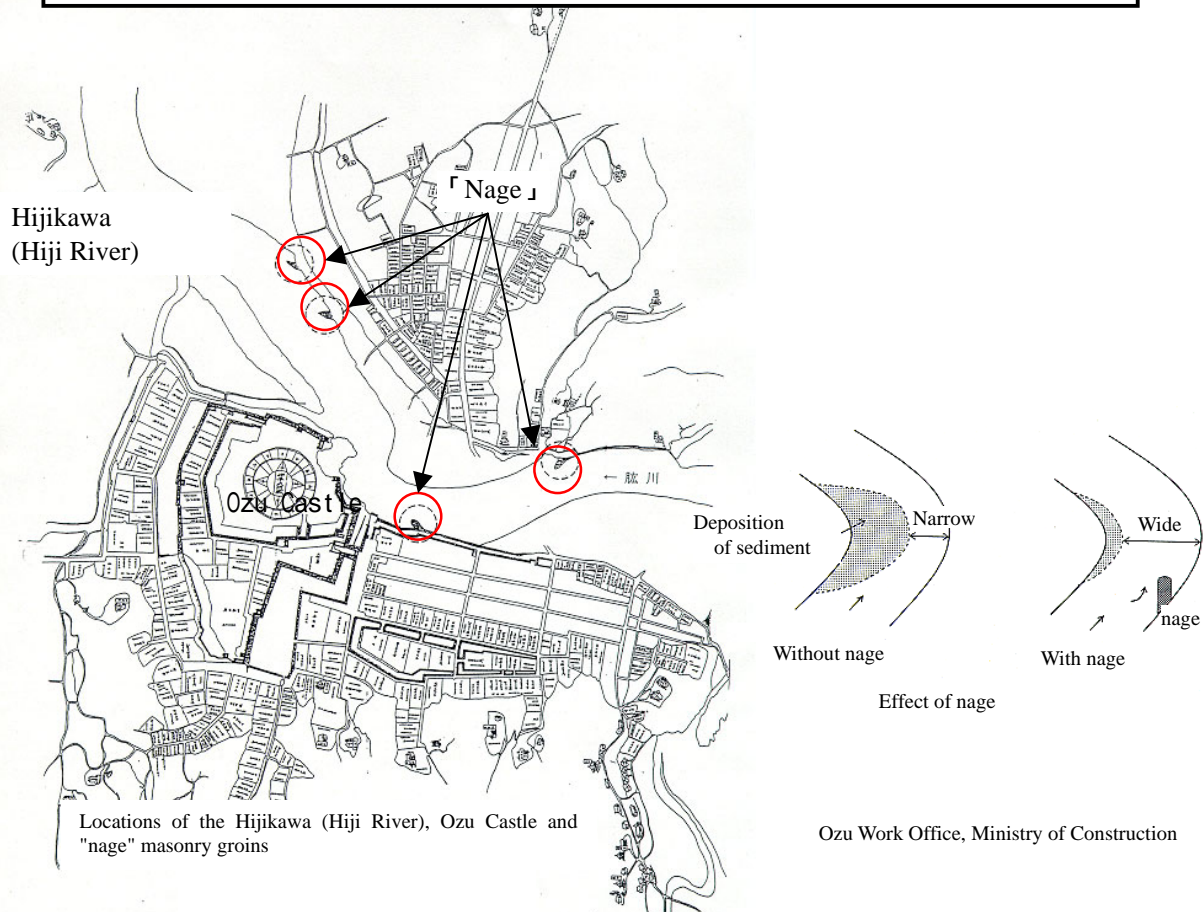


Traditional technique : Nage (masonry groin)

Category : Groins Sicle : 17th century

River : Hijikawa (Hiji River)

Site : Otsu City (Ehime Pref.)



Description:

"Nage" is a term peculiar to the Ozu region for a river structure (groin) built with stones. In most cases, a nage groin is installed on the outer side of a bend in the Hijikawa (Hiji River), placed at an angle with the direction of flow. The main purposes of nage are to maintain the required depth of the channel, protect the riverbank from flood flows, maintain navigable water depth and provide landing places for boats.

Concerning the origin of the term "nage," literature search results, mainly from Ozu City Chronicle (in Japanese), are summarized below:

It is no exaggeration to say that the history of Ozu in the modern era is the history of Ozu Castle. Also known as Kamegajo (Kamega Castle), Jizogatake Castle and Hiji Castle, Ozu Castle was built by Utsunomiya Toyofusa in 1331 during the Period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties. Owned over time by a number of lords including Toda Katsutaka, Todo Takatora and Wakizaka Yasuharu, the castle became the residence of Kato Sadayasu in 1617.

It is believed that the building of Ozu began with the construction of Ozu Castle, followed by the building of the community composed of warrior and merchant houses. Ozu developed rapidly under the reign of the Kato family in the Edo Period. The second lord of the Kato clan, Kato Yasuoki (1611 - 1677; acted as the lord of the clan from 1623 to 1674), was a particularly gifted warrior and, with his intelligence, courage and administrative ability, strengthened the Ozu clan.

Kato Yasuoki was also concerned about flood mitigation and implemented many revetment and other flood control projects. It was during this period that the nage groins were constructed.