



Main Building, Front

## A Private House in Toyama

# Ukita Family Residence

Nationally designated important cultural property

## Guide to the Ukita Family Residence

### ■ History of the Ukita Family

It is not known for certain when the Ukita family first settled in this location, nor where they originally came from. The third head of the family, Sobei, was appointed by the Kaga domain as an *okuyama-ezukata* (an official in charge of making maps of remote mountains), and in 1693, the fourth family head (also named Sobei) became a *yama-mawari-yaku* (an official overseeing trees in mountain forests).

Under the family's fifth head, Soemon, who served as a local magistrate in charge of directing and supervising the collection of the annual rice tribute, the family's fief was increased from 500 *koku* (land with labor to grow enough rice to feed 500 people for a year) to 1,000 *koku* on a gross basis. Under the family's sixth head, Kakuemon, the family also served as the *okuyama-mawari-yaku*, and became a local magistrate with a fief of 1,500 *koku*.

The *okuyama-mawari-yaku* was a position responsible for mountain forest preservation and border security in the Tateyama and Kurobe areas, and was held by the Ukita family for generations until 1870, a few years after the end of the Tokugawa shogunate.

Reportedly, the family came to have the status of a local magistrate with a fief of 3,000 *koku* in 1827, under the family's seventh head, Zenzaemon.



Hall



Kitchen



## General Information

**Hours** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (last admission at 4:30 p.m.)

**Closed** • Mondays (except national holidays) and days after national holidays (open if the day after a national holiday is Saturday or Sunday)  
• New Year holidays (Dec. 28 to Jan. 4) The facility may also be open or closed on dates not shown here.

### Admission Fees

	Individuals	Groups (of 20 or more)
Adults	¥100	¥90
Toyama City residents 70 or older	¥50	
Children under 18	Free	

**Fee for Using the Tea Ceremony Room, etc.**  
¥3,300 per session (once per day)

### Access by Public Transportation

By Bus (Chitetsu Bus) from Toyama Station  
Get on the Nishinoban Route bus (bound for Toyama Saijo Mae), get off at the Ota bus stop, and walk 3 min.  
Get on the Kokuritsu Kosen Route bus (bound for Kokuritsu Kosen), get off at the Nishihongo bus stop, and walk 5 min.

### Contact Information

Ukita Family Residence:  
272 Otaminami-cho, Toyama City, Toyama 939-8044  
Phone: (076) 492-1516  
Toyama City Board of Education, Lifelong Learning Division  
Phone: (076) 443-2138 (Direct Dial)

Toyama City Board of Education





Main Building, North Side



Front Gate (Inside)



Wooden-Floored Room

## ■ Building Layout

The 5,190-square-meter site is surrounded by a moat and walls. Upon entering the front gate to the east, visitors are greeted by the main building, which stands roughly in the center of the site. The most important part of the building, with reception rooms, is located to the south. There is a garden in the front. Behind the main building, there used to be three storehouses, of which only one remains today. It was used for storing garments.

## ■ Building Specifications

### Main Building:

26.8 m ridge length, 9.2 m span width, hipped thatched roof, with stone-weighted shingle-roofed eaves on the east side

### Front Gate:

15.1 m ridge length, 3.5 m span width, hip-and-gable thatched roof

### Storehouse:

7 m ridge length, 5.2 m span width, two-story building with a gabled pantiled roof

## ■ Construction History

**Main building:** The framework of the main building is estimated to have been completed in 1828, according to documentation dating back to 1824 possessed by the Ukita family that lists the house materials and items, as well as the *munafuda* (a wooden tag attached to the ridge pole after the framework is complete, with information on construction, such as the background, date, and names of builders and artisans).

There once was another building of the same size behind it and attached to it, which was demolished during the Showa era (1926–1989).

Traces of wooden joints to attach to the other building still remain on pillars and beams at the rear of this building.

The two rooms located at the end of the building, behind the seats of honor in the reception rooms, were added during the Meiji era (1868–1912).

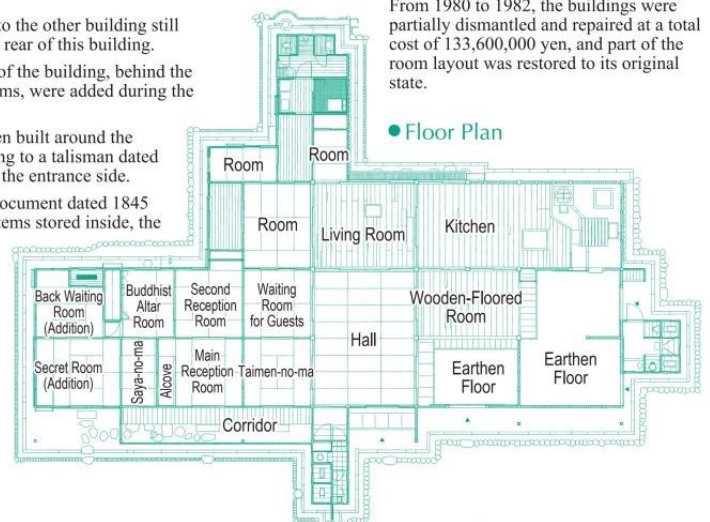
**Front gate:** Estimated to have been built around the early to mid 19th century, according to a talisman dated 1834 that is attached to a pillar on the entrance side.

**Storehouse:** Although there is a document dated 1845 regarding the storehouse and the items stored inside, the existing storehouse has an inscription in ink dated 1890 on a beam on the second floor, suggesting that it was built around then.

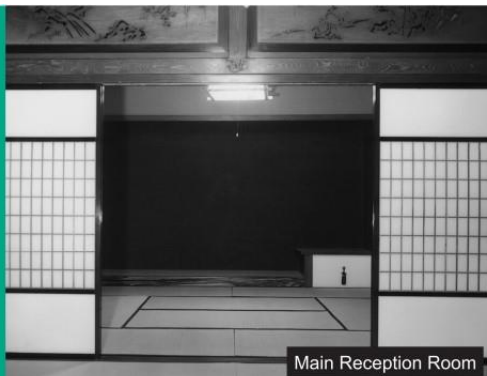
## ■ Nationally Designated Important Cultural Properties

The house was used as an official residence of the Kaga Domain and retains the traditional architectural style of a wealthy farmer's private house from around the 18th century. Accordingly, the front gate and the main building were designated Cultural Properties by the prefecture in January 1965. In May 1979, the main building, the front gate, and the storehouse, along with the housing site, were designated Important Cultural Properties of Japan (buildings).

From 1980 to 1982, the buildings were partially dismantled and repaired at a total cost of 133,600,000 yen, and part of the room layout was restored to its original state.



## ● Elevation View



Main Reception Room



Secret Room and Back Waiting Room (Tea Ceremony Room)



Main Building, East Side



Corridor



Main Building, Rear (South) Side



Storehouse (Second Floor Interior)



Storehouse