The Historic Sites Connected with Emperor Meiji: History of its Designation and Cancellation

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This paper discusses how the cultural properties of historic sites connected with Emperor Meiji had been designated by the Japanese Government before the World War II, and how they were cancelled according to the order of GHQ, and what they are now. Here it follows the case of Tokyo prefecture, because it represents the governmental policy which had been framing up to heighten and strengthen her own nationality by Tennoism.

The Historic Sites connected with Emperor Meiji had been designated in conformity with the Historic Sites, Scenic Places, and Natural History Preserves Preservation Law (1919) chiefly between 1933 and 1937, and placed under its care for preservation. The number of these historic sites occupied more than 60% of the total number of the designated historic sites (377/603) before the World War II. These cultural properties were connected with the visiting places or temporary residences and short rests on the way all around Japan at the time of his travel of the early Meiji era.

However, under American occupation, GHQ decided on June 23 1948 that the designation of those historic sites connected with Emperor Meiji should entirely be cancelled because they well preserved the spirit of the state of the old constitution.

Now in Japan, we can still recognize the many stone marks commemorating the places where Emperor Meiji had visited. We can not help but conceive why they have still been erected though they were ordered to be cancelled by the Government. This blur situation seems to be the real attitude of the present Japanese society toward Tennoism after the World War II.