

「あめりか屋」店主橋口信助の 輸入した「組立住宅」について

正会員 内田 青蔵

1、はじめに 明治42年開設の「あめりか屋」店主橋口信助は、アメリカから帰国する際に、建築部材と共に当時アメリカで売られていた「組立住宅」を持ち帰り、開設当初はそれらの販売を行っていた¹。「あめりか屋」は、建築部材等の販売から住宅を中心とする設計・施工へと事業内容を移行していくため、「組立住宅」を扱っていたのは開設当初だけと考えられるが、この「組立住宅」はその後の自ら設計した住宅に大きな影響を与えたと推察できるのである。

また、「あめりか屋」のように欧米から「組立住宅」を輸入してわが国の住宅として用いようとした事例はその後も確認でき、欧米住宅を単に模倣するだけではなく、直接的に欧米住宅を取り入れようとした事例の一つとして近代住宅史上注目すべき動向と考える。このため、橋口の持ち帰った住宅の概要を報告したい。

2、「組立住宅」について 橋口が帰国時に持ち帰って建てた最初の住宅と考えられるものの1つが、明治43年12月号の『建築雑誌』(NO.288)に「純米国式木造住宅建築東京に建築せらる」として紹介されている³。これによると此の建物は、「木材の大きさは総三寸角二ツ割及背六寸巾一寸五分の松材板割、四分板の他何物をも使用せざりし」とあることからアメリカで開発された枠組み壁工法によるものであることが判る。また、屋根は切妻を交差させたスレート葺き、外壁は1階部分がイギリス下見板一部シングル板張り仕上げ、2階部分は漆喰粗面仕上げであり、階高により仕様が異なった建物である。橋口が、持ち帰った住宅をどの様な名称で呼んでいたかは判らないが、「あめりか屋」に残されている資料⁴によれば「アメリカノ出来合ノ家」・「建売ノ『ストックハウス』」そして「アメリカノ組立ノ家」などと記されている。構造形式から見ても、おそらく、これらは当時アメリカで売られていた規格化されたいわゆる「組立住宅」(以下本稿では「組立住宅」と称する)であったと考えられる。

ところで、同資料には「組立住宅」の施主について記されている。すなわち、「家ノ注文ハ乃木坂ノ藤倉氏此ノ人ハ外国人ノホテル住ノ人ヲ友人トシテ近クニ住ワツテ共ニ遊ブ為ニ純洋式ノ小型家五軒建ント困ツテ居テ材料ヲ買ニ来テ活口ヲ、其レテハ手持ノ材料ニテ外国人ガ住フナラトアメリカノバンガローノ型録(録)ノママ小型ヲ五軒受負(請負)テ建テタ(括弧内筆者)」

とある。これによると、施主は藤倉五一で、外人向け貸家として5棟の注文をしていたことが判る。ちなみに、この藤倉は学習院修業後に米国に遊学し明治41年に帰国している資産家であった⁵。用途が外人向けの住宅であることから持ち帰ったものを「バンガローノ型録」に添って建設したと述べていることから、建設用の手本となるカタログの存在とともにそれらの住宅が「バンガロー」様式に基づいて建てられたことが判る。

3、藤倉五一の貸家について 藤倉の貸家は赤坂区新坂町(現赤坂区8丁目)に建設されていたと考えられる。大正2年の『建築画報』によれば藤倉の貸家は外観写真だけではあるが、8号館まで確認でき、いずれも「あめりか屋」の手になるものであった⁶。これらの貸家8棟は、5棟が2階屋・3棟が平屋で、外観写真によればすべて外観が異なっている。これらの外壁仕様および屋根形式をまとめたものが表-1>である。1階外壁は5号館・8号館を除いて2階屋・平屋とも下見板張りであり、同じく8号館を除く2階屋の2階部分はすべて漆喰粗面仕上げと思われ、ほぼ共通した仕様が施されていたと考えられる。また、出窓部分や屋根窓部分の外壁はほぼシングル板張りとなっている。一方、屋根は切妻・切妻の交差したもの・寄棟・腰折れ等それぞれ異なった形式である。

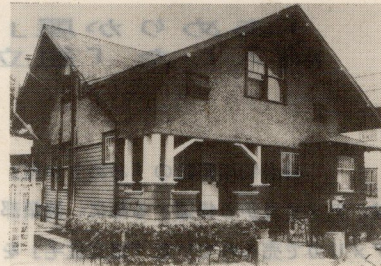
先の「あめりか屋」の資料によれば藤倉の注文は5棟と記されていることから、6~8号館に関しては判らないが、少なくとも5号館まではカタログに添って

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建てられた「バンガロー」様式の「組立住宅」であったと考えられる。なお、橋口が持ち帰った「組立住宅」の棟数は明確ではないものの、1号館と同様なものが日本人の住まい用に建設されたことが明治44年の『婦人之友』誌上で紹介されていることから、少なくとも6棟は持ち帰っていたと考えられる。

4、おわりに 以上、まとめると橋口は少なくとも6棟の「組立住宅」を輸入し、そのうち5棟はカタログに添って「バンガロー」様式で建設されたと考えられる。特にこの「バンガロー」様式は、明治末期から大正期にかけて「あめりか屋」の作品に留まらずもてはやされたものでもあり、注目したい。



1号館



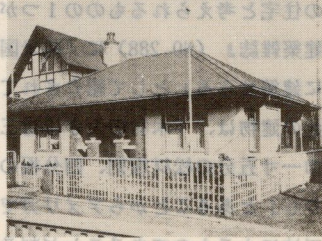
2号館



3号館



4号館



5号館



6号館



7号館



8号館

	外 壁			屋 根
	1 階	2 階	その他	
1号館	下見板	漆喰粗面	ベランダ・出窓部分はシングル	切妻の交差したもの(軒裏に持ち送り)
2号館	下見板	漆喰粗面か?	屋根窓部分はシングル	切妻か?
3号館	下見板	漆喰粗面か?	屋根窓部分はシングル	切妻
4号館	下見板	漆喰粗面か?		腰折れ
5号館	漆喰か?		玄関部分はレング積み	寄棟
6号館	下見板		出窓・屋根窓部分はシングル	寄棟か?
7号館	下見板			人母屋か?
8号館	シングル	(ハーフチンバー)		切妻

<表-1>

註)

- 1、拙稿『あめりか屋』の事業内容とその組織について』日本建築学会大会 昭和59年。
- 2、例えば、日本橋の菅生彦四郎商店では「米国製組立住宅」を輸入・販売していた(『新住宅』大正9年10月号)。このような例は他にもあり、改めて報告したい。
- 3、「純米国式木造住宅建築を試に数棟建築せしめて去月其落成を告げられたり」とある。この記事が掲載されたのが明治43年12月号であるから、竣工時期は同43年11月頃と考えられる。
- 4、「橋口信助氏」と表題のある手書きの資料。橋口の死亡(昭和3年)後に西村辰次郎により記されたものと言われている(拙稿「橋口信助の略歴について」日本建築学会大会 昭和58年参照)。
- 5、『人事興信録』など。
- 6、2月号に1号館、3月号に2・3号館、4月号に4・5号館、5月号に6・7号館、6月号に8号館の外観写真1枚だけがそれぞれ掲載されている。なお、『建築画報』に藤倉氏貸家が掲載されていた旨は東大助教授藤森照信氏の御教示による。
- 7、屋根裏部屋の場合も2階屋としている。
- 8、橋口信助「中等の洋風住宅」明治44年9月号。

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About the prefabricated houses imported by Hashiguchi Shinsuke, owner of "Amerika-ya."

by Seizo Uchida, regular member

1. Introduction - When the owner, Hashiguchi Shinsuke, returned to Japan from America, he brought back with him the prefabricated houses that were being sold in America at the time, along with the building materials, and when the store first opened, he sold these. "Amerika-ya opened in 1909"¹ As Amerika-ya shifted its business from selling building materials to mainly designing and constructing houses, it is thought that it only sold prefabricated houses when it first opened, but it can be surmised that these prefabricated houses had a major influence on the houses that he designed himself thereafter.

Furthermore, there have been other examples of attempts to import "prefabricated houses" from Europe and America and use them as housing in Japan, such as "Amerikaya."² This is a notable trend in the history of modern housing, as it is an example of an attempt to directly adopt Western housing rather than simply imitating it. For this reason, I would like to provide an overview of the house that Hashiguchi brought back.

2. One of the houses thought to be the first that Hashiguchi brought back with him when he returned to Japan and built after returning to Japan with the "prefabricated housing" was introduced in the December 1910 issue of "Architecture Magazine" (No. 288) as "A Purely American-Style Wooden House Built in Tokyo."³ According to this, the building was "made using nothing but pine boards and quarter boards measuring 3 inches square and 6 inches wide," indicating that it was built using the frame wall method developed in America. The roof was covered with cross-gable slate, and the exterior walls were British clapboard with some single-panel finish on the first floor and rough plaster finish on the second floor, meaning the building specifications varied depending on the floor height. It is not known what names Hashiguchi called the houses he brought back, but according to documents left at "Amerika-ya,"⁴ it was called an "American Prefabricated House."

- They are described as "pre-built 'stock houses'" and "American pre-assembled houses." Judging from their structural design, these were probably the standardized so-called "pre-assembled houses" (hereafter referred to as "pre-assembled houses" in this article) that were sold in the United States at the time.

By the way, the document also contains information about the clients of the "prefabricated houses."

"The house order was from Mr. Fujikura of Nogizaka. He was friends with eight foreigners who lived in hotels and wanted to live nearby so they could hang out together. He was in trouble and had to buy materials to build five small, purely Western-style houses. He used the materials he had on hand to build five small houses in the style of an American vanga (green).

(Contract) and constructed (author in parentheses)

According to this, the client was Fujikura Goichi, who ordered five houses to be rented to foreigners. Incidentally, Fujikura was a wealthy man who studied in the United States after graduating from Gakushuin and returned to Japan in 1908.⁵ Since the houses were intended for foreigners, he stated that the materials he brought back with him were constructed in accordance with the "bungalow-style greenery." This, along with the existence of a catalogue that served as a model for construction, shows that the houses were built in the "bungalow" style.

3. Fujikura's rental houses are thought to have been built in Shinzaka-cho, Akasaka Ward (present-day 8-chome, Akasaka Ward). According to the 1913 Kenchiku Gaho magazine, although only exterior photographs of Fujikura's rental houses are available, they can be seen up to building number 8, and all of them were built by Amerika-ya.⁶

Of these eight rental houses, five are two-story and three are single-story,⁷ and exterior photographs show that they all have different appearances. Table 1 summarizes their exterior wall specifications and roof styles. The first-floor exterior walls of both the two-story and single-story buildings, except for Buildings 5 and 8, are clapboard-covered, and the second floors of all the two-story buildings, except for Building 8, appear to have a rough plaster finish, suggesting that they all had similar specifications. Additionally, the exterior walls of the bay window and dormer window areas are almost entirely single-panel. On the other hand, the roofs are of different styles, including gabled, cross-gabled, hipped, and splayed.

According to the aforementioned "Amerika-ya" document, Fujikura's order is for five buildings, so we don't know about buildings 6 to 8, but at least up to building 5, according to the catalog.

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It is believed that these were prefabricated houses in the "bungalow" style. Although it is not clear how many prefabricated houses Hashiguchi brought back, it is believed that he brought back at least six, as a similar structure to Building No. 1 was reported in the magazine Fujin no Tomo in 1911 as having been constructed for Japanese residences.⁸

4. Conclusion To sum up, Hashiguchi imported at least six "prefabricated houses," five of which are believed to have been constructed in the "bungalow" style according to a catalog. This "bungalow"

style was particularly noteworthy, as it was not limited to the works of "Amerika-ya" from the end of the Meiji period through the Taisho period. (Food)

	Outside Wall			Roof
	First Floor	Second Floor	Others	
Building 1	Clapboard	Stucco	The balcony and entrance area are single story	Gabled crossing (with corbels at the eaves)
Building 2	Clapboard	Stucco?	Windows areas are shingled	A gable?
Building 3	Clapboard	Stucco?	Windows areas are shingled	Gable
Building 4	Clapboard	Stucco?		Broken back
Building 5	Is it stucco?		The entrance is made of brick	Hipped building
Building 6	Clapboard		Bay windows and roof windows are shingled	Is it hipped building?
Building 7	Clapboard			Is it a gable?
Building 8	Shingled	(Half Chin Bar)		Kirima

Notes:

1. My paper, "On the business activities and organization of 'Amerika-ya'," presented at the Architectural Institute of Japan Convention in 1984.
2. For example, Sugao Hikoshiro Shoten in Nihonbashi imported and sold "American-made prefabricated houses" (Shinjuku, October 1920 issue). There are other examples like this, and I would like to report on them again.
3. It states, "Several purely American-style wooden houses were constructed as a trial, and their completion was announced last month." Since this article was published in the December 1910 issue, the completion date is thought to have been around November of the same year.
4. A handwritten document entitled "Mr. Hashiguchi Shinsuke." It is said to have been written by Nishimura Tatsujiro after Hashiguchi's death in 1928 (see my article "A Brief Biography of Hashiguchi Shinsuke" in Japanese Architecture).

(See the Society Conference in 1983.) LE 10

5. "Jinji Koushinroku" etc.

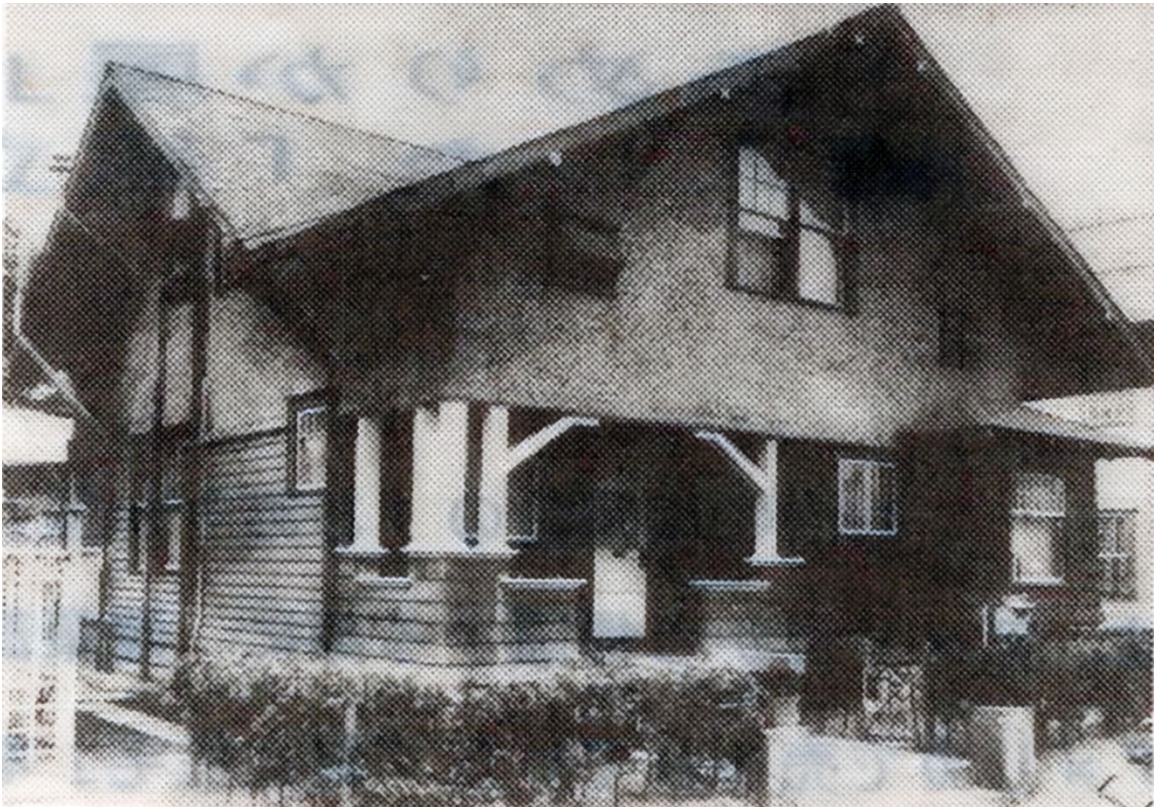
The June and February issues featured Building 1, the March issue featured Buildings 2 and 3, the April issue featured Buildings 4 and 5, the May issue featured Buildings 6 and 7, and the June issue featured only one exterior photo of Building 8. It should be noted that the fact that Fujikura's rental

house was featured in *Kenchiku Gaho* was informed to us by Tokyo University Assistant Professor Fujimori Terunobu.

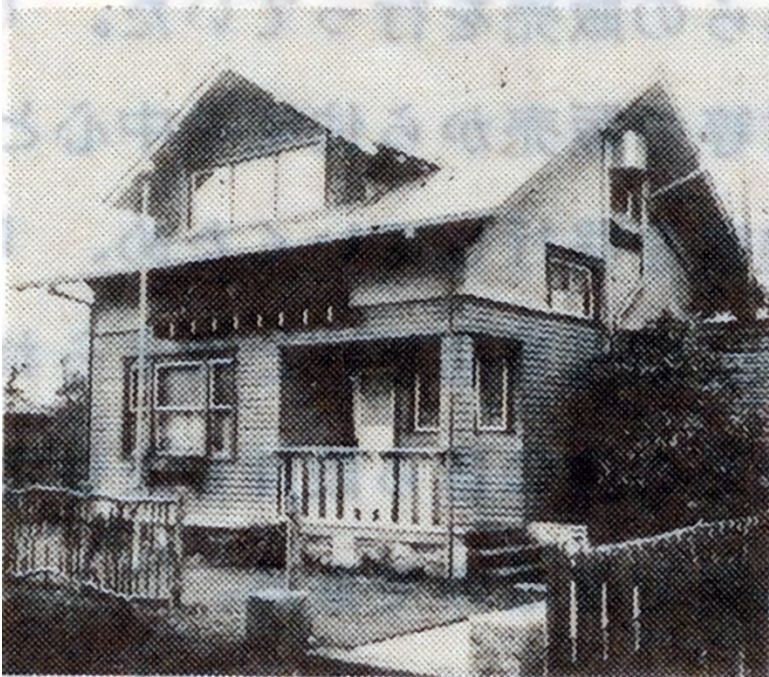
7. Even in the case of an attic, it is considered a two-story building.

8. Hashiguchi Shinsuke, "Moderate Western-style Houses," September 1911 issue.

Building 1



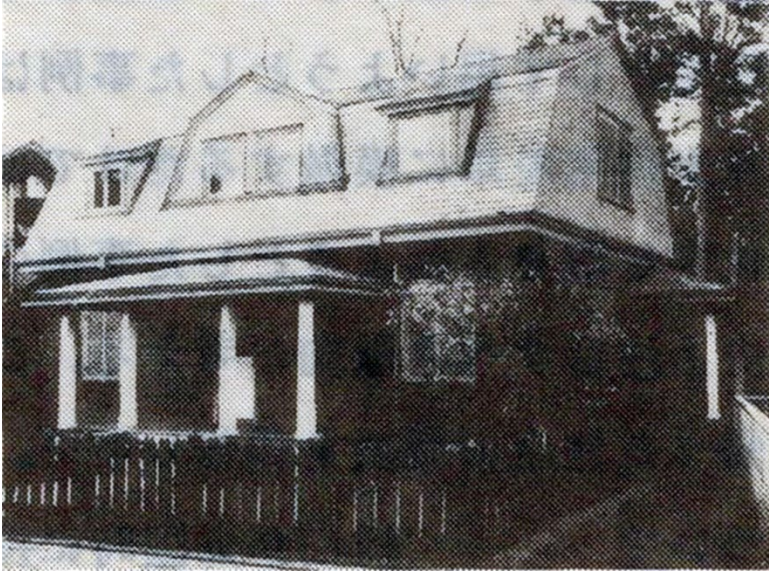
Building 2



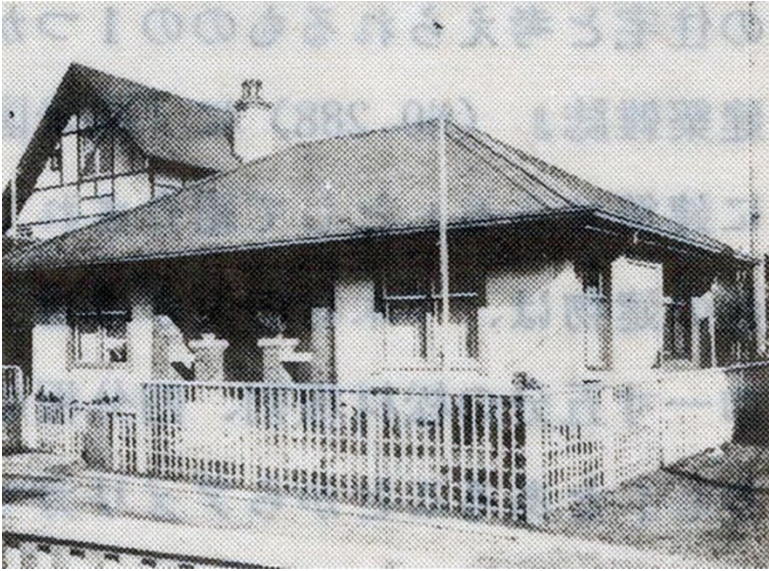
Building 3



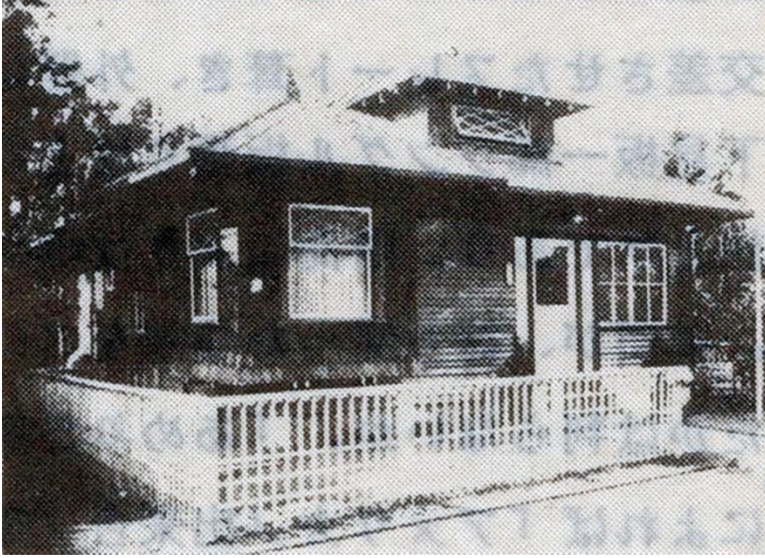
Building 4



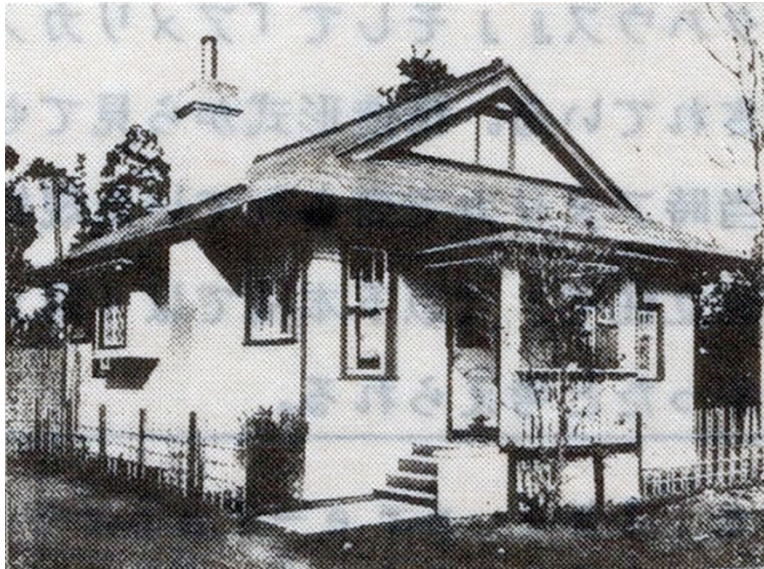
Building 5



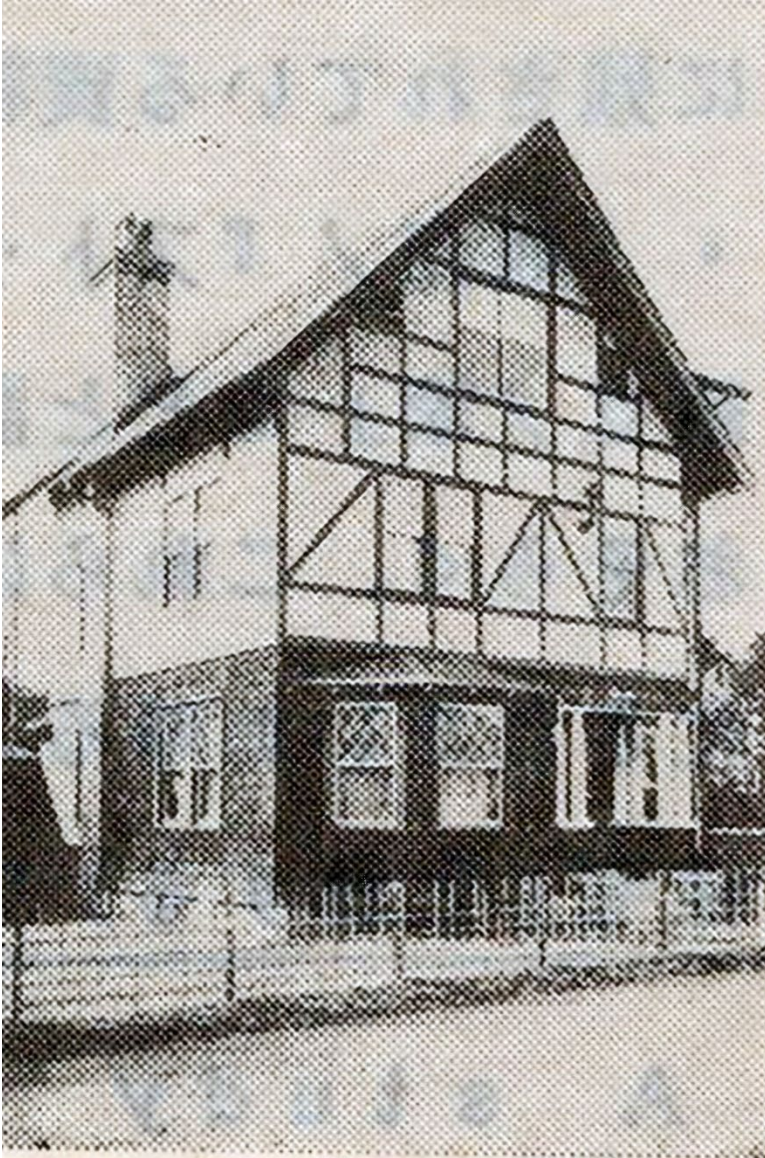
Building 6



Building 7



Building 8



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