

**Archives of American Gardens
Image SG-FL041002
OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE
REPORT**

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Open Source Investigation Report

Date of start: 23-07-2024

Date of end: 23-07-2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SG-FL041002 is not located in Florida, USA. It is located in Hiroshima, Japan. The name of the garden is called Shukkeien Garden and according to the evidence found, SG-FL041002 was captured in July 1937 before the atomic bomb dropped.

Supporting Evidence



"Kokoukyo Bridge" arching over Takueichi Pond. July 1937.
Taken by Kazan Ueda / Courtesy of Takumi Fujinaga



- * Location: 2-11 Kami-nobori-cho, Naka-ku
- * Distance from hypocenter: 1,300 meters
- * Name at time of bombing: Shukkeien Garden
- * Current status: Restored to landscape that existed before bombing.

Shukkeien Garden

In 1620, Nagaakira Asano, lord of the Hiroshima fiefdom, began building Shukkeien Garden as a villa garden. In 1940 the garden was donated to Hiroshima Prefecture by the Asano family, and was designated an official National Place of Scenic Beauty. Local residents came to call it, affectionately, "Sentei." Most of the buildings and trees in the garden were lost to the atomic bomb, but since the garden was a designated air raid refuge, many victims fled to it shortly after the bombing. A great number died here.

A clue obtained from a single photograph taken shortly after the bombing led to the excavation of certain areas in the garden. As a result, the remains of 64 people were discovered on August 1, 1987.



On the bank on the Shukkeien Garden pond

[Artist's comments]

The burnt victims of the A-bomb lined the edge of the pond

Source: https://hpmmuseum.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/exhibit_e/exh0807_e/exh080703_e.html



廣島からヒロシマへ：第2部（下）原民喜 「生キノビテコノ有様ヲツタヘ…」

Visit >

Source: <https://mainichi.jp/articles/20200829/k00/00m/040/116000c>

VERIFICATION PROCESS

a. Finding the first piece of evidence

1.1 Every good geolocation begins with identifying points of reference within an image. Anything that is unique and/or has potential to be long-lasting will be the points of reference.

1.2 After uploading SG-FL041002 to Google Images, I cropped the image so that the tool would only search for images matching the top half (see Figure 1).

A screenshot of a Google Images search results page. On the left, there is a search bar with a camera icon labeled "Find image source". Below it is a cropped version of the original photograph, showing only the upper portion where the pine tree and its reflection are visible. At the bottom of this search area are three buttons: "Search", "Text", and "Translate". To the right of the search area, there is a "Upload" button with an upward arrow icon and a grid icon. The search results are displayed in a grid format. Several results are circled with a pink oval, highlighting them as potential matches. One result is explicitly labeled "HipPostcard Sumiyoshi Shrine Osaka Japan...". Another result shows a similar scene with a pink circle around it, labeled "Thatch Travel Discovering Hiroshima ...". A third result shows a scene with a pink circle around it, labeled "Wikimedia File: 大阪名所) 住吉反橋.jpg ...". Other results include "Tokyo Museum ...", "Flickr rainbow bridge in Shukkeien | Autumn.", and "Making a". At the bottom of the search results, there is a question "Did you find these results useful?" followed by "Yes" and "No" buttons.

Figure 1: The results from Google Images after it has searched for similar photos as SG-FL041002

1.3 This is because the points of reference I chose are the bridge, the house, and the tree with the three logs leaning against the branch (see Figure 2).

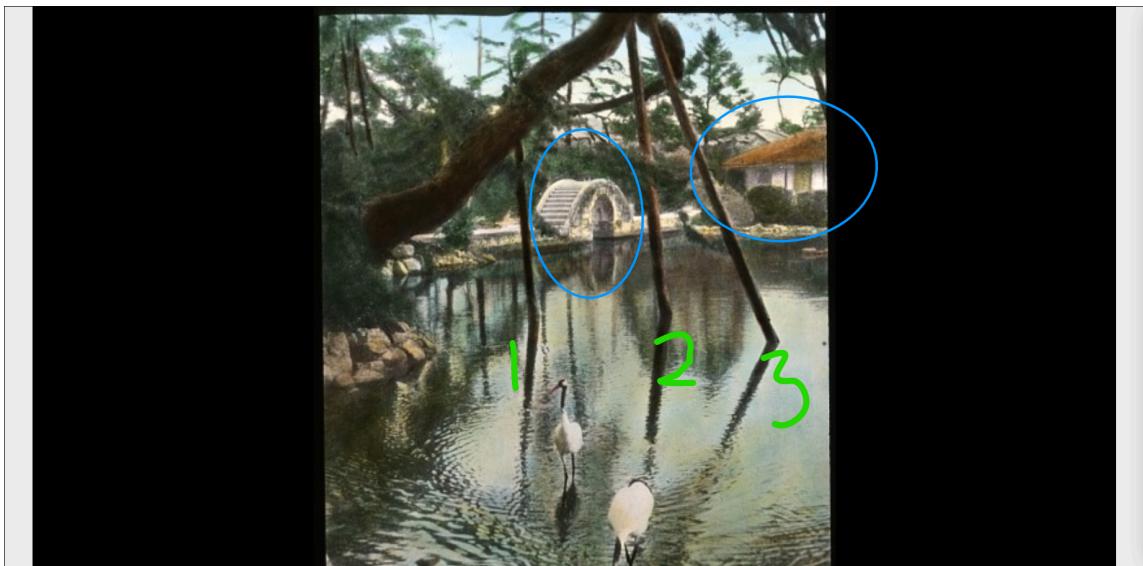


Figure 2: The points of reference highlighted on a copy of SG-FL041002 image

1.4 I'm immediately suspicious because the results allude that SG-FL041002 is of Japanese origin or located in Japan and not in Florida, USA. Although, I mentally tack Japan on the list of possible locations.

1.5 Some of the Google Images results match the bridge shown in SG-FL041002, however confirmation of one point of reference isn't enough for absolute verification. It's better to have at least two points of reference confirmed before something is deemed verified, although all three would be the most ideal.

1.6 Knowing that sometimes the right image result is hidden further down the list, I scroll until I get to the first piece of evidence (see Figure 1).

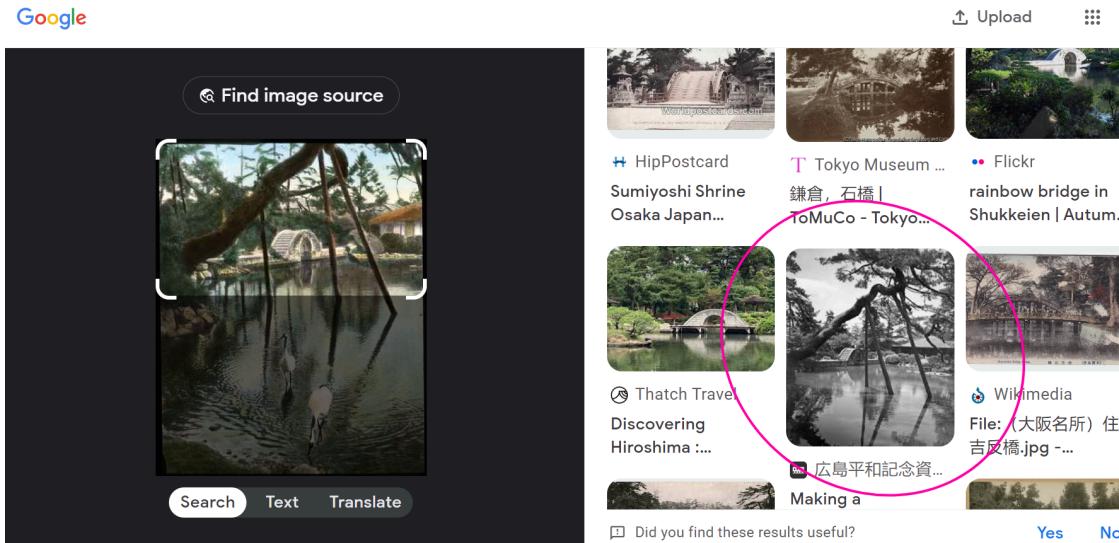


Figure 1: The results from Google Images after it has searched for similar photos as SG-FL041002

1.7 Clicking on the link underneath the image (circled in pink) brings me to this URL:

https://hpmmuseum.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/exhibit_e/exh0807_e/exh080703_e.html

1.8 Googling 'hpmmuseum' (hpmmuseum is shown in the URL) to verify the credibility of the website, informs me that it stands for Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (see Figure 3).

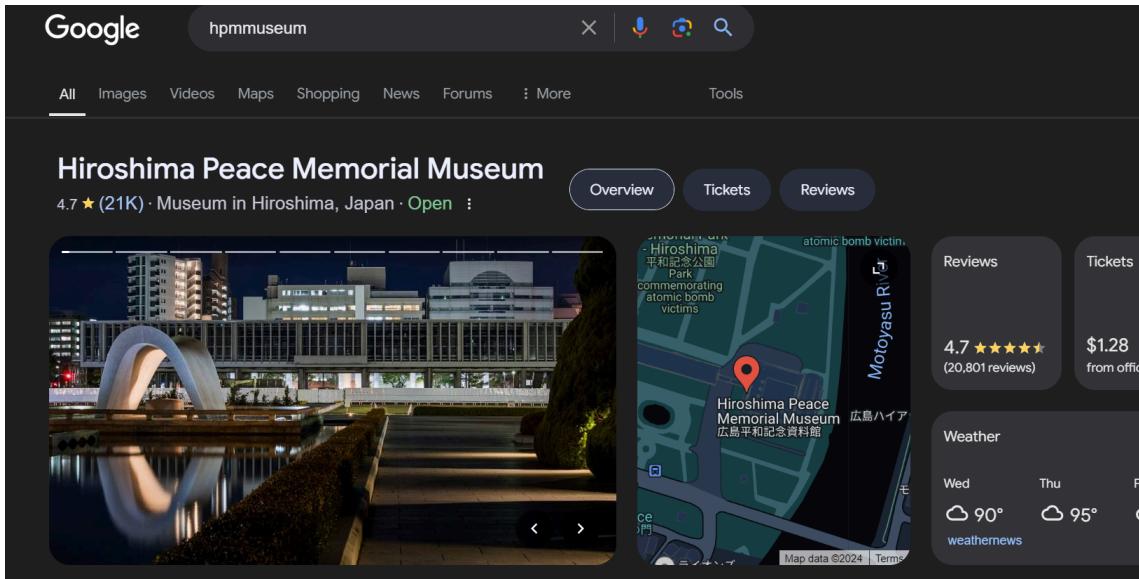


Figure 3: Google results shows 'hpmmuseum' stands for Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

1.9 The website (see Figure 4) shows an image matching SG-FL041002. It has the same bridge, building, and tree with three logs leaning against the branch.

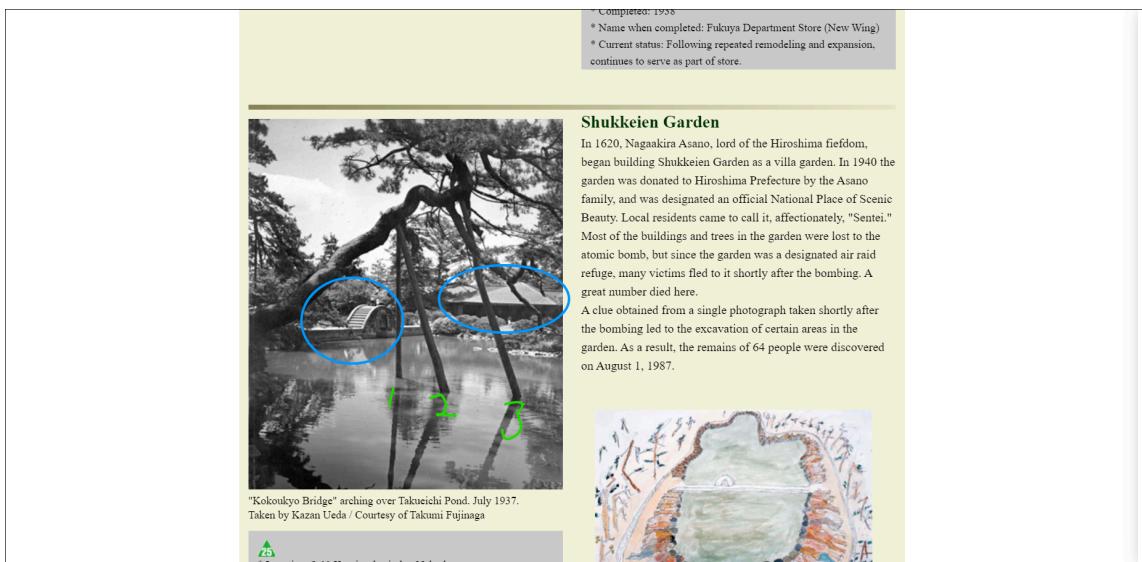


Figure 4: An image and description of the Shukkeien Garden or more specifically the Kokoukyo Bridge from Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum's website

1.10 The few discrepancies are the missing pair of cranes and the logs are stacked differently than seen in SG-FL041002.

1.11 Provided by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the description of the image says it's the "Kokoukyo Bridge arching over Takueichi Pond" and so I Google the keywords "Kokoukyo Bridge Takueichi Pond" (see Figure 5).

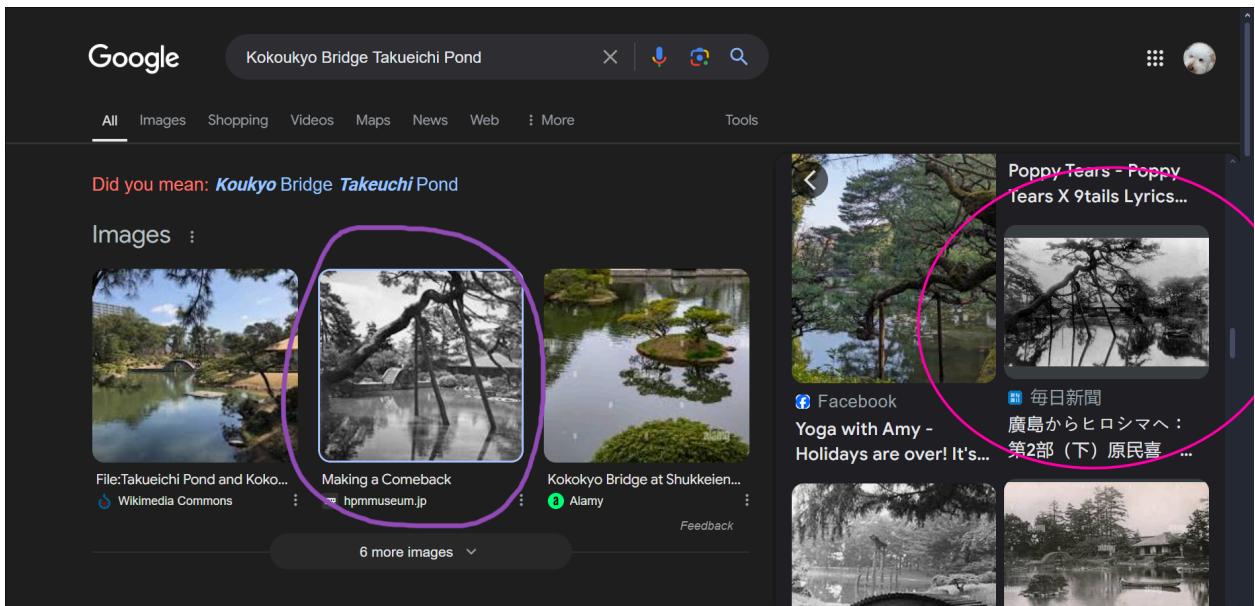


Figure 5: Google search engine results after searching for "Kokoukyo Bridge Takueichi Pond" with the second piece of evidence circled in pink and the hpmmuseum image result circled in purple

b. Finding the second piece of evidence

- 2.1** Clicking the image result by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (circled in purple), I use the built-in Google Image reverse search at the bottom left corner (the camera icon) and use that image to search for other similar instances.
- 2.2** I scroll through the results until I land on the second piece of evidence (see Figure 5).

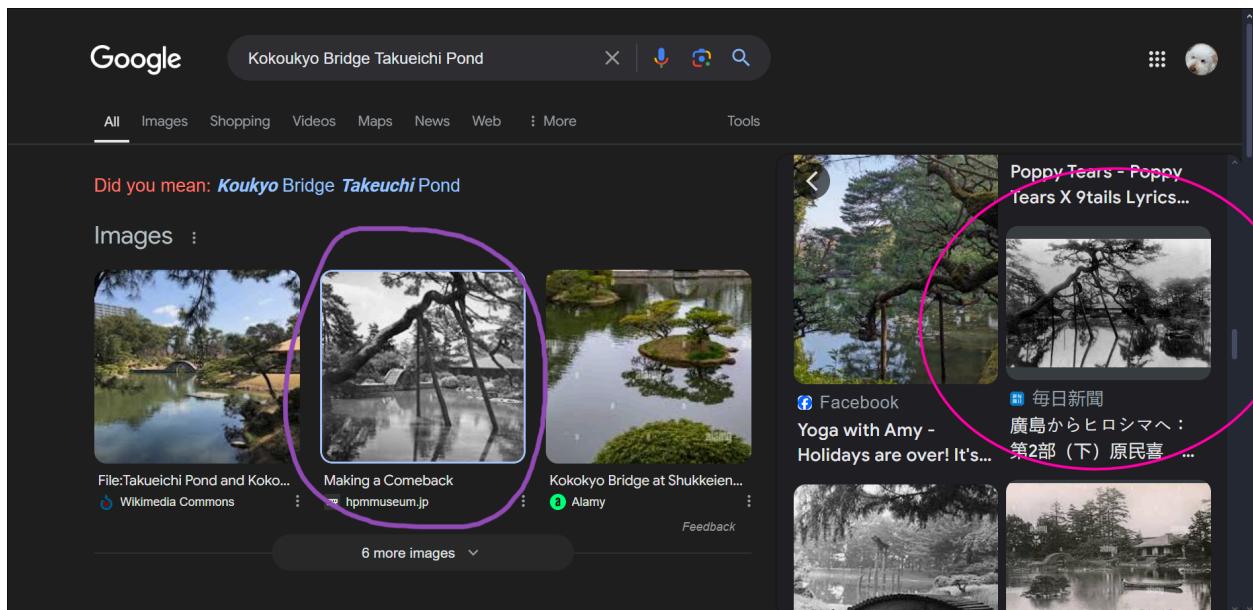


Figure 5: Google search engine results after searching for “Kokoukyo Bridge Takueichi Pond” with the second piece of evidence circled in pink and the hpmmuseum image result circled in purple

- 2.3** Clicking on the link underneath that image brings me to this URL:
<https://mainichi.jp/articles/20200829/k00/00m/040/116000c> (See Figure 6).



Figure 6: An article from Japanese Mainichi newspaper translated into English by Google Translate plugin

2.4 This website seems to be an article from an online Japanese newspaper which I discovered after using my Google Translator extension to translate the entire page into English.

2.5 However, I am unable to directly confirm if this image is also labeled as Kokoukyo Bridge Takueichi Pond or even Shukkeien Garden because I am blocked by a paywall from further reading the article (see Figure 7).

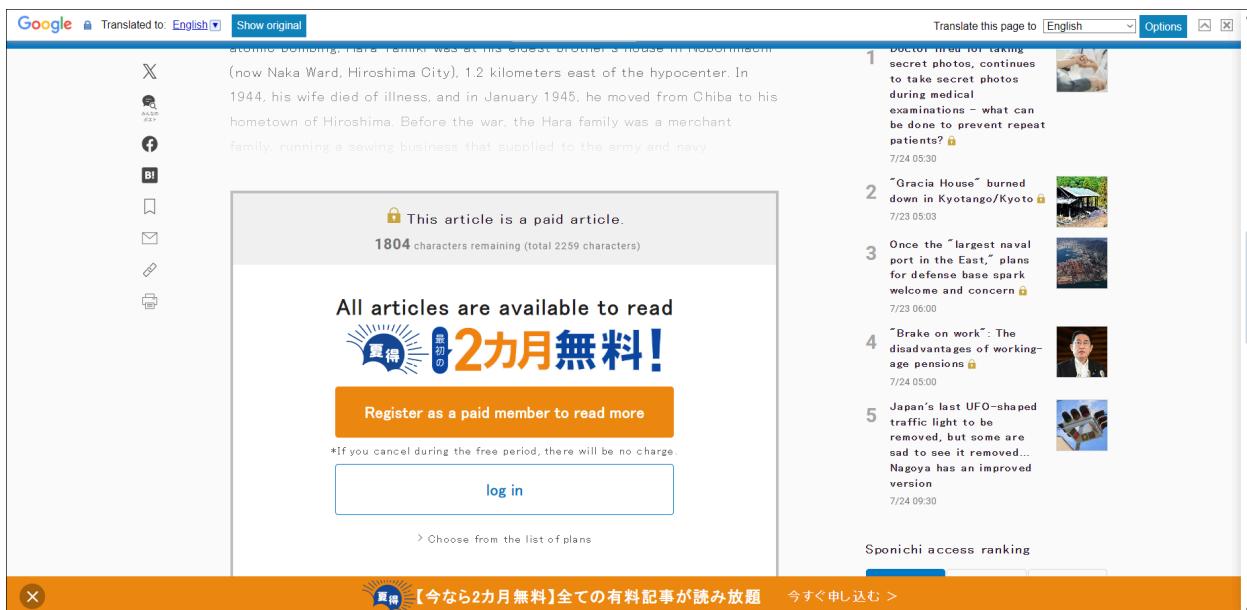


Figure 7: An article from Japanese Mainichi newspaper, informing that this article is for paid members only

2.6 Although once again, this second image result has the same three points of reference seen in SG-FL041002. The logs are even positioned the same, though the second image results seems to be taken at a slightly farther away point of view compared to SG-FL041002 (see Figure 8).



Figure 8: Points of reference highlighted on the second piece of evidence

CONCLUSION:

There are two images, depicting the same scenery and subject, that provide evidence of why SG-FL041002 is not a garden located in Florida, USA and instead is located in Hiroshima, Japan. One of the two images, which comes from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, has been confirmed. However, the other image, which comes from a Japanese newspaper (Mainichi) article, could not be confirmed. Therefore, while there is strong evidence supporting the location being in Hiroshima, Japan, this conclusion cannot be stated with absolute certainty.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Further research, where geolocation cannot provide, may be needed. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum claims that the image of "Kokoukyo Bridge arching over Takueichi Pond" is taken by Kazan Ueda and is courtesy of Takumi Fujinaga. It's possible there are more images or information from either of these three contacts.

APPENDIX:

Appendix 1: Tools Used

- Google Images (<https://images.google.com>)
- Google search engine (<https://www.google.com>)

Appendix 2: Relevant URLs

(Please note that I couldn't find these links indexed in the Wayback Machine, so there isn't a permanent link to these URLs)

- https://hpmmuseum.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/exhibit_e/exh0807_e/exh080703_e.html
- <https://mainichi.jp/articles/20200829/k00/00m/040/116000c>