

●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

Daimyo Estates



▲ Map of the entire Togoshi Estate of the Kumamoto Domain (Eisei Bunko Museum Collection)

The *Daimyo* Estates of Edo

After a major fire in 1657, the shogunate government granted three forms of estates to the *daimyo* lords: *kami-yashiki* great estates, *naka-yashiki* middle estates, and *shimo-yashiki* lower estates. The great estate served as the *daimyo* family's personal residence, and was located closest to Edo Castle. The middle estate was a residence for retired lords or successors to the *daimyo*, and served as an auxiliary estate to the great estate. Lower estates were villas located further from Edo Castle than both great estates and middle estates. Some lower estates located near the sea shore or riverside also served as loading points to bring ashore and store goods. In addition to these aforementioned estates granted to *daimyo* by the shogunate government, the *daimyo* lords could also purchase land themselves and build *kakae-yashiki* personal estates.

Shinagawa was not far from Edo Castle and was the site of many lower-estates and personal estates. Some of the estates include the Shimazu *daimyo* family's estate of the Satsuma Domain (primarily present-day Kagoshima Prefecture) and the Yamauchi *daimyo*'s

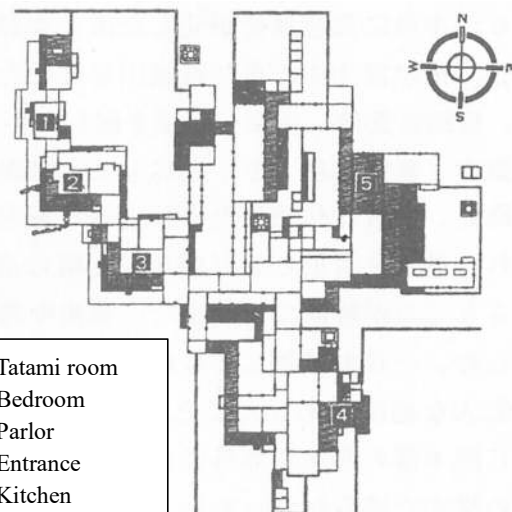
estate of the Tosa Domain (primarily present-day Kochi Prefecture) in Oi Village; the Hitotsubashi *daimyo*'s estate and the Sanada *daimyo*'s estate of the Matsushiro Domain (currently, the area around Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture) in Kami-osaki Village, the Date *daimyo*'s estate of the Sendai Domain (present-day Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture) in Shimo-osaki Village, and the Hosokawa *daimyo*'s estate of the Uto domain (currently, the area around Uto City, Kumamoto Prefecture) in Kita-shinagawa. Among these many estates, the lower estate and personal estate of the Hosokawa family were particularly large. The estate was originally a gift from a sub-clan of the Hosokawa family, but the Hosokawa family traded its own estate to take full ownership of the land. At its peak, the estate was 330,000 square meters.

A Drawing of the Togoshi Estate of the Kumamoto Domain

The illustration on the first page is a drawing of the entire Togoshi estate, which was of a massive scale, from 1671. The estate was divided into an east and west portion by a north-south horse run that went through the middle of the estate. The eastern garden focused on providing beautiful views to people in the buildings located in the northeastern portion of the estate, and small hills and a pond in the southwest corner of the eastern portion. Today, Togoshi Park (Yutaka-cho 2-1, Shinagawa City, Tokyo) is a portion of the original Togoshi estate.

The western portion of the garden and estate was over twice the size of the eastern portion. It contained a pond modeled after Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, located in Shiga Prefecture, in its center, to the south a hill modeled after Mt. Fuji, the tallest mountain in Japan spreading across Shizuoka and of Yamanashi Prefectures, and on the eastern end a hill modeled after Mt. Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture. The western estate had footpaths and places to rest, making it a wonderful place to walk. The Suizen-ji Park in Kumamoto Prefecture was designed according to the same principles.

There are no other historical materials regarding the western portion of the estate. Its finer details are unknown, such as how the Hosokawa family came to



▲ Building layout of the eastern garden of the Togoshi Estate
acquire the land.

The Epilogue of the Togoshi Estate

The Togoshi Estate was lost to fire in 1678, and a portion of the land was returned to the shogunate government in 1700 to be granted to another family. The Hosokawa family, however, still managed the land until 1758. The land was incrementally handed over to the other family, until it finally left the Hosokawa family completely in 1806.

Today, a portion of the former Togoshi Estate is a part of the Togoshi Park, and serving as an oasis for the people.



▲ The Togoshi Estate in 1846



▲ Togoshi Park today