

Kawarada House: City-Designated Historic Site

The Kawarada family were hereditary retainers of the Ashina family since before it arrived in the Akita domain in 1603. After the Ashina family line died out in 1653, the Kawarada became retainers of the North Satake clan, which ruled Kakunodate from the 1650s until the feudal domain system was abolished in 1871.

The Kawarada family moved to their current location during the Meiji era (1868–1912), but the house was constructed in a style common in the early Edo period (1603–1867). Among the features that showcase this older style are the formal tatami rooms, which are built in the Edo *shoin-zukuri* style of residential architecture. Beyond the buildings is a dry landscape garden and storehouse.

Over the years, the Kawarada family has been involved in various projects that have benefited the community, including building the first power station in the region. Their house was the first in the area with electricity. The family was also host to various notable visitors including the beloved poet and author of children's books Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933).

Note: As of fall 2019, the Kawarada house closed for renovations; to reopen in 2021.