

# History of the Yoshida family

Over many generations, the Yoshida family served as village heads while engaging in large-scale agriculture.

Gradually, the family grew into becoming local merchants by extending business to the trade of grains.

In the latter part of the Edo period, the family stepped into the manufacture of soy sauce, and by 1826, the Yoshida family also took the role of managing Koganemaki, the pasture for the military horses of the Shogunate, a function which earned them a rank equal to that of a Samurai.

The family ceased brewing soy sauce after selling the managing rights to the Noda Soy Sauce Co., Ltd in 1922; thereafter the Yoshidas concentrated their efforts on regional development and the promotion of sports.

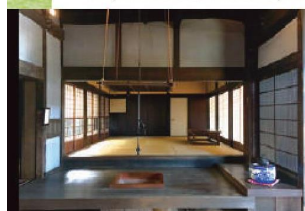
Where the soy sauce brewery once stood, a new house was built for the family, and the fields on the southern side of the residence was turned into lawns in 1996.

## The Former Yoshida Family Residence

The main buildings that one can see today were built in the late Edo period. It was by this time that overall improvement and maintenance works were undertaken on the residence, that included the rebuilding of the Main House, carried out in parallel with the construction of buildings related to the brewing of soy sauce.

## Main House built in 1854

The Main House is a large-scale building, covered with a thatched hipped roof. A spacious *doma* (earthen floor) occupies the west half of the house. The central part of the building was used for the *mise* (business space), including the *chouba zashiki* (accounting room) which was added in a later period, and the *shikidai* (formal entrance) is located in the western part of the house. The fact that the *shikidai* and the *shoin* (reception rooms) are connected in one flow by a corridor indicates that the main house and the *shoin* were constructed within the same floor planning sequence and at the same period.



- ① A stately thatched roof. The thatch at the eaves is one meter thick
- ② The fireplace was reconstructed recently according to traces of the original
- ③ Archaeological survey revealed the traces of five cooking ranges
- ④ The beams above the cooking ranges were covered with lime plaster as a measure of fire prevention
- ⑤ Special green glass was used for the accounting room to make it hard to look into from the outside
- ⑥ The cooking room is an extension of the Meiji period

Reconstructed fireplace

## Shoin built in 1854, the same year as the Main House

Covered of pantiles, the roof is hipped with a roof line in *shikoro* (broken plane) style. The three sides of the building which face the garden have an *en* (veranda) that constitutes a wide *geya* (peripheral zone). There are two rooms of twelve and a half tatami mats, laid as front room and back room.

- ⑦ Corridor that leads to the Shoin
- ⑧ Transom with diamond-shaped flower motif mullion
- ⑨ On a sliding panel beside the alcove, one can see the signature of Kano Tadanobu, the tenth and the last master of the Kano family, who served for generations as painters attached to the Edo shogunate.



The rooms and wooden floor veranda of the shoin facing the gardens

## Shinzashiki built in 1865

- ⑩ The corridor that leads to the Shinzashiki
- ⑪ The housemaids' room



## Copper plate engraving (made in 1894)

On the spacious land of the estate extending longitudinally from east to west, the eastern half was used for the residence and the western half for soy sauce brewing facilities. The overall layout of the present estate remains largely unchanged from this depiction.

## Folk art items



A great number of items were donated, including archives, books, photographs, works of art and crafts, furniture and folk art items of everyday use, which are currently being surveyed.

## Records

Interviews and documents such as historic records, copper plate engravings and old photographs have been instrumental in clarifying the history and evolution of the buildings and the gardens.



In front of the Main House, photograph of 1919



Wooden board recording the rebuilding of the Main House (dated 1853)



Nagayamon Cafe

## Nagayamon built in 1831

This gate is the oldest building amongst all existing buildings of the estate. This gate, which is 25 meters long, is a building of great length. The two rooms at the east and west ends of the gate were used for storing rice. Today the west storeroom is used as a tea room and lounge area.

- ⑫ Tiles and ridge-end tiles bear the crest of the Yoshida family



## Shingura built in 1833

This storehouse was built using the Itagura technique, by piling thick boards to make the walls. It was used for storing farming tools. Today, the ground floor is used mainly as exhibition room.

## Mukaigura built in 1833

The only storehouse with earthen walls which is still standing in the estate.

## Nishimon

The west gate stands on the boundary between the soy sauce brewing facilities and the residence.

## Dougugura built in 1867

Located on the east beside the Nagayamon.

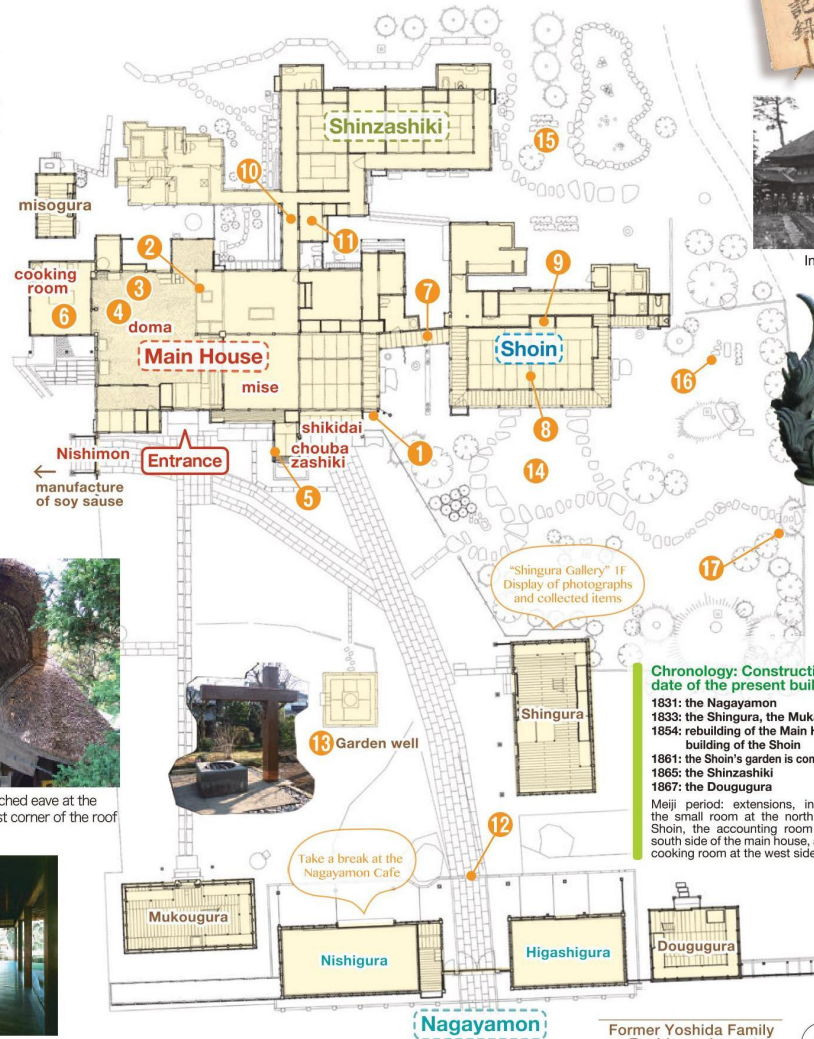


Karesansui garden in front of the Shinzashiki

## Gardens

The gardens located in front of the main house, the gardens of the Shoin and the Shinzashiki, as well as records related to their creation, are described in details in archive documents.

- ⑬ The post for the well bucket was reconstructed recently on the basis of the copper plate engraving
- ⑭ Moss-covered garden
- ⑮ A *karesansui*-style Japanese garden (dry landscape)
- ⑯ A Shachi-hoko said to have belonged to Edo Castle
- ⑰ Garden gate made of pine trees



## Chronology: Construction date of the present buildings

- 1831: the Nagayamon
- 1833: the Shingura, the Mukaigura
- 1854: rebuilding of the Main House, building of the Shoin
- 1861: the Shoin's garden is completed
- 1865: the Shinzashiki
- 1867: the Dougugura
- Meiji period: extensions, including the small room at the north of the Shoin, the accounting room at the south side of the main house, and the cooking room at the west side

Former Yoshida Family Residence Layout

