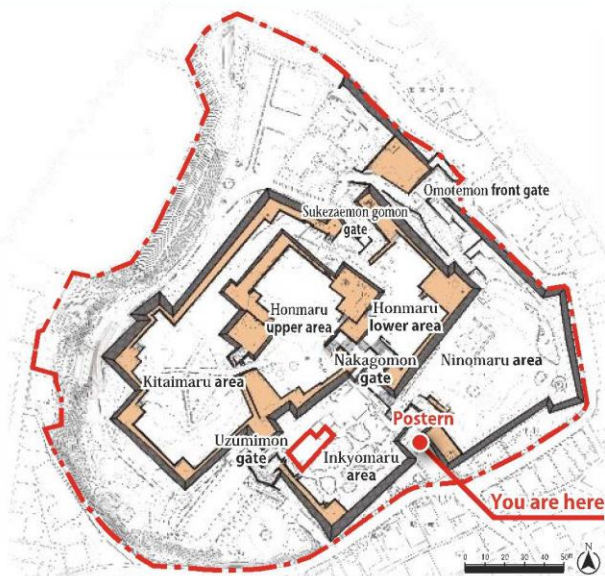
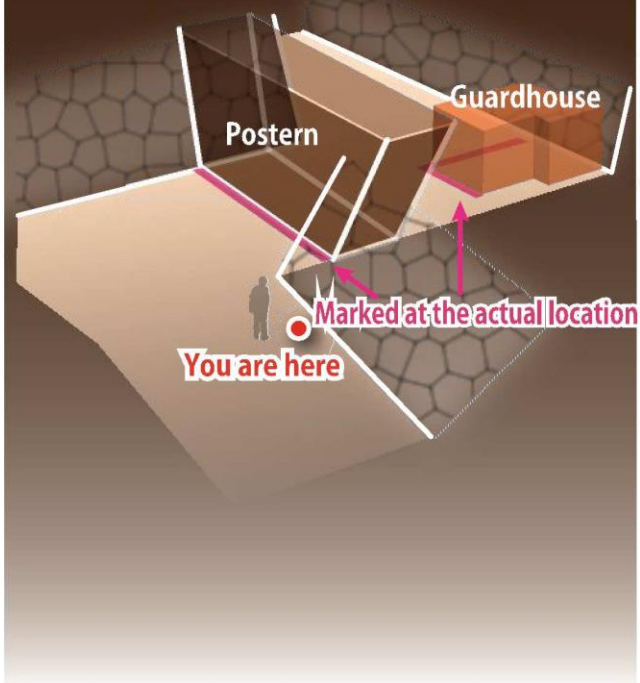


うらもん ばんしょ 裏門・番所

Postern • Guardhouse



- Motoori Norinaga's Former Residence (Designated Special Historic Site)
- Matsusaka Castle Ruins (Designated Historic Site)

※This map marks the traces of former areas and structures within the castle ruins.

Matsusaka Board of Education Installed November 2024

The Structure of Matsusaka Castle's Rear Entrance

The paths within the castle walls are designed to bolster defenses through a combination of gates and numerous sharp turns. Spaces with this structure are called masugata.

The path to the rear entrance of Matsusaka Castle is fortified with multiple connected masugata (see fig. 1).

Matsusaka Castle's Postern

According to records from the mid-1600s, the postern was originally a two story yaguramon with hongawarabuki style stone roof tiling (see fig. 2).

Yaguramon gatehouses are castle gates built with yagura guard towers on top for increased defenses. The yagura has portholes (called sama) and windows used for offense and surveillance beyond castle walls.

The photograph to the right (see fig. 3) depicts the postern in 1872 with kayabuki thatching. Records indicate that after the second story was damaged in a typhoon in the Edo period (1603-1867), the postern was repaired into a thatched roof single story building.

The Guardhouse

A map from the early Meiji era (1868-1872) shows that a guardhouse for the castle defenders was built behind the postern (see fig. 4).

An excavation in 2023 revealed the bases that supported the guardhouse's stone pillars (see fig. 5).

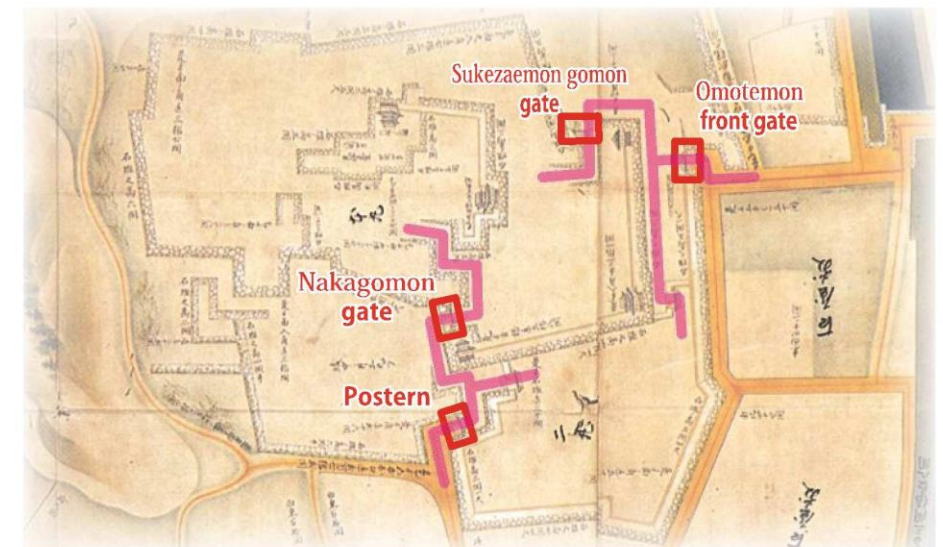


Figure 1. Map of Matsusaka Castle from around 1645 – 1654. from the National Archives of Japan

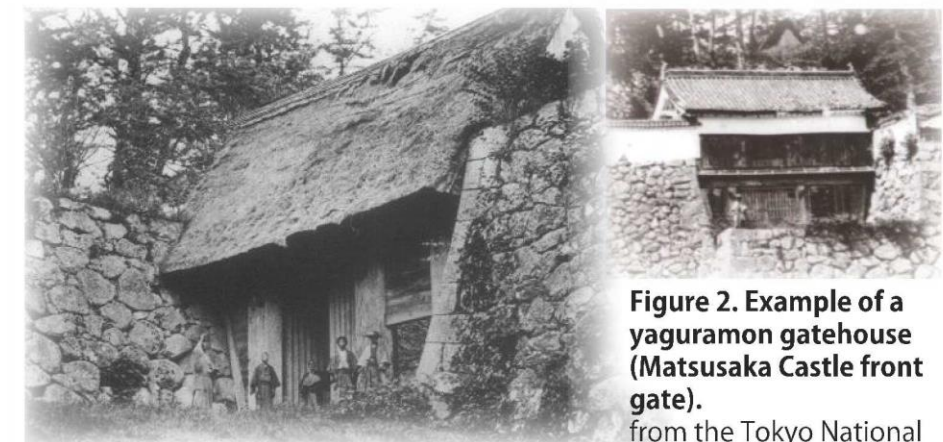


Figure 2. Example of a yaguramon gatehouse (Matsusaka Castle front gate). from the Tokyo National Museum

Figure 3. The postern in 1872. from the Tokyo National Museum

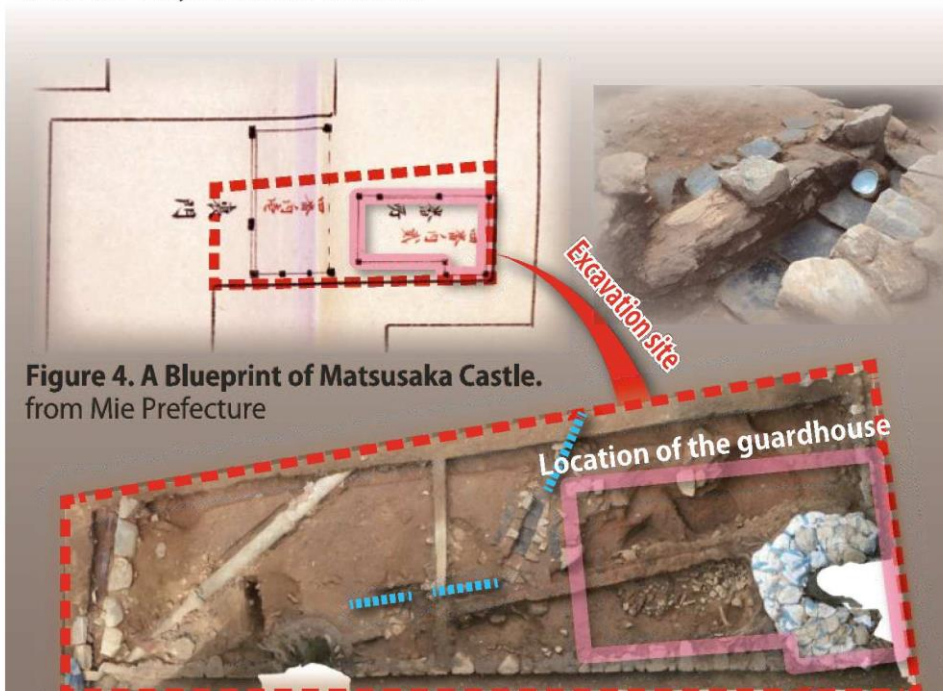


Figure 4. A Blueprint of Matsusaka Castle. from Mie Prefecture

Figure 5. Traces of the guardhouse confirmed through an excavation.