

[Cultural Properties around Ozu Castle]

Historic Site Designated by Ehime Prefecture

Toju Nakae Residence Site (Shitokudo)



The father of Japanese Neo-Confucianism (*Yomeigaku*), Toju Nakae was born in Omi (current Shiga) and moved to Ozu from Yonago at the age of 10 with his grandfather, who was a vassal of the Kato Family. Toju left Ozu for Omi at the age 27. Many retainers of the Ozu Domain followed him to learn from him, which ultimately cultivated a passion for learning throughout the Ozu Domain. Shitokudo was built at the site of Toju's residence, resembling his Bukeyashiki-style residence, which reflected his rank during his stay in Ozu as a vassal with a 100 *koku* annual Salary. It is located within a section of the current Ozu High School, where wooden statues of Toju and Confucius are placed and an ancient well called "Water of Nakae" also remains to this day.

Historic Site Designated by Ozu City

Kato Mitsuyasu Reibyō & the Ozu Lords, Kato Family Grave Yard (at Ryogozansokein Temple)



This temple is affiliated with the Myoshinji denomination of Rinzaishu built by the first lord of the Ozu Domain, Sadayasu Kato, as a place to pray for his father Mitsuyasu (called Mr. Sokeiin). From that point on, this temple was a family temple for the lords of the Kato Family. It was originally called Shigetsuzan Sokeiin and in Tenmei 4 (1784) it was renamed Ryogozan. On the precincts there are graves of the founder of the Ozu Domain, Mitsuyasu, first lord Sadayasu, 6th lord Yasumichi, 8th lord Yasuyuki, 10th lord Yasuzumi, 11th lord Yasumoto and 13th lord Yasuaki.

Historic Site Designated by Ozu City

Shizenshoin Meirindo Site



The first feudal school in the eight domains in Iyo (current Ehime), Shizenshoin Meirindo was founded in Enkyō 4 (1747), which fell on the 100th memorial year of Toju Nakae's death. Due to the death of the lord and financial difficulties, it took 3 years to completion from the time it was planned. It was used as a school for sons with a rank of samurai and higher. One of the leading Neo-Confucianists, Yukin Kawada taught at this school. The school was closed when the New School System was promulgated in Meiji 5 (1872). Now only the warehouse remains but it shows vestiges of the historic school.

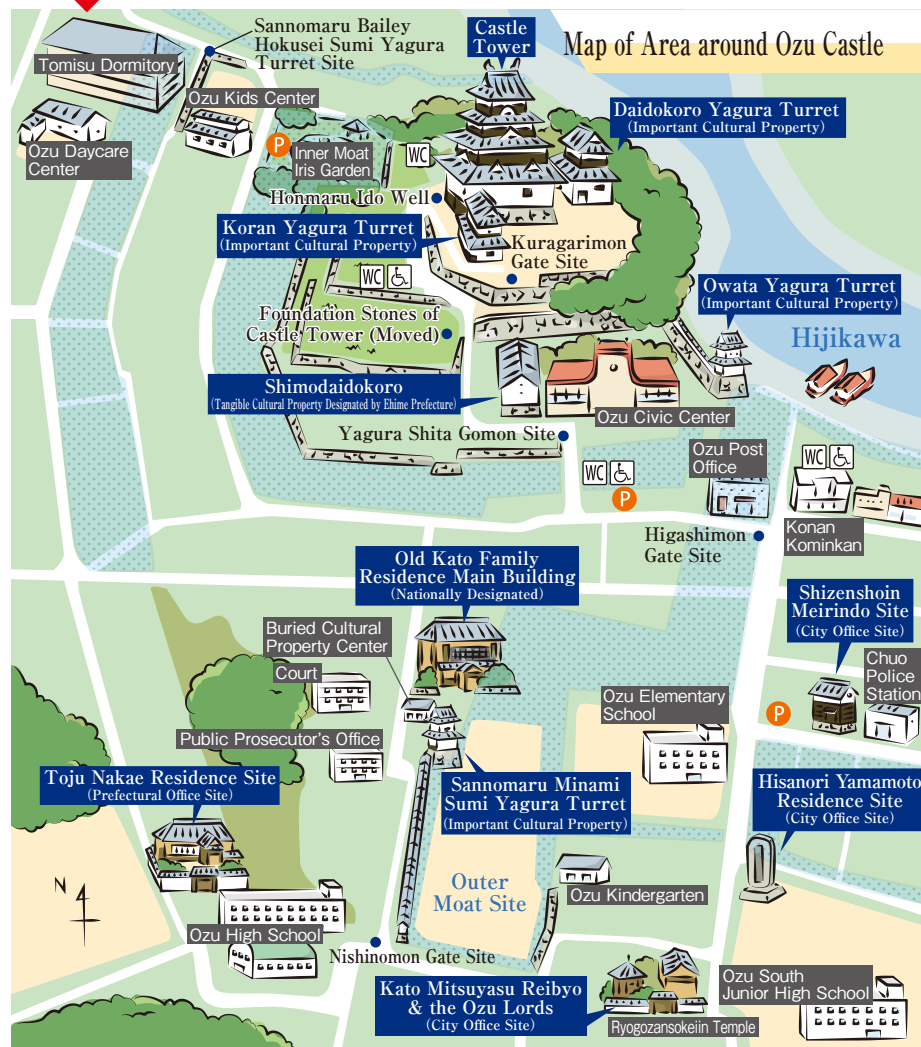
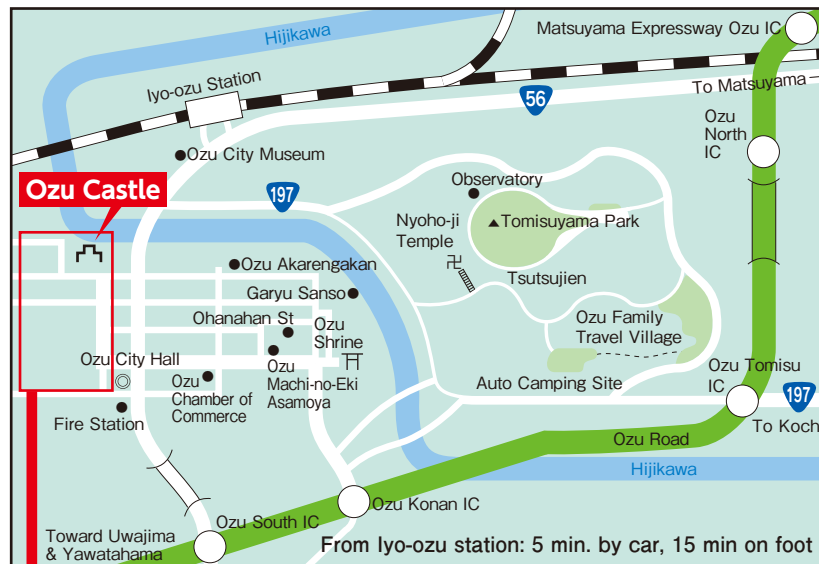
National Tangible Cultural Property

Old Kato Family Residence Main Building



This two-story wooden residence was built by a descendant of the Ozu lords, Yasumichi Kato in Taisho 14 (1925). Wooden sliding shutters were commonly used as outer windows in those days. However, he built glass windows on the three walls of the second floor called Glass Shoji instead, which made the house unique and created openness and light as well. This house also has many other features typical to a refined Daimyo residence. It was used for shooting a Japanese long-running movie series, "Otoko wa Tsurai yo. (It's tough being a man.)" The site was maintained as a park, called Otonosama Park (Daimyo Park) and at an adjunct museum, Ozu City Buried Cultural Assets Center, historic assets found at the site of Ozu Castle are exhibited.

Directions within Ozu City to Ozu Castle



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Exploration of Cultural Properties in Ozu City①

Ozu Castle Site



OZU CASTLE

Cultural Properties in Ozu Castle

Outline of Ozu Castle

Ozu Castle is a Hirayama-style castle built on a hill next to the Hijikawa River. It utilizes the river, which flows behind it, as a natural moat and accompanies two bailey walls called Ninomaru and Sannomaru on the south side. This is a Teikaku-style castle formation, in which the keep of the castle is surrounded by two baileys and protected by two layers of moats (Inner Moat and Outer Moat). This castle is also called Jizogadake Castle or Turtle Castle.

The exact date when the castle was built is not known but it is said that a regional lord of Ozu, Utsunomiya from Shimotsuke (current Tochigi) built it sometime in the medieval period. After Hideyoshi Toyotomi conquered the Shikoku region, many historically well-known people lived in this castle including Takakage Kobayakawa; Hideyoshi's favorite warrior, Katsutaka Toda; a famous castle builder, Takatora Todo; and one of the legendary Shizugadake Seven Spearmen, Yasuharu Wakizaka. It is thought to have been reconstructed on a large scale as an early modern castle fortress in the period when Takatora Todo and Yasuharu Wakizaka lived. In Genna 3 (1617), Sadayasu Kato moved into the castle from Hoki (current Tottori). From then on, it was a residence castle of the Katos, who were vassals with a 60,000 *goku* annual salary, through Meiji 2 (1869), when all the domains were returned to the central government.

There were as many as 18 turrets but in Meiji Period they were gradually destroyed and in Meiji 21 (1888), the castle tower was taken down. However, in Heisei 16 (2004), the castle tower was reconstructed into a 4-story wooden castle with 4 roofs.

Features of Ninomaru Bailey



National Important Cultural Property

Owata Yagura Turret

The Owatayagura Turret is an independent tower located on the east corner of the Ninomaru Bailey. It stands closest to the Hijikawa river, which flows in an L shape along the corner. The turret played an important role for defense of the east side because the turret made it possible to keep watch on both the upper and lower streams of the river all at once.

The exact date when the turret was originally built is not known but it was reconstructed in Tempo 14 (1843). It has trapezoid shaped openings on the outer walls called *ishiotoshis*, which were used to attack enemies right under the turret. A unique feature of these *ishiotoshis* is a lattice window construction. Due to severe damage caused by frequent floods, the turret was pulled down and reconstructed in Showa 34 (1959) and the stone walls of its foundation were raised about 2.6 meters.

Prefectural Important Tangible Cultural Property

Shimodaidokoro

Designation: 03/08/1968

Shimodaidokoro is a storehouse with stucco walls and a gabled roof with a formal tile layering. A part of this house has a second floor. The exact date of construction is unknown. This is the only stucco building that still exists in the Ozu Castle site.

The outside is fully covered with stucco including the underside of the roof. It is thought to have been used as a food storage area for the castle. During the Meiji period and after, it was used for other purposes such as a prison and a silk-reeling factory storage area.



3 Foundation Stones of Castle Tower (Moved) 4 Yagura Shita Gomon Site

Features of Honmaru Castle Keep



National Important Cultural Property

Designation: 06/18/1957

Koran Yagura Turret

Located at the entrance of Honmaru (Keep of the castle), the Koran Yagura Turret is connected to the castle tower on the north side through a yagura corridor.

It was destroyed by a big earthquake in Ansei 4 (1857) and reconstructed 3 years later in Manen 1 (1860). It was thought that the weatherboard outer walls were changed to the current stucco walls in the reconstruction.

This turret has Chinese Tang Dynasty style eaves called *Nokikarahafu* in the center of the top roof. At the southwest corner, it has a trapezoid shaped *Ishiotoshi*.

The main feature of this building is the handrail on the balcony on the first roof, which was made to sit outside of the window. The handrail has a pole with a mock jade ball, called *Gihoju*, on top at each corner. It's very rare that a turret has this type of handrail and thus this turret is considered to be the most formal building next to the castle tower on the site.

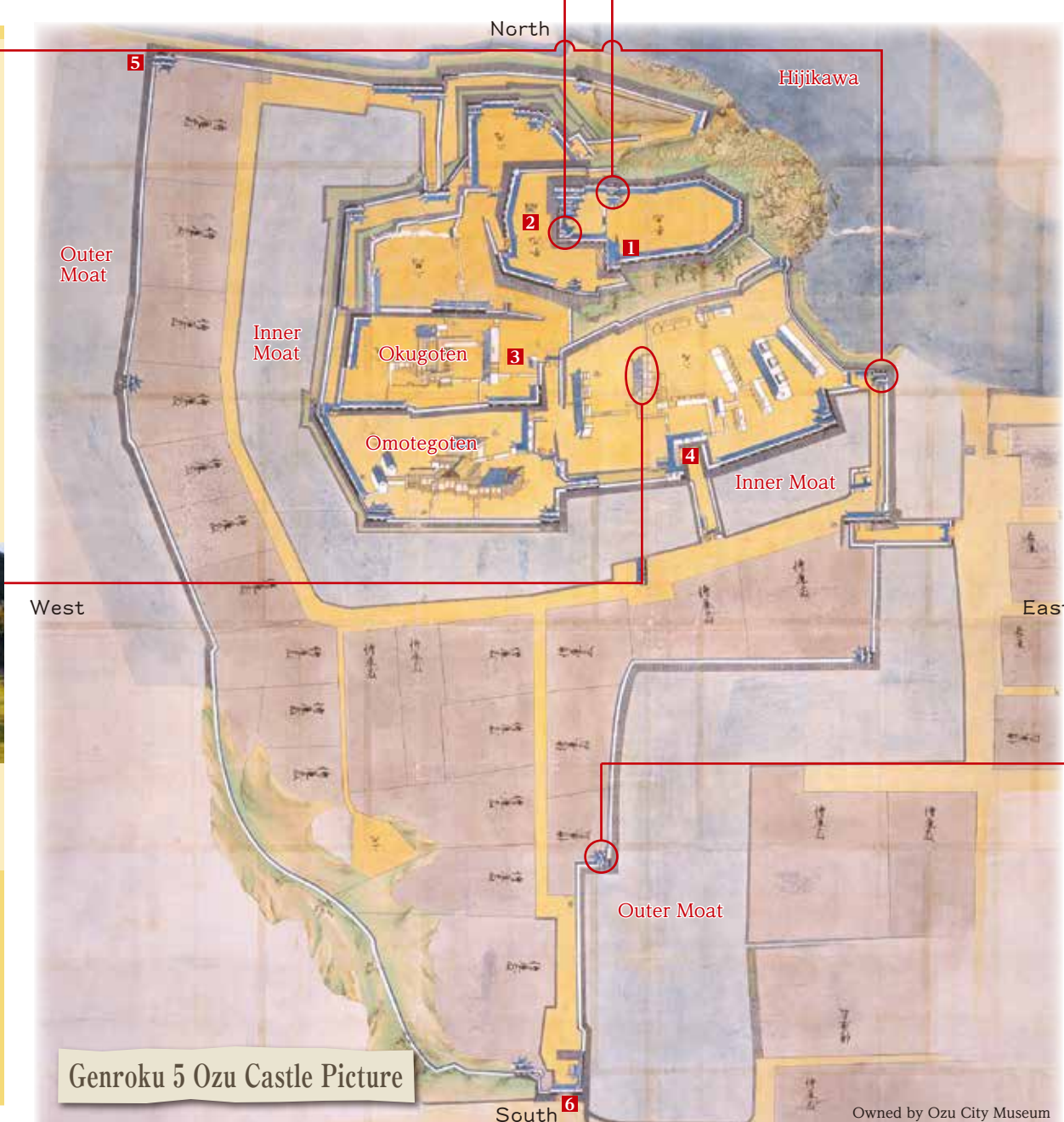
National Important Cultural Property

Designation: 06/18/1957

Daidokoro Yagura Turret

This turret is the largest of the 4 turrets that exist in the Ozu Castle site. It is as large as the castle tower and its magnificent keep can be described as a small castle tower.

It is thought to have been built in the beginning of the Edo period. It was destroyed by a big earthquake in Ansei 4 (1857) and rebuilt two years later in Ansei 6 (1859). It can function as a kitchen, which is very unique for turrets. During wartime, it was used to prepare meals for soldiers staying in the castle. For that reason, one third of the first floor is dirt and it has latticework windows for ventilation. On the north side of the second floor, there is a *chidorihafu* eave (a triangular shaped gable) with a window, called *katomado*, which means a window with a flower shaped top.



Genroku 5 Ozu Castle Picture

Owned by Ozu City Museum



1 Kuragarimon Gate Site



2 Honmaru Ido Well

Features of Sannomaru Bailey



National Important Cultural Property

Sannomaru Minami Sumi Yagura Turret

Designation: 06/18/1957

This turret is located at the south corner of the outer moat of the Sannomaru Bailey. It is the oldest of all turrets that exist on the Ozu Castle site. The exact date that it was built is unknown. It was burnt down in a fire in Kyoho 7 (1722) and rebuilt 44 years later in Meiwa 3 (1766). As for building materials, Japanese hemlock was used in the key areas and pine was used for the pillars. The ridge plaque says that due to a financial difficulty of the Domain, in order to cut construction costs, official craftsmen were employed to cut timber instead of artisans.

The walls have thick areas called Drum Walls where bamboo tubes were buried. Usually the bamboo tubes were concealed with plaster (and in wartime, the drum walls were broken and opened to shoot through the tubes with matchlock guns).



5 Sannomaru Bailey Hokusei Sumi Yagura Turret Site



6 Nishinomom Gate Site