

History of The Building

This building was originally constructed in 1884 as the Uwajima Police Station, located in Hirokoji, Uwajima City. Remarkably, it survived wartime damage and was later relocated to Nishiumi (Ainan Town at the moment), where it served as the town office from 1953. In 1992, following the construction of a new town office, the building was relocated to Uwajima once again and carefully restored near the former site of the Kabasaki Battery, an important symbol of Uwajima's modernization. Today, it stands as a valuable historical structure that conveys both the architectural innovation and civic history of the region.

During the early Meiji period, many buildings in Japan were constructed in imitation of Western architectural styles. These structures are known as Gi-youfuu (pseudo-Western style) architecture. While their external appearance resembles Western buildings, their internal construction often relies on traditional Japanese techniques, such as log-based roof framing.

This building, however, is exceptional. Instead of round logs, it employs straight, square timber to form roof trusses, reflecting an advanced structural approach for its time. The hipped roof is supported by a distinctive system known as Kaburazuka—floating wooden pillars that represent an early attempt to incorporate Western structural concepts into Japanese architecture.

Because relatively few Gi-youfuu buildings remain in western Japan, this structure is especially regarded as an important example, illustrating Uwajima's forward-looking spirit during the Meiji period.

Kaburazuka

Kaburazuka can be seen in the attic space on the second floor, accessible from Exhibition Room 4. The principal rafters of the hipped roof radiate outward in a complex, radial configuration. This structure closely resembles Western-style trusses and was highly unusual in Japan at the time, highlighting the experimental nature of the building's design.



Entrance Decorations

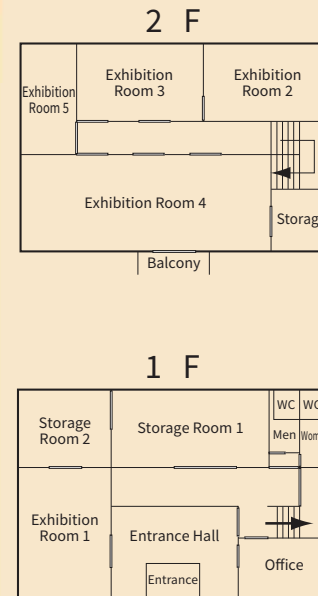
At the center of the drop arch above the first-floor entrance porch is a keystone-inspired decorative element. This motif is based on the wedge-shaped stones used in Western masonry arches and has been recreated here in wood. Notably, the material used is the same as that employed at the time of the building's original construction.



Double-Hung Windows

The building features double-hung windows equipped with counterweights concealed within the side frames. This mechanism, rare in Japan during the Meiji period, allowed the windows to be opened and closed smoothly and demonstrates the influence of Western building technology.

Floor Map



About the Exhibitions

Historical Overview of Uwajima (Exhibition Room 2)

This exhibition provides an overview of Uwajima's history from prehistoric times through the Edo period. Archaeological materials excavated from sites representing different historical periods are on display, including the Ibuki-cho site (Jomon period), the Haitakayama Shell Mound (Yayoi period), the Togari Site (ancient period), the Itajima Castle Ruins (medieval period), and Uwajima Castle from the early modern period.



Notable Figures in the Meiji Period (Exhibition Room 3)

This exhibiton introduces prominent individuals from Uwajima who were active during the Meiji period through informative panel displays.

【Featured Figures】

- Korekata Kojima
- Michio Doi
- Teccho Suehiro
- Nobushige Hozumi
- Kenki Owada
- Shoyo Nakano



Old Maps of Uwajima Castle Town (Exhibition Room 5)

A collection of historical maps of Uwajima Castle Town from the Edo, Meiji, Taisho, and early Shouwa periods is on display. These maps illustrate the changing layout of the town over time, while accompanying panels explain the location of the museum and the history of land reclamation in the area.

【Major Maps on Display】

- Uwajima Castle Map (1748)
- Uwajima Castle Town Map (1703)
- Uwajima Castle Town Map (1854-64)
- Uwajima City Street Map (1910)
- Uwajima City Street Map (1921)
- Bird's-Eye View of Uwajima (1923)

