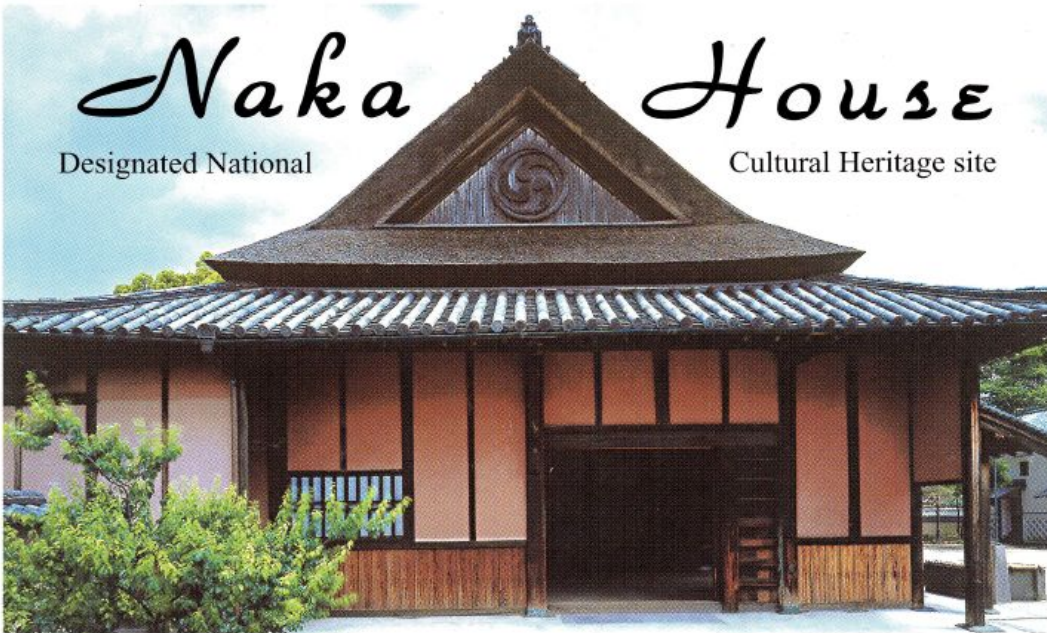


Naka House

Designated National

Cultural Heritage site



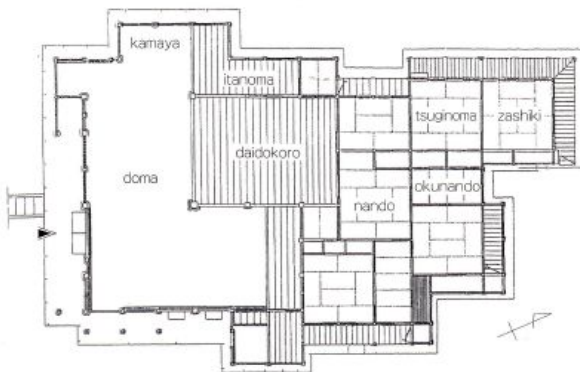
Naka House (Designated National Cultural Heritage site since 29 May 1964)

The present Naka House was a private residence built at the beginning of the Edo Period, about 400 years ago. It has a traditional thatched roof which bears the family crest at the front.

As one enters the house, one notices a large clay floor and thick wooden beams across the ceiling. The wide spaces and wooden floor are reminiscent of the kitchen of a Samurai residence or a temple.

There are several multi-purpose rooms known as "zashiki". All within the grounds of the house there is a gate, a well, a storehouse and a shrine. According to ancient maps there would also have been a larger guesthouse and a moat surrounding the house. It is generally believed that the grounds and house were once much larger than they are today.

In the house itself we can see many elements of a traditional Japanese way of life. In its clever use of wood, tiles, clay walls, straw mats and "washi" (Japanese paper) we are reminded of how traditional materials were used in order to provide a comfortable living environment against the cold of winter, the humidity of summer and rains of the "tsuyu" (rainy season).



The History of the House of Naka

During the Heian Period (about 950 years ago) on his way to the ancient holy site of Kumano in Wakayama prefecture, Emperor Goshirakawa passed through the southern Osaka area of Senshu and stayed at Naka House.

During the Edo Period, the Naka family, on behalf of the landowners of the Kishiwada fiefdom, had the responsibility of collecting taxes from the local villages. They also had the power to hold court, and to print and distribute money. In essence they acted as a bank for the fiefdom.

During the Meiji Period (1868-1910), descendants of the House of Naka served as members of Parliament. After the Second World War several served as mayors of Kumatori town.

Naka House as location of Hasimoto Soukichi's electronic experiments (Designated by Kumatori Town as a Local Cultural Heritage site since 13 March 1996)

The scientist, Hasimoto Soukichi (1763-1836), who had studied western science and in particular had been inspired by Franklin's famous experiment into the essence of electricity through the use of a kite, was able to conduct a similar experiment during the Edo Period, with the help and collaboration of Naka House.

In his experiment carried out some 200 years ago, Hashimoto used a 600 year old pine tree situated in the grounds of the house. His dedication earned him a reputation as a pioneer in the fields of electronics.



C L O S E DMonday, Tuesday, Friday, National Holiday,
12/28~1/5
O P E NFrom 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Entry by 4 p.m.)
E N T R Y F E EFree
I N F O R M A T I O NBoard of Education in Kumatori
TEL.0724-52-1001 FAX.0724-52-7103