

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Special Exhibition

Neighborhoods Directly Beneath the Center of Explosion: Saiku-machi and Sarugaku-cho



September 16, 2022
– February 13, 2023

East Building 1F
Special Exhibition Room

Free Admission



View of Shima Hospital from a street in Saiku-machi
Around 1943 Saiku-machi
Courtesy of Kazuhide Shima



Brick exposed to the atomic bombing (Shima Hospital)
Donated by Department of Geography, School of Science, Hiroshima University

In front of a hospital on the street, there is an explanation board of the hypocenter. It says that the atomic bomb exploded 600 meters above Shima Hospital, present-day Shima Internal Medicine. At the time of the atomic bombing, the Atomic Bomb Dome, located 160 meters northwest of the hospital, was known as the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. The iron frame of the dome and parts of the wall that remain to this day are a testament to the devastation of the atomic bombing. Shima Hospital and the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall were respectively located in the areas called Saiku-machi and Sarugaku-cho.

This Special Exhibition focuses on these two neighborhoods located right at the hypocenter. Using photos and items left from that time as well as testimonies from the residents, we try to present the townscapes before the atomic bombing, the destruction caused by the bombing, and the steps toward recovery.

Contents

Townscapes before the Atomic Bombing/Townscapes Completely Changed/Steps Toward Recovery



In front of Matsumoto Electric Appliance Store
February 29, 1924 Sarugaku-cho
Courtesy of Sumiko Hosono



In the guest room of the director's home (Kurokawa Hospital)
Around 1940 Saiku-machi
Courtesy of Keiko Sugahara



Children playing in the laundry drying area (Iseya Shop)
August 29, 1944 Sarugaku-cho
Courtesy of Eiichi Ise



Commemorate service at Shima Hospital
Courtesy of Kazuhide Shima



Ashes of the victims
October 1-10, 1945
120 m from the hypocenter Sarugaku-cho
Photo by Shigeo Hayashi



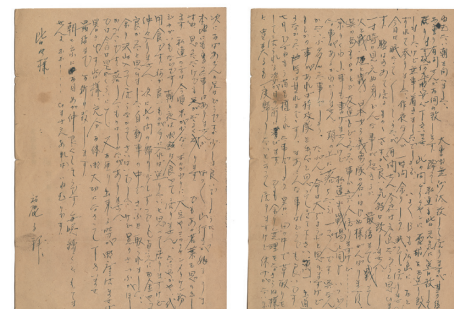
Wristwatch (Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall)
160 m from the hypocenter Sarugaku-cho
Donated by Kokiku Ikeda



Medicine bottle with finger marks (Kurokawa Hospital)
50 m from the Hypocenter Saiku-machi
Donated by Keiko Sugahara



Houses that were built one after another
Around 1946-1947 Sarugaku-cho
Photo by Dr. Paul Henshaw
Donated by Bereaved family of Dr. Paul Henshaw
Collection of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation



Letters sent by Reiko Shimizu who died at the Hiroshima Post Office
July 1945 Owned by Sadayuki Shimizu

Photos on the front side

Upper left : Holding the child born after the war
August 25-October 17, 1947 Saiku-machi
Photo by Shunkichi Kikuchi Courtesy of Harumi Tago

Right : Ruins around the hypocenter
September 4, 1945
Photo by Fumio Yamasaki Courtesy of Kazuo Yamasaki

Lower left : Sarugaku-cho Street
From Taisho era to early Showa era (1920s-1930s)
Courtesy of Yoshio Hibi