



Yōkōkan, Garden of Matsudaira

Hoei 3-chome, Fukui City

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood, its elegant earthen walls separate the present day outside from the remnants of the Edo Period therein. Views of fall leaves in autumn, gleaming snows in winter, and more allow visitors to glimpse into the leisure life of the garden's master, the lord of Fukui.



Yōkōkan Garden (Nationally Designated Place of Scenic Beauty)



Yōkōkan

Once the detached villa of Fukui's ruling Matsudaira clan, this garden and tea house were renamed Yōkōkan by the 16th Matsudaira lord, Shungaku, following the opening of the Meiji Period. Its elegant mansion and calm pond lie at the center of its walking paths, and its importance as a representative piece of mid-Edo Period architecture led to its reconstruction in 1984 (it was destroyed during air raids in 1945).



Yōkōkan in winter



Fukui City History Museum's reconstructed Tonerimon^①

The pond, once used by its master for pleasure boating, is surrounded by man-made hills, coves, and other masterpieces of landscape design, and its beauty changes with the seasons.

Located nearby is the Fukui City History Museum as well as a reconstruction of the Tonerimon (gate) that once stood at the castle's outer moat.

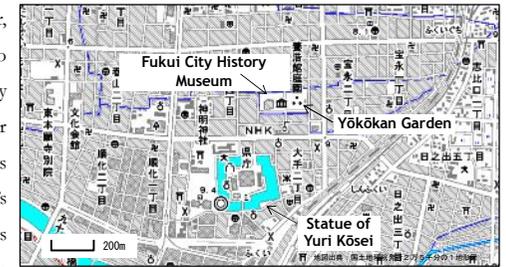


Statue of Hashimoto Sanai (Sanai-cho, Fukui City)



Statue of Yuri Kōsei (left) in front of Fukui Castle Ruins (Ote 2-chome)

Praised as a wise and benevolent ruler, Shungaku employed such samurai as Hashimoto Sanai and Yuri Kōsei, upon whom he closely relied. Sanai was executed at the age of 26 for his writings (namely Ansei no Taigoku), but his works are still an important part of children's education today. Kōsei's fame derives from his drafting of the Gokashōseimon, and was influential in his time.



Photo^① courtesy of Fukui City