

Site of Konoe Mansion

[HIGASHIJIN]

Traces of Kyoto's long history are sometimes found in unlikely places, including on the campus of Doshisha University. The grounds of this prestigious educational institution include several places of historical interest, including a stone monument that marks the site of the former Konoe family residence.

The Konoe, who are descended from a twelfth-century court official, were among the most prominent aristocratic families in Japan until the abolition of the peerage system after World War II. They held the right to serve as regents and advisors to the court, and several Konoe daughters married emperors.

Their family mansion was built on this site northwest of the Imperial Palace in the sixteenth century. No trace of the structure remains today, but the weeping cherry trees in the nearby Kyoto Gyoen National Garden were transplanted from the Konoe family's gardens, and draw a significant number of visitors during their blooming season in early spring.