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Kyū-Furukawa Teien 旧古河庭園

Kyū-Furukawa garden in Tokyo's Kita ward presents its most delightful beauty in autumn when the roses are blooming and the Japanese maples, together with the Japanese wax trees, show off their colorful foliage.

History

The area where Kyū-Furukawa garden was built, was very famous for the gardeners who lived there during the Edo period. They maintained the gardens of the Edo residences, and also grew and shaped new plants that would be used. Even today you can find some of the gardeners selling azaleas in the neighborhood.

During the Meiji period, Mutsu Munemitsu's residence was built here. When his second son Junkichi was adopted by Furukawa Ichibee, the land moved into the possession of the Furukawa family.

In 1917, the third president of the Furukawa Empire and son of Ichibee, Furukawa Toranosuke, directed the building of the western-style residence and the gardens.

By 1926, he and his wife left, moving to Ushigome-Ichigayafunagawara machi, which would be between Iidabashi and Ichigaya stations today.

During WWII the residence was used by the army, and following the war, by Japanese and Western forces to meet and discuss the future of the country. In 1956, after it became the property of the City of Tokyo, the garden opened as a public park. Recognized as a designated cultural asset in 1982, it was titled as a designated scenic spot in 2006.

Kyū-Furukawa Teien

旧古河庭園

Kyū means former

Former Furukawa Garden

Mutsu Munemitsu

陸奥 宗光

Foreign minister of Japan

1844-1897

Furukawa Ichibee

古河 市兵衛

"Copper King" of Japan

1832-1903

Furukawa Junkichi

古河 潤吉

1870-1905

Furukawa Toranosuke

古河 虎之助

1887-1940