

ABOUT THE BUILDINGS



Main house

The floor of the main building is raised to allow for air circulation. This prevents moisture damage to the structure during the humid summer months.



Study room

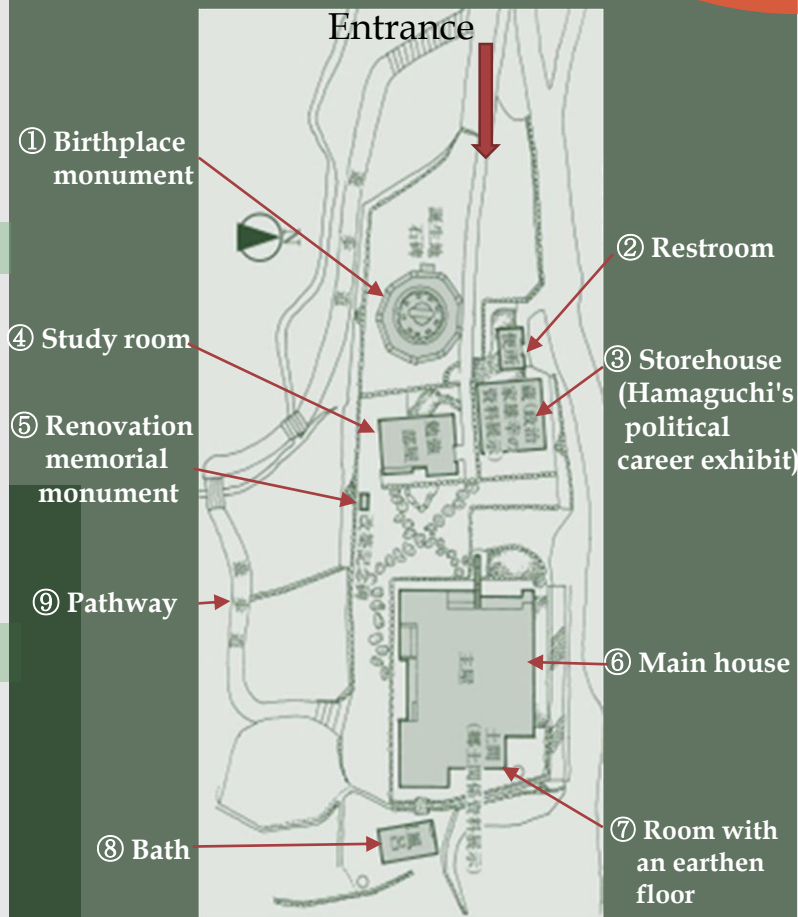
Hamaguchi's study room was described as "windowless and cave-like" in his biography. It is said he decorated it with images of heroes from the Chinese historical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.



Storehouse

Hamaguchi often played in this storehouse as a child. The old maple tree in front of it is a living witness of Hamaguchi's childhood. Perhaps he enjoyed climbing it back then.

PROPERTY LAYOUT



INFORMATION

Address: 4377 Godaisan, Kochi City 781-8125

Closed: Every Wednesday and the New Year's holiday (12/27-1/3)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Entrance fee: Free

CONTACT US

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HAMAGUCHI OSACHI'S BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

This museum is a restoration of the childhood home of Hamaguchi Osachi, the 27th prime minister of Japan. Thanks to donations from the local community, the home was renovated and designated as a cultural property by Kochi City in 1994.



Source: Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures
(<https://www.ndl.go.jp/portrait/>)

WHO WAS HAMAGUCHI OSACHI?

Hamaguchi Osachi (1870-1931) was a politician from Kochi City who served as the prime minister of Japan from 1929-1930.

His resemblance to a lion led him to be nicknamed the **"Lion Prime Minister"**!

He was born in this house on April 1st, 1870 as the third son of a low-ranking samurai family.

As a child, he spent much of his time reading books at home and playing alone in the surrounding woods and mountains. Growing up in this environment led him to become a quiet and reserved young man.

He diligently walked a total of 16 km every day to attend junior high school in town. Hamaguchi was an excellent student, and went on to graduate third in his class from the Faculty of Law of Tokyo Imperial University (now known as the University of Tokyo).

He climbed the political ladder and became prime minister in 1929, when Japan was reeling from the global impact of the Great Depression.

Hamaguchi attempted to boost the economy by lifting the gold embargo, and cooperated with foreign nations by ratifying the London Naval Treaty. He was also the first Japanese prime minister to directly address his people by radio.



"CHERISHED AMBITION AS A MAN"

In November 1930, he was shot by a right-wing extremist at Tokyo Station. Although he survived the initial assassination attempt, his physical condition gradually worsened as his wounds became infected. He had no choice but to resign as prime minister, and he passed away in August 1931.

However, his remark that to die in such a way was his **"cherished ambition as a man"** would live on in the memories of the Japanese people and solidify his image as a prime minister willing to die for his country.