

The Map of Tobiyama Castle

**Tobiyama Historical
Experience Hall**

Hottatebashira Structures

Medieval Tateana Structure

Ancient Tateana Structure

Please pay attention to the following:

Only climb the bank in designated areas.

Please keep our park clean by not leaving trash behind.

Be courteous to others, so everyone can enjoy their stay.

Explanation 1

This area is 25 meters (equivalent to an eight story building) higher than the Kinu River. There used to be a deep pool of water down this cliff. Legend says that some white catfish once lived there.

About 12km north of this castle is the Katsuyama Castle (Sakura City). In the fourteenth century Haga inhabited the castle to guard against Nasu's invasion.

Explanation 2

Yaguradai and Moat No. 6

Moat No. 6 has five turret stands, called yaguradai, to protect against attack from the northeast. The structures which had been destroyed were reconstructed with gentler slopes for visitors to experience fort-climbing.

In reality, as the drawing shows, Moat No. 6 ran through the north cliff.

Explanation 3

Hottatebashira Structures

These four structures are built with pillars dug into the ground. The walls are of mud and the roofs are shingled with stones as weights on top, called Ishioki-Itabuki. They were used as guardhouses since they are located in front of the wooden bridge leading to the front gate.

Explanation 4

Stone Remnants

The remnants are located in the middle of Kuruwa (IV). They have a circular surface with a pile of river stones of different sizes.

Some unglazed earthen plates and pale-green ceramic pieces were found between the stones. The objectives of the remnants are unknown.

Explanation 5

Hottatebashira Structures

These four structures are built with pillars dug into the ground. The walls are of mud and the roofs are shingled with stones as weights on top, called Ishioki-Itabuki.

An investigation discovered some of the pillars to firmly support the floor, which leads us to believe that the structure presumably had a high floor and was used as storage to keep arms and armor.

Explanation 6

This area is 25 meters (equivalent to an eight story building) higher than the Kinu River.

From here we can see ruins of the Utsunomiya Castle and the Tago Castle, which represent Utsunomiya. The Utsunomiya Castle was used as Utsunomiya's residence, and the headquarters moved to the Tago Castle towards the end of the Age of Civil Wars.

Across the Kinu River was the ancient Tosando.

Explanation 7

Ancient Tateana Structure

This type of structure is called Kabetachishiki Tateana Jukyo, which is a house with a large hole in the ground for a dirt floor and the roof supported by pillars in the hole along the edge.

The walls are made of dirt and the roof is thatched.

Inside the house are a cooking stove and shelves.

An earthen vessel marked "tobuhiya" with ink was found through an investigation into the remains, which indicates that it was a post for houshi (signal fire watchmen).

Explanation 8

Medieval Tateana Structure

These two structures have their floors dug in to the ground about 1.5 meters deep, and the roof is thatched down to the ground. The roof is Ishioki-Itabuki, like the Hottatebashira structure. An investigation found river stones and pieces from large, earthen pots and pale-green porcelain. This structure may have been for storage or a post for soldiers.

Explanation 9

Ditch

This is a ditch that divides Kuruwa (VI) into east and west. On the east side of the ditch there are remnants of large-scale Tateana structures and Hottatebashira structures; on the west side there are fewer remnants and many small scale structures. We may conclude that there was a functional difference between east and west of the ditch.

Explanation 10

Dirt Bridge and Moat No. 5

This dirt bridge is to cross Moat No. 5 from the south side.

An investigation into this section revealed that the moat had been dug at least three times, as the drawing shows. This shows that the castle was reconstructed after going through several battles.

Explanation 11

Turret Stand

There are five turret stands around Moat No. 6. Attacks, such as “Yokoyagake” or an arrow-shooting from the sides, were made on enemies attempting to invade across the wooden bridge to the front gate.

An investigation revealed that this turret stand was broken down when the castle was demolished.

Explanation 12

Masugata (Square Area)

This remnant structure was a defense installation to attack an enemy that came across the wooden bridge.

An investigation confirmed a ditch existed, the depth of which determined the height of the dirt fort. Presumably there was a fence on the dirt fort.

Explanation 13

Wooden Bridge

An investigation revealed that there was a wooden bridge at this point. This spot is in line with an old road extending to the east. Going down this road you will find Dokeiji Temple, which houses the Haga Family grave.

There may have been a front gate over the wooden bridge, but the investigation failed to confirm it.

Explanation 14

Dirt Bridge and Gate

Here you see the wooden bridge to get across Moat No. 5. There is a gate past this bridge; the gate prevents enemies and suspicious people from invading. An investigation found one river stone supposedly used for a gate foundation and in the dirt fort two pillar holes to support it.

The Map of Tobiyama Castle

Suggested Tour (about 1 hour required)

By walking from No. 1 to No. 10 you can see the main places in about an hour.

Tobiyama Historical Experience Hall

Aerial Map of Tobiyama Castle Historical Park

Park Rules

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Be courteous to others.

- or more polite -

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