuin University], which was a gift from the alumni in 1960. The inscription on the plaque was written by Abe Yoshishige, the first President of Gakushuin University. The Main Gate was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.

North Building Annex (Old Library) — ②



The North Building Annex was built as a library in 1909. It is the work of architect Kuru Masamichi, famous for designing the Concert Hall of Tokyo Music School (currently the old Concert Hall of Tokyo University of Arts) and the Imperial Library (currently the International Library of Children’s Literature). This library originally had two wings of stack rooms made of brick. However, one of the wings was separated when the Faculty of Letters building was constructed in 1979; the original building became L-shaped and was relocated to the present site. Today, it houses the University Museum of History. It was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.

Building Features

This is a wooden single-storey building with a gable roof (*kirizuma-zukuri*) with

clay *sangawara* tile roofing (*sangawara-buki*). It was designed by Kuru Masamichi and was completed in 1909. There is a skylight window in the main part of the building. Some of the windows still have *yugami garasu* (distorted glass) which was handmade during the Meiji period. The vent holes under the floor are furnished with an iron lattice decorated with cherry blossoms, the Gakushuin school emblem. The cherry blossom emblem is also found on corbels and hinges. In addition, there are waist-high partition walls with *tate-hameita-bari* (vertical clapped-wood lining), wooden fittings, board ceiling, window locks decorated with penguin and anchor motifs, among others, which bear testimony to the age and tradition of this building.



East Building Annex (Old Dormitory for Imperial Family) — ③



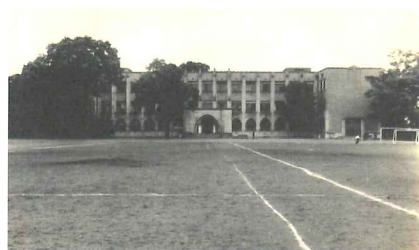
The East Building Annex was built as a dormitory for the Imperial family in 1913, when Gakushuin was still a boarding school. Among the members of the Imperial family who lived in this dormitory are Prince Yamashina Takehiko and Imperial Prince Chichibu Yasuhito. At the main entrance, there is a carriage porch. Under its roof, the cherry blossom motif of the school emblem is furnished as a decoration. It was paired with another cherry blossom emblem on the Chancellor’s official residence which was built opposite the East Building Annex. (The Chancellor’s official residence has since been relocated and reconstructed at the Museum Meiji-mura in Inuyama City, Aichi Prefecture.) The photograph shows Imperial Prince Chichibu Yasuhito going to school by carriage. The East Building Annex was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.



Building Features

This is a wooden two-storey building with a gable roof (*kirizuma-zukuri*) and a hipped roof (*yosemune-zukuri*) with clay *sangawara* tile roofing (*sangawara-buki*). It was designed by the Bureau of Skilled Artisans of the Imperial Household Ministry and completed in 1913. The roof covering the carriage porch was created at this height for the members of the Imperial family who used carriages to come to school. The Gakushuin school emblem with cherry blossom motif embellishes the covered roof and the supporting posts. The dormitory rooms were remodelled and converted into classrooms, which are now used by the University. Despite the remodelling, the layout of the house has not changed considerably, and the stairs, corridors and restroom have all retained their charm of bygone days. This building is of special interest since only a few dormitories which were built during the Meiji period and the Taisho period have been preserved.

West Building No. 1 (Old Junior High School Building) — ④



The Old Junior High School Building was built in 1930. After the establishment of the University, this construction became the main building of the Faculty of Letters and Politics, and the faculty’s offices were situated on the north side on the second and the third floors. With the main entrance (on the east side) in the middle, the building is built horizontally symmetrical, making an H shape. There were classrooms on the east, south and north sides of the building. The west side contained staircases at two locations, and the restrooms. Today, the rooms of the building are used as classrooms, but many fixtures – including the wooden bulletin board placed at the entrance hall, the waist-high partition walls with

the *tate-hameita-bari* (vertical clapped-wood lining) and stairs – still retain the appearance and the atmosphere of the old days. The West Building No.1 was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.

Building Features

This building is made of reinforced concrete and consists of three storeys above ground and two below (there was only one below when it was initially built). It was designed by the Bureau of Skilled Artisans of Imperial Household Ministry and completed in 1930. Gondo Yokichi, an engineer of the Bureau of Skilled Artisans, was responsible for the basic design. Gondo also designed the residence of Prince Asaka, which currently houses the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum. In addition to the Neo-Gothic style exterior, the building also incorporates Art Deco features such as the square windows of the second and third floors and the round windows at the stairways. In the English conversation classroom (currently Room 214), there are stained glass windows and a faux fireplace made of marble into which a stove can be installed. The windows have been renovated, but the faux fireplace still remains.

South Building No. 1 (Old Science Building) — ⑤



The building was originally for junior and senior high school science classes and was completed in 1927. Since it was originally designed for science classes, the building became the Research Annex of the Faculty of Science when the faculty was established at the University in 1949. The Neo-Gothic style is evident in the main entrance and in the first floor windows with their pointed arches, the long windows placed on the second and third floors, and the corner posts of the outer walls. The banisters and

window frames are also adorned with elegant designs. The photograph shows Emperor Showa attending the University graduation ceremony in 1928. The South Building No.1 was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009. The renovation began in 2010 and was completed in 2013, making the South Building No.1 disabled accessible. Today the building is used for regular university lectures.

Building Features

This building is made of reinforced concrete and consists of three storeys above ground and one below. It was designed by the Bureau of Skilled Artisans of Imperial Household Ministry and completed in 1927. The exterior of the building is in the Neo-Gothic style. The main building with an entrance porch is situated between two annex buildings making an H shape. The outer walls are covered with scratch tiles. The corner posts have buttresses, a buttress being an architectural structure built against a wall in a right angle to reinforce the wall, which is a feature of the Gothic architectural style. At the main stairways, three sets of three long-arched windows are fitted into the wall in tiers from the first floor to the third floor. The banisters and window frames are examples of Art Deco design.

Nogi Kan (Old Residence Office) — ⑥



The Old Residence Office, including its six dormitories, dining building and infirmary, was built when Gakushuin was relocated to Mejiro in 1908. Instead of living in the official residence of the Chancellor of Gakushuin, Nogi Maresuke, who was the 10th Chancellor, lived in the Old Residence Office under the same roof as the students. When the Old Residence Office was demolished in 1944, Chancellor Nogi’s room was preserved as “Nogi Kan” and moved to the present location. This building is currently used for students’ club activities. Nogi Kan was designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.

Building Features

This is a wooden single-storey building with a hipped roof (*yosemune-zukuri*) with

clay *sangawara* tile roofing (*sangawara-buki*). It was designed by Kuru Masamichi and completed in 1908. When it was built, the Old Residence Office was L-shaped and consisted of the Chancellor’s room, a conference room, an office room, a school store, a storage room and so on. The Japanese style interior features wooden floors, walls with *nageshi* (horizontal pieces of timber and pillars), and a ceiling with *saobuchi*, a batten nailed horizontally to a ceiling board. The floor has been changed to a *tatami* floor. The main entrance, the restroom and the sink were added to the northeast side of the building in 1978, and this entrance is used today as the main entrance.

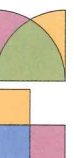
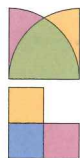
Stables — ⑦



In 1908, when Gakushuin was relocated to Mejiro, the stables were located on the other side of the Main Gate across Mejiro Street (currently the grounds of the Mejiro Primary School). The stables and the harness room were relocated to their current site in 1927. The stables were unusual due to their size and the fact that there were stalls on both sides of the passage. Previously the stables had 20 stalls. On the west side of the barn, a harness room was connected by a corridor. The Stables were designated a registered tangible cultural property of Japan in 2009.

Building Features

This is a single-storey, slate-roofed wooden building with a hipped roof (*yosemune-zukuri*). It was designed by Kuru Masamichi and completed in 1908. There are entrances on all four sides of the stables. There is a ventilator in the centre of the roof. It is said that the structure, whereby the stalls were located on the right and the left sides of the passage, was actually derived from the floor plan used by the military. At the Old Gakushuin, horsemanship was taught in the martial arts classes, which made it necessary to have enough horses to cater for an entire class. In all, there were 20 horses kept in 20 stalls, ten on each side of the passageway. Today the stables have only 14 stalls.



More Historical Buildings and Historical Edo Period Sites on Gakushuin Mejiro Campus

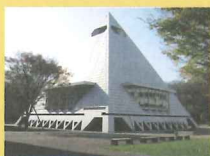
University Library — ⑧

The University Library was built in 1963. It was designed by Maekawa Associates, Architects & Engineers, best known for designing Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, a concert hall run by the City of Tokyo. The North Building No. 1, the South Building No.2, the Headquarters Building (demolished in 1991) and the Central Lecture Room (demolished in 2008) were also designed by Maekawa. Maekawa Kunio was one of Japan's foremost modern architects. The University Library is of great architectural importance in maintaining Maekawa's works for posterity. The lobby area is surrounded by three square-shaped wings (Reading Room Wing, Office Wing and Stack Room Wing), each side with a length of 14.4 m. This structure is supposedly based on the design of the North Building Annex (Old Library), which also had two wings.



Central Lecture Room (Pyramid School Building) — ⑨

The Central Lecture Room was designed by Maekawa Associates, Architects & Engineers and completed in 1960. Due to its shape this building was called "Pyramid School Building". For almost 50 years, it was a much loved part of the Gakushuin campus and it was with great regret that the Pyramid School Building was demolished in 2008 to make way for the construction of the Central Building. The building was 25 meters high (to the top of the pyramid), and the large, tiered lecture room held 700 people. Due to its structure, with the platform facing southwest, the summit was decentred to the northeast to maximize the acoustics.



Monument Commemorating Students' Departure to War — ⑩

This monument was erected in 1944 by the second year class of the Senior High School. This class had to graduate one year early because of the war. In order to bond before their departure for the battlefield, the students composed *Waka* poems with a common ending. The ending, "to bloom with the cherry blossoms of Mejirogaoka", was inscribed in the monument with the writings of Yamanashi Katsunoshin, the 17th Chancellor of Gakushuin. A monument inscribed with only the ending of a poem is rare in Japan.

Sakaki-dan (Sakaki Altar), Sakaki-dan Monument and Monument of Pebbles Collected at Borders — ⑪

Sakaki-dan was founded by Nogi Maresuke, the 10th Chancellor of Gakushuin, in commemoration of Emperor Meiji's visit to the school in 1909. On that visit, the Emperor planted a *sakaki*, which is an evergreen tree sacred to *Shinto*. *Sakaki-dan* is made of 147 pebbles which form a keyhole-shaped mound, which is reputedly a source of spiritual power, and the Emperor's *sakaki* tree is located at the top of *Sakaki-dan*. Eighty of these pebbles were collected at border areas of Japan at that time. Each pebble is engraved with a number between one and 80. The numbers correspond to the numbers engraved on the Monument of Pebbles Collected at Borders stating the locations where the pebbles were collected. *Sakaki-dan* has always been a spiritual place for Gakushuin students, and was visited on important days such as seasonal festivals, Coming of Age Day, graduation, athletic meets and departure to wars. *Sakaki-dan* was designated a registered ancient site by the Tokyo Metropolitan City in 1920.

Aoki Gihi Stone Monument — ⑫

This stone monument to commemorate Aoki Toranosuke Gihi was erected one year after his death in 1862. Aoki was a *hatamoto*, a direct vassal of the *shogun* in the Edo period. There are two poems engraved on the monument, one by Aoki Gihi himself and the other by Gihi's father, Aoki Kakuzan.

Stone Monument with Matsuo Basho's Poem and Site of Fujimi-jaya Rest House — ⑬

This area used to be called Fujimida (a hill to see the view of Mt. Fuji). In the Edo period, many poets and artists visited Fujimi-jaya Rest House and created their works there. Matsuo Basho, one of the most famous poets in the Edo period, wrote a poem about Mt. Fuji, and the stone monument was erected in his memory in 1810.

Monument Dedicated to the Spirits of Pigeons — ⑭

This monument was erected in 1938 by some alumni who were members of the Gakushuin Carrier Pigeons Club to pacify the spirits of 301 pigeons. The Carrier Pigeons Club was founded in 1931 when Gakushuin was given 20 pigeons and a French-made large mobile pigeon house by the Army. The pigeons were used for military communications from 1943. In 1945, the pigeon house together with 300 pigeons was burned down in an air raid. The Carrier Pigeon Club was abolished at the end of the war.

Chiarai Pond — ⑮

Before Gakushuin built its campus, this area was a farmland. This pond was originally a reservoir for irrigation in the Edo period. High school students in the Taisho period made up a story about the pond, in which one of the Ako Rōshi (lordless *samurai* of Ako domain) washed his bloody sword in this pond after a famous raid. The story was handed down among generations of Gakushuin students, and the pond is now called "Chiarai-no-ike" which literally means "the pond to wash blood".



Michishirube Guideposts — ⑯

This stone guidepost is inscribed on its east side "From here, Zoshigaya" and on its south side "To the right, Horinouchi" to give directions at the branching point on the road. There are two other guideposts from the Edo period on campus.

Monument in Memory of Nogi-gou — ⑰

Nogi-gou was an offspring of Su-gou, a horse given to General Nogi by General Stoessel of Russia at the surrender of Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War. The name Su-gou was based on the "su" sound at the beginning of the name "Stoessel". Since Nogi-gou was similar in appearance to Su-gou, it was given to Chancellor Nogi. Even after the death of Chancellor Nogi, Nogi-gou was kept at Gakushuin and used for horsemanship practice. The monument was erected by members of the *Ouyukai* alumni association of Gakushuin when Nogi-gou died in 1937 at the age of 27.



Granite Stone Water Basins of Fountain — ⑱

Maekawa Associates, Architects & Engineers designed a comprehensive campus plan, which consisted of the Central Lecture Room (Pyramid School Building), the North Building No.1, South Building No.2, the Headquarters Building (demolished in 1991), and the square with the fountain. A pair of the half-moon-shaped granite stones used as water basins was moved to its present location, in front of the University Museum of History, when the Central Lecture Room was demolished in 2008.

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