

Baba family “Dosyoya”

The most successful and wealthy sea merchant family from Iwase.

The Baba family was a successful trading ship owner, shipping agency of Kitamae-bune (Cargo ship that traveled between Toyama to Hokkaido, Osaka) from late Edo era (19 th century). The store name, “Dosyoya”, is taken from Dosyoya village, which is where the family lived before they moved to Iwase.

The Baba family business was successful because the seventh generation head of the family, Kyube, made effort to increase Kitamae-Bune trade in early 19 th century. As a result, this family gained great prosperity.

In the middle of the Meiji era, the eighth generation head of the family, Dokyu, switched the main business from Kitamae-Bune to the steamship. In 1903, the family established “Baba Limited Partnership Company” and became a modern shipping agent. The family contributed to the industrial development of Toyama by establishing a bank and investing in other fields such as railway companies.

This family is called head of the “Iwase Gotaike” (5 distinguished families in Iwase) and is one of the most famous Kitamae-bune owners in Japan.

Baba Haru

Contributed to the development of education in Toyama

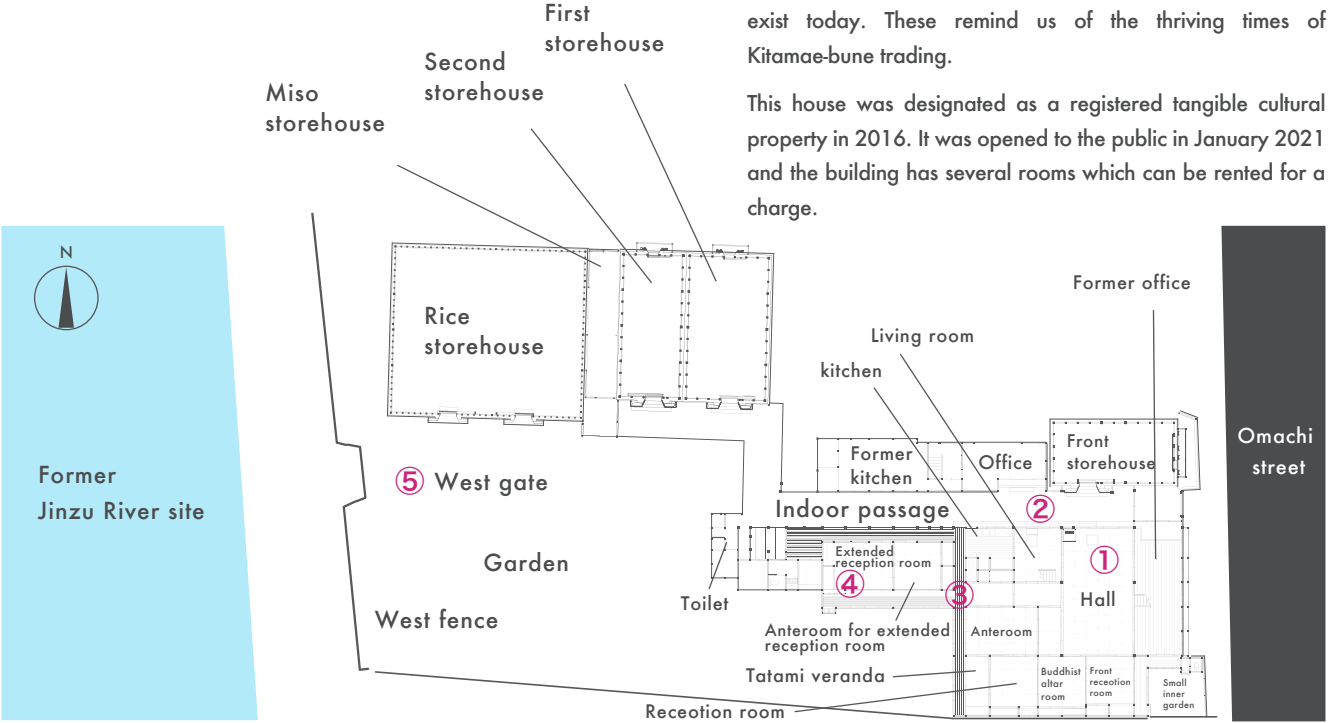
Baba Haru was born to the kozawa family, which is an old family in Asahi-machi. She married the ninth generation head of the Baba family, Dokyu, when she was 15 years old. She became the head of the Baba family when she was only 33 years old due to her husband dying at the young age of 39 in 1919. She protected the household while managing the business and predecessors’ footsteps, she made an active contribution to society.

One of her notable social contributions was to donate funds to establish an old system high school, the first of its kind in Toyama. The amount of the donation was 1.6 million yen (which is approximately 1 or 2 billion yen in today’s money). Besides this, she donated books to the school. These books were a collection that once belonged to Yakumo Koizumi (Lafcadio Hearn). Nowadays, these books are still studied as the “Hearn Book Collection” at Toyama University



Baba Haru (1886-1971)

The high school was built in Hasumachi, Toyama City in 1924. Nowadays, the ruins are used as the Baba memorial park. A total of 3,300 students graduated from the school before it closed in 1950. The school produced many talented people in various fields.



Port-side view from the main building 2nd floor.

This house was rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1873, using elements of the old house. It is one of the largest houses in Higashiwase-machi district.

There are three storehouses, which all have three floors. These storehouses are the Maegura (Front storehouse), Ichibangura (First storehouse) and Nibangura (Second storehouse). A huge rice storehouse as well as a gate and fence on the west side still exist today. These remind us of the thriving times of Kitamae-bune trading.

This house was designated as a registered tangible cultural property in 2016. It was opened to the public in January 2021 and the building has several rooms which can be rented for a charge.



① Oi (Hall) and Mise (Former Office)

This large hall (approximately 60 m²) was restored in the Edo era style with the magnificent beams. The Mise (Former Office) in left side was restored in Western style in the Meiji era.



② Torimiwa (Indoor passage)

The Toriniwa(Indoor passage) is 30m long and 2.7m wide. The passage is bright with light coming in from the skylight. The depth of this space is truly impressive.



③ Garden view from the veranda

Visitors can enjoy the view from the Zashiki (Reception room) and the Shinzashiki (Extended reception room), which are connected by a long L-shaped veranda.



④ Shinzashiki (Extended reception room)

This room was extended in 1930. This room’s interior illustrates the trends of those days with it’s exquisite wood fittings and modern decorated basin area.



⑤ West gate and West fence

The west side gate and fence, located at the back of the house, used to face the Jinzu river up to the early Showa era. This gate and fence are elegantly styled as a gateway to the sea.