

An Outline of the Former Nakasuji Residence

The Former Nakasuji Residence, its eastern side directly on the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route, is the type of estate perfectly suited to the *ojoya* (governmental head of a group of municipalities) of the Wasa Group at the end of the Edo period. Its construction in the 5th year of the Kaei era (1852), such as the three-story watchtower, the 20-*tatami*-sized large hall, and its wide guest areas are all unique features of this largest, most magnificent private residence in the Kinokawa river basin.

Aside from the *omoya* (main building) of the residence, the *omotemon* (front gate), the *nagayagura* (Long Storehouse), the *kitagura* (Northern Storehouse), the *uchigura* (Inner Storehouse), and the *onarimon* (Guest-of-Honor Gate) were all designated Important Cultural Properties by the federal government in 1974.

The residence was owned and maintained Mr. Shigekazu Kajimoto after the war, but afterward the local government of Wakayama City became the administrator of the property. Since 2000, the estate was carefully repaired over a period of about 10 years and was finally opened to the public in August 2010.

The History of the Nakasuji Family

The Nakasuji family is said to have begun with Bunteibo who fled during Toyotomi Hideyoshi's attack on Negoro in the 13th year of Tensho (1585) and eventually settled here. In the 4th year of Jokyo (1687), the fourth generation head of the family, Yoshimasa, became the *shoya* (analogous to today's office of mayor) of Negi Village. In 3rd year of Kan'en (1750), the fifth generation head Yoshishige became the *ojoya** and for six generations lasting until the Meiji era (late 1800s-early 1900s), the family head performed the duties of the *ojoya* in the region.

Eighth generation head Yoshiyasu (1781-1857) was the person behind the construction of the present *omoya* (main building). Having a reputation for being very knowledgeable about art and culture, Yoshiyasu studied painting under the official painter of the Kishu clan Nogiwa Hakusetsu (1773-1849). The tenth generation head of the Nakasuji family, also named Yoshiyasu, was the one responsible for the current arrangement of the estate.

1st Generation	Bunteibo	
2nd Generation	Magotaro	Died in 1637
3rd Generation	Tarodayu	Died in 1672
4th Generation	Yoshimasa Died in 1712	
5th Gen.	1 st <i>Ojoya</i> *	Yoshishige Died in 1771(Became <i>ojoya</i> in 1750)
6th Gen.	2 nd	Yoshihisa Died in 1769
7th Gen.	3 rd	Yoshinaga Died in 1798
8th Gen.	4 th	Yoshiyasu Died in 1857
9th Gen.	5 th	Yasuyuki Died in 1868
10th Gen.	6 th	Yoshiyasu Died in 1906

*The *ojoya* was an Edo period (1603-1868) administrative post with the federal government. Sometimes called a *namushi* outside of western Japan, an *ojoya* was the overseer of a large group of municipalities (often dozens of villages) and was ranked above a regular *shoya*, a position somewhat analogous to today's office of mayor. The office of *ojoya* was a prestigious job which granted the privilege of being able to carry a sword as you went about your daily business.

Visiting Information

- Hours:** 9:00AM to 4:30PM (last entry is at 4:00PM)
- Open Days:** Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays from March to November
Note: Groups of 5 or more may apply beforehand and can schedule a visit as needed.
- Access:** The residence is a 20 min. walk south from Senda Station on the JR Wakayama Line. Alternatively, it is a 30 min. walk from Hoshiya Station along the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route.
- Free Parking:** The parking lot is located about 300m south of the residence and has a max. capacity of 10 cars or 2 buses.
- Entrance fee:** General admission is 300 yen (high-school students and younger are free of charge). Groups are charged 240 yen per person for groups with 20 members or more.



For further information, please contact:

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An Important Cultural Property

The Former Nakasuji Residence



Wakayama City



Kitagura - Northern Storehouse

Kitagura - Northern Storehouse

The Northern Storehouse is located on the northwest corner of the estate and was formerly used as a rice granary. It is believed to be an example of late Edo-period architecture from the time the property was expanded westward.



Uchigura - Inner Storehouse
(not open to the public)

Uchigura - Inner Storehouse (not open to the public)

The Inner Storehouse was used to store goods for daily use, and as such, can be accessed from the main building through the western wall of the Large Hall. It was constructed in the 19th year of the Meiji era (1886).



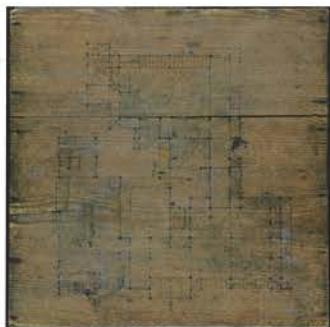
Nagayagura - Long Storehouse

Nagayagura - Long Storehouse

The Long Storehouse was built in the 13th year of Bunsei (1830) and was later expanded in the 5th year of the Kaei era (1852). Measuring 30 meters north to south, it is a long and narrow storehouse which was used predominantly for the storage of rice and agricultural implements.

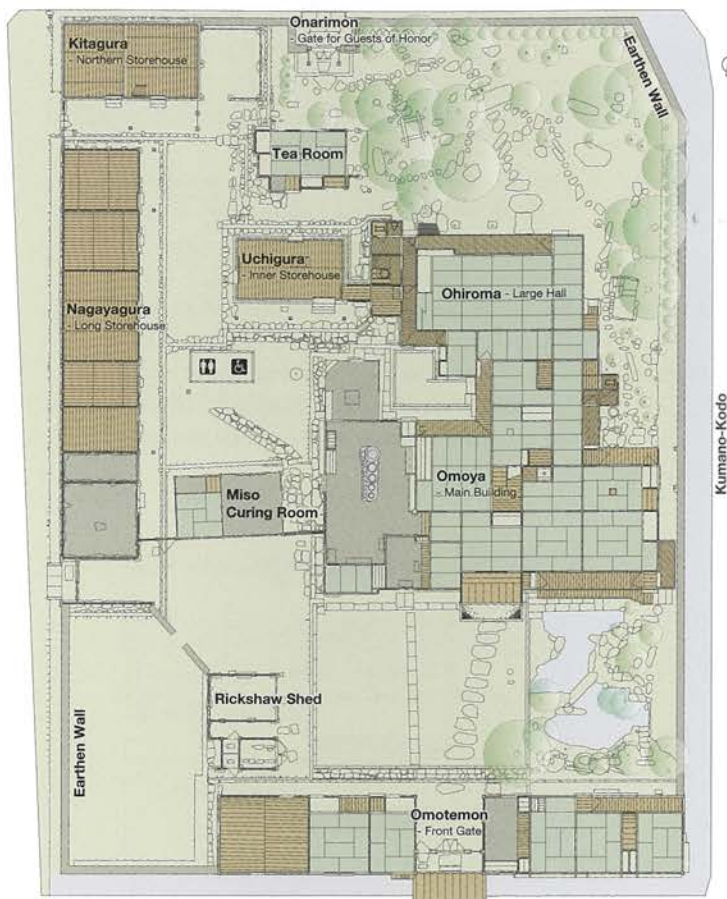
Itaezu - Plank Diagram (Important Cultural Property)

This artifact is the floor plan of the main building of the Nakasuji Residence as it was drawn on a cedar plank. This is thought to be the blueprint of the building that was drawn up just before its construction. From the characters that are carved into the *onigawara* (ogre-shaped roof tiles) of the main building, it has been determined that the construction dates back to the 5th year of the Kaei era (1852).



Itaezu - Plank Diagram
(Important Cultural Property)

The Layout of the Former Nakasuji Residence



Former Nakasuji Residence Floor Plan

The Nakasuji estate measures 57 meters from north to south and 40 meters east-west, and covers an area of land measuring approximately 2,200 square meters which is enclosed by a clay wall that was built along the perimeter. Channels of water resembling a narrow moat run along the eastern and southern sides. The eastern side of the property looks directly onto the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route.

If you cross the stone bridge that lies across the southern channel, you will come to the main gate of the estate. Walking through the gate places you at the front of the main building. In the northwest region of the estate lies the *uchigura* (Inner Storehouse), with the *kitagura* (Northern Storehouse) at the very corner. Along the west side you can see the *nagayagura* (Long Storehouse). There are gardens in the northern and southern parts of the estate, and there is an *onarimon* gate (special gate for receiving high-ranking guests) at the northernmost end of the estate.

Apart from these structures, there is also a *miso* fermentation room, a tea room, and a rickshaw shed in the estate grounds which have not been designated cultural properties.



Onarimon - Gate for Guests of Honor

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The residence's *onarimon* gate, traditionally a feature of important estates that was employed for the welcoming of high-ranking guests, was constructed in the *yakuimon* style (a large gate, usually with 2 support columns, built with a gabled roof above). This gate was constructed in the late Edo period.



Omoya - Main Building

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Built in the 5th year of Kaei (1852), the main building is a large structure with a frontage of 22.8 meters and a depth of 25 meters. The three-story core of the house is surrounded by various rooms such as the kitchen and *doma* (earthen-floored room for cooking) in the west, a 20-*tatami*-mat-sized (about 33 sq. m.) hall in the north, and a smaller meeting room in the east.



Doma no Kamado - The Stove of the Earthen-floored Room

In the *doma* (earthen-floored room for cooking) of the main building, the *kamado* (cooking stove) has been restored to the way it was when the building was first constructed. It has 5 cooking ranges in a row.



Ohioroma - Large Hall

The *ohioroma* was used to welcome and entertain emissaries from the Kishu clan (messengers from one of the 3 branch families of the Shogun) as well as other high-ranking guests.



Onigawara - Ogre-shaped Roof Tiles

The underside of the ogre-faced *onigawara* roof tiles of the main building were engraved with: "Kaei go-nen Negi-mura Kawaraya Shinbei" which translates to "The 5th year of Kaei (1852), Negi Village, Shinbei Tile Maker."



Omotemon - Front Gate

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The gate at the front of the estate is a 30-meter-long structure from the late Edo period that was constructed in the *nagayamon* (row house gate) style. The central gate structure is constructed out of pure *keyaki* (Japanese zelkova) wood, and the eastern 3 rooms of the structure were used as the government offices of the *ojoya* (Edo-period governmental head of a group of municipalities, ranked above shoya).