

Goromon Gate and the Stone Bridge

御楼門と石橋

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楼門和石桥

樓門和石橋

Goromon Gate, the main gate of Kagoshima (Tsurumaru) Castle and the symbol of the castle, was one of the largest castle gates in Japan. Based on an examination of old photographs and scratches on cornerstone ruins, its two-roof, two-story, wooden structure with gable roof gate and Shachihoko (an imaginary creature with the head of a tiger and the body of a carp) decorations set up on its roof, the building's height is estimated to be approximately 20 meters, including Shachihoko decorations.

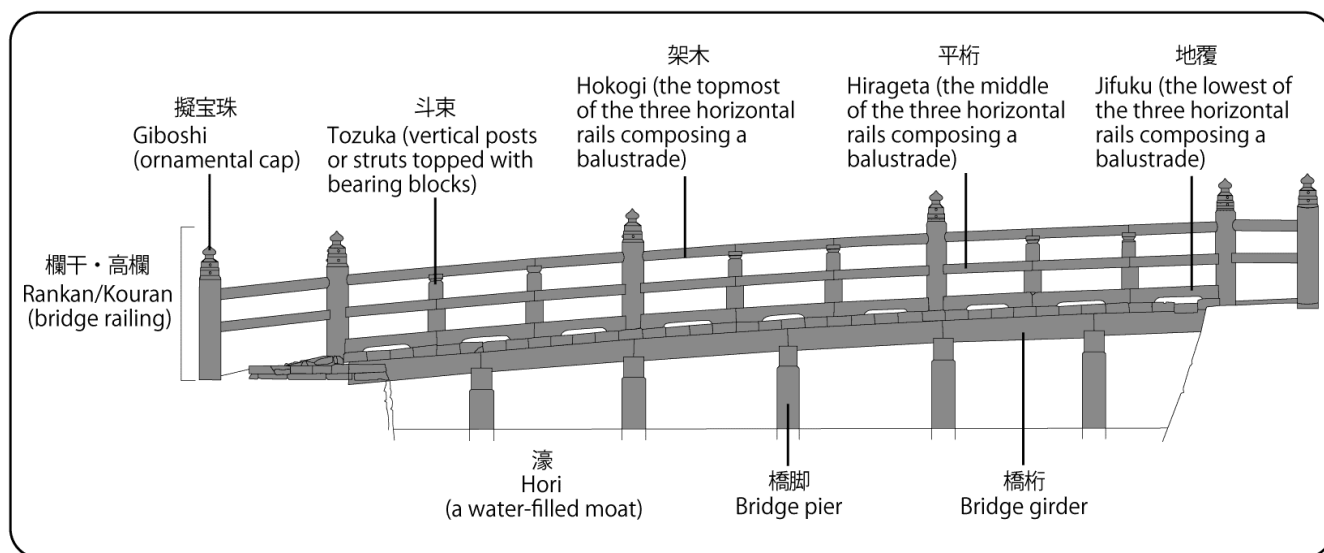
There are cornerstones (some as large as approximately 1.2 meters by 1 meter) still remaining in the surrounding areas, with rusted iron on their surface where pillars were anchored. This led to the understanding that the size of the main pillar was approximately 90 cm by 70 cm.

The bridge hanging in front of the gate was originally wooden. There is a record of a request made in 1810 to the Shogunate by the Satsuma Domain for permission to have it reconstructed using stone.

The ornamental cap on the bridge railing was created in Karakane (an alloy of bronze, tin, and copper) and stamped “慶長十七年壬子六月吉日 (Keicho 17 Jinshi 6 Gatsu Kichijitu)” (17th year of Keicho, 49th of the sexagenary cycle, June, a good day). The same type of ornaments were also set on the bridge railings of Shinbashi Bridge and Nishidabashi Bridge in Kagoshima castle town.



▲ The Goromon Gate and the Stone Bridge in 1872



▲ Structural diagram of the Stone Bridge