



Hand-drawn map of Fukui castle town

### Chains for “Funabashi” (Pontoon bridge)

“Funabashi” is a bridge made of boats connected together, lying across the river, with wooden boards placed on the boats. It was used from the olden days and there are some spots named after “Funabashi” nationwide.

The chains on display were used for the “Funabashi” which is said to be built by Shibata Katsuie in 1578. It was built where Hokuriku road and Kuzuryu River meet.

The size of the bridge of that period is unknown. There are many descriptions on the bridge in “*Echizenkoku Meisekiko* (Book of Geography & History of the Echizen Province)” compiled in the late Edo period. In the book, it was described that the river was about 190m wide and the bridge was about 216m long.

There is a story about Katsuie which has been handed down until now. In the story, boats used to make the bridge were collected from the Echizen Coast’s areas, and the chains were made from the weapons which were hunt by the “Sword hunting” order.

### Piers of Tsukumo Bridge

“Funabashi” is a bridge made of boats connected together, lying across the river, with wooden boards placed on the boats. It was used from the olden days and there are some spots named after “Funabashi” nationwide.

There is a record that the bridge existed in the Kamakura period (1185-1333); however, from the study on the old documents/drawings, it is considered that Katsuie built the half-stone/half-wood bridge for the first time.

In 1685 (beginning of the Edo period), the size of the bridge was mentioned in “*Echizenkoku Chirishinan* (the book about Geography of Echizen province).”

During the Edo period, about 260 years, the bridge was replaced more than 10 times in the record. The last replacement was done in 1854. Also, in the record, the bridge was replaced for the last time as a half wood-half stone bridge in 1874.

All the piers were made of Shakudani stones (used to be mined from Fukui City). The length of the piers were about 2.5~2.8m which differed according to the place where they were placed.



### Kitanosho Castle Ruins Park

Chuo 1-chome Chigakari, Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture

Museum : Open 9:00 – 17:00

Park Division, Construction Department, Fukui City

Ote 3-10-1, Fukui city, Fukui Prefecture

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#### Access

By walk:

JR Fukui Sta. (5 mins. walk) → Kitanosho Castle Ruins



Unravel the Mysteries of History at the Ruins :  
**Kitanosho Castle Ruins Park**





## Travel back in time to the Warring States Period (late 15th ~16th Century) and learn about the history of the warlord Shibata Katsuei, Kitanosho & Fukui

Kitanosho Castle Ruins Park is located on the remains of Kitanosho Castle which was built by Shibata Katsuei (1523?-1583). A part of the castle remains was excavated here for the first time by an archeological survey.

During the Edo Period (17~19th Century), Yuki Hideyasu (1574-1607) re-modeled the remains of Kitanosho Castle, and built Fukui Castle over the remains. It can be proved by surveying the overlapped remains of the two castles under the ground.

Until today, this place has been developed as the center of Fukui.

Kitanosho Castle Ruins/Shibata Park is an invaluable place where we can reflect the birth of Fukui City as a capital of Fukui Prefecture, and learn about the process of its development from historical point of views.

Shibata Shrine was rebuilt many times over several disasters. It is currently located next to the park as if it is protecting the castle ruins. Both Katsuei and his wife, Oichi, are enshrined here. Not only parishioners of the shrine, but also many fans of Katsuei and Oichi throughout Japan come to visit here.

### Results of excavations at Kitanosho Castle Ruins Park, and Shibata Shrine

Fukui Castle and its castle town had developed into the center of current Fukui City. The government facilities and the downtown are located on the former Fukui Castle's ground. The area has always been the center of politics and economy.

Construction of Kitanosho Castle by Shibata Katsuei was the first city planning project in this area (Fukui City).

It is mentioned that the construction of the castle began in 1575, and it was destroyed in 1583 before completion. Although the castle's original grounds are not clear, it is considered that the castle was built at the intersection of Asuwa River and Yoshio River (later Hyakkenbori moat).

In an old document from the Edo Period, it is mentioned that Kitanosho Castle's keep was built on the site protruding into Hyakkenbori moat, south of Hato-no-gomon Gate of Fukui Castle. Shibata Shrine is currently located on the site.

After Kitanosho Castle was destroyed, Yuki Hideyasu re-built Kitanosho Castle (later called Fukui Castle). The structures of the new castle can be seen on an existing picture map of Fukui Castle.

Centering on Honmaru, the central area of the Fukui Castle where the current Fukui Prefectural Government's building is located, the castle was surrounded by multiple moats. In the area surrounded by walls ("Kuruwa"), many samurai's residences were located. Unfortunately, Fukui Castle was completely disappeared due to the war, the Great Fukui Earthquake and the Ordinance for Demolition of Castle in Meiji Period (1868-1912).

Triggered by the construction of Shibata Shrine and maintenance work of **Kitanosho Castle Ruins/Shibata Park**, the Fukui City Board of Education has excavated the site 6 times since 1993, to research on the structures of Fukui Castle and to find proofs for an existence of Kitanosho Castle. The excavation results are shown here.



Excavation Results Briefing



Map of Fukui Castle (estimated)



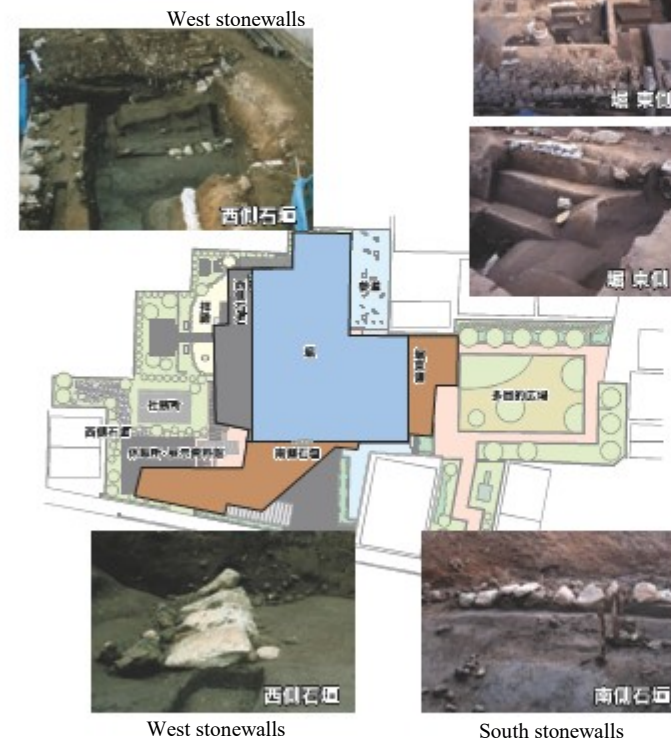
Map of Shibata Shrine and its surroundings (estimated)



Partial map of Fukui Castle premises (copy) at the time of Meiji Restoration



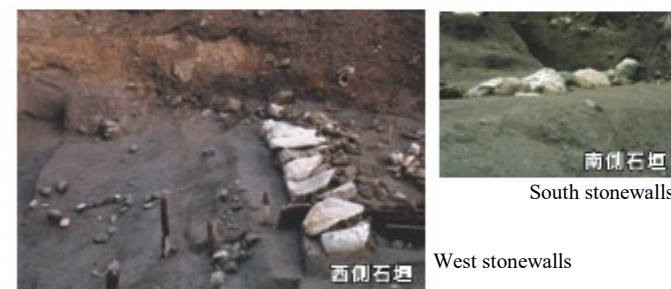
### Remains of Kitanosho Castle



Kitanosho Castle has been mentioned in some literatures, and the story about the castle has been handed down over generations. The excavation project revealed the existence of the castle for the first time. The moat found by the excavation was only a part of the large castle. The Yoshino River (later Hyakkenbori moat) and the moat were supposedly used to defend the castle against enemies from the east. The excavation also revealed that the whole structure of Kitanosho Castle was destroyed due to the construction of Fukui Castle.

Construction of Kitanosho Castle was the first city construction project in Fukui. Fukui City has developed based on Kitanosho Castle and then Fukui Castle. When talking about Fukui City, Kitanosho Castle has a great importance in the city's history.

### Moat and Stonewalls



The moat found during the excavation is 25m wide, extending towards north. Its stone embankments are supposed to have had so many layers of stones originally; however, it was destroyed when Fukui Castle was built. Only the first layer of the stone embankment of the south and west part of the moat remain. Mortars and jars of Echizen pottery, ceramics, and burnt coins and earthen walls from the late 16th century, were found in the moat.



### Remains of Fukui Castle



North and south sections divided by walls ("Kuruwa") and the road connecting these sections ("Dobashi") were discovered during the excavations. In "Kuruwa," along the road towards the center of the castle, samurai vassals' residences were located.

The road extended from the southern "Kuruwa," crossed the moat, went through a gate and staggered tall stone walls, bent at a right angle, and then, reached to the castle. This structure is to prevent enemies coming from south, from easily entering the castle. When viewing the road from south, the gate was hidden by the tall stonewall located in front, and could not be seen. There used to be stairs behind the stonewall in the back, for samurais to stay and attack enemies.

### Gate



Both sides of the gate were firmly protected by tall stonewalls. The gate facing to the west is supposed to have had four posts in front and more than two posts in the back. Two out of four posts in front were placed directly into the ground and other two were set to the stonewalls to support the gate. There seems to be several gates located around here. Checking on the Fukui Castle's picture map, names of different gates such as "Funagura" Gate, "Hinata" Gate or "Uzumi Gate" are shown.