

# Former Site of Ochaya-goten Palace



Even after the Ochaya-goten Palace was burned down, the area was called “Goten-yama” or “Goten-ato” and was treated specially as a tax-free area measuring 45 ken east to west and 27 ken north to south.

Hirakata-shuku depicted in Tokaido Road Version of the Map of the Five Highways (property of Tokyo National Museum)

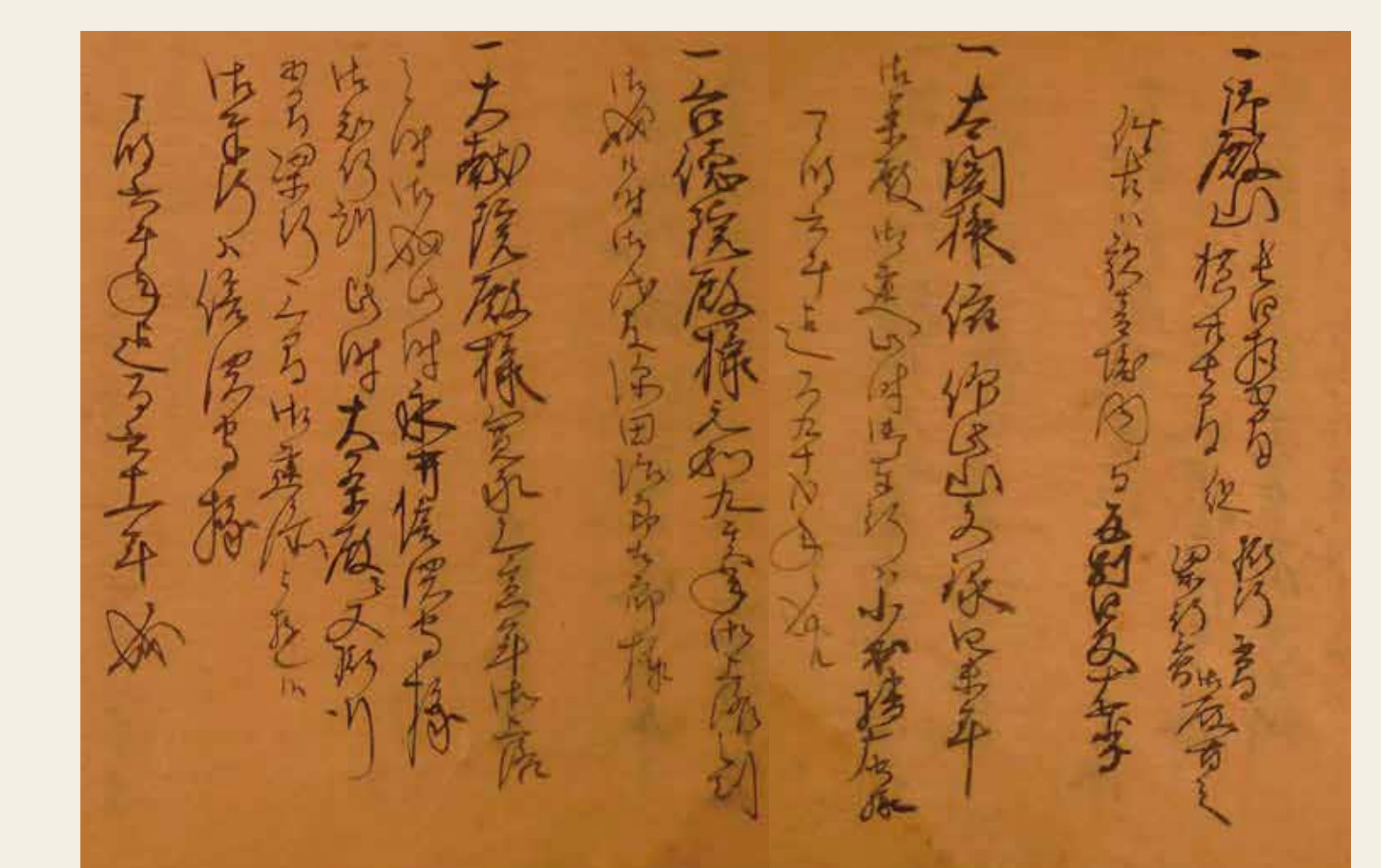


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In 1595, Ochaya-goten Palace was constructed under the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in this area, overlooking the Yodogawa River and the road to Kyoto, the main transportation arteries connecting Kyoto and Osaka. Records remaining in Mitsuyamura confirm that the palace was erected here under the order of Hideyoshi. According to legend, Hideyoshi had Otogozen, a daughter of his vassal Honda Naizennokami Masayasu, lord of Hirakata Castle, live here.

Hideyoshi, who had his bases in Fushimi of Kyoto and Osaka, frequently traveled between the two areas. He presumably stopped off in Hirakata, which is halfway between the two. It is said that when the levee of the Yodogawa River was repaired in 1596, he looked at the work performed in Hirakata in high spirits from Otsuka on the opposite bank.

In and after the Edo period, Ochaya-goten Palace served as an official facility for the shogunate. Records show that the second shogun Tokugawa Hidetada and the third shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu stayed at the facility in 1623 and 1626, respectively. To welcome Iemitsu, a new palace with 5 ken (1 ken = approx. 1.8 m) in width and 3 ken in depth was constructed next to Hideyoshi’s palace.



Okuda Clan Historical Records, Property of the Board of Education, Hirakata City

A record remaining in Mitsuyamura shows the kanji characters of “taiko,” referring to Hideyoshi.

Not used after that, Hideyoshi’s palace was demolished in 1654 due to deterioration, while the new palace was used as storage for materials used for the demolition. On July 1, 1679, however, a fire broke out in Hirakata-shuku [post town] and burned down the the new palace. After that, the facility was not restored.

English guide

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Directory of Noted Places in Kawachi, published just before the palace was burned down, includes an illustration of three buildings with cypress bark roofs.