

## National Registered Tangible Cultural Property Saiya Shuzoten (Saiya Sake Brewery)

2<sup>nd</sup> of September 10<sup>th</sup> year of Heisei era (1998), Registered as the National Registered Tangible Cultural Property

Ishiwaki Street, where the Saiya Shuzoten is located, is the center of the town of Ishiwaki. During the Edo period, it was an important commercial center alongside Kameda, the castle town of the Iwaki clan of the Kameda domain with 20,000 koku (unit for rice during the Edo period), and prospered as the port town of Ishiwaki Minato, a port of call for Kitamaebune (merchant ship). On this street, the brewing industry has been flourished by utilizing the subsoil water from 140m high Shinzan mountain behind it for a long time. According to the “Honjomachi Gyomeiroku (a book that records the types of business and address of merchants and craftsmen during the Edo period)” during the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Taisho era (1924), five of the breweries in the town were located next to this street, forming a brewing district for miso and soy sauce as well as sake brewing. Saiya Shuzoten was founded in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902) as a sake brewing merchant house, and the company name “Saiya” is derived from the name of the founder, Yataro Saito.

The residents, stores and warehouses are from the time of its foundation, with the shop facing the street with roof for the first floor of the building stretching out. It’s a characteristic structure of the Ishiwaki Street merchant houses, but with a unique design, including a Western-style design on the second floor. The exterior of the house, which surrounds the garden to the east of the stores, is designed in a Japanese style and contrasts favorably with the stores.

The sake brewery site is on a slope at the foot of Shinzan mountain, with a height difference of 6m. In addition to the west, middle, east and bottle warehouses, which are built in earthen warehouse style, the kamaba factory complex, which has a high, vast space with truss-structured shed frames are built in a staircase pattern on this slope. The brewing process begins at the rice mill on the highest point, utilizing the underground water springing up from below for preparation and the brewing and storage processes proceed along the slope. The office and stores are in front of it and the bottling factory is located across Ishiwaki Street. The construction of this brewery factory is known as an unusual structure, even in Akita Prefecture, which is famous for its sake.

The Saiya Shuzoten is a merchant building built in the Meiji era (1868-1912), when the town of Ishiwaki prospered through trade with Kitamaebune (merchant ship) and tells breweries that shows development of the brewing industry in the region. It is a valuable cultural asset that tells the history of Ishiwaki Street.

Structure and form, construction date

<b>Residents and stores</b>	<b>Wooden two-story building, tile roof (some parts iron plate roof), around 35<sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)</b>
<b>Gallery (former rice granary)</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)
<b>Pickle warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)
<b>Bottle warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1892)
<b>Book collection warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse two-story building, tile roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)
<b>Office</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, iron plate roof, early Showa era
<b>West warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, early Showa era
<b>Middle warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)
<b>East warehouse</b>	Earthen warehouse single-story building, tile roof, early Showa era
<b>Boiler area</b>	Wooden single-story building, tile roof, early Showa era
<b>Gate</b>	Wooden Munemon, iron plate roof, around 35 <sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1902)

This explanation board is was founded by the East Japan Railway Culture Foundation for local cultural activities.