

めぐり
宿場

BOOK

日光街道

Sugito- juku

杉戸宿

Machiaruki
Pocketbook

English





Profile

Kaoru Kitamura

A native of Sugito and graduate of Waseda University School of Literature I, Kaoru Kitamura is a winner of the Naoki Prize, an award for literature, and has been recognized as an Honorary Citizen of Sugito. At university, he was active in writing reviews of mystery novels, and after graduation, became a high school Japanese language teacher. It was while he was teaching that he began his career as an author with the mystery novel *Sorotobu Uma* [Flying Horse]. In 2009, he won the 141st Naoki Prize for his novel *Sagi to Yuki* [Herons and Snow]. He received the Award for Distinguished Service to Saitama Prefecture Academic Culture, and was recognized as an Honorary Citizen of Sugito. Many Sugito residents can identify closely with his work as it frequently contains recollections of his childhood, together with scenes of the local area.

The Passage of Time

I was born and raised in Sugito. I went to Sugito Primary School, which was located where the Central Community Center is today, and I remember sitting on the floor with all the other students at the school watching black and white movies. Those were the days before television, and no one made a sound; not because we were extremely well mannered, but simply because we were so engrossed in the moving pictures. We didn't have many sweets to eat back then, and the first time I tried coffee-flavored milk, I couldn't believe how delicious it tasted. We were allowed to have lemonade or other soda drinks once each summer on only the hottest of days.

Today, there is no shortage of fascinating things to do and delicious food to enjoy, but in a sense, I feel this "abundance" is increasingly making us more disconnected from the pleasures in having these things available to us.

The *Sugito-juku Machiaruki Pocketbook*, however, shows us there is still much remaining that reminds us of a time long past. One of our primary school excursions for social studies was a visit to the *honjin*, where I

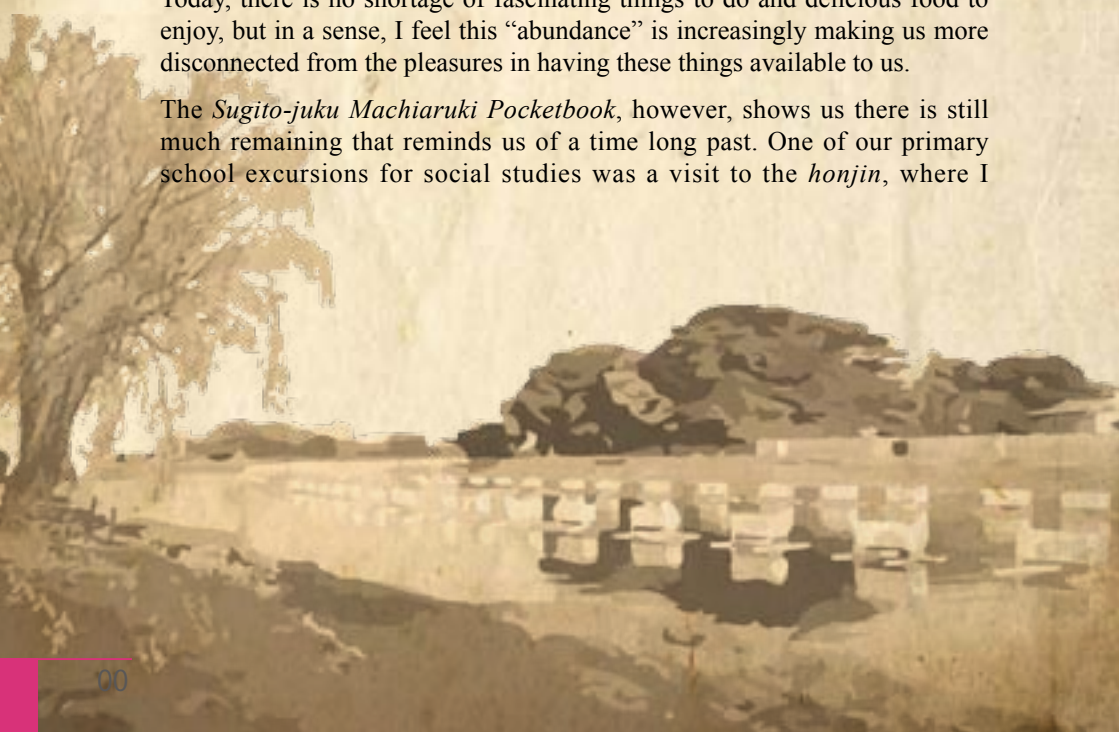
remember seeing a palanquin. I also recall being taken by my father—a Japanese language teacher—to see the stone tablet with a haiku written by the poet Basho.

The pocketbook also mentions the *Ou Ichiran Dochu Hizakurige* (Travels in Tohoku), a series of books that I didn't know existed. They were written at the end of the Edo Period.

The author, Jippensha Ikku, died in 1831, and in keeping with his comical novels, his death poem started with "OK, I'm going to die now," and contained a humorous play on words as his final farewell. He died before the end of the Edo Period, and someone who is no longer alive obviously is not able to write. As indicated in the Preface where Ikku is referred to as the "late Master", the series were actually written by a pupil who carried on his name. In this as well, I feel a sense of time passing. When I read about the Kugiya Inn, it certainly makes you wonder what our great-grandfathers got up to back then when the inn was in its heyday.

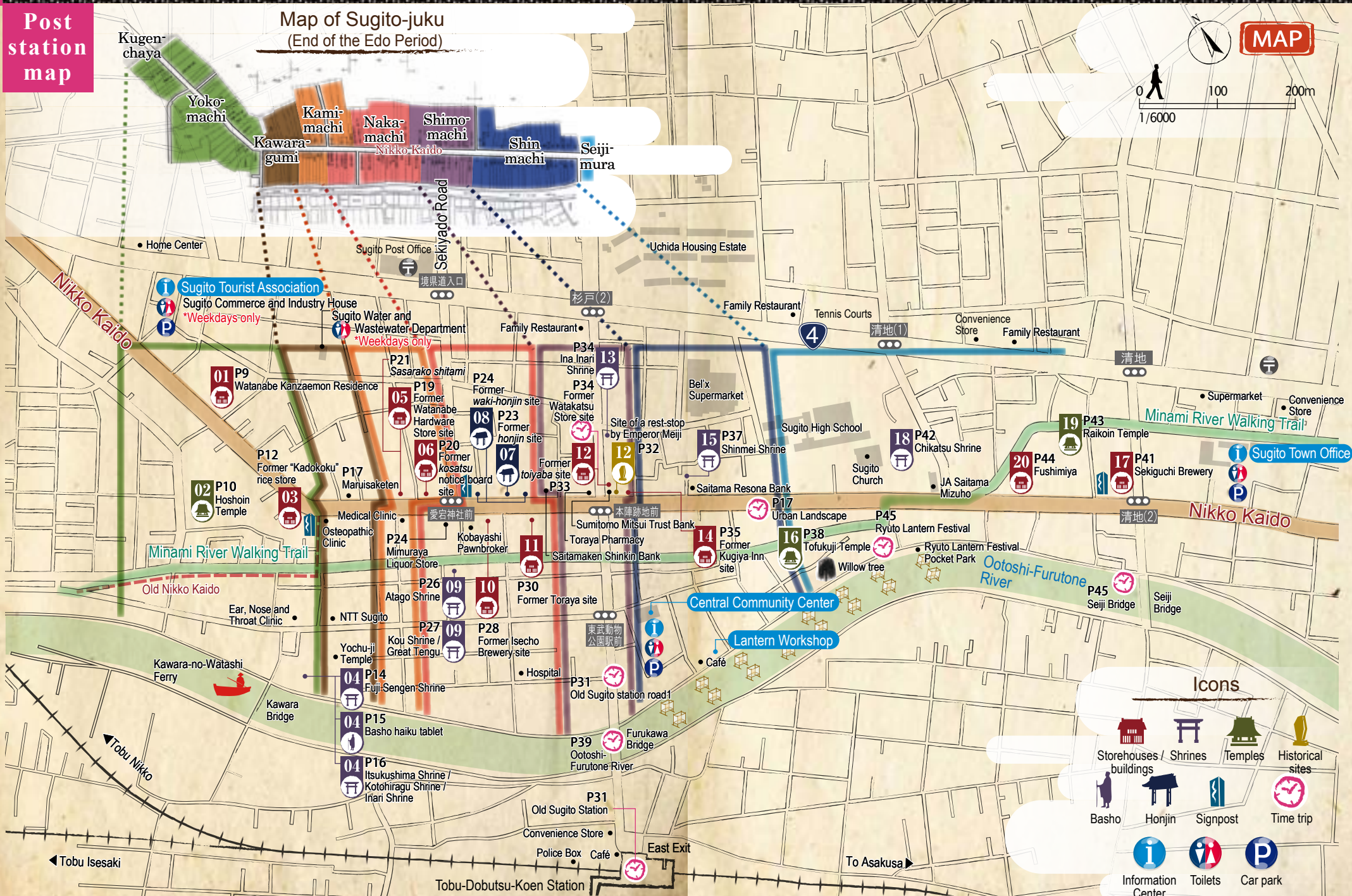
This pocketbook is an invaluable and fascinating reference to have when walking around taking in Sugito's wonderful depth of history.

Kaoru Kitamura



Post station map

Map of Sugito-juku (End of the Edo Period)



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Ukiyo-e by Hiroshige

Held by Saitama Prefectural Museum of
History and Folklore

The ukiyo-e works of Utagawa Hiroshige include all post stations along the Nikko Kaido. Among these is the print *Sugito*. This print features the Benten-ike Pond in the village of Seiji-mura at the eastern entrance to Sugito-juku.

The Benten-ike Pond also appears in a painting by Watanabe Kazan, a late-Edo Period painter and scholar in Rangaku (Dutch studies) who stayed at Sugito-juku in April 1830. For two such famous artists to want to feature Sugito and Benten-ike Pond in their work, the scenery and the emotion it evoked at that time must have indeed been striking.

* This pocketbook contains information on residences, stores, shrines and other buildings and facilities that are privately owned or operated. Property that is privately owned or operated is not open to the general public. Please be aware that without the express permission of the property owner or manager, you may only view the building or facility from a public road or thoroughfare.

What were post stations (*juku/shukuba*)?

Sugito-juku is one of the post stations established by the Tokugawa Shogunate along the Nikko Kaido in 1616 (early Edo Period). Sugito-juku was the fifth of the 21 post stations located between Nihonbashi (Edo; present-day Tokyo) and Nikko Toshogu Shrine (Shinto shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu; Tochigi Prefecture).

These post stations (*shukuba*) tend to conjure up an image of a place where travelers could rest overnight, but this wasn't their only function. Their most important role was to serve as a relay post to transport baggage carried from the previous station by foot or horse to the next station. Administrative offices called *toyaba* were set up at the stations to provide this service. Sugito-juku was required to have 25 porter and 25 horses permanently stationed there for transportation. At times when there was a shortage of

porters or horses, there was a system called *sukego* under which nearby villages were required to provide the necessary labor or horses.

The inns in these post stations were broken down into the three classifications of *honjin*, which were solely for leading government officials, *waki-honjin*, which supplemented the functions of the *honjin*, and *hatagoya*, which provided accommodation for the general public.

Probably with a view to the defense of Edo and to more effectively prevent an incursion by the enemy, the road leading to the entrance to these post stations was always curved. The threat along the Nikko Kaido was considered to be from the north, so plenty of curves can be seen in the road on the northern side of the stations.



Yoko-machi 横町

Kawara-gumi 河原組

Northern entrance —
Retaining the ambience
of old Edo

The prominent Watanabe Kanzaemon family has lived in Sugito for nine generations. After moving to Sugito-juku in 1722, the family accumulated considerable farmland with many tenant farmers, and from

the middle Edo Period, operated a pawn broking business, providing loans to residents of Sugito-juku and nearby villages.

MAP No.

01



Watanabe Kanzaemon Residence

An important Sugito residence

data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds and historical material are not open to the general public.

According to the 1896 registry of major landowners, the head of the Watanabe family was one of the 297 and 14 largest landowners within, respectively, the prefecture, and the town area.

One of the family's more important achievements was the establishment of the Sugito Bank in 1900.

The family also contributed extensively to education in Sugito, providing considerable financial support for establishing schools within Sugito, and donating land totaling about 18,000 square meters for building the Sugito School of Agriculture.

The fifth Kanzaemon served as the deputy administrator of Ward 6, which included Sugito-juku, and was later appointed head of the Sugito Fire Department. The sixth and seventh Kanzaemon served as Sugito mayor (1929, 1933), so over several generations, the Watanabe family has worked tirelessly toward the development and growth of Sugito.



◀ Expansive grounds and residence



◀ Orderly arranged front latticework



◀ Impressive kura-zukuri style building within the grounds



◀ Sugito Bank — Predecessor of the present-day Saitama Resona Bank

Yoko-machi



Hoshoin Temple

Bringing comfort and reassurance to the region over the centuries

Yoko-
machi



data ▶ Sugitosan Hoshoin Fudoji Temple

▶ 1-5-6 Sugito, Sugito-machi

▶ 0480-32-0342

Hoshoin was the foundation of life in Sugito-juku.

The temple had a range of other functions in addition to its normal Buddhist services, including determining family registration, operating a temple school, and providing accommodation in place of the *hatagoya* inns.

The temple is believed to have been founded in 1560 when Isshiki, lord of Satte Castle, enshrined the deity Anzan Fudo Myo-o to pray for safe childbirth and the health of the family's children.

In 1857 (end of the Edo Period), the number of Fudo Myo-o deities enshrined in the

temple increased to three with the transfer of the Fudo Myo-o of Narita-san and Sugaya-san.

The Dainichi Buddha is enshrined as the principal image in the temple complex, which was built in 1616 (early Edo Period). Within the temple grounds can be found the temple's name tablet (*hengaku*) with calligraphy written by Takeda Shinshi, a descendant of the famous feudal lord Takeda Shingen, a crest indicating the Ashikaga Shogun, and a carving of a lion watching over the main hall. The stone monument of Bato Kannon is said to be the largest of those along the Nikko Kaido.



Stone monument of Bato Kannon, which can often be seen along the Kaido, with a partial Buddhist sutra inscription



Valuable *hengaku* (temple's name tablet) with calligraphy written by Takeda Shinshi



Lion carving on the main hall. The ball held by the lion symbolizes the "source of life".



Thirteen Buddhas are enshrined in the temple.



Crest of the Ashikaga clan



Hoshoin during the Meiji Period. The photo conveys the tranquility of the temple on the side of the road in a time before the arrival of the motor vehicle.

Yoko-
machi



Former “Kadokoku” rice store / Kojima Sadaemon Residence

Elegant storehouse and traditional dwelling (*minka*) with an ambience of a past era.

data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds and historical material are not open to the general public.

Yoko-
machi

A curved road was a characteristic of the post stations, and the imposing *minka* standing on the side of this curve is the “Kadokoku”.

In the past, there were three other storehouses in the grounds in addition to the front storehouse (*sodegura*). Inside, the beauty and warmth of natural timber is highlighted by the magnificent wooden crossbeam and pillars.

The business was started by the second Kojima Sadaemon, and, sharing information with four stores located in Edo (Tokyo), it bought and sold rice according to market fluctuations. Records indicate that the business transported its rice on the nearby Furutone River.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



1) View of the stately residence from the road. 2) Inside the main building: Service door at the front entrance 3) Storage space and steps in their original condition 4) Ambience of a time long past 5) and 6) Magnificent log crossbeams in the storehouse 7) Soft light filtering in from the storehouse window 8) View of the road from the second floor lattice window 9) The Second Kojima Sadaemon's name written on the cover of the journal

Yoko-
machi



Fuji Sengen Shrine

Stage for the traditional *hatsuyama-mairi* festival

data ▶ 4-10 Sugito, Sugito-machi



The first thing visitors to the Fuji Sengen Shrine notice is the large hill, popularly referred to by locals as "Sengen-sama".



Stone monument enshrining the deities on top of the hill.

Followers of the Fujiko sect in Shinto express their faith by making a pilgrimage to climb the sacred mountain of Mt. Fuji, and here, followers visit this hill at Fuji Sengen Shrine as a representation of Mt. Fuji. It is said that in the past, the actual Mt. Fuji could be seen from any of these Mt. Fuji hills.

The *hatsuyama-mairi* festival is held every year on July 1 to coincide with the opening of Mt. Fuji's official climbing season. In this traditional festival, infants under one year old are taken to the top of the hill where they have a red mark placed on their forehead in the hope of strong and healthy growth.



Basho haiku tablet

A widespread passion for *haikai*

data ▶ 4-10 Sugito, Sugito-machi

At the foot of the hill at Fuji Sengen Shrine stands a large natural rock inscribed with a poem written by the famous poet Basho. The connection between Basho and Sugito-juku is unclear, but it highlights the popularity of *haikai* at that time.

* *Haikai* is a form of poetry incorporating humor, satire or puns.

*hakuken / sora de ame
furu / yanagi kana
fifteen meters above,
rain falls, through the
willow*

Haseo (Basho)



Find the
stone
tablet ♪





Itsukushima Shrine / Kotohiragu Shrine / Inari Shrine

Riverside temples and shrines watching over local residents

data ▶ 4-10 Sugito, Sugito-machi

This area was a cargo landing point for river traffic on the Furutone River during the Edo Period, and was a vibrant center with numerous teahouses and restaurants.

Itsukushima Shrine houses a statue of the goddess Benzaiten, fondly referred to as "Benten-sama". Benzaiten has many followers as the guardian deity for women, and also the patroness of music and the fine arts. Her messenger is a snake, so when a request to Benzaiten is fulfilled, followers make an offer of a ceramic snake or egg.

Kotohiragu Shrine is for praying for water safety, while Inari Shrine is for praying for business prosperity



Itsukushima Shrine



Inari Shrine



Kotohiragu Shrine

Don't miss the
exquisite carvings
on the door!



Kawara-gumi plus

■ Maruisaketen

Maruisaketen is a sake retailer and *tachi-nomi* (standing) bar in Kawara-cho. The Uchida family, the founders, moved to Sugito during the Edo Period to brew sake, and continued brewing until the late 1920s. Today, it has a contemporary façade, while the storehouse with its old-style charm stands to the rear of the store.



The old-style storehouse has been moved to the rear and is still in use.

data ▶ Maruisaketen *Tachi-nomi* CLUB HOUSE
▶ 1-4-8 Sugito, Sugito-machi ▶ 0480-32-0342 * Entry is permitted only to the store.

TIME TRIP



View along the road

The photo shows the view of the road from Shimo-machi to Shin-machi during the Showa Period.

During the summer months, businesses added to the leisurely atmosphere along the side of the road by placing wooden benches outside their shops to enjoy the cool evening breezes.



The area is near the present-day Sugito Branch of the Saitama Resona Bank

Kami-machi

上町

A bustling town center
with a *kosatsu*
(notice board)

MAP No.

05



Former Watanabe Hardware Store site

Minka retaining the old-world feel of a merchant house

data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds and historical material are not open to the general public.

The Watanabe Hardware Store was established two generations earlier by the branch family of the prominent Watanabe family of Yoko-machi (see P9). These days the family no longer operates the business, but the interior of the *minka* still retains its former character to give an idea of life in Japan of the past.

Once a month the local social group “Club Chaya” meets at the old store, and on these days, people are allowed to enter and view the inside of the *minka*. The dates for the meetings are not regular, so there is a need to check when the meeting is being held beforehand.

Kami-machi



Store front during the time when the business was operating, and wooden board walls that speak of the history of the building.



Relics from the old hardware business stored in a cabinet, and billboards from an past era.





Former *kosatsu* notice board site

Shogunate edicts posted where townspeople gather

Kami-machi



data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds and historical material are not open to the general public.

Kosatsu were tall notice boards containing wooden plates with messages informing the townspeople of edicts issued by the Shogunate. These notice boards were therefore located in areas

where they could be easily seen and read. They were roughly 4.5 meters wide, and houses chosen as sites for these notice boards were exempt from tax.



Minka built on the former notice board site



The castle town of Fukui

The photo shows the notice board located at the northern side of the Tsukumo Bridge in the castle town of Fukui along the Hokuriku Kaido at the end of the Edo Period and the Meiji Restoration. Fukui City Matsudaira Shungaku Memorial Collection, Fukui City History Museum



This was the kind of notice board erected in the heart of the post station.



Sugito notice board depicted in historical documents



Application for reconstruction of the notice board

Kami-machi

Kami-machi plus

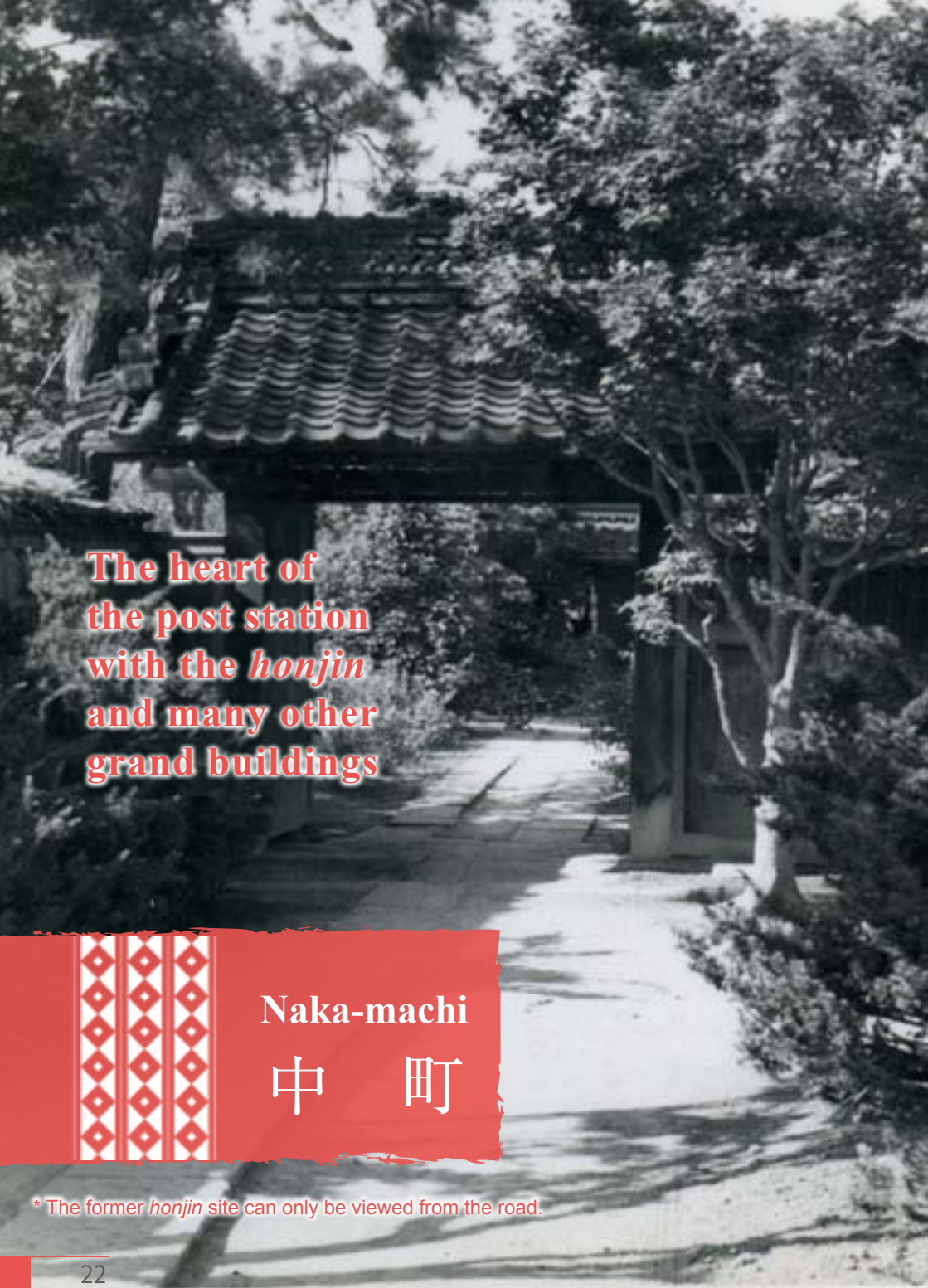
■ Sasarako shitami

The outer walls of the former Watanabe Hardware Store are made with a traditional style of weather board known as *sasarako shitami* (P18, 19). Wooden horizontal boards and vertical battens (called *sasarako*) are fitted together to form the cladding for the walls. When the vertical battens are removed, the horizontal boards can also be easily removed, so damage could be minimized during fires, and this was critical in Japan where wooden buildings and houses were



data

* This is a private residence, but the walls can be seen from the road.



The heart of
the post station
with the *honjin*
and many other
grand buildings

Naka-machi
中 町

* The former *honjin* site can only be viewed from the road.

MAP No.

07



Former *honjin* site / Nagase Seibei residence

The huge gate symbolizes the building's prestige and formality

data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds and historical material are not open to the general public.

The *honjin* was the most prestigious of the inns in the post station. It provided a resting place or accommodation for VIPs, including feudal lords, leading government officials, and priests (princes) from the imperial family. It was characterized by its grand entrance and huge gate.

There was no formal charge for staying at the *honjin*, but guests were expected to make a payment as a form of gratuity. For example, in 1836, payment for a rest stop was 200 *hiki* (equivalent to about ¥50,000), and 300 *hiki* (about ¥75,000) for overnight accommodation.

Naka-machi



Present-day view: Impressive gate and towering pine tree



Name plates with the names of guests staying at the *honjin*



Valuable historical material carefully stored



Former *waki-honjin* site

Due to their status, *waki-honjin* were built with an entrance.

In Sugito-juku, one *waki-honjin* was built on each of the north and south sides of the *honjin*. General travelers could stay at the *waki-honjin*, but there were also times when leading officials would stay, so its status as an inn was on a par with that of the *honjin*. To differentiate its status from that of the *hatagoya*, *waki-honjin* could be built with an entrance, or a front gate.



◀ Present-day site of the *waki-honjin* on the western side



Present-day site of the *waki-honjin* on the eastern side ▶

Naka-machi plus



The shop as it was around 1989.

■ Mimuraya Liquor Shop

Mimuraya Liquor Shop has been operating since the Edo Period.

Before being rebuilt, the shop had the appearance of a merchant family's *minka*, as can be seen in the photo. Today, the shop is a modern building.

data

▶ Mimuraya Liquor Shop
▶ 4-2-4 Sugito, Sugito-machi ▶ 0480-32-0064

Nanushi (Village chief)

The duties of the village chief (*nanushi*) were important and varied



Ink painting by Suzuki Kozaemon, a village chief who resided in Shimo-machi

The village chief was responsible for the administration of the village under the feudal lord.

His duties included passing on the orders of the local lord to the farmers, apportioning taxes, and resolving disputes. Issues and problems affecting the village were primarily handled by the village chief.

In addition, in Sugito-juku there were also a *toshiyori* (village elder) who assisted the village chief, and a *hyakushodai* (in a sense, an auditor), who monitored the administration of the village by the village chief and *kumigashira* (deputy chiefs).

In Sugito-juku, a village chief was appointed for each village (*machi*) and sec-

tion (*kumi*).

Apparently, the village chief also functioned as the head of the administrative office (*toiya*) (see P33).

Sugito-juku was not just a post station, but as a town, it also functioned as the administrative office of the magistrate or governor under the direct control of the Shogunate.



Atago Shrine

Shrine watching over the wellbeing of Sugito-juku

data ▶ 4-4 Sugito, Sugito-machi



Giant ginkgo tree several hundred years old to the side of the front shrine (*haiden*)

Atago Shrine is one of the guardian shrines of Sugito-juku. Sugito has endured major fires in the past, and Atago Shrine enshrines deities that provide protection against fires.

Atago Shrine is said to date back to 1705 (middle Edo Period), and legend has it that during the flood of that year, a statue of the deity Atago drifted down and came to rest at the base of the ginkgo tree at Katori Shrine. This statue was enshrined together with the existing deity, and the shrine be-

came the Atago Katori Shrine. Then, at the beginning of the Meiji Period, the name was changed to Atago Shrine.

It is surmised that the giant ginkgo tree in the grounds of the shrine is the same ginkgo tree where the statue came to rest, as mentioned earlier. If the tree was referred to as a giant ginkgo more than three hundred years ago, then naturally the age of the tree would be significantly greater than 300 years.



Kou Shrine / Great Tengu

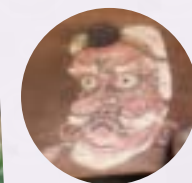
The history of the shrine entered in the historical records of the shrine pavilions dates back to the 14th century.

data ▶ 4-4 Sugito, Sugito-machi



Kou Shrine: Deity with three faces and six arms

From the small hill within the grounds of the Atago Shrine, Kou Shrine watches over the region. According to shrine records, in 1376 samurai from Kanto traveling upstream on the Furutone River were confronted by a fierce windswell, and landed their boat in this area and enshrined the guardian deity. In 1598, there was a merger with Ontake-san and the Great Tengu deity was enshrined, and in 1685, this merged with the Inari Shrine.



Great Tengu: Shrine records are stored in the shrine pavilions.



Next to the Kou Shrine is the Inari Shrine

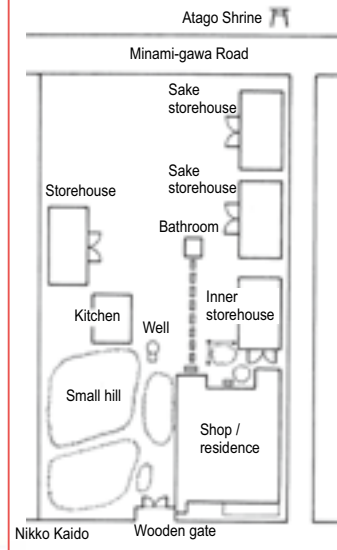


Former Isecho Brewery site / Iseya Chobei Residence

Until recently, conveying the feel of an Edo brewery

data

- ▶ Kobayashi Pawnbroker
- ▶ 4-3-11 Sugito, Sugito-machi ▶ 0480-33-3000



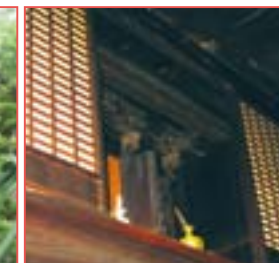
House and storehouse sited on narrow and deep grounds typical of the post stations.
(Around the late 1940s)



Signboard and tools from the era of sake brewing



Passage from the unfloored access area (*doma*) of the shop to the lush green garden



Household altar with the width of a six-tatami room



Low latticework fence (*komayose*) used to prevent horses and porters from gaining access.



White wall of the storehouse, and stately and imposing swinging doors.

Naka-machi

Naka-machi



The Kobayashi Pawnbroker shop on the road to Atago Shrine used to be the Isecho Brewery, built in the latter part of the Edo Period. At the front was a *komayose* lattice fence for tying horses. Unfortunately, the building had to be demolished following the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Iseya well provided crystal clear water

of a very high quality, and the family not only used it for their own brewery, but also supplied the water to other breweries in the region.

The brewery closed around 1890, after which the building became the Sugito Post Office, and later, Kobayashi Pawnbroker.

* The site of the former Isecho Brewery, which unfortunately had to be demolished due to damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake.



Toraya Herbal Doctor site / Uchiyama Shubun Residence

Highly respected doctor and man of learning in the post station.

data

* This is a private residence, and the grounds are not open to the general public.

Toraya Zenzo (Uchiyama Shubun) was one of the herbal doctors practicing in Sugito-juku. His successors also served the medical needs of the area as general practitioners until the early Showa Period. A couple of splendid pine trees stand in the old site. The “Toraya” shop name was also used for the pharmacy.

Zenzo wrote *haiku*, and the historical *haiku* records in the *Tashoan Haidan-shi* mention that Zenzo was an extremely proficient

doctor, and “...children would be cured of their tantrums merely by passing through the front gate of Toraya.”

He was also close friends with the Iwatsuki feudal retainer, educator and Confucian scholar Kodama Nanka, and following a major fire in Sugito-juku in 1809, Nanka paid a condolence visit to Sugito the next day.

Naka-
machi



The station road in 1955.
The shop at the end of the road is the Toraya Pharmacy.

Photo: Provided by Takahashi Photographic Studio

Today, two splendid pine trees stand in the former Toraya site.



TIME TRIP



Old Sugito station road

In 1899 Tobu Railways extended the rail line to this area, and built Sugito Station. In the following year, a road between Sugito-machi and the station — “Teishaba-dori Road” — and bridges were built.

Naka-
machi

Sakura trees were planted on both sides of the road, and the cherry blossoms forming a tunnel over the road were indeed spectacular. The trees were cut down during the Second World War, but the beauty of the trees in bloom are still talked about by those fortunate enough to have seen them.



Opening of Sugito Station

Sugito Station is the forerunner of the present-day Tobu Dobutsu-Koen Station. At that time, stations were established at Kita-Senju, Nishiarai, Soka, Koshigaya, Kasukabe, Sugito, and Kuki.



Shimo-machi 下町

A key area of Sugito-juku and location of the *toyaba* administrative office

MAP No.

12

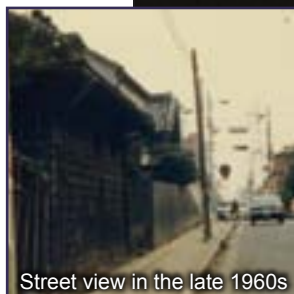


Site of a rest-stop by Emperor Meiji

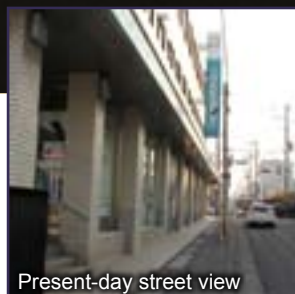
A stone monument inscribed with “Site of a rest-stop by Emperor Meiji” can be seen at the former *toyaba* site. In 1876, this was the site of the prefectural ward office, and during an imperial tour to the Tohoku region, the Emperor made a rest-stop here.

data

- ▶ 2-13-12 Sugito, Sugito-machi
- ▶ In front of the Sugito Branch of the Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank



Street view in the late 1960s



Present-day street view



The monument was moved and now stands in front of the bank.

MAP No.

12



Former *toyaba* site

Fulfilling the vital function of arranging horses and porters, and accommodation



Rotating porters and horses at the *toyaba*
(Rotating Porters and Horses at Fujieda-juku — Utagawa Hiroshige)

The *toyaba* was where the transport of travelers' luggage and their accommodation was coordinated.

Among the major positions at the *toyaba* were the *toiya* (responsible for organizing and supervising porters and horses), *toshiyori* (assisting the *toiya*), *chozuke* (responsible for keeping financial records and other business matters), and *umasashi* (responsible for grooming and care of the horses and giving transport instructions). Advance notice documents were delivered

to the *toyaba* when feudal lords, leading government officials, priests of the imperial family, and other VIPs were to pass through.

Retainers who entered the post station in advance of their masters would discuss accommodation arrangements with the *honjin* official and representative of the *hatagoya* association at the *toyaba*. The *toiya* was also responsible for coordinating the porters and horses needed to transport the luggage.



Former Watakatsu Store site

The Watakatsu Store on the former *toyaba* site was a retail and wholesale store selling oil and sugar, and was run by the prominent Watanabe family.



Retro signboards and the store at that time

Photo: Provided by Takahashi Photographic Studio

Shimo-machi

MAP No.

13



Ina Inari Shrine

“Toiyaba Inari” to the rear of the *toyaba* worshipped by working women

data ▶ 2-13 Sugito, Sugito-machi

Situated to the rear of the former Sugito-juku *toyaba* site, the Ina Inari Shrine is called the “Toiyaba Inari”, and has become deeply rooted in the life of the region. The names of 22 women who worked in Shimo-machi are engraved on the shrine *waniguchi* (flat metal bell) in the main shrine (*honden*). This was a popular deity in the heart of the post station.



Main shrine for worshipping the Inari deity



Waniguchi with the engraved names

MAP No.

14

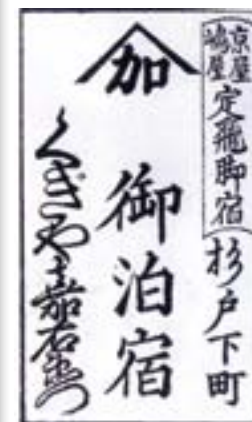


Fomer *Hatagoya* / Kugiya Inn

Hatagoya where Jippensha Ikku is said to have stayed.



Kugiya Inn described in *Ou Ichiran Dochu Hizakurige* (Travels in Tohoku).



Kugiya Inn is also mentioned in *Shokoku Dochu Akindo Kagami* (Traveler's Guidebook)

The Edo Period novels *Ou Ichiran Dochu Hizakurige* written by Jippensha Ikku convey the character of Sugito-juku's *hatagoya* to the present day. *Hizakurige* is a series of novels describing the adventures of the two protagonists—Yajirobei and Kitahachi—as they travel around Japan by foot, and were extremely popular among

Edo townspeople. Sugito's Kugiya Inn and Kawachiya Inn described in the novels really existed, and also considering Jippensha Ikku's descriptions were highly detailed, it is thought that he actually spent some time in Sugito-juku.

Shimo-machi

Shin-machi 新 町

Township formed
by a shift from
Kami-Sugito that
added a new facet



MAP No.

15



Shinmei Shrine

Shinmei, the guardian deity of Shin-machi, Sugito-juku

data ▶ 2-12-26 Sugito, Sugito-machi



List of the family names of the many donors



Mikoshi (portable shrine) storehouse. Offering prayers for protection from plagues



Three shrines are in the grounds (Hakusan Daigongen, Tenmangu, and Inari Shrine)

Shin-machi

Shinmei Shrine is the guardian shrine of Shin-machi, Sugito-juku, and is known as “Shinmei-sama”. In the shrine grounds there is a storehouse for the *mikoshi*, and a summer festival attracting large crowds is held in July every year.



Tofukuji Temple

Established around the same time as Sugito-juku



Present-day temple gate



View of the temple that evokes a feeling of a past era



Jizo statues with soft, smiling expressions

Shin-machi



- ▶ Katorisan Tofukuji Temple
- ▶ 1-9-3 Seiji, Sugito-machi

Tofukuji Temple is located in Shin-machi, and the road leading to the temple formed the boundary between Sugito-juku and Seiji-mura.

According to folklore, the temple was originally located in Sugito's western district of Kami-Sugito, and was rebuilt twice after being destroyed by fire. It is said to have been moved to its present location in 1615 (beginning of the Edo Period).

Sugito became one of the centers of the

Freedom and People's Rights Movement (*Jiyu Minken Undo*) during the 1870s and 1880s, and successful and well-attended meetings among the movement were held at Tofukuji Temple.

With the introduction of the municipal system in 1889, the town office was set up in Tofukuji Temple.

TIME TRIP

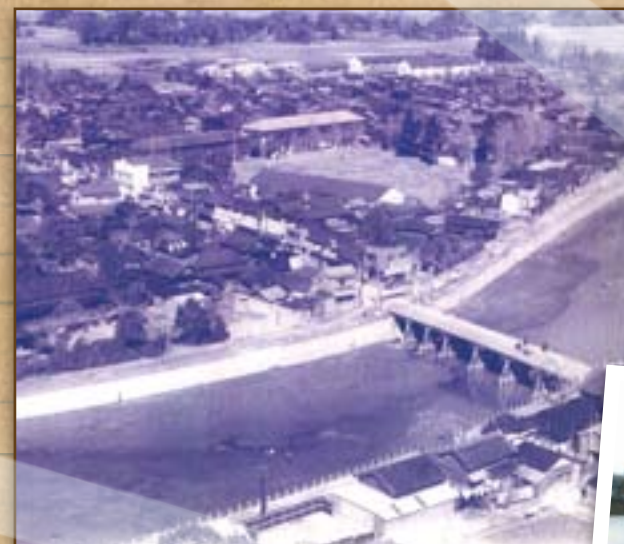


Photo: Provided by Yondaime Takahashi-ya



Ootoshi-Furutone River

The Ootoshi-Furutone River separates Sugito-machi from its neighboring town of Miyashiro-machi.

The "Ootoshi" part of the river's name has the meaning of discharging agricultural runoff.



Present-day upstream view from the Furukawa Bridge

This was the main stream of the Tone River until the early Edo Period. The river has flooded repeatedly since ancient times, often bringing about a change in the river's course and causing extensive damage to the basin area.



Bus on the Furukawa Bridge

Around 1956. A bus on the wooden Furukawa Bridge heading toward the station.



Photo: Provided by Masayuki Tanuma

Seiji-mura 清地村

Where “pure” is
part of the town’s
name

data

- ▶ Sekiguchi Brewery
- ▶ 2-1-16 Seiji, Sugito-machi
- ▶ 0480-32-0005
- * Entry is permitted only to the store.



MAP No.

17



Toshimaya / Sekiguchi Shikiemon Residence

A long-established and popular store



1) Old-time atmosphere of the storage shed, still standing after the Great East Japan Earthquake 2) The eaves of the shed are supported by a large logs. 3) Roof tile inscribed with the Toshimaya business crest “kanaju” 4) Main sake brand “Hosen”. 5) Signboard for the “Sugito-juku” sake brand.

The stately *minka* on the side of the road brings to mind an era long past. This is Toshimaya, and today its trading name is the Sekiguchi Brewery.

The business was established in 1822 (late Edo Period), and is currently run by the 14th generation of the family. The well-established business has been popular among local residents since its foundation.

The reason the founder chose this area to set up the business is said to be the blessings of the Furutone River, and, as the *kanji* characters of the village name indicates,

the land was clean and pure. During an imperial tour to the Tohoku region, Emperor Meiji drank at the family’s well.

The brewery’s sake brand has long been “Hosen”, and today it also offers brands closely linked to Sugito, including “Sugito-juku”, whose label features the ukiyo-e of the post station, “Seiji-mura”, and “Nikko Kaido Sugito Shichifukujin” (meaning the Seven Gods of Fortune at Sugito).

Seiji-mura



Chikatsu Shrine

Numerous guardian deities

data ▶ 1-1-29 Seiji, Sugito-machi



Chikatsu Shrine is the guardian shrine of Seiji-mura. The shrine was damaged by fire in 2001, and when it was rebuilt in 2007, the shrine grove was cleaned up to give the grounds a clean and refreshing feel.



Unusual komainu (guardian lion-dog) with its head turned to one side.

There are many shrines within the grounds including Inari Shrine, Tenshin Shrine, Kanayama Shrine, Itsukushima Shrine, Sengen Shrine, and Mitsumine Shrine. There are also many stone shrines and monuments, and among these is the “Hanatsuka” monument engraved with a haiku that was quite popular in Sugito-juku.



Main shrine with its exquisite carvings before being destroyed by fire.



Raikoin Temple

Temple dating back to the Kamakura Period (1185–1333)



Entering through the gate into a sacred area



Main hall enshrining the principal deity described in the shrine's historical records



Thirteen Buddhas showing the way

data ▶ Kakosan Raikoin Temple

▶ 1-6-16 Seiji, Sugito-machi

▶ 0480-32-1339

A leading temple of Seiji-mura, Raikoin Temple has an extensive history.

Historical records indicate that the principal deity is the work of Unkei, and was worshipped as the guardian Buddha of the Fujiwara clan of Oshu (present-day Tohoku region). A legend about this temple is that in 1691, a mother from the village suffering from an eye disease became blind, and her child came to the temple every day for 21 days praying for the mother's full

recovery. On the night of the last day of the vow, the child had a dream in which the principal deity appeared, and replaced the mother's eyes with white balls. The next morning, the mother was cured and she fully regained her eyesight. From this, Raikoin became known as a temple for those seeking treatment for eye diseases.



Fushimiya / Fushimiya Kyugoro Residence

Seiji merchant family of 19 generations in which the Kyugoro name continued for 15 generations



Present-day store



Firm-fitting timber joinery in the storehouse



Kayoi tokkuri (sake bottles brought by customers) recall the era when sake was sold by measure.

data

- ▶ Fushimiya Co., Ltd.
- ▶ 1-6-28 Seiji, Sugito-machi
- ▶ 0480-32-0009

Storehouse tours are available.

* Contact the store owner for a storehouse tour.



The store has been connected with brewers since foundation.



Fushimiya is a merchant house founded by Fushimiya Kyugoro, and is currently a liquor retailer. According to the owner, the storehouse was built more than 150 years ago, and is still being use for storage.

TIME TRIP



Ryuto Lantern Festival



Ryuto-e — Origin of the Ryuto Lantern Festival
Photo: Provided by Bunkaisha Printing Company

data

Furutone River Ryuto Lantern Festival

- ▶ Held early August
- ▶ Sugito Tourist Association
- ▶ 1-10-21 Sugito, Sugito-machi
- ▶ 0480-32-3719

Seiji Bridge around 1956. A shipping agency operated during the Edo Period.

Photo: Provided by Masayuki Tanuma



Spectacular fireworks and elegant lanterns



Enchanting beauty of lanterns floating in the evening twilight

Formation of Sugito-juku

Initially, Sugito-juku consisted of only Kami-machi, Naka-machi, and Shimo-machi. Later, Shin-machi and Kawara-gumi were formed, followed by Yoko-machi and Kugen-chaya to complete the post station.

According to the *Nikko-kaido-chu Shuku-Son Daigai-cho* (General register of stations and villages along the Nikko Kaido):

- ▶ Length of the post station road ... 1.8 km
- ▶ Road width 9.1 m
- ▶ Number of houses 365
- ▶ Population 1,663
- ▶ *Toiyaba* 1
- ▶ *Honjin* 1
- ▶ *Waki-honjin* 2
- ▶ *Hatagoya* 46

A characteristic of the structure of the post station is that house lots along the road were deep with a narrow frontage. The reason for this was that post station duties were imposed according to the house lot frontage. In Sugito-juku, frontage was set at about 12.7 m in 1645.

Nikko Kaido and Onari Road

Sugito-juku timeline

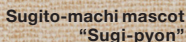
Year	Sugito	Year	Japan	Year	World
1616	Post station established at Sugito Kami-machi, Naka-machi and Shimo-machi formed	1603	Edo shogunate formed by Tokugawa Ieyasu	1616	Formation of the Qing Dynasty
1625	Shin-machi (northern side) formed	1615	Buke Shohatto (series of edicts by the Shogunate specifying a code of conduct for and responsibilities of samurai).		
1627	Kawara-gumi formed			1642	Puritan Rebellion, England
1633	Shin-machi (southern side) formed	1635	Summer Siege of Osaka		
		1637	Shimabara Rebellion		
1647	New road built to Onari Road			1688	Glorious Revolution, England
1658	Yoko-machi formed	1657	Great Fire of Meireki		
1600s					
		1702	Ako raid (revenge of the 47 ronin)	1707	Acts of Union forming Great Britain
		1716	Kyoho Reforms		
		1732	Great Famine of Kyoho		
1646	Number of <i>nanushi</i> (village chiefs) was reduced from ten to four	1787	Kansei Reforms	1776	United States Declaration of Independence
1700s					
		1853	Arrival of Perry at Uraga		
		1860	Sakuradamon Incident	1861	American Civil War
		1867	Transfer of power back to the Emperor		
1872	Abolition of the post station system			1870	Franco-Prussian War
1800s					

Nikko Kaido was one of the Five Routes established by the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Five Routes connected Edo with the outer regions, and all originated from Nihonbashi. Nikko Kaido extended to Nikko, and comprised 21 post stations, including Senju (present-day Adachi-ku), Soka, Koshigaya, Kasukabe (present-day Kasukabe City), Sugito, and Satte. Originally, Nikko was well known as a

mountain for Kanto Shugendo, and later, the tomb of Tokugawa Ieyasu was built at Nikko Toshogu. This shrine receives many visitors every year. Nikko Kaido was a shared route with the Oshu Kaido, used by Tohoku feudal lords in their trip to Edo, from Edo to Utsunomiya.







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