

Morikawa Residence

The former residence of the Morikawa family stands on reclaimed land that was once a salt field during the Edo period (1603–1867). The house was built in 1913 by Morikawa Hachiro, a successful salt merchant. He served as mayor of Takehara for 12 years, from 1924 to 1936.

The structure was originally designed for salt farm operations during the Taisho era (1912–1926). The residence consisted of eight buildings, which included the main house, a detached house, a retirement house, and a tea house. The main house was rebuilt as a townhouse (*machiya*) after being relocated from Fukuyama in Hiroshima Prefecture. The architectural style dates from the late Edo period and reflects the family's prominence and wealth.

Displays in the entrance include historical black-and-white photographs of the salt-making process and tools that were used in the salt flats during the peak of operations. The photographs provide insights into salt production using the channeling method known as *irihama enden*.

The expansive home features spacious tatami mat rooms and a large courtyard garden with a variety of flowers and trees, which can be enjoyed in all seasons. The elegant tea house in the garden is said to have been designed by Fujian, a tea master who followed the style of tea master and tea garden designer Kobori Enshu (1579–1647).

The Morikawa residence is designated an Important City Heritage Site.