

Updating Rationale for Restoration

In the restoration process, we collect as much evidence as possible and analyze and research it to determine a restoration plan. There are a wide range of survey items, but one example is the survey on the wood to be used. For the Sakura Gomon, we decided to use zelkova for the pillars on the first floor based on the texture of the wood grain seen in old photographs and our research of the wood used in *yagura* gates remaining in other castles. However, toward the end of the construction, an unidentified historical document, which is currently under investigation, stated that “the pillars of the Sakura Gomon had deteriorated, so they were covered with zelkova boards.” In other words, the zelkoba grain seen in the old photo may not be that of the pillar, but of the veneer attached to the surface. Thus, it is not uncommon for new historical documents to be discovered or information to be corrected after the fact as research progresses. On the other hand, it is often physically difficult to modify the details of a restored structure. Restoration and research always face this dilemma.



Pillar in Old Photograph (Left, Courtesy of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Enlarged) as the Basis and Restored Sakura Gomon (Right)