Welcome to the Old Missionary Museum

The Old Missionary Museum of Zoshigaya was built as the residence for an American missionary, John Moody McCaleb, in the 40th year of the Meiji Period (1907). It is the oldest existing Western-style wooden structure in Toshima City and a very rare example of the few missionary buildings that existed in Tokyo during the Meiji Period. It was registered as a tangible cultural assets of Toshima City on the 1st of September 1987 to remind people of the founding of missionary work and children's education in what was then a new residential area.

It is a two-story building with a shingle-style design throughout; Carpenter-gothic-style is used for the details. It is an ordinary Western-style house showing the characteristics of American suburban housing of the late 19th century.

Since Toshima City purchased this property in 1982, we have done extensive research in order to restore the building to its original form. It has been open to the public, with exhibitions, since 1989. It was registered as a tangible cultural assets of Tokyo in 3rd of March 1999.

We will be happy if the public makes much use of the house.



General Information

Hours:9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, the third Sunday of each month, the day following national holidays, and during the New Year holidays.

Admission:Free

Directions to Zoshigaya Missionary Museum

Ten minutes on foot from

- Higashi-ikebukuro Station and Gokokuji Station on the Yurakucho Subway Line
- Zoshigaya Station on the Fukutoshin Subway Line
- Toden-zoshigaya Station on the Arakawa Line (Metropolitan Streetcar)
- Zoshigaya-reien Iriguchi Station on the Tokyo Bus (Line 02 Otsu)

Zoshigaya Missionary Museum

1-25-5 Zoshigaya, Toshima City, Tokyo

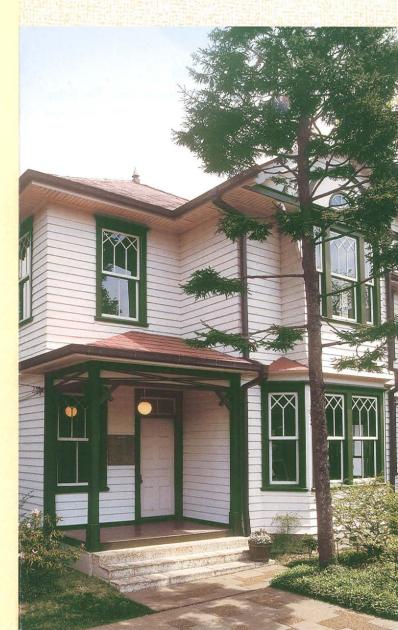
Telephon: (03) 3985-4081

URL http://www.city.toshima.lg.jp/bunka/shiryokan/



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Zoshigaya Missionary Museum





Missionary, J. M. McCaleb

John Moody McCaleb was born in 1861. His father was a pious Christian farmer who owned 365 acres near Nashville, Tennessee in the United States, but was killed during the American Civil War. John Moody McCaleb was an infant of six months at the time.

Overcoming many difficulties, he studied diligently and in 1888 he entered the College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky. Here he made up his mind to engage in misshion work in Japan.

In 1892 McCaleb came to Japan with his wife Della. They lived in the foreigners' settlement in Tsukiji for 15 years engaging in missionary work. McCaleb thought it was urgent for Japan's future to build a generation of young people with fine Christian personalities. He created an educational institution, including dormitory life, and built Zoshigaya Institute and Zoshigaya Missionary House in 1907. In 1923 he closed the institute.

However, he continued using Zoshigaya as a base to engage in missionary work based on Puritanism, such as starting a kindergarten and a Sunday school until just before World War II.

He returned to the United States in 1941, and died in 1953 at the age of 92. McCaleb's service of more than 50 years ranged from charitable work to educational programas for children and young men. His work impressed many people deeply.

Missionary Museum Exhibits

The Exhibition on the first floor introduces the service, activities and life of Missionary McCaleb. At the children's Library corner, you can read magazines such as The Red Bird (Akaitori), The Children's Friend (Kodomo no Tomo) and other books at your pleasure. The exhibition on the second floor mainly shows cultural activities in Zoshigaya.





First Floor

- 1 Living Room: The Life of Missionary McCaleb
- ② Dining Room: The Life of Missionary McCaleb
- 3 Church Office Room: Children's Library Corner



Second Floor

- ① Bed Room: The Neighborhood of Zoshigaya in Taisho (1912-1925)
- ② Bed Room: Ujaku Akita and Zoshigaya
- ③ Study: Missionary Museum as Architecture The Bed and the writing desk McCaleb used
- Bath Room:
 Information Reference Corner





The Art Nouveau Mantelpiece: the fireplace mantel in the living room on the first floor has art nouveau tiles and the stove has a frontal ornamentation of zelkova.



The Bay Window: there is an oriel next to the entrance.



The Sun Room: a veranda partitioned by glass windows has a style that is rarely found even in America.