

Basis for Restoration of Sakura Gomon

Rebuilding Historic Structure

In order to restore a historic structure at a historical landmark, it is necessary to collect information and conduct research to accumulate evidence for restoration and to reproduce the structure as faithfully as possible to the original appearance. Sakura Gomon is the first example of reconstruction at the historic site of Takamatsu Castle. No plans or models have survived, so a restoration plan was created based on old photographs and traces of the gate that remain at the site.



Architectural Rendering of Sakura Gomon at the Time of Design

Collection and Analysis of Old Photographs

During the collection of materials for restoration studies, very clear photographic plates on glass were found. Because of the ability to see details, it became possible to analyze the photos, calculate the dimensions, and observe design in detail.



Old Pictures of the Sakura Gomon (Courtesy of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties) and an Example of Photo Analysis

Traces and Excavations on Site

The gate was lost in the air raids, but traces of the original structure were left on the site. The foundation on which the pillars were placed has traces of metal fittings wrapped around the base of the posts as rust, indicating the dimensions. Excavations on the stone wall revealed roof tiles, earthen walls, nails, and other building materials in the layers that had been burned red by the firebombing, providing the basis for the reconstruction.



Traces of Column on Foundation Stone (Rust of metal hardware wrapped around the base)

Layer of Earth Reddened by Air Raids

Excavated Piece of Tile (top) and Restored Roof Tile (bottom)